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**April 2006
Edition**

AROUNDUP

**Farm & Ranch
Monthly Magazine**



Growers, Sidney Sugars Prepare For 2006 Planting Season

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

As spring approaches, growers await the coming planting season with a mixture of hope, eagerness, and trepidation. No one can predict how the vagaries of nature will deal with this year's crop, but Russ Fullmer, agriculture manager at Sidney Sugars, believes that if Mother Nature cooperates, this year's crop holds a lot of promise to provide growers with positive returns for their efforts. Sugar prices have risen, subsoil moisture levels remain good, and snow pack in the mountains should provide enough water to sustain river levels for irrigation this summer. These factors all should help herald in a good growing season.

"So far it looks good," Fullmer notes. "Sugar prices are up, which benefits both growers and the company, and conditions are favorable for those prices to hold through 2006. If we can get a good growing year and a good crop, growers will see higher prices for their product."

He continues, "We are also better off so far this year than we were last year as far as subsoil conditions go because of the rain and snow we received last fall. If the wind doesn't rob us of that moisture this spring, we should be good. Snow pack is also good and should keep the rivers up, so growers should have water for irrigation."

The Sidney Sugars agriculturists began working on individual contracts in early February. Fullmer expects the final number of contracted acres for this year will come to approximately 38,000 acres. "We'd love to have 41,000 acres under contract, but we won't reach that number this year," he remarks. "We expect to end up with 37,800 acres, plus or minus a few."

Fullmer expects to see growers begin planting in earnest by mid April. "We're looking for normal start-up of planting, which generally occurs about the third week in April," he comments. "Some growers will start sooner if conditions allow, but traditionally things start to hop by the 20th or so."

In efforts to find ways to decrease emergent sugarbeet losses in spring caused by wind erosion, Sidney Sugars will continue its research into minimum till practices for sugarbeets. "Wind has been a

real culprit in the past several springs," Fullmer observes. "We're always worried about spring weather, so we will continue to investigate minimum tillage for sugarbeets. There is equipment out there that leaves residue on the field, which helps decrease the effect of the wind. The ARS will also continue its research in minimum till for sugarbeets."

Sidney Sugars agriculturists will also research the potential of the fumigant Telone by assessing its value in nematode control. "We've seen a lot of fields, particularly in the factory area, that are losing yields due to nematodes and other problems," Fullmer says. "We will experiment with Telone, a soil fumigant, to see if it knocks down nematode numbers and to see if it works on other pathogens as well. Telone is expensive, but some fields are losing production, so if this fumigant provides a payback, it is worth it."

Fullmer reminds growers that weeds also will pillage production from fields, so weed control needs to take a high priority on growers' lists. "The big thing is good weed control," he notes. "Weeds rob tons and steal the profits. The whole point is to make money, so if growers have weeds, they won't have the returns. Weed control becomes more and more important because with the high cost of growing beets, there isn't much room for error."

He adds, "We have some growers going back to applying a pre-emergent herbicide and then following through with regular treatments after emergence."

Fullmer reminds all livestock owners that Sidney Sugars has new contracts available for pressed pulp for fall and winter 2006. "We set a price early so people could compare the price of pulp with that of silage and other feed," Fullmer comments. "People can contact the Sidney Sugars Ag Department if they are interested in a contract for pressed pulp."

Growers now play the waiting game: waiting for warm soil temperatures and waiting for weather conducive to planting the new crop. A few more weeks of waiting should result in the start of spring planting.

"The meetings are over and everyone is getting anxious to get going," Fullmer concludes. "I hope Mother Nature treats everyone very well this year and that we see a good growing season."

Spring Planting Specials

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USED MFWD & 2WD TRACTORS

- 2003 JD 8520**, (255 HP), 16 SPD. Powershift, MFWD, w/ILS, PTO, HD 3 PT. Hitch w/Quick-Hitch, 4 HYDS, 620/70R46 Rear Duals, 420/80R34 Front Duals, Only 253 HRS **\$159,500**
- 2002 JD 8520**, (255 HP), 16 SPD. Powershift, MFWD, w/ILS, PTO, HD 3 PT. Hitch w/Quick-Hitch, 4 HYDS., 620/70R46 Rear Duals, 420/80R34 Front Duals **\$147,500**
- 1998 JD 8400T**, (225 HP), 16 SPD. Powershift, PTO, HD 3PT. Hitch, 5 HYDS., 16" Tracks **\$59,500**
- 1995 JD 8300**, (200 HP), 16 SPD. Powershift, MFWD, PTO, HD 3PT. Hitch, 4 HYDS., 480/80R46 Duals **\$63,500**
- 1996 JD 7800**, (145 HP), 19 SPD. Powershift, MFWD, Dual PTO, 3PT. Hitch, 4 HYDS., 14.9R46 Duals **\$57,500**
- 1993 JD 7800**, (145 HP), 19 SPD. Powershift, MFWD, Dual PTO, 3PT. Hitch, 3 HYDS., 14.9R46 Singles **\$49,500**
- 1986 JD 4050**, (105 HP), Quad-Range Trans., Dual PTO, 3 HYDS., 14.9X38 Duals **\$29,500**
- 1995 JD 5400**, (65 HP), Collar Shift Trans., MFWD, PTO, 3PT. Hitch, 2 HYDS., 16.9X80 Rollgard w/ canopy **\$22,500**
- 1979 JD 4640**, (155 HP), Quad-range Trans., PTO, Rockshaft, 3 HYDS., 18.4X38 Duals **\$23,500**

LOADER TRACTORS

- 2004 JD 7420**, (115 HP), 16 SPD. Power-Quad Trans., MFWD, Dual PTO, 3PT. Hitch, 3 HYDS., 18.4X38 Singles, Factory Warranty, Only 266 Hours, JD 741 SL Loader, 8' Bucket, Grapple, Joystick **\$89,500**
- 2004 JD 7420**, (115 HP), 16 SPD. Power-Quad Trans., MFWD, Dual PTO, 3PT. Hitch, 3 HYDS., 18.4X38 Singles, Factory Warranty, Only 531Hours, JD 741 SL loader, 8' Bucket, Grapple, Joystick **\$87,500**
- 2002 JD 7810**, (150 HP), 16 SPD. Power-Quad w/L.H. Reverser, MFWD, Dual PTO, 3PT. Hitch, 3 HYDS., 20.8X38 Singles, JD 740 SL loader, Joystick, 8' Bucket, Grapple, **\$89,500**
- 2001 JD 7810**, (150 HP), 16 SPD. Power-Quad w/L.H. Reverser, MFWD, Dual PTO, 3PT. Hitch, 3 HYDS., 20.8X38 Singles, JD 740, SL loader, Joystick, 8' Bucket, Grapple, **\$87,500**
- 1997 JD 7810**, (150 HP), 16 SPD. Power-Quad Trans., MFWD, Dual PTO, HD 3PT. Hitch, 3 HYDS., 14.9R46 Duals, 740 SL Loader, Joystick, 8' Bucket, Grapple **\$55,000**
- 1999 JD 6310**, (80 HP), SYNCRO Plus Trans., MFWD, Dual PTO, 3PT. Hitch, 2 HYDS., 18.4X30 Singles, New JD 640 Loader, 7' Bucket, Grapple Fork, Joystick **\$48,500**
- 1971 JD 4230**, (115 HP), CAB, Dual PTO, 3PT. Hitch, 2 HYDS., 18.4X38 Singles, DUAL 3100 Loader, Bucket, Grapple, IND. Valve. **\$10,900**
- 1972 IH 1066**, (116 HP), Cab, Air, Heat, Dual PTO, Add-On 3PT. Hitch, 3 HYDS., 18.4X38 Singles, Leon 747 Loader, 8' Bucket, Grapple, **\$6,950**

USED COMBINES

- 2005 JD 9660STS**, 20.8R38 Duals, Yield & Moisture Monitor, Chopper, Grain Tank Extension, 173 Sep. Hours
- 2000 JD 9650**, 30.5x32 Singles, Dual-Range Cylinder, Moisture Monitor, Chopper, Chaff Spreader, 1609 Sep. Hours.
- 1998 JD 9610**, 30.5x32 Singles, Chopper, Chaff Spreader, Grain Tank Ext. 1831 Sep. Hours.
- 1995 JD 9600**, 30.5x32 Singles, Straw Sprdr, Chaff Sprdr, 1728 Sep. Hours.
- 1997 JD 9500**, 30.5Lx32 Singles, Straw Spreader, Chaff Spreader, Hopper Cover, 971 Sep. Hours.
- 1991 JD 9500**, 24.5x32 Singles, Dual-Range Cyl., Chopper, 1750 Sep. Hours.
- 1982 JD 6620** Sidehill, 28Lx26 Singles, Chopper, 222 Platform.
- 1976 JD 7700** Hydro, 24' Cutting Platform, Pick-Up Platform w/ Pick-Up.
- 2005 JD 630R** Platform Full Finger Auger, Pick-Up Reel.
- 2003 JD 930R** Platform, Pick-up Reel, Dial-A-Speed, Hyd. Fore & AFT.
- 2000 JD 930R** Platform, Bat Reel, HYD. Fore & AFT, Dial-A-Speed.
- 1997 JD 930** Platform, Bat Reel, HYD. Fore & AFT, Dial-A-Speed.
- 1997 JD 930**, Platform, Bat Reel, HYD. Fore & AFT, Dial-A-Speed.
- 1996 JD 930** Platform, Bat Reel, HYD. Fore & AFT, Dial-A-Speed.
- 1996 JD 925** Platform, HYD. Fore & AFT, Dial-A-Speed.
- 1996 JD 925** Flex Platform, Pick-Up Reel, HYD. Fore & AFT, Dial-A-Speed
- 1987 CI 1015** Pick-Up Platform, Belt Pick-up.
- 1976 JD 212** Pick-Up Platform, w/11' Sund Pick-Up
- 1978 JD 212** Pick-Up Platform, w/JD Pick-Up.
- Renn 20'** Bean Pick-Up ATT.

USED DRILLS

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- John Deere 787/730** 44-FT Air Disk Drill, 7.5" Spacing, 270 Bushel **\$35,000**
- Case IH 8500** 45-FT. Air Hoe Drill, 7.5" Spacing **\$18,500**
- Flexi-Coil 2320/5000** 39-FT. Air Hoe Drill, 7.2" Spacing, 270 Bushel **\$52,500**
- 2-John Deere 8300** Endwheel Disk Drills, 13-FT Units, 6"s Spacing, Grass Attachment, Tandem Folding Transport **\$9,500**
- 2-Case IH 7200** 14-FT. Hoe Drills With 7" Spacing, And Transport **\$7,500**
- 2- International 6200** 12-FT Disk Drills, 6" Spacing, Transport Hitch, Fertilizer **\$3,500**
- Bourgault 5710/5350**, 28' Air Hoe Drill, 9.8" Spacing, 350 Bu **\$52,500**

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Local Safflower Company Promotes Nutrasaff On The Global Market

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

Owners of a local safflower company recently attended the Global Pet Expo held from March 23-25 in San Diego, CA. Mike and Jerry Bergman of Safflower Technologies International (STI), a company that promotes many varieties of safflower and safflower products on the international market, attended the three-day event to introduce the safflower variety Nutrasaff as an excellent source of whole seed and oil for the pet food market. The Bergmans met with buyers from many different countries to discuss the benefits of Nutrasaff in pet food products and to showcase their Nutrasaff products at the international level.

"We are looking at new market opportunities for more nutritious feedstocks for beef and dairy cattle, birds, and other classes of livestock," says STI president Mike Bergman. "Whole seed and Nutrasaff oil make nutritious additives in pet food. Nutrasaff has an extremely reduced outer hull, it provides 30% more protein and energy, more antioxidants, and birds prefer Nutrasaff over normal safflower. The reduced hull also provides for greater feeding efficiency and digestibility."

Nutrasaff, developed at the Eastern Ag Research Center in Sidney for livestock and as a high energy bird food, has proven itself as an outstanding, nutritious product for all classes of animals. Nutrasaff provides reduced fiber and comes rich in linoleic fatty acid. Ruminants need linoleic fatty acids to help regulate body temperature and reduce stress. High linoleic dietary fat in ruminants has also shown promise to reduce saturated fat and to increase conjugated linoleic acid levels in meat and dairy products.

"Nutrasaff lacks an outer hull," Bergman states. "It's just the coat and the kernel. As a result, it has higher protein and higher oil and is higher in natural antioxidants. Nutrasaff makes an enriched safflower product ideal for livestock nutritional supplements and for pet food."

He continues, "The higher linoleic fatty acid in Nutrasaff is beneficial for animal health and nutrition, and with the added benefit that bacteria in the rumen of cattle convert linoleic acid to conjugated linoleic acid, or CLA. CLA is known to be a beneficial antioxidant that strengthens the immune system."

Bergman also points out that the bird food industry has undertaken a search to find better quality feed for birds. Nutrasaff fulfills that search requirement. "The bird food industry is looking for more nutritious products," Bergman comments. "Nutrasaff has the nutritional qualities the industry seeks."

The Global Pet Expo allowed the Bergmans to exhibit and discuss Nutrasaff and its potential in the pet industry. "The Expo was very good and it gave us the opportunity to

launch new products, generate sales leads, and develop relationships with pet food buyers," Bergman concludes. "This exposure benefits the whole MonDak region as it promotes and showcases safflower to the global pet industry."

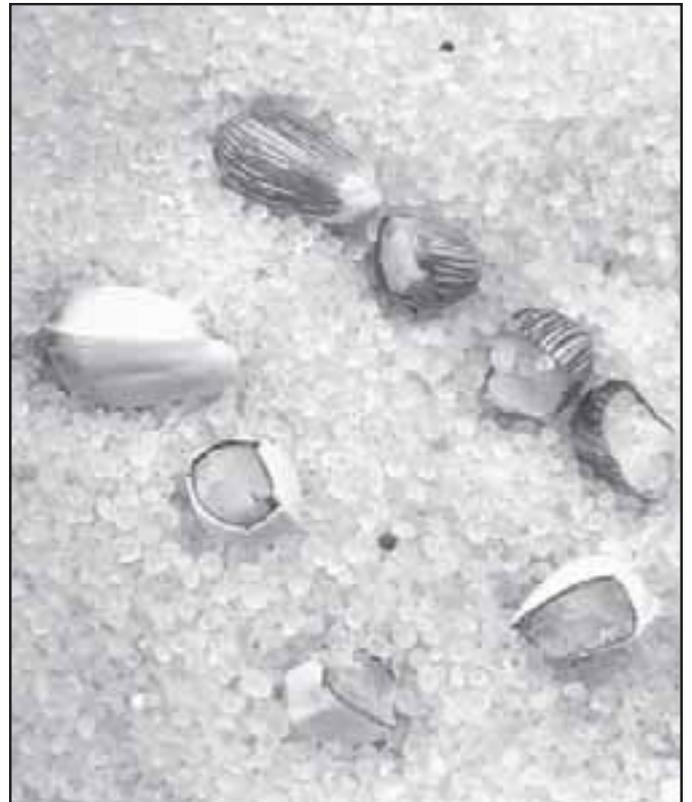
The Bergmans also introduced a new hybrid safflower at the Expo. This hybrid variety has a high test weight and an extremely large seed that may fill a niche market for large pet birds, such as parrots.



Normal safflower whole seed.



Nutrasaff safflower whole seeds.



This picture shows a cross section of normal safflower and nutrasaff safflower. Nutrasaff has an extremely reduced outer hull which improves feeding efficiency and digestibility for livestock and provides the highest energy source available in a bird seed.

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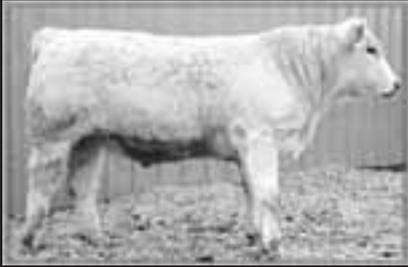
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Carquest Box Tops Benefit Local FFA Chapters



Nathan McMillen, Dugan Steinbeisser, Cole Johnson, Matt Norgaard and John VanEvery prepare to put Carquest box tops in the carquest barrel located at the Sidney High School. Every redeemed box top garners local FFA Chapters ten cents each.

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

Save those Carquest box tops! When returned to the Sidney High School or placed in the box top barrel located at Carquest Automotive Parts in Sidney, these box tops benefit local FFA Chapters, as FFA members can convert them to cash through a program sponsored by Carquest. This added income helps pay for additional expenses incurred from FFA activities.

"Carquest box tops are redeemable for cash," says Gary Schaff, Sidney High School AgEd teacher. "The FFA collects them, and individuals and businesses also save these box tops for the FFA. We process them, count them and ship them off once a year. We get about a dime per box top, and we use this money for travel, registrations, and other expenses associated with trips and activities."

For many years, Carquest has sponsored this program

designed to help local FFA chapters earn extra money. Any Carquest branded product qualifies for the program. Individuals and businesses just need to save the box tops and either deposit them in the barrel at Carquest in Sidney, take them to the Sidney High School, or pass them along to a local FFA member.

"Carquest has been an excellent sponsor of this program," Schaff comments. "This program has enabled the FFA to collect nearly \$500 each year. This is Carquest's way of supporting our organization, and we really appreciate what this program has done for the FFA program."

Individuals who use Carquest products can assist the FFA by saving the box tops and passing them along to the FFA. Many area businesses also support this effort, including businesses from Savage, Lambert, Fairview, and Culbertson.

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SETTING THE STANDARD

Feasibility Study Set For Ethanol Plant In Eastern Montana

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

The Great Northern Development Corporation in Wolf Point has hired a consultant to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of a wheat and barley ethanol facility and feedlot in eastern Montana. The study will look at multiple factors to determine the economics of such a venture for this region. Coordinated with a mapping project conducted by the University of Montana to determine the best locations for the proposed facility, the feasibility study, funded by USDA Rural Development, Montana Growth Through Agriculture, the Montana Agricultural Innovative Center, the Montana Department of Commerce CDBG Economic Development program, and the Fort Peck Water Users, will look at factors within the seven northeastern Montana counties to determine the potential for such a facility and its ability to thrive and provide return on the investment. The study will investigate locations within Sheridan, Daniels, Valley, Roosevelt, Richland, McCone and Garfield counties.

"This study will tell us if we can buy wheat and barley here and make money on the facility," says Dick Iversen from the Eastern Plains RC&D office in Sidney. "It's pure economics. This is why we are having the study."

He adds, "A grass roots effort by Fort Peck irrigation members, along with Great Northern Development and the Montana Ag Innovation Center have contributed over \$70,000 to fund this study for northeastern Montana."

The study will look at the use of wheat and barley for ethanol production, analyze the optimum plant size, look at methods to dispose of the by-products at adjoining feedlots, and determine whether cooperative or corporate ownership will best serve area needs.

"The study will investigate regional resources, such as where is the water, the fuel, the transportation to haul the

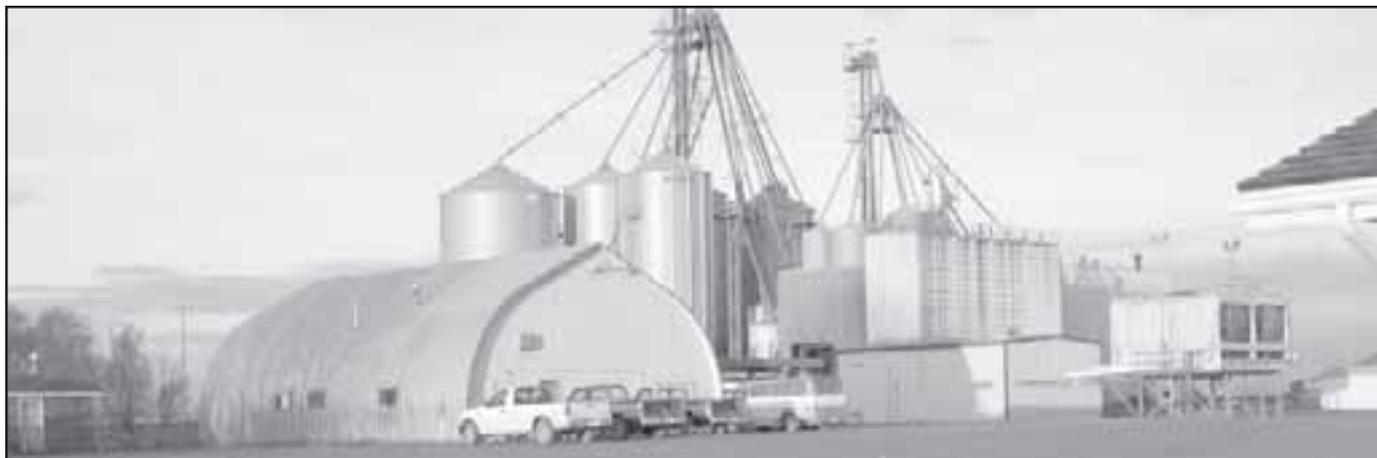
ethanol, the available grain feedstocks, and the feeder cattle required to eat the by-products," Iversen comments. "The study will determine where these resources exist as well as where they can be developed. The study will also look at where the financing will be the best, the technical feasibility of such a project, the economic feasibility, the market feasibility, and the management feasibility, and whether the facility would work best as an agricultural producer-owned cooperative or as a corporate investor owned facility. The study will also do an environmental impact assessment in relation to the location of the facility."

He adds, "The objective of the study is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of potential sites and to offer suggestions as to how to capitalize on the strengths and minimize the weaknesses."

If the study comes back with positive results and the region does see the construction of such a facility, the plant would operate along the same lines as the wheat-barley ethanol plant and 28,000 head feedlot located in Lanigan, Saskatchewan, a facility that has operated successfully for over sixteen years. Any plant built in eastern Montana that produces ethanol from wheat and barley would also become the first such facility to operate in the U.S., as 90% of U.S. ethanol facilities use corn and the remaining 10% in operation use other starch-based products to produce ethanol. As Iversen points out, a facility designed to use wheat and barley can also use corn in ethanol production, but a plant designed to use corn cannot use wheat and barley.

A wheat-barley facility would also allow for dryland participation.

Proponents of the ethanol facility will hold a public meeting sometime during the course of the feasibility study in order to solicit input from the general public.



The ethanol feasibility study will determine whether or not eastern Montana can support a wheat and barley ethanol/feedlot facility similar to the Pound-Maker facility located near Lanigan, Saskatchewan.



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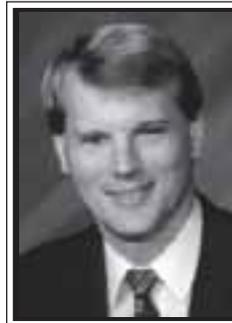
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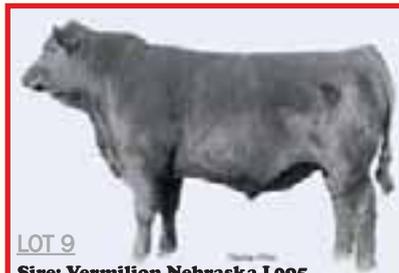
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LOT 1
Sire: Vermilion Nebraska L095

CED	BW	WW	MILK	YW	SC	ADJ	% IMF	RE	FAT
+0	+3.0	+60	+23	1+100	+0.12	35.4	1-0.12	1+0.48	1+0.007

Dam Production: 2 WR 113, 2 YR 116



LOT 9
Sire: Vermilion Nebraska L095

CED	BW	WW	MILK	YW	SC	ADJ	% IMF	RE	FAT
-2	+4.5	+49	+15	1+83	+0.66	39.6	1-0.08	1+0.53	1+0.005

Dam Production: 3 WR 97, 3 YR 100



LOT 22
Sire: Vermilion Nebraska L095

CED	BW	WW	MILK	YW	SC	ADJ	% IMF	RE	FAT
+9	-0.3	+50	+18	1+82	+0.05	36.1	1-0.08	1+0.30	1+0.010

Dam Production: 2 WR 113, 2 YR 116



LOT 42
SIRE: WMR Dateline 210

CED	BW	WW	MILK	YW	SC	ADJ	% IMF	RE	FAT
+7	+1.4	+47	+16	1+90	+0.07	36.7	1-0.13	1+0.31	1+0.032

Dam Production: 3 WR 102, 3 YR 107



LOT 46
Sire: Woodhill Combo 626

CED	BW	WW	MILK	YW	SC	ADJ	% IMF	RE	FAT
+8	+	+49	+20	1+95	-0.37	35.2	1-0.12	1+0.27	1+0.013

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Information Gathering Continues For Commercial Kitchen Project

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

A dedicated group of individuals from Glendive continues to pursue plans that would see the creation of an integrated facility in Glendive designed to help area entrepreneurs add value to local raw food products. As part of the integrated facility, the group would like to see the construction of a commercial kitchen stocked with an assortment of food processing equipment that would allow local food processors to prepare food items for retail sale.

In order to learn more about commercial kitchens, five Glendive individuals recently traveled to Ronan to tour the Mission Mountain Market commercial kitchen and to learn more about the process locals would have to undertake in order to establish such a facility in Glendive.

"We visited with the Mission Mountain Market in late February because we wanted to get ideas for the commercial kitchen we want to build here," says Bruce Smith, Dawson County extension agent and one of the group members that traveled to Ronan. "Mission Mountain was established to help food entrepreneurs get their food products processed, but our problem is that Mission Mountain is 600 miles away so it is hard for people at this end of the state to take advantage of the facility and its equipment."

He continues, "We also talked to representatives from the Western Growers Cooperative about what they are doing, and they gave us ideas and tips on how to set up our own marketing cooperative. There are tax advantages if we set up as an agricultural marketing cooperative, so that may be the way we are headed at this point."

The Glendive group has hired a consultant and an architect for the project, and these individuals have submitted plans for the type of building required for the integrated facility. Although the group has not yet received funding for the commercial kitchen, several agencies and organizations earmark money for projects of this nature. "The commercial kitchen is certainly on the table," Smith remarks. "We still need some financing, but there is money available through the USDA and from the Kellogg Foundation. There also may be some state funding available."

He continues, "If the project goes, the kitchen will be approximately 36 x 80 feet, depending on what equipment we identify that we need. We're also looking at the farm-to-table restaurant which would use some of these products as well as using local fresh grown foods."

Smith reminds all current entrepreneurs and those who have a food business idea to complete the commercial kitchen survey, available from the Dawson County extension office in Glendive. This survey will serve as a means to identify what equipment regional entrepreneurs need in order to process their food items. Project planners must



Carol Swanson, Mary Miller and Skip Cleek, Glendive, hear about food enterprises at the Mission Mountain Marketing Store in Ronan.

have this vital information in order to properly stock the kitchen with all the necessary equipment.

"The kitchen will have industrial type equipment to mass produce products," Smith states. "We need to know what entrepreneurs require. For example, do we need an oats roller so we can buy and roll local oats instead of purchasing rolled oats from out of state? This is the kind of information we need, as we are looking at all sorts of equipment, from dry packing equipment to flour mills."

Smith urges people in the MonDak region to obtain, complete, and return the commercial kitchen survey by April 15. Smith points out that this kitchen will serve the MonDak region so he invites people on both sides of the Montana/North Dakota border to fill out a survey.

"This is truly a regional effort, so we encourage anyone in the MonDak area who currently processes food or has plans to process food to participate in the survey," he concludes. "The surveys are out, and anyone who needs one can obtain them from the Dawson County extension office. We have some completed surveys at this time, but we need to hear from everyone. Anyone who has an idea of what needs to be in the kitchen, or who knows what equipment they'd need in order to process a food item, please fill out and return a survey as soon as possible. We would like to have all surveys returned by April 15."

People may contact Smith at 406-377-4277 to obtain a survey, or they may email to dawextn@midrivers.com.

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Have Pulse Crop Seed Tested For Disease Before Planting

NDSU News Service

Due to regional disease problems in some pulse crops (dry peas, lentils and chickpeas) last year, it may be a good idea to have seed tested for the presence of Ascochyta diseases before planting. Seed can be tested locally at the North Dakota State Seed Department and North Dakota State University plant diagnostic lab.

Although all three crops are affected by Ascochyta diseases, different fungal pathogens cause the disease on each crop, according to Carl Bradley, NDSU Extension

Service plant pathologist.

On lentils, Ascochyta blight is caused by a fungal pathogen specific to lentils. Ascochyta blight can be transmitted readily from the seed to the seedling at a fairly high rate.

"For this reason, growers should have their lentil seed treated with either LSP or Mertect if Ascochyta is found in the seed," Bradley says.

A recently obtained section 18 emergency exemption allows for the treatment of lentils with LSP or Mertect. Seed lots that have Ascochyta infections of more than 2-3% probably should not be used for seed.

On chickpeas, Ascochyta blight is caused by a fungal pathogen specific to chickpeas. Similar to Ascochyta on lentils, chickpea Ascochyta blight can be transmitted readily from the seed to the seedling at a fairly high rate.

"Because Ascochyta blight can be extremely damaging to chickpea, it is encouraged that seed lots with 0% infection be used," Bradley says. "However, if disease-free lots are not available, then lots with less than 0.3% infection could be used if they are treated with LSP or Mertect. LSP and Mertect are available for use on chickpea seed through a special local needs section 24(c) label for North Dakota."

On dry peas, Ascochyta diseases can be caused by a complex of three different fungal pathogens that are specific to dry peas.

"Because the rate of disease transmission from dry pea seed to the seedling is so low, seed lots with up to 4-5% infection should be OK to plant," Bradley says. "No fungicide seed treatments are available for dry peas that protect against seed-borne Ascochyta diseases in North Dakota."

For more information on plant diseases in North Dakota and seed testing, go to the following Web sites: NDSU Extension Plant Pathology at www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/extplantpath/; NDSU Plant Diagnostic Lab at www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/diaglab/; or North Dakota State Seed Department at www.state.nd.us/seed/.

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Guest Consignor: Dry Fork Red Angus

4-H Members Learn Market Quality Assurance Info



By Lois Roth
Ag Roundup Editor

In order to compete at the Richland County Fair each year, 4-H club members who wish to show market animals must take a market quality assurance program through the 4-H every other year. Richland County extension agents offer this course on a yearly basis so that new club members and those who need to renew their training have the opportunity to do so. This year, the Richland County extension office offered the training in March.

"All kids who have market animals that they want to show at the fair need to take this program every two years," says Wade Whiteman, Richland County extension agent. "The course ensures that the kids feed and handle their animals properly and it also ensures the quality of the animals. We give this course every year so new members can take the training and so that those members who need to renew their training in order to compete at the fair can do so."

In keeping with the 4-H philosophy of teaching by doing, club members who participate in this hands-on training learn a lot through observation, participation and interaction. The 4-H leaders see that club members acquire pertinent knowledge about feeding, nutrition, and animal care. Approximately 35 4-H members take this training every year.

"This program makes this information real for the kids," says Whiteman. "They learn the concepts by seeing, feeling, and touching. Kids learn a variety of different things to ensure that they have quality animals to show at the fair."

4-H leaders break the training into five different learning segments. At the first learning station, 4-H members learn the proper way of giving injections and have the chance to see what happens to the injection site and the surrounding tissue. "Kids inject fruit, such as an orange or a banana, with a

solution using a syringe and a needle," Whiteman explains. "We then break the fruit open so the kids can see what happens to the area of tissue that's affected by the injection. They see how the solution spreads and its effect on the surrounding tissue. It gives them hands-on learning experience on how to give injections and the proper place to give them."

Station two uses milk and water to demonstrate residue and water quality, and teaches the members the value of a clean facility and clean equipment. "We start with a glass of milk, pour out the milk, and then rinse the glass with water," Whiteman comments. "It takes at least three rinses before the milky residue is gone. This teaches that residue remains for awhile after something is emptied and after an injection, and that although the residue will eventually clean itself out, there is still a withdrawal period."

The third training station demonstrates how mixed items settle, and helps members understand formulated feed mixtures and how to properly use them.

"We mix different items such as corn flakes, peanuts and M&M's to show the proper way to mix," Whiteman remarks. "Heavier products sink to the bottom of the mix, so we want the members to understand that they need to ensure that their feed ration contains all it is supposed to contain rather than having parts of the mix settle to the bottom of the bag."

The fourth station demonstrates the value of shade, illustrates temperature differences, and the best way to bed animals. Station five points out the value of having cattle in pens sorted according to size.

Whiteman credits Nico Cantalupo, Fallon/Custer County extension agent, with developing this top-notch teaching tool for 4-H members. "Nico devised and developed this training," Whiteman says. "He taught our leaders how to present this program, and the leaders then taught the 4-H members."



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Planning, Preparation Important Aspects Of Spring Planting At EARC

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

While the actual planting of seed begins in April at the Eastern Ag Research Center (EARC) in Sidney, an incredible amount of planning and preparation for the spring season starts long before the first seed enters the ground. Practically as soon as the EARC crew has completed harvest, staff members begin the process of repair and maintenance work on all the vehicles and equipment used at the station, and a planting conference usually held in late January kicks off the actual spring planting season. At this conference, researchers select what crops and which varieties of those crops they will plant, and armed with this information, the scientists order the necessary seed. Researchers also decide where to plant each crop and they determine the size of each individual test plot.

Once the ordered seed arrives at the EARC, staff members must apply any needed seed treatment. Workers sort the seed according to variety, the size of the test plot, and expected germination, and then place the required amount of seed in individual envelopes in preparation for planting.

"If one variety does not germinate as well, we use more seed for that trial as we must have a certain number of plants in each stand," says Dr. Joyce Eckhoff, agronomist at the EARC. "We also package the required amount of seed needed for each trial in individual envelopes. One of our plot seeders will plant four rows at a time so we need four packets of seed for each trial, while our other plot seeder plants seven rows at once and has a spinner that evenly

distributes the seed among the seven planting tubes, so we need one envelope of seed per trial. We need to know ahead of time which seeder we'll use so we can properly sort seed and have the envelopes containing the seed in proper sequence."

Researchers also prepare maps that outline in detail where scientist will plant each individual crop variety.

EARC staff members work the research fields and apply any fertilizer or chemicals that may be required for each study. The crew then marks out each individual plot in preparation for planting. Plots range in size from ten square feet to 180 square feet.

"Some of our single row plots are 10 feet square. Small grain plots are usually 50 square feet, and we have some 100 square foot plots," says Eckhoff. "Sugarbeet plots average 180 square feet."

The EARC crew plants between 10,000 and 15,000 test plots every spring. Crews begin planting sugarbeets and small grains as soon as weather permits in April, and continue with the planting process until they complete all the required seeding. The planting process usually continues well into May.

The EARC plants a huge variety of crops every spring. Crops under study at the research station include durum, spring wheat, winter wheat, barley, oats, sugarbeets, safflower, dry beans, corn, onions, soybeans, alfalfa, teff, mustard and oil seed crops such as canola, flax and camelina.



Debbie Kunda and Vicky Keller stand beside a mountain of envelopes containing seed sorted and packaged by EARC staff members. Crews will plant this seed in designated plots at the research station.

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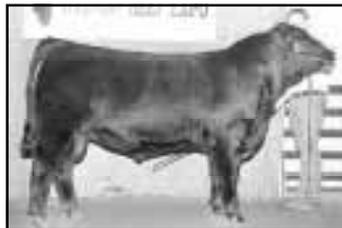
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Who is your farmer? Many of us know our banker, our doctor and our dentist, but have only a vague idea where our food comes from. There are some simple ways to connect with your farmer, says Nancy K. Peterson, director of the Montana Department of Agriculture.

The beef or lamb on the grocery shelf might come from a Montana ranch, or it might come from Australia, Canada or New Zealand. The store manager might be able to tell you, but the distributor may offer some imported products without revealing the country of origin.

More consumers are asking about the source of their food out of concerns about freshness, quality and the risk of contaminants, Peterson says. One way to obtain high quality food items and help Montana's agriculture industry is to seek out Montana-grown products in grocery stores and on restaurant menus.

For dairy products, your farmer might be Ernie Harvey, whose Lifeline Farm at Victor, MT, sells certified organic milk and cheese. For fresh ground beef, Roy Tuflly, Dixon, is one of seven ranchers that supply Montana Natural Beef in the Mission Valley.

In south central Montana, you can purchase pastured, certified organic beef, pork, lamb, bison and poultry from the Caroline Ranch, Boulder. In Billings, your farmer for bakery items might be Kyle and Travis Nielsen, who started Grains of Montana Bakery and restaurant using wheat raised on the family farm near Nashua.

Locally-owned food markets are a likely place to find Montana grown and processed food products, as are farm-

ers' markets during the summer and fall months.

Entrepreneurs also have made inroads in marketing through chain stores in some areas, says Angelyn DeYoung, marketing officer at the Montana Department of Agriculture. Matt and Susan Henry, Bozeman, for example, process and sell "Henry's Grandma's Catsup" at several larger groceries in Livingston and Bozeman.

Many Montana restaurants also proudly feature local products. Bausch pre-cut potatoes and French fries, processed south of Whitehall, are served at 4B's restaurants and at Montana State University and the University of Montana.

Producing a product for sale year-round is one of the challenges facing Montana produce growers. Laura Garber and Paul Madeen of Homestead Organics at Hamilton sell lettuce and other vegetables seasonally at farmer's markets and stores as far away as Helena. Diane and Clyde Hart grow Taste of Sunshine alfalfa sprouts year-round. The sprouts can be found at stores in Kalispell, Columbia Falls and Whitefish.

Here is a simple menu of Montana-grown and processed food items to fill any plate or appetite:

- 1/3 lb. of ground beef – available from local beef producers throughout the area.
- Onion slices - Yellowstone Produce, Savage
- Lettuce - Homestead Organics Farm, Hamilton (seasonal).
- Breads and Bagels - Grains of Montana, Billings.
- Montana Jack Cheese - Lifeline Farm, Victor.

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 1976 Versatile 900 4-wheel drive Tractor, 18.4x38 duals, 903 Cummins, 6540 hours (Jon 406-774-3713)
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 Krause 34' Toolbar, model 7404A & Rodweeder (Jon 406-774-3713)
 (4) 8' Kirschmann Hoe Drills, 12" spacing w/transports (Jon 406-774-3713)
 Versatile 8"x54' Grain Auger, PTO (Jon 406-774-3713)
 1979 Dodge 4x4 Ramcharger, runs good (Jon 406-774-3713)
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 2002 Westwind 50' Flatbed Tandem Dually Trailer, electric brakes, pull-out extensions, ramps & hay rails (Gene 406-480-9666)
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 1982 Top Kick GMC single axle Truck, rebuilt 3208 motor, 7-speed transmission (less than 5000 miles on transmission) Set up to pull both the above trailers. (Gene 406-480-9666)
 1993 Zetor front-wheel drive Tractor, model 12145, 105 hp, 3 pt., PTO, dual hydraulics, cab, air, heat (Gene 406-480-9666)
 JD 12' Disc Drill, model 8350, 6" spacing, fertilizer, grass seeding attachment (Chuck 406-774-3724)
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-Rick



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Helena Meeting Furthers Ethanol Effort For Eastern Montana

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

Members of the Ethanol Steering Committee for eastern Montana recently attended a meeting at the Governor's Office in Helena to explore and discuss the ethanol effort currently underway in Montana. With a feasibility study about to commence in eastern Montana that will investigate the economics of a wheat and barley ethanol facility and feedlot located somewhere in the eastern portion of the state, meeting organizers plan to concentrate their efforts on promoting research that investigates wheat and barley potential for ethanol production and in building the first plant in Montana.

"We sat down together to focus our efforts throughout Montana to get the first project going in eastern Montana that will use wheat and barley," says Dick Iversen with the Eastern Plains RC&D office in Sidney. "We had a very pro-

ductive meeting in Helena to further those ends."

The MonDak region grows an abundance of wheat and barley, so the group working to bring an ethanol facility to eastern Montana has focused its attention on these two grains as the grains of choice for any facility built in this region. A facility designed to use wheat and barley also can utilize corn in the production process, but a facility built to use corn cannot use wheat and barley.

In efforts to determine what varieties of wheat and barley may work best for ethanol production, the Eastern Ag Research Center (EARC) in Sidney has undertaken a study to list the amount of starch found in different varieties of these two grains. The starch factor determines the amount of ethanol produced, so the amount of starch in different varieties becomes very important. Researchers at the EARC have considered both grain and starch yields per acre on both dryland and irrigated grain varieties to ascertain what varieties will work the best for ethanol production.

One bushel of barley yields 2.1 gallons of ethanol and fifteen pounds of dried distiller's grain, while one bushel of wheat produces 2.5 gallons of ethanol and eighteen pounds of dried distiller's grain. A one million gallon ethanol plant would require 4400 acres of irrigated wheat at 90 bushels per acre, or 11,400 acres of dryland wheat at 35 bushels per acre.

In order to produce ethanol on a commercial scale, an eastern Montana ethanol facility would involve the use of wheat and barley. Currently in the U.S., 90% of all ethanol produced comes from corn, and the remaining 10% come from other starch-based sources. No ethanol facility in the U.S., currently uses wheat or barley, so a facility in eastern Montana would lead the way for the use of these two grains and serve as a prototype for ethanol facilities in other regions.

A wheat and barley facility in eastern Montana would likely model itself after the Pound-Maker wheat-barley ethanol plant and feedlot located in Lanigan, Saskatchewan. The Lanigan plant has proven that not only do wheat and barley work well for ethanol production, but that the facility provides a return on investment. The Pound-Maker plant has operated successfully for over 16 years.

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- JD 535 Round Baler - new chain & sprockets last season - it's really nice, belts good, HD clips
- 6 Wheel Vicon Rake - no broken teeth
- 5x10 Hale Stock Trailer
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American Brahman Big Player In Cattle Breed Development

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

Many cattle breeds have impacted the bovine world in one way or another, but perhaps no breed has proven itself so important in providing genetic material for new breed development and for commercial herd improvement as has the American Brahman. This breed has not only played an important role in crossbreeding programs in the U.S. and around the world, but it also has contributed to the development of many new cattle breeds in the past 150 years. Brahman genetics have influenced more than fifteen different breeds, including the Santa Gertrudis, the American, the Beefmaster and the Brangus, a feat unparalleled by any other breed.

Because of their incredible heat tolerance, American Brahman flourish in the southern part of the United States. "Breeds such as the Hereford and Angus don't perform as well in heat," says Chris Shivers from the American Brahman Association. "Brahman cattle do well in cold temperatures, and there are American Brahman cattle in Canada, but typically the breed remains a southern breed."

He continues, "American Brahman also have high insect resistance. Fleas and ticks don't bother them, and this becomes an important factor in areas where cattle suffer from tick fever. Brahman are hardy and can survive on limited, low-quality forage and are experts at taking this low-quality forage and turning it into good beef. Brahman cattle will venture where the English breeds of cattle won't."

Brahman bulls mature to an average 2100 lbs. in weight and stand approximately 63 inches tall at the hip. Cows mature to an average weight of 1500 lbs. and stand approximately 60 inches at the hip. These long-lived cattle, predominantly red or gray, average 14 years of productive life. Calves, born small, grow quite rapidly.

In the early years of the 20th century, U.S. cattlemen imported cattle from India. The Indian strains of Guzerat, Nellore and Gir, and to a lesser extent the Krishna Valley strain, all came to the U.S. and from this genetic mix, cattlemen developed the American Brahman.



American Brahman cattle, as members of the *Bos indicus* species, have large ears and a distinctive hump over the shoulder and neck.

The American Brahman belongs to the *Bos indicus* strain of cattle. *Bos indicus* cattle have a large hump over the top of the shoulder and neck, unlike the *Bos taurus* cattle of Europe. *Bos indicus* cattle also have curved horns, large ears, and excess skin at the throatlatch. *Bos indicus* cattle also have highly-developed sweat glands that allow the cattle to perspire freely. These cattle also produce an oily secretion with a distinctive odor that helps repel insects.

American Brahman, as members of the *Bos indicus* species of cattle, produce incredibly hardy offspring when crossbred with the *Bos taurus* cattle of Europe. "American Brahman are very popular for crossbreeding purposed because of the extreme hybrid vigor," says Shivers. "You have two separate strains of cattle, so when a person combines genetics from the *Bos indicus* cattle with the *Bos taurus*, or European cattle, the result is increased growth and production. It's the same thing that happens when a person crossbreeds different strains of plants. The result gives large, better offspring."

He concludes, "Bos indicus cattle have been serving mankind for thousands of years. Throughout their evolution, these cattle have endured famine, insect pests, disease and extreme temperature fluctuations. They have the ability to thrive and survive where other types have failed. These cattle have improved beef production in every country in which they have been introduced when they are mated to existing native cows."

The American Brahman continues to improve cattle breeds around the world. Breed numbers have grown rapidly outside the U.S., and American Brahman continue to hold their own as popular U.S. exports of breeding cattle.

April Puzzle Answers:

Keyword – memorize; Crypto-list – sugar, butter, milk, vanilla, chocolate, eggs, coconut, flavoring, baking powder

UNRESERVED LARGE FARM & RANCH LIQUIDATION AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2006

10:00 a.m. (MDT)

LOCATION: Denton, MT – 3 miles West on Lower Road; from Billings, MT – Hwy 87 Approx 126 miles to Lewiston, North 9 miles on Hwy 191 to Jct Hwys 191 & 81, West 29 miles to Denton, 3 miles West on Lower Road; from Great Falls, MT – East approx 63 miles on Hwy 87 to Jct Hwys 87 & 80, North on Hwy 80 to Mile Marker 55, East on Lower Road to sale site



TRACTORS & ATTACHMENTS

2004 Case IH MX255 MFWD Tractor, S/N JAZ133839, c/w CAHR, power shift, 3 pt, 4 hyd outlets, 540/1000 PTO, train seat, front fenders, 520/85R42 duals, 547 hrs.

Degelman 4657 12 Ft Dozer, c/w hyd 6 way, CIH mounts

2000 John Deere 8410 MFWD Tractor, S/N RW8410P005407, c/w deluxe cab, power shift, 4 hyd outlets, 1000 PTO, 620/70R42 factory hub duals, 480/70R30 fronts, front weights, 3086 hrs.

John Deere 840 Self Leveling Loader, S/N W00840X001870, c/w 8 ft quick attach bkt, grapple fork, joystick control.

2003 New Holland TV140 Bi-Directional, S/N RVS020046, c/w New Holland 7614 loader w/ grapple, 3 pt, PTO engine & cab ends, 2 hyd outlets engine end, 16.9x38 tires, 2520 hrs.

2003 New Holland 2320 16 Ft Hay Header, S/N 671364, c/w mounts on TV140 w/ new style adapter.

2002 New Holland TV140 Bi Directional 4WD Tractor, S/N RV5019647, c/w 7614 ldr, grapple, 3pt & PTO cab & engine end, 2 hyd outlets both ends, 16.9R38, 2054 hrs.

New Holland 16HS 16 Ft Hay Head, S/N 1110515, c/w 5 batt reel, light pkg, rubber on rubber conditioner, auger style, mounts on TV140, adapter model 2330BF, 1500 acres total.

International 1206 2WD Tractor, S/N 7835SY, c/w frt mount dozer blade, cab, 3 pt hitch, 2 hyd outlets, 540/1000 PTO, set back frt axle.

International HYDRO 70 2WD Tractor, c/w Dual ldr, 3 pt, 540/1000 PTO.

LOADER BACKHOE & INTEGRATED TOOL CARRIER

2000 Case 580SL Backhoe, S/N JGG0275150, c/w MFWD, CAHR, power shift, ride control, 93 in. front bkt, 24 in. rear bkt, extend-a-hoe, 12x16.5.

1997 Cat IT28G Wheel Loader - ITC, S/N 8CR00601, c/w hyd quick attach 100 in. bkt, CAH, fenders, 2 hyd outlets, 20.5x25 tires.

Pallet Forks for Cat IT28G

TRUCKS

1996 Peterbilt 379 Truck Tractor, S/N 1XP50B8X1TN416880, c/w Cat 3406E, 435 hp, 13 spd Fuller, 60 in. unibuild sleeper, 285/75R24.5, dual exhaust, dual stainless steel air cleaners, (2) 130 gal stainless steel fuel tanks, Pete A/R

susp, 262 in WB, new radiator, 2 yrs on brakes, rebuilt 5th wheel.

1991 Freightliner T/A Manure Spreader Truck, S/N 1FUWZBYBOML412174, c/w Cummins NTC 300 365hp, Fuller RTXF11609R, spring susp, air shift PTO, 44000 lb rears, 224 in. WB, 295/75R22.5, Morlang XHD20 high spd rear discharge manure spreader.

1994 Freightliner FLD11264ST T/A Dump Truck, S/N 1FUY3ECBORH528214, c/w Cat 3176 350hp, Fuller 10 spd, air shift PTO, A/R susp, nearly new 14 ft construction box, air gate, 187 in. WB, 295/75R22.5.

Ford C600 S/A Farm Truck, S/N C60Z6H62717, c/w 5x2 trans, 158 in. WB, 14 ft bed, hoist, 10.00x22.5.

TRAILERS

2002 Wilson PSDCL302 102 In. X 50 Ft Livestock Trailer, S/N 1W1UCSYJ52D524389, c/w rear load, aluminum rims, Neway A/R, 10 ft std dog house, 2 in. interlocking deck plates on nose, 30 ft belly, 10 ft rear.

2001 Doonan 502DB14 102 In. X 50 Ft Step Deck Trailer, S/N 1D9BG502211208215, c/w 255/70R22.5, side winches, spread axle, A/R, dump valve, aluminum outside rims, aluminum chain boxes.

2005 Wilson PSGN8424T 24 Ft Aluminum Gooseneck Stock Trailer, S/N 1W1C4BJJ85H529442, c/w (2) 10000 lb axles, 215/75R17.5, oil bath axles, adj front gate, 3 compartment, over shot access.

2001 Felling FT24 12 Ton T/A Gooseneck Equipment Trailer, S/N SFTDE292111016566, c/w 24 ft deck, 5 ft dovetail w/ ramps.

2002 Titan 1T155 Gooseneck Stock Trailer, S/N 4TGG2020721023263, c/w 7000 lb axles, tack room, slant load.

HAYING & LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT

2004 John Deere 3975 Forage Harvester, S/N E03975X300034, c/w hay hdr, 1000 PTO, Intelliguard, hyd chute

2002 Case IH LBX431RT Baler, S/N 364238002, c/w 4x3x8 square, T/A, rotor cutter, auto lube, liquid application sys, approx 9000 bales total

2004 John Deere 567 Round Baler, S/N E00567X303733, c/w 540 PTO, megawide, megatooth, monitor

1999 John Deere 2018 20 Ft Batwing Mower, S/N W02018F003570, c/w 1000 PTO.

1997 John Deere 945 15 Ft Pull Type Mower/Conditioner, S/N E00945R119096, c/w 2 pt, 1000 PTO, rubber/rubber conditioner.

New Holland 420 Small Square Baler, S/N 579029, c/w 540 PTO, hyd tension

Rem 3600R Bale Processor, c/w 1000 PTO, rear load.

Haybuster S2000 Bale Processor, S/N AJ0179, c/w 1000 PTO, LH discharge, rear load

Morris 1400 Hay Hiker Round Bale Mover, S/N 140001720.

Agco/Hesston 3983 12 Wheel Hay Rake, S/N 926, c/w hyd folding

John Deere F687 Front Deck Mower

Richardton 4 Wheel Dump Wagon

Pearson SE2 Livestock Chute, c/w mechanical, with transport

Pearson Squeeze Chute, c/w palp cage, transport

Thorsen Squeeze Chute

3 PT Round Bale Spinner

Several Misc Metal & Wooden Feedbunks

Qty of Round Bale Feeders

Portable Loading Chute

Misc Livestock Supplies

Inverted Tire Feeders

Misc Tack

GRAIN BINS & GRAIN HANDLING EQUIPMENT

Steffes 30T Bulk Feed Bin, c/w 8 ft bottom clearance for drive under

Wheatland 30T Bulk Feed Bin, c/w 8 ft bottom clearance for drive under

Westfield W6031 6 In. X 31 Ft Grain Auger, c/w Honda gas powered engine

Farm King 846 8 In. X 46 Ft Grain Auger, c/w 10 hp motor

Kenex 8 In. X 34 Ft Grain Auger

2 - 4 In. x 20 Ft Elec Drive Pencil Auger

TILLAGE & PLANTING EQUIPMENT

John Deere 9400 20 Ft Drill, S/N 6626&6627, c/w (2) 10 ft hoe type, 10 in. spacing, 3 rank, grass seeder, steel press wheels, endwise transport.

2001 Case IH 5850 36 Ft Chisel Plow, S/N CKB0020524, c/w walking tandems, spring loaded shanks, Morris 3 bar hang on harrows, very low use.

Morris 50HHB 50 Ft Harrow, S/N FP50005278, c/w rear fold, 5 bar harrows

Wilray 16 Ft Land Roller, c/w rigid

PICKUPS & MOTORBIKES

2004 Dodge 2500 Quad Cab 4x4 Pickup, c/w Cummins diesel, 6 spd, 4 door, long box

2003 Chev K10 4x4 Pickup, c/w V6 4.3L, A/T

2001 GMC 2500HD SL 4x4 Pickup, c/w 6L, A/T, long box

1991 Chev 3500 4x4 Pickup, c/w 454, A/T, flat bed.

1973 Ford F250 4x4 Pickup, c/w 460, 4 spd, 8 ft flatbed, calf feeder w/ scale, hyd controlled

Suzuki 125 Motorbike

Yamaha 250 Motorbike

Yamaha Motorbike

MISCELLANEOUS

1500 Gallon Flat Bottom Water Tank

2 - 1000 Gallon Free Standing Tank, c/w 110V elec pump

2 - 500 Gallon Tank, c/w stand

(5) Motorola & Johnson Business Band Radios, c/w converter for 110 & antenna

Misc Office Supplies

Antique Wagon

Heat Watch System, c/w transmitters & patches

Drill Press

ATV Sprayer

ATV Spreader

B&D Band Saw

Craftsman Scroll Saw

DeWald 7730 Radial Arm Saw

Geyser Toolbar, c/w mtd harrows

Honda 6500 Generator

Honda Rototiller

Kinetco 80 Gallon R/O System, c/w softner

Miller 200 Wire Feed Welder

Norco 2 1/2 T Air Lift Jack

OTC 12 T Press

R&D Parts Washer

S&W Blow Hard Blower, c/w 1000 PTO

Speed Aire 5 HP Shop Air Compressor



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Market Advisor:

Should Livestock Producers Be Concerned About Bird Flu?

By Tim Petry, Livestock Marketing Economist,
NDSU Extension Service

At several meetings that I have presented at this year, livestock producers have asked if avian influenza, commonly referred to as bird flu, would impact livestock prices. One cattle producer commented that he thought bird flu could be good, since destroying chickens would mean less competitive meat for the beef industry.

However, livestock producers should be very concerned because bird flu already may have negatively impacted beef and other meat prices.

According to the USDA (www.usda.gov/birdflu), bird flu is a disease caused by a virus that infects domestic poultry and wild birds. Each year there is a bird flu season just as there is a flu season for humans. Some forms of the flu are worse than others.

LPAI, or "low path" avian influenza, has existed in the U.S. for some time and does occur periodically. It causes birds to become ill, but poses no serious threat to human health. Outbreaks in the past have caused temporary restrictions on U.S. exports of poultry from states where it has occurred.

H5N1, or "high path" flu, is often fatal in birds and is more easily transmitted. The H5N1 strain of HPAI is the one that is spreading in Asia, Africa and Europe. This strain has been transmitted to humans in Southeast Asia. Those infected have had extensive, direct contact with the infected birds. Consumers in some of those countries have sharply reduced their consumption of poultry products, domestic and imported.

The broiler industry is quite important in world trade. The U.S. is the world's largest producer of broilers and produces 1½ times more broiler meat than second-place China. The U.S. is the second largest exporter of broiler meat and was in first place until Brazil overtook the U.S. in 2004.

After starting 2005 strong, U.S. broiler exports declined sharply by the end of the year. Fourth quarter reductions were likely due to declining consumer demand in countries and neighboring regions where bird flu has been identified.

Reduced exports led to increasing stocks and much lower chicken prices in the U.S.

By the end of January 2006, U.S. cold-storage stocks of chicken were at record levels, about 46% above year-ago levels. Dark chicken meat sales are especially dependent on the export market. The lack of export sales was evident in chicken leg stocks, which are about 2½ times higher than in 2005.

For the period from mid-September 2005 to mid-February 2006, wholesale broiler prices declined 16%, wholesale chicken breast prices declined 30% and wholesale chicken leg prices declined a whopping 45%.

Major declines in wholesale chicken prices result in chicken that is priced very attractively to retail supermarkets and the food service industry, including fast-food outlets. Some



Both wild and domestic birds can contract different forms of bird flu. Depending on the strain, the flu can kill birds and may infect people.

retailers, in turn, have shifted features and other promotions to chicken and away from beef, pork and other meats.

Theoretically, lower chicken prices reduce the demand for substitute meats, such as beef or pork. But, it is difficult to quantify the exact impact that declining chicken exports and prices have on other meats because of the many factors that affect demand. Consumer incomes, tastes and preferences both domestically and abroad, and changes in prices of all competing meats are important determinants of demand.

However, a look at U.S. cow slaughter and prices during the last half of 2005 can serve as an example. Beef cow slaughter was down 5% from a year earlier due to improved grazing conditions in many Western cattle producing-states and interest in herd rebuilding. Total cow slaughter was down 4%. This decline in slaughter should have been supportive to prices, but both the wholesale cow beef cutout value and market cow prices averaged about 5% lower than in the last half of 2004.

Likely, much of the decline in prices was due to aggressive featuring of abundant, low-priced chicken at the expense of hamburger products.

An outbreak of H5N1 in the U.S. likely would close some export markets for poultry, similar to the BSE situation that is so familiar to the beef industry. So, eradicating bird flu overseas, preventing it from happening in the U.S. and a return to a robust export market for chicken is important not only for the poultry industry, but also for the beef and other meat sectors.

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11 - Dr. Charles Gasser-ENT

11 - Phyllis Trotter, CCA-A-Audiologist

12 - Dr. Lane Lee-Surgeon

13 - Dr. Scott Naum-Gastroenterologist

18 - Dr. Erdal Diri-Rheumatologist

18 - Dr. Alexandre Kindy-Orthopedist

20 - Dr. Scott Naum-Gastroenterologist

24 - Dr. Tracy Hjelmstad, DPM-Podiatrist

25 - Dr. Charles Gasser-ENT

25 - Phyllis Trotter, CCC-A-Audiologist

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26 - Sandy Gilbertson-Pacemaker Checks

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Stockmen's Association Publishes New Brand Book

The 2006 North Dakota Brand Record is now available from the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA). The updated brand directory contains nearly 20,000 brands and is designed to be more user-friendly than in the past, said NDSA Animal Identification Coordinator Mary Goeres.

The book is red in color and 8 1/2 x 10 1/2 inches in size. It features 385 reference pages, as well as a 226-page index. "The index has larger type and a more open layout, so it is easier to read than in the past, which makes the whole book easier to navigate," Goeres said. "The inside pages are also on heavier, less see-through paper, which make them easier to read too."

Like the 1996 edition, the 2006 brand book has a heavy, plastic cover and is expandable to last longer and fit the annual supplements that will follow in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Those interested in purchasing a book can pick one up at the NDSA office in Bismarck for \$25. They may also send a check for \$29 (which includes shipping and handling) to NDSA Brand Book, 407 S. Second St., Bismarck, ND 58504 to have one sent to them.

Supplements are free for those who make an initial Brand Record purchase. "We will send the supplements as soon after Jan. 1 of each year as possible," Goeres said. "Book owners, however, are responsible to notify our office if their address changes."

She and recently retired NDSA Brand Recorder Nancy Dawson were pleased with the number of brand renewals that were returned by the Dec. 31, 2005, deadline. "The renewal forms flooded in from August through December," Goeres said, "and we were glad to have so many included in the latest Brand Record. It should be a useful reference."

NDSA Chief Brand Inspector Darryl Howard thinks so too. "Besides the book's obvious use to verify the ownership of livestock, you can bet some family member in future generations will treasure it for its historical value if they have one."

One-thousand copies of the North Dakota Brand Record were printed. Reference copies were sent to the North Dakota Heritage Center, North Dakota sheriff departments, NDSA brand inspectors and adjacent-state brand offices. About 700 copies are available for sale to the public.

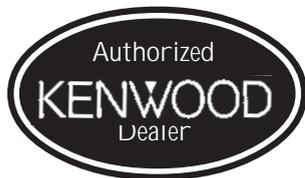
While a majority of North Dakota brands were renewed by the deadline and included in the book, many brands have still not been renewed, Goeres said. "If you didn't receive an orange renewal form, it is probably in our insufficient-address pile," she explained. "Simply call the office and we will get it to you."

If people simply haven't renewed yet, but want to keep their brand, they have until Dec. 31, 2006, to do so, thanks to a state law that establishes a one-year grace period to prevent anyone from picking up a non-renewed brand without the current owner's signature on a brand bill of sale. "However, the grace period ends on Jan. 1, 2007," Howard warned. "So, the brands that are still not renewed by then will become available to the general public."

North Dakota Century Code requires that all brands be renewed every five years or they expire. It also requires that an updated brand book be published following the renewal period.

The NDSA assumed the state's brand recording duties in 1993. Dawson led the department until her retirement in February 2006. Since then, Goeres has assumed the NDSA's brand recording duties.

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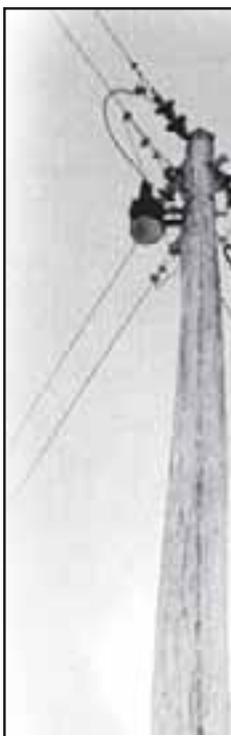
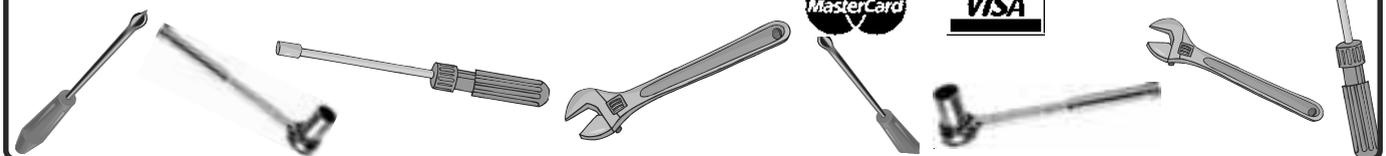
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Planting, Weather Folklore Part Of Ag Heritage

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

Today's growers have access to all sorts of equipment and technology, including such things as long range weather forecasts and soil temperature probes, that enable them to not only know when the soil has reached warm enough temperatures for planting, but also that allow them to pick and choose the most appropriate time for planting and for handling other field work. Our ancestors, however, did not have access to any sort of equipment that helped them determine sort of weather they might encounter in the coming days or that would help them decide whether they could safely plant a crop. Instead, people relied on observations of the world around them and the sky signs overhead in order to decipher how certain natural phenomena appeared to predict the weather and how these indicators seemed to forecast how productively crops would grow after planting. These observations developed into a body of planting and weather folklore passed down through generations of farmers and gardeners.

In this age of science and technology, we still find people who swear that in order to grow a good crop or a bountiful garden, growers must plant according to the phases of the moon. "Plant beans when the moon is light; plant potatoes when the moon is dark" refers to the monthly changes of the moon and the idea that crops that set their edible portions above ground, such as peas and beans, grow best when planted while the moon waxes, or increases in size and light, and occurs from the new moon to the full moon. Conversely, adherents of moon planting believe that crops which set their edible portions below ground, such as potatoes and carrots, grow best when planted while the moon wanes in size and light, or the period from full moon to new moon.

Folklorists further refined this belief by asserting that gardeners should plant crops that produce seeds on the outside, such as lettuce, broccoli, flowers and herbs, during the first quarter of the waxing moon, and plant crops that produce seeds on the inside, such as peas, beans, tomatoes, and squash, during the second quarter of the waxing moon. After full moon when its light begins to wane, gardeners should plant their root crops, perennial flowers, bulbs, shrubs and trees.

With no way to accurately determine soil temperatures, agriculturists came up with several ways to judge the warmth of the soil. "If you can sit on the ground with your britches down, it is safe to plant" states one old adage. Gardeners from previous generations also believed that Good Friday, as the only day the devil had no power, provided the opportunity time to plant potatoes. "Plant potatoes on Good Friday for a bumper crop" states this adage from generations past.

Other weather and planting jingles have come to us through the years. Regarding planting seeds, "plant one for the cutworm, one for the crow, one to rot and one to grow."

A warm Christmas supposedly means a cold Easter, and a halo around the moon signifies rain. Folklorists admonish us to water the garden after the moon has set, and they remind us that the sky turns green in a storm when the clouds hold hail. A full moon rising clear promises good weather, while a purple sunset signifies frost that night.

Other weather related sayings include the notion that if all the stars are out at night, we'll see a nice day tomorrow; cows lie down in the field before a rain; birds roost early and feed heavily before rain or snow; and dandelion blossoms close before a rain.

We also can't forget the significance of the full moon at the fall equinox. Known as the Harvest Moon, this bright September moonlight allowed harvesters from past generations to take advantage of the additional hours of light and work long into the night to complete harvest.



Through the centuries, many gardeners and farmers believed that in order to have a good crop, they had to plant particular crops in accordance with the phases of the moon.

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The handbook, the product of cooperation between Montana, Utah and Wyoming, is available from the Montana State University Extension Service.

The book is a quick and ready reference of weed control practices in various cropping systems, aquatic and riverside situations, rangelands and right-of ways in Montana, Utah and Wyoming. It also provides information on herbicide properties, sprayer calibration, herbicide resistance, conversion tables and approximate retail prices.

This book is available on-line at the MSU Cropland Weed Management web site (<http://scarab.msu.montana.edu/CropWeeds/index.htm>). Printed copies cost \$15 and may be obtained from any MSU County Extension office or by contacting the Montana State University Extension Publication Office, 115 Culbertson, PO Box 172040, Bozeman, MT 59717-2040.

You can also order the Weed Management handbook by sending an email request to the Publication Office at orderpubs@montana.edu or calling the center at 406-994-3273.

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Livestock Forum, Nutrition Conference April 11-12

From MSU News Service

Changes and challenges in the U.S. beef industry will be explored at this year's Montana Livestock Forum and Nutrition Conference to be held April 11 and 12 at the Grand Tree Inn in Bozeman, said Montana State University Extension Beef Specialist John Paterson.

Radio personality Rick Haines from the Northern Ag Network will be the keynote speaker. International, national and local experts will discuss the future of the beef industry on a global basis, beef certification, hybrid cattle, replacement heifers and raising calves for natural markets, Paterson said. The experts will answer such questions as should ranchers certify their cattle this year; have Montanans forgotten about crossbreeding; should ranchers develop their own replacement heifers or let the pro-

fessionals do it; and how much more money do ranchers need in order to raise calves for the natural markets.

"The beef cattle industry is faced with a variety of challenges and changes which include the globalization of the industry, export market requirements, additional niche market opportunities, which include age and source verification, and new research on feedstuffs and supplementation strategies," Paterson said. The conference is open to the public and sponsored by MSU and the Montana Feed Association.

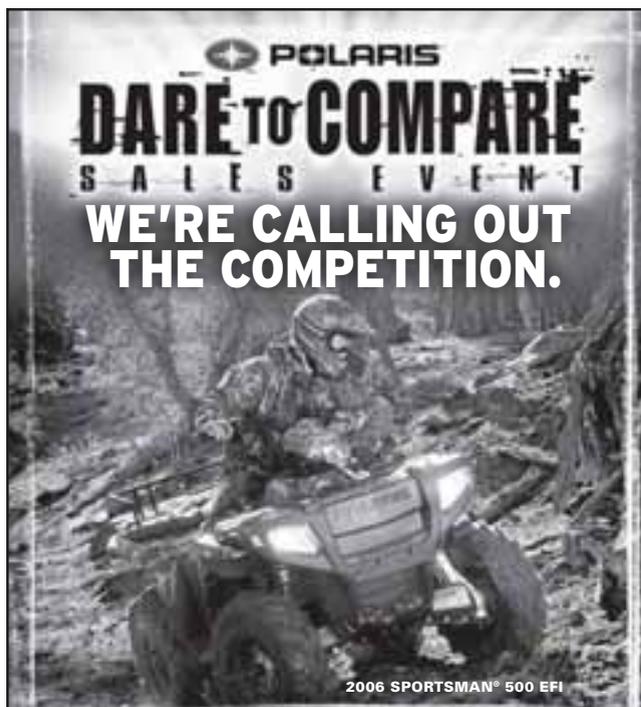
The schedule for Tuesday, April 11 is:

- 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — Registration
- 12:30 p.m. — Welcome. Kim Hager, CHS, Inc., Billings.
- 12:35-1:15 p.m. — How USA beef production is changing. Gary Smith, Colorado State University.
- 1:15-2 p.m. — How will marketing be changed in the future? Bill Mies, eMerge Interactive.
- 2-2:45 p.m. — How Cactus Feeders plan to adapt to industry changes. Paul Colman, Cactus Feeds, TX.
- 2:45-3 p.m. — Break.
- 3-3:30 p.m. Have we forgotten about crossbreeding in Montana? Don Schiefelbein, Schiefelbein Farms, MN.
- 3:30-4:15 p.m. — The future of heifer development. Patsy Houghton, Heartland Cattle, NE.
- 4:15-5 p.m. — The economics of natural and organic branded beef programs. Does it pay? John Scanga, Colorado State University.
- 5-5:30 p.m. — Controlling your marketing destiny: One producer's perspective. Austin Genereux, Genereux Ranch, Big Sandy.
- 5:30-6 p.m. — Cash bar.
- 6-8 p.m. — Feed Association scholarships. "Seeds of Change." Rick Haines.

Wednesday, April 12

- 7-8 a.m. — Continental breakfast. Graduate student poster competition.
- 8-8:30 a.m. — Ration formulation program for sheep. Pat Hatfield, MSU.
- 8:30-9:15 a.m. — The dos and don'ts of byproduct feedstuffs for beef cattle. Bud Patterson, Patterson Consulting, and Trey Patterson, Padlock Ranch.
- 9:15-10 a.m. — Protein supplementation of grazing cattle: What's new? Terry Klopfenstein, University of Nebraska.
- 10-10:30 a.m. — Break.
- 10:30-11:15 a.m. — Beef cattle diets and forage optimization strategies on western range lands. Tim DeCurto, Oregon State University.
- 11:15-11:25 a.m. — Presentation of graduate poster winners. Wayne Gipp, MSU.
- 11:25-11:45 a.m. — Conference summary. John Paterson, MSU.
- 11:45 a.m. — adjourn.

Cost of the conference is \$50 for both days, \$35 for April 11 only and \$15 for April 12 only. For more information, call Lisa Duffey at 406-994-4323 or John Paterson at 406-994-5562.



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Easter Traditions, Food Differ Around the World

By Lois Kerr, Ag Roundup Editor

Through the centuries, different cultures have developed individual traditions to celebrate Easter, the risen Christ and new life. Many tasty foods, beautifully decorated eggs and wacky games have evolved through the years to celebrate the Easter observance.

Perhaps the egg most symbolizes Easter. People the world over use the egg, a symbol of fertility and new life, in a variety of ways. Egg rolling contests, egg tossing contests and Easter egg hunts, all have made their way into popular Easter activities. People in some countries play an egg breaking game using raw eggs. Each contestant starts with a whole, uncracked egg. Paired off against another player, contestants knock their egg against the egg of their opponent. The egg that breaks disqualifies the contestant from further play. Winners move on to test the strength of their egg against other eggs, and the person who ends the game with an unbroken egg wins the contest.

Artisans from many countries decorate eggs in a variety of beautiful ways. Some of these eggs, such as the intricate ones designed by Faberge, have found their way into museums and as illustrations in books. Americans traditionally place colored, decorated eggs in Easter baskets.

However, once Easter ends, what does a person do with all those leftover hard cooked eggs? The following two recipes use hard cooked eggs in a delicious way.

Eggs Divan

- 6 hard-cooked eggs
- 1 2½ oz. can deviled ham
- ¼ tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. grated onion
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. dry mustard
- 1- 2 Tbsp. light cream or milk
- 1 pkg. frozen broccoli
- 1½ Tbsp. melted butter
- 1½ Tbsp. flour
- ¼ tsp. dry mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¾ c. milk
- ½ c. grated sharp Cheddar cheese

Peel eggs, cut ¼ inch slice from one end and carefully remove yolk. Mash yolk and end slices; add ham, Worcestershire sauce, onion, salt, mustard and cream. Mix well, then use the mixture to fill egg whites.

Cook broccoli as label directs.

In saucepan, melt butter, stir in flour, mustard, salt, pepper and milk. Cook until thick. Add cheese and stir until smooth.

Arrange broccoli in baking dish. Stand filled eggs with

stuffed ends up between and on broccoli pieces. Pour sauce over all. Cook, uncovered, for 40 minutes or until bubbly, in a 400° oven.

Spicy Eggs and Ham

- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1½ c. milk
- 1 tsp. horseradish
- 1 Tbsp. chili sauce
- 6 hard cooked eggs, shelled and sliced
- 2 c. cooked diced ham
- ½ c. cut up ripe olives
- ¾ c. sharp Cheddar cheese

Melt butter. Stir in flour, mustard, salt, pepper, then milk.

Cook until thickened. Add horseradish and chili sauce.

In 1½ qt. casserole, arrange layers of ham, eggs, olives, cheese and sauce. Bake 25 to 30 minutes at 400°.

Easter traditions also include breads and cakes of all sorts. Russian Easter bread features hard cooked decorated eggs as a garnish on the sweet yeast bread. Hot cross buns originated in England, as did Simnel cake, a rich fruit cake often eaten on Mothering Sunday, which falls on the middle Sunday during Lent. The Italians enjoy pretzels as an Easter tradition and the Greeks prepare an Easter cake containing oranges and almonds served with a spicy orange sauce.

Hot Cross Buns

- ¾ c. scalded milk
- ½ c. shortening
- 1/3 c. granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ c. warm water
- 1 pkg. yeast
- 1 egg
- ¾ c. currants
- 3 Tbsp. finely snipped orange or lemon peel
- ½ tsp. mace
- 3-4 c. flour
- Salad oil
- 1 egg white, slightly beaten
- 1 c. confectioner's sugar
- 2 Tbsp. hot water
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract

In large bowl, combine milk, shortening, sugar, salt. Cool to lukewarm. In small bowl sprinkle yeast in warm water, stir until dissolved. Add to milk mixture, along with egg, currants, peel, mace, and as much flour as can be

stirred into dough.

Place in greased bowl. Brush top with salad oil, cover and let rise in warm place until doubled in bulk, about 2 hours.

Turn onto lightly floured board. Knead about one minute. Shape into 18 balls. In each of two greased 8x8 pans, arrange 9 balls about 1 inch apart.

With greased scissors, snip deep cross in each bun. Brush with egg white. Cover and let rise again until double in bulk.

Bake buns in 425° oven for about 25 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Fill in the cross on each bun with combined confectioner's sugar, hot water, and vanilla extract.

Simnel Cake

- ¾ c. butter
- ¾ c. sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 c. flour
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 c. currants
- ½ c. raisins
- 3 oz. chopped mixed peel
- 1-2 Tbsp. milk
- 1 lb. marzipan
- 3-4 Tbsp. apricot jam
- 1 beaten egg for glaze

Grease and line a 7-inch round cake pan. Cream together butter and sugar, then add eggs one at a time. Sift the flour with the spices and fold it in, then fold in fruit. Mix to a soft dropping consistency with the milk. Put half the batter in the cake tin and level it.

Divide the marzipan into 3 and roll out 1/3 on a sugared board into a round slightly smaller than the cake pan. Pinch the edges to prevent the paste from cracking. Lay the marzipan on top of the cake mixture then cover with remaining cake batter and level off.

Bake in preheated 325° oven with the cake in the center of the oven. Bake for 1 hour. Reduce the heat to 300° and cook an additional 2 hours or until the cake is firm to the touch.

Cool in the pan, then cool completely on wire rack. Wrap the cake and store for at least two weeks.

When ready to eat, unwrap the cake. Heat the jam. Roll out one of the remaining pieces of marzipan into a round to put on top of the cake. Brush the apricot jam over the cake and press on the marzipan. Flatten the remaining piece of marzipan and divide into eleven equal parts. Roll the pieces into small balls.

Brush the top and sides of the marzipan on the top of the cake with beaten egg. Press on the balls in a ring around the edge of the cake and glaze them with the beaten egg. Place on a baking sheet and bake near the top of a preheated 450° oven for 5 minutes or until nicely colored. Cool the cake and serve.



Eggs remain the most popular symbol of Easter. Above, decorated eggs display artistic talent as well as symbolizing fertility and new life.

Avoid Using Septic System Additives

NDSU Extension News Service

Additives likely will not solve home sewage treatment system problems, a North Dakota State University water quality expert warns.

"In general, most professionals working with septic systems do not recommend using any additives," says Tom Scherer, an NDSU Extension Service agricultural engineer.

Instead, he says, water conservation and common sense are the best ways to keeping septic systems operating. For instance, homeowners shouldn't flush dental floss, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, cigarette butts, plastics and other bulky nonbiodegradable wastes into the septic tank, or pour liquid fats, grease and oils down the kitchen sink. Nor should they use a garbage disposal unless the septic system is specifically designed to handle the extra load.

Many septic system problems appear in the spring, when water tables are high. Homeowners often try additives first because additive manufacturers claim their product can fix the problems, Scherer says.

Septic system additives have been sold since the 1880s. More than 120 products are on the market. The manufacturers say they reduce or eliminate the need to pump the septic tank, increase bacterial action and reduce scum accumulations in the septic tank, clean the septic tank and deodorize the system, dissolve grease and other organic substances, break down fats and oils, and clear plugged drainfields.

"To determine if additives help, you first have to understand how the septic system operates," Scherer says.

The septic system has three parts: the sewage collection system, which consists of the household plumbing system; the septic tank, which is used for solids retention and biodegradation; and the drainfield, which treats and disposes of the liquid effluent from the septic tank.

The drainfield is the key to this system, according to Scherer. In the course of a year, the drainfield has to treat and dispose of a column of water more than 50 feet high for every square foot of drainfield.

Additives can be separated into three basic types: organic solvents (often chlorinated compounds), inorganic additives (acids, bases and flocculating agents) and biological additives (bacteria, yeast and enzymes).

Biologically based formulations are the most common type. The one most people are familiar with is yeast. Adding a cake of yeast to the septic system is supposed to keep the septic tank working, but research during the last 80 years shows yeast does not make the septic system work any better, Scherer says.

Products containing bacteria and enzymes are based on the idea that many household cleaning solvents reduce the effectiveness of the natural bacteria in the septic sys-

tem, and therefore they need to be regenerated. However, research shows flushing more than 1 gallon of bleach, two pints of a liquid disinfectant or several teaspoons of a drain cleaner down the drain each week does not have much effect on normal bacterial action, Scherer says.

Adding solvent cleaners for organic materials may be effective in removing grease from the household plumbing system and septic tank, but research shows these compounds can end up in the groundwater in sufficient quantities to be harmful. Adding acids and inorganic compounds can cause sludge bulking and disrupt normal biological activity in the septic tank. Plus, using strong bases can be very damaging to the drainfield's soil structure.

In many cases, septic system problems are the result of an overloaded drainfield. However, research has not found any product that can completely restore a plugged drainfield, Scherer says. He recommends reducing the amount of water going into the drainfield from inside and outside the house to solve these infrequent problems.

Homeowners should direct rain water from roof gutters and outflow from the sump pump away from the septic tank and drainfield, and landscape the area around the septic tank and drainfield to direct surface water away from them. Also, the tile drainage system around the foundation of the house should not empty into the sewer pipe leading to the septic system.

Scherer has this advice on how to reduce water usage in the house:

- * Use low-flow faucets, water-saving showerheads and toilets that use little water.

- * Reduce shower times and use appropriate-sized wash loads.

- * Repair leaky faucets and toilets.

- * Don't let the water run while shaving, washing hands, brushing teeth or washing dishes.

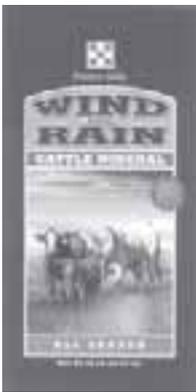
- * Wash clothes twice a week rather than once to help avoid overloading the drainfield.

- * Reduce the amount of water needed to flush old-style toilets by adding a jug (1- or 1 1/2-gal. plastic milk container) to the toilet tank. Make sure the jug does not interfere with the flushing mechanism.

"If you do put additives into your septic system, read the directions very carefully," Scherer advises. "Make sure the additive is recommended for the problem you have noticed. However, knowing how your septic system operates, having the septic tank pumped every two to three years and using common sense, along with proper water use, will go a long way toward keeping your septic system operating as it should. At best, septic system additives will only provide a very short respite from problems, and at worst, can increase drainfield plugging, as well as pollute the groundwater."

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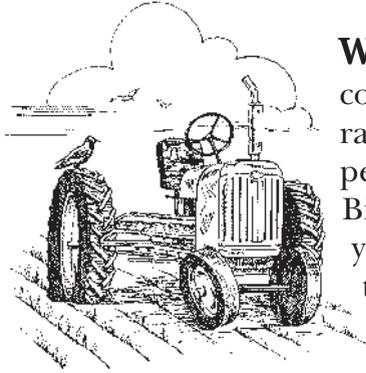
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- Apr. 17 No Sale- Happy Easter
- Apr. 21 Early Morning
- Red Angus Bull Sale @ 1 p.m.
- Apr. 24 Regular Sale
- May 1 No Sale

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Meadow Muffins . . .

Cow Checkin' For Dummies

By Ken Overcast

Ahh, spring.... when a young man's fancy turns to love. The bulls are pretty durn hard to keep in, too. An ol' boy told me once that he thought that those two things were related somehow..... who knows?? Calvin' is pretty much in full swing in our neck of the woods, but I guess in those spots where they don't get any winter they're probably pretty much done.

Now, there is a secret to checkin' cows in the middle of the night. I don't share my secrets too often, but this one is a pivotal part of spring survival on a cow outfit, so I feel sort of compelled to let ever'one else in on it.

Probably 95% of the time, you get up for nothin'. Either there isn't anything goin' on, or you wait up for some heifer, and she calves by herself anyway. So through the years, I've almost perfected the art of "sleep walkin' cow checkin'". After a nice little midnight walk out to the shed, there isn't anything worse than climbin' back in bed and starin' two eyed at the ceiling at 2 a.m. (or one eyed, in my case), and not being able to go back to sleep.

This little plan of mine works most of the time, but on one particular occasion a few years back, me and my blushin' bride were fresh married, and things didn't turn out all that well. It was the middle of March, and I got up to check the cows.

Even at that tender young age she was a little ouchy about gettin' woke up in the middle of the night, so it's in my own best interest to try to just doze through the check, and just maybe I could go back to sleep, too. I got up and pulled on my jeans and a coat, grabbed the flashlight, and headed out the door. I'd gotten in the habit of not even buttoning my jeans. I'd just hold them up with one hand. It's a lot faster.

We had quite a bit of snow that spring, so we had all the cows in the corrals with a big old straw pile mounded up in the middle of it. It had chinooked, and the snow was all gone, but the only dry place for the old girls to calve was on that straw pile. The rest of the pen was a soupy mixture of melted snow and the remains of digested hay. (Pee soup.)

The soup was about six inches deep, with a nice layer of ice underneath it, which made things slicker than the dickens, and the walkin' a little tricky. Ever' once in a while a cow would crawl off in a corner to be by herself, and would drop a calf in the soup, so they had to be checked on a pretty regular basis.

I'm doin' my usual sleep walkin' routine.... just shufflin'

though the slop to the straw pile. One eye is plumb shut, and the other one is only half open, and I'm holdin' up my jeans with my left had and shinin' the light around with my right one. Everything seems to be normal; no calves in the slop, so I headed up on the straw mound to see if there was anything new up there. The old milk cow had calved the day before, and we'd been too busy to look him over very well. She was layin' beside him right on the edge of the straw, so just to make sure he'd had a suck and was ok, I gave him a kick as I went by just to see how lively he was.

I shore wish I hadn't done that. He let out a beller, as they sometimes do, and jumped to his feet. He's fine, I thought to myself. Nope, his mama wasn't any problem. She was gentle as a kitten, but there was another old bag there that was just fixin' to calve that was claimin' him. That led to a real problem.

They'll do that sometimes, you know. Nobody on earth really understands those female hormone deals for sure, but sometimes the motherin' hormone kicks in before calf havin' hormone is plumb done, and the old girls will "granny". They'll claim a calf that's already born, swearin' to goodness it's their own.

That is precisely what happened on that fateful night, and the cow doin' the "grannyin'" was the worst old ring tail on the place. She let out a bawl and hit me right in the middle of the chest with her head. I did a nearly perfect reverse swan dive off the edge of the straw, landin' flat on my back in six inches of thirty degree pee soup, and taking about fifteen feet to skid to a stop. I was pretty well awake by now, and must not have my divin' technique completely perfected because somehow I lost the hold I had on my jeans, and they wound up around my knees someplace with 20 pounds of the awfulest smellin' stuff you ever saw in the seat of 'em. Pull 'em up or take 'em off? I had my overshoes on so up they came....fillin' my boots.

Surprising as it may seem, I still recommend the "walkin' in your sleep" method of cow checkin'. That ol' bed shore felt good after shovelin' out my jeans, and dumping out my boots, and the shower drain only plugged up a couple of times.

I can't remember if the cook got woke up or not.
Keep Smilin'....and don't forget to check yer cinch.

Ken Overcast is a rancher and recording cowboy singer. He lives on Lodge Creek in northern Montana where he raises and dispenses BS. www.kenovercast.com.

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By Jerry Palen



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"Take A Break"

Puzzle Page

LOOP-A-WORD Pa-Ph Local Last Names

The following words are found within the diagram. Words read forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

By Lois Kerr

P	N	O	T	G	N	I	N	N	E	P	E	R	D	U	E
W	O	P	P	F	E	I	F	E	R	Y	L	P	K	P	
O	S	F	A	A	S	K	L	S	P	R	O	B	F	U	A
L	R	P	G	R	P	F	A	U	P	A	T	E	L	S	T
P	E	S	E	K	T	E	K	N	A	A	R	P	U	A	T
E	D	T	Y	R	P	I	A	I	R	P	N	Y	G	N	E
P	E	R	E	Z	S	I	N	G	R	E	T	K	P	A	R
P	P	E	A	R	S	O	N	O	T	T	T	O	P	S	
L	Y	A	A	I	S	P	N	T	E	E	E	S	P	W	O
E	P	K	R	E	M	L	A	P	K	R	A	P	A	P	N
F	N	A	S	K	F	P	A	U	L	S	E	N	A	P	N
N	P	Y	I	V	E	P	E	F	P	O	P	R	E	E	O
V	O	T	A	L	O	R	H	L	P	N	K	R	A	R	S
Z	E	T	V	P	E	C	K	E	T	S	K	E	S	R	L
P	T	I	T	C	T	R	A	P	L	I	F	G	V	Y	U
G	T	E	Y	A	L	S	A	P	N	P	E	F	V	A	A
T	A	P	P	A	P	A	R	S	O	N	S	R	O	L	P

CRYPTO-LIST

Crypto list is a list of related words in code. The same code is used throughout. When you have identified a word, use the known letters to decode the other words in the list.

Cake ingredients

ex: Flour

J L X R I

S L K K V I

D Z C B

M R E Z C C R

T Y F T F C R K V

V X X J

T F T F E L K

W C R M F I Z E X

S R B Z E X G F N U V I

Pacovsky	Parsons	Paulsen	Pennington	Peterson
Page	Partin	Paulson	Peplow	Petik
Palmer	Paslay	Pavek	Pepple	Petrik
Panasuk	Pasternak	Payne	Perdue	Petty
Pankow	Patch	Pearson	Perez	Petz
Pappa	Patel	Pease	Perkins	Pfau
Parisian	Patten	Peck	Perry	Pfeifer
Park	Patterson	Pederson	Person	Pflug
Parker	Patton	Peltier	Pesek	Phelps
Parks	Paul	Pelvitt	Petersen	

KEYWORD: To find the keyword, fill in the blanks 1 to 8 with the correct missing letter. Transfer these letters to the correspondingly numbered squares in the diagram. Be careful. More than one letter will complete each word.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

1. C H A S _
2. _ A G E R
3. _ U S T Y
4. S A L V _

5. P A _ T Y
6. H _ T C H
7. G R A _ E
8. B L _ N D



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- Band Saw
- Workbench-8"
- Work Bench w/Drill press
- Metal Lathe 4"w/Cabinet
- Commercial upholstery sewing machine & stapler
- Rolling tool cabinet
- Rigid pipe vices,
- Hossfeld Universal pipe bender #2 size w/dies.
- Air Hydraulic Press
- Welding table
- 2-New torflex 6000 lb axles.
- 370' 1-1/2" tongue & groove trailer decking-8' pieces.
- snowbucket needs assembly
- Powertrack 10' w/ mig welding head.
- Millermatic WC-1 weld cont.
- 2-steel sawhorses
- staplers
- air tools
- 30 amp battery charger
- welding rod,
- 35 lb Jack Hammer w/bits (air)
- Rigid threading dies
- jigsaws
- Milwaukee right hand drill
- Acetylene torches
- flaring tools
- hyd jacks
- 2-1qt paint sprayers,
- bolts
- 200 gal poly water tank
- Stainless steel piping
- log chains, boomers
- nylon strap 4"
- Many Bushwhacker plastic bed liners
- 2- Post car Hoist
- Hyd Lift Gate Dually flatbed
- Truck mount Cherry picker
- Many Grill Guards, bug shields
- Pick accessory parts

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Thursday	Barley & Oats
Friday	Spring Wheat
Saturday	Spring Wheat

NOTE: Durum by appt. on Wednesday or Thursday

Monday	Spring Wheat
Tuesday	Spring Wheat
Wednesday	Spring Wheat
Thursday	Barley & Oats
Friday	Barley & Oats
Saturday	Barley & Oats

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