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Public Comment

**The Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project needs your support.
See page 4 for details.**



April 2015

**Farm & Ranch
Monthly Magazine**

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USDA Designates 25 Counties In North Dakota As A Primary Natural Disaster Area With Assistance To Producers In Surrounding States

WASHINGTON, March 18, 2015 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 25 counties in North Dakota as a primary natural disaster area due to damages and losses caused by the combined effects of frost, colder than average winter, cooler than normal spring temperatures, excessive rainfall, ground saturation, frost, freeze, severe thunderstorms, hail, high winds, drought, weather-related insects, diseases and sprout damage that occurred from Jan. 1, 2014, and continues. Those counties are: Adams, Billings, Bottineau, Burke, Burleigh, Divide, Dunn, Emmons, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Hettinger, McHenry, McKenzie, McLean, Mountrail, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Ramsey, Renville, Stark, Traill, Walsh, Ward, Williams.

“Our hearts go out to those North Dakota farmers and ranchers affected by recent natural disasters,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “President Obama and I are committed to ensuring that agriculture remains a bright spot in our nation’s economy by sustaining the successes of America’s farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through these difficult times. We’re also telling North Dakota producers that USDA stands with you and your communities when severe weather and natural disasters threaten to disrupt your livelihood.”

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in North Dakota also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. Those counties are: Benson, Bowman, Cass, Cavalier, Eddy, Grant, Griggs, Kidder, Logan, McIntosh, Mercer, Morton, Pierce, Rolette, Sheridan, Sioux, Slope, Steele, Towner.

Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in Minnesota, Montana and South Dakota also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are

contiguous. Those counties are:

Minnesota: Kittson, Marshall, Norman and Polk.

Montana: Fallon, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Wibaux.

South Dakota: Campbell, Corson, Harding, and Perkins.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on March 18, 2015, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Additional programs available to assist farmers and ranchers include the Emergency Conservation Program, The Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program, and the Tree Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA news releases are available on FSA’s website at www.fsa.usda.gov via the “Newsroom” link.

BLM Requests Input On Application To Graze Bison Year-Around At Flat Creek Allotment

(MALTA, Mont.) – The Bureau of Land Management Malta Field Office is seeking public input for an environmental analysis regarding a grazing permittee’s application to change their class of livestock and to change the livestock use and management on the Flat Creek Allotment (15439).

The American Prairie Reserve has applied to change the class of livestock from cattle to indigenous bison on their permit to graze public lands on the Flat Creek Allotment in south Phillips County.

In addition, they are seeking permission to remove interior fencing and manage their private lands along with the public lands as one common pasture. They are also requesting to change the allotment grazing season to year-round from the current May 1 – Nov. 15 grazing season.

The allocated animal unit months (AUMs) and carrying capacity of the public lands would remain unchanged. All regulations for grazing public lands would apply and all grazing management would continue to adhere to the Standards for Rangeland Health.

For more information, please call B.J. Rhodes, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (406) 654-5120. Substantive comments about this application must be in writing and can be sent to the Malta Field Office, 501 South 2nd St. East, Malta, MT 59538 or email brhodes@blm.gov.

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AFTER HOURS CALL FORWARDING TO SERVICE REP

LYIP Public Comment Period Ends April 3

Once again, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP) is in dire need of community support.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is allowing public comment on the proposed concrete weir and fish bypass at Intake. A copy of the public notice is available at <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram/Montana.aspx>.

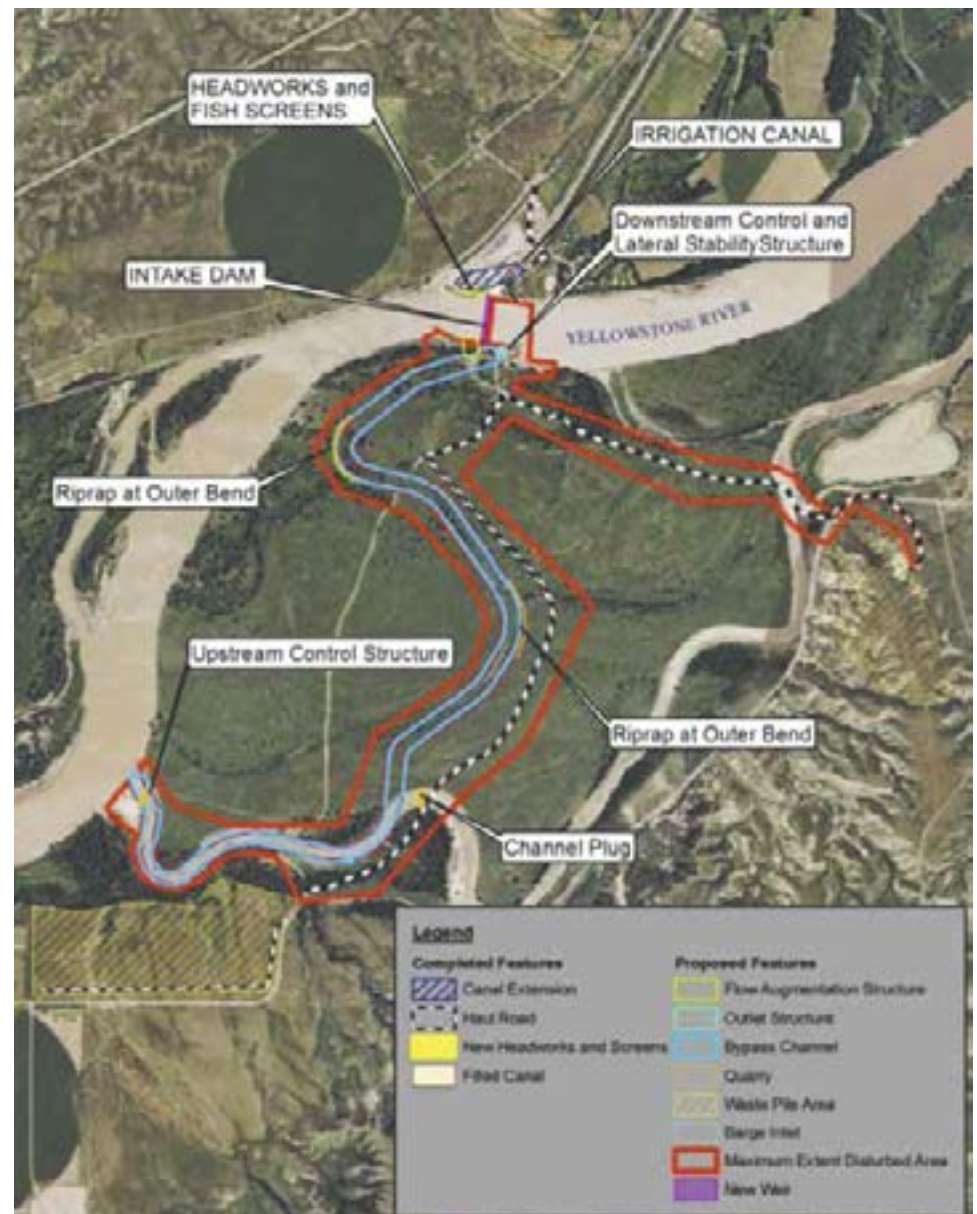
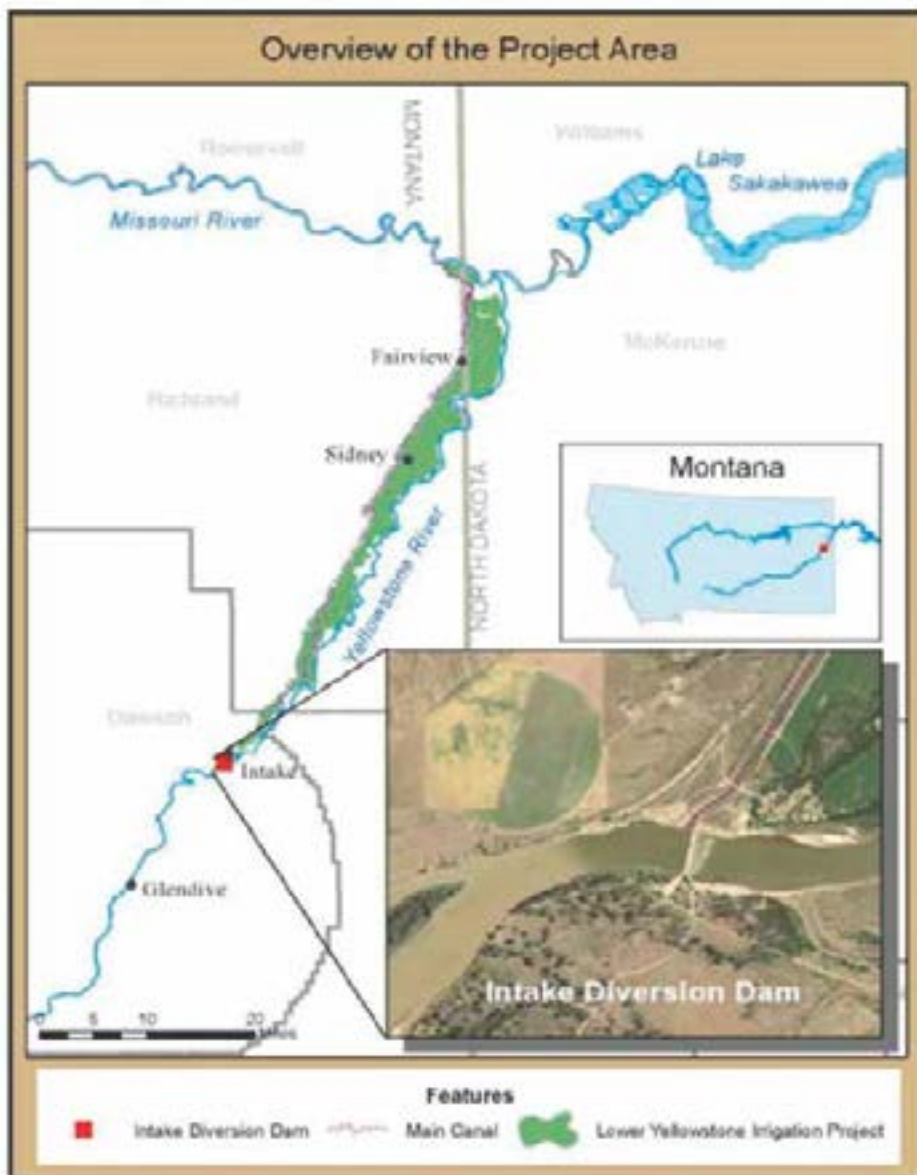
Support for the project, which will protect the economic vitality of the entire area, is critical. The loss of LYIP would be devastating to the entire valley from Glendive to Williston, and have ripple effects around the country.

Due to increased publicity from the latest lawsuits, it is extremely important to send in letters of support for the project.

Comments need to be faxed to 406-657-5911, attention Cathy Juhas, or emailed to Catherine.d.juhas@usace.army.mil by April 3rd. Comments received after April 3rd will not be considered. You MUST include Application

No. NWO-2008-02556-MTB on your comment letter.

Anyone wishing to do so may email Richland Economic Development at redc@midrivers.com to receive sample comment beginnings.





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USED 4WD DRIVE TRACTORS

1981 JD 8640 (229 PTO HP), quad range tranny, 3 hyds, PTO, 20.8x38 duals \$16,500

USED MFWD & 2WD TRACTORS

2010 JD 8345R (345 eng hp), IVT tranny, MFWD w/ suspension, 4 hyds, 3pt w/ quick hitch, PTO, 710/70r42 duals, front duals, no filter or fluid, 964 hrs \$239,500

JD 6125R (125 eng HP), IVT tranny, MFWD, 3pt hitch, 2 hyds, dual PTO, 18.4x34 singles, factory warranty, ONLY 91 HRS! \$118,500

1975 Case 1370 (155 PTO HP), 2 hyds, PTO, 208x38 duals \$8,500

2000 JD 5510 (75 PTO HP) sync shuttle tranny, MFWD, 3pt hitch, 18.4x30 singles..... \$21,500

USED LOADER TRACTORS

2013 JD 6140R (140 eng HP), power quad tranny, MFWD, 3pt hitch, 3 hyds, dual PTO, 480/80r38 singles, low hours, factory warranty, NEW JD H360 loader, 8' bucket, grapple, mechanical stick \$129,000

2013 JD 6105D (105 eng HP) 12/12 power reverser, MFWD, 3pt, 3 hyds, dual PTO, 18x38 singles, JD H310 loader, grapple, joystick \$72,500

2010 JD 5083E (83 eng HP), 12 speed power reverser MFWD, 3pt hitch, 2 hyd, PTO, 16.9x30 tires, JD563 sl loader, ONLY 60 hours \$45,000

2005 JD 5525 (91eng HP) 12/12 power reverser, MFWD, 3pt hitch, 2 hyds, PTO, 18.4x30 singles, JD 542 SL loader, 6' bucket and joystick..... \$43,500

USED COMBINES

2011 JD 9670 STS, 520/85r38 duals, contour master, chopper, 26' unloading auger, Maurer GT extension.....CALL

2007 JD 9660 STS, 520/85r38 duals, contour master, chopper, maurer tank extentions.....CALL

2006 JD 9660STS, 520/85r38 dualsCALL

2002 JD 9650 STS, 800/70r65 singles, chopper.... \$95,000

1999 JD 9610, 30.5x32 singles, chopper, chaff spreader, dual range cyl \$69,500

used set of 18.4x38 duals for 9600, 9610 (60%rubber) \$3,000

2012 635 FD draper platform.....CALL

2010 JD 630R platform, pickup reel.....CALL

2008 JD 635F flex platformCALL

1997 JD 930F flex platform \$9,950

1997 JD 930F flex platform w/ CWS air reel, header trailer \$14,500

2001 MacDon 962 draper platform w/ pickup reel... \$19,500

1998 MacDon 962 draper platform w/ pickup reel \$17,500

1993 MacDon 960D platform.....CALL

USED HAYING EQUIPMENT

0% Financing for up to 5 years on all Balers O.A.C

2004 JD 4895 windrower, 18' platform, urethane conditioner \$52,500

2014 JD 569 round baler. loaded, like new... \$42,500

2014 JD 569 round baler. loaded with 1069 bales.....\$43,500

(2) 2011 JD 568 Round Balers, loaded. H241 &H242 \$29,500 ea

2009 JD 568 Round Baler, loaded. H176.....\$31,500

2009 JD 568 round baler, loaded.....\$29,500

2007 JD 568 Round Baler. Loaded except for kicker bar. H277 \$28,500

1994 JD 535 Round Baler. H202 \$8,500

1998 JD 566 Round baler. mega-tooth pickup.... \$9,250

3970 Forage Harvester \$3,500

USED BEET EQUIPMENT

2004 Amity 6 row beet harvester, steerable, row finder \$33,500

WIC 9 row defoliator, steerable, knife scalper ... \$6,500

Artsway 786A defoliator, 6 row, steerable CALL

2005 Amity 6 row defoliator, steerable \$11,500

USED MISCELLANEOUS

746 loader mounts for 77-7920..... \$500

840 Loader mounts for 8000 series..... \$500

Brandt 4000EX grain vace \$3,500

2013 Brandt 10x60 swing away auger, like new..... \$10,900

2006 Brandt 10x70 swing away auger with pit express drive over hopper \$10,900

2011 JD XUV 825I gator, 4001 miles with roof and windshield..... \$8,950

2003 Ford F250 extended cab, 4WD, auto, air, clean & straight, 111K miles, 8' Knapheide service body, Auto Crane EconoTon II \$10,950

2004 Chevy Colorado, reg cab, 2wd, automatic, air, clean & straight..... \$5,500

Diamond 72" & 62" mowers..... \$2,500

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NOW \$17,500

Federal Food Board Schedules Meeting On MSU Campus, April 9-10

Submitted by MSU News Service

BOZEMAN - A group of scholars and agricultural specialists who are considered some of the world's top experts on food production, food safety and solving hunger across the globe will gather in Bozeman April 9 and 10 when the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) meets at Montana State University.

MSU President Waded Cruzado, a member of the board appointed by President Barack Obama, will host the meeting of fellow board members. This is only the second time in its history that the six-member board has met outside Washington, D.C.

The two-day meeting at MSU's Strand Union Building Ballroom A will include a public meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. Friday, April 10, followed by a panel with Montana tribal leaders as well as public question-and-answer periods during which the BIFAD members will discuss solutions to the growing issue of hunger in the U.S. and on the planet. During the public meeting, BIFAD members will also discuss research priorities under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, and will participate on a panel about "How can a state university contribute globally in agriculture?"

The proceedings will be streamed live by KUSM MontanaPBS.

"It is an extreme honor for Montana State University to host this meeting of some of the top international food policy advisers and specialists, and it will be a tremendous privilege for me to show my fellow members the work that is being done by MSU faculty and students to solve the world's hunger problem," Cruzado said.

Cruzado said the public meeting will provide Montanans a rare opportunity to interact with some of the country's top scientific thinkers and policy administrators who are addressing the needs of producing food for a growing world population,

which is expected to reach nine billion people by 2050. The meeting will also afford MSU students access to some of the country's people and programs working in the area of food production and sustainability.

Among the BIFAD membership are two winners of the World Food Prize. Gebisa Ejeta, a Distinguished Professor of Agronomy at Purdue University, won the prize for his contributions to the production of sorghum. A native of Ethiopia, Ejeta earned his doctorate at Purdue. He developed Africa's first commercial hybrid variety of sorghum tolerant to drought. Later, with a colleague in Indiana, he discovered the chemical basis of the relationship between the deadly parasitic weed striga and sorghum, and was able to produce sorghum varieties resistant to both drought and striga.

Catherine Bertini, a professor of public administration and international affairs, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, who also won the World Food Prize, will not be able to attend the Bozeman meeting. Bertini was executive director of the United Nations World Food Program from 1992-2002.

The BIFAD is chaired by Brady Deaton, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Missouri. Other BIFAD members include Harold L. Martin, Sr., Chancellor of North Carolina A&T State University; and Marty McVey, President and CEO of McVey & Associates based in Houston.

BIFAD was created in 1975 under Title XII (Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger) of the Foreign Assistance Act. The board's primary role is to draw on the scientific expertise of U.S. higher education institutions, especially those with land-grant missions such as MSU, to advise and serve the country's international food security assistance efforts through USAID. To learn more about BIFAD, go to the organization's website.

MT Specialty Crop Block Grant Funds Increase To \$1.3 Million

Grant Deadline Extended to April 22, 2015

Submitted by Jayson O'Neill, Montana Department of Agriculture Public Information Specialist/Special Projects

Helena, Mont., Following an official announcement by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Montana agriculture will now have \$1.3 million in federal grant funding available through the Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) program. With the announcement of additional funding available, the Montana Department of Agriculture is extending the deadline to submit an application to April 22, 2015.

"With this additional funding from USDA, Montana can continue to develop specialty crops grown in our state, expand their markets, and create jobs. Based on the announcement, the department is going to give applicants some additional time to apply," said Department Director Ron de Yong.

Montana's SCBG projects should enhance the competitiveness of Montana specialty crops. Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, peas, lentils, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. A Montana specific list of specialty crops is available on the program's website. All grants must be approved by the State of Montana and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Eligible projects include education on the value of specialty crops, improving efficiency of distribution systems, assisting entities in the development of good agricultural practices, pest and disease control, improving variety development, and sustainable production practices. See a complete description of eligible and previously-funded projects at http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Development/GrantsLoans/SCBG/Grant_Proposal.html.

State and/or local organizations, government entities, producer associations, academia, community based organizations, and other specialty crop stakeholders are eligible to apply either as single entities or in combined efforts.

Grant proposals are due to the Montana Department of Agriculture by 2:00 p.m. MST on April 22, 2015. For more information, eligibility guidelines, technical assistance and resources, visit agr.mt.gov/agr/Producer/GrantsLoans/SCBG or contact Jim Auer, Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Manager, at (406) 444-5424.

The Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the Montana Department of Agriculture, visit www.agr.mt.gov.

Low Rate Financing Available On All New Case IH Equipment



Skidsteers, Various
attachments in stock



Farmall 110A w/loader



LB 434 Square Baler



Magnum 210
(DOT lease return)



Magnum 260
(DOT lease return)



Magnum 315
(DOT lease return)

USED TRACTORS

1979 JD 4840, 3 pt, PTO \$22,500
2010 John Deere 3520 compact tractor, mfd,
loader, misc attachments, 230 hrs .. 24,900
2008 CaseIH Steiger 480, 1480 Hrs,
Cummins engine, 710 radials, like
new \$179,000
2007 CaseIH JX 95 tractor, loader, MFD, 1100
hours..... Just Traded

USED MISCELLANEOUS

Farmhand 25' mulcher \$11,500

USED SEEDING & SPRAYING

Concord 4710 Drill, 3000 tow behind cart,
hydraulic drive \$30,000

2005 Brandt 2SB4000, suspended boom, 90',
1500 gal. tank \$25,000

USED HARVEST EQUIPMENT

2005 2042 35' draper head..... \$32,000
MacDon 960 35' draper head, transport,
CIH adapter \$10,000

USED HAYING EQUIPMENT

2002 CaseIH LBX331 Square Baler... \$29,000
2008 CaseIH RB564 round baler, 8700 bales,
mesh wrap, wide pickup, endless belts,
hydraulic pickup lift, central lube ... \$26,500
2003 CaseIH RBX562, MeshWrap, Like New ... \$24,500
1999 CaseIH RS561 \$12,500
1995 CaseIH 8465..... \$8,995

1994 CaseIH 8480 Softcore \$6,995
1990 Hesston 560 Round Baler..... \$5,500

USED COMBINES

1999 CaseIH 2388, 2580eng/2071 Sep Hrs,
very nice condition Just Traded
Case IH 6088, 970 Hrs, duals \$185,000
Case IH 2042 35' draper, transport ... Just Traded

USED BALE PROCESSORS

Haybuster 2650, hydraulic chute kit, good
condition \$12,500
2008 Vermeer Processor, BP8000 ... \$10,500

USED SKIDSTEER LOADERS

2002 Case 90XT, 2045 Hrs 16,500
2013 Case TR270, tracks, cab, air,

heat..... Just Traded
Bobcat 331 Mini Excavator..... \$20,000

USED MOWERS

2009 JD Z810A, 340 Hrs, zero turn,
bagger..... \$6,500
Grasshopper 729, liquid cooled, 61' Power
Fold deck, 1320 hours..... \$8,900

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Hay Hiker can handle 8 or 12 bales and the 1400 Hay Hiker can handle 12, 14, or 18 bales.

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MSU Greenhouse Study Seeks Input From Montana Vegetable Growers

Submitted by MSU News Service

Montana farmers know well the “shoulder seasons” – those few months before summer and during fall, when predicting the weather is a guess at best and harvest might be a gamble. For many of the state’s commercial vegetable growers, unpredictable weather during these months can damage produce and threaten a farmer’s seasonal income.

That’s when high tunnel greenhouses prove beneficial. The free-standing greenhouses have frames, ground posts and plastic walls that protect crops for early or late season production. High tunnels – which differ from traditional greenhouses by generally not having heat or supplemental lighting – extend the growing season for fruit and vegetable growers who sell produce at community farmers markets and to local restaurants who want farm-to-table ingredients.

Now, researchers at Montana State University plan to survey growers’ current use of high tunnels across the state of Montana. They will then use that data to recommend management practices and vegetable varieties that grow best in high tunnels during the early and late growing seasons in Montana. Called the Season Extension Research Program (or SERP), the project will be led by David Baumbauer, director of MSU’s Plant Growth Center and a graduate student in plant sciences and plant pathology, and Mac Burgess, assistant professor of plant sciences and plant pathology.

Baumbauer said there has been a dramatic increase in the popularity and use of high tunnels in the state’s commercial vegetable market. However, more information is needed in order to maximize the tunnels’ effectiveness.

“For how popular they have become, and how prevalent the local food movement continues to be, there isn’t much data on current use of high tunnel greenhouses – the main infrastructure that allows producers to grow more bounty during those volatile

months that bookend the traditional growing season,” Baumbauer said.

One reason for the growth in high tunnel use is the popularity of the local food movement across the nation, Baumbauer said. As more and more communities look to build self-reliant food economies and connections between producers and consumers, there is increased demand for farm-to-table produce. That demand has encouraged producers to extend their growing season beyond traditional summer crops like tomatoes and cucumbers, to include cool-season crops like carrots, spinach, lettuce, beets and kale, which can potentially be grown during the shoulder seasons. Extending the growing season can allow farmers to grow more diverse crops, have a larger bounty and earn more income.

“The local food movement has created a demand for produce that didn’t exist 10 years ago,” Baumbauer said. “A lot of growers didn’t worry about season extension because they didn’t necessarily have a market for shoulder season produce. Now, most communities located near major markets are seeing a consistent demand from local restaurants and a handful of produce brokers who sell and deliver local produce to restaurants as far (away) as Yellowstone National Park.”

In order to understand the needs of Montana vegetable growers who use high tunnels during the shoulder seasons, Baumbauer and Burgess have developed a 30-question survey for Montana’s commercial growers. The survey asks growers how they measure soil fertility, manage weeds and insects, choose crop species and cultivars, as well as about their overall challenges and success in varying locations. The researchers’ goal, in a few years’ time, is to come up with management, timing and produce variety recommendations for Montana’s small-farm vegetable growers.

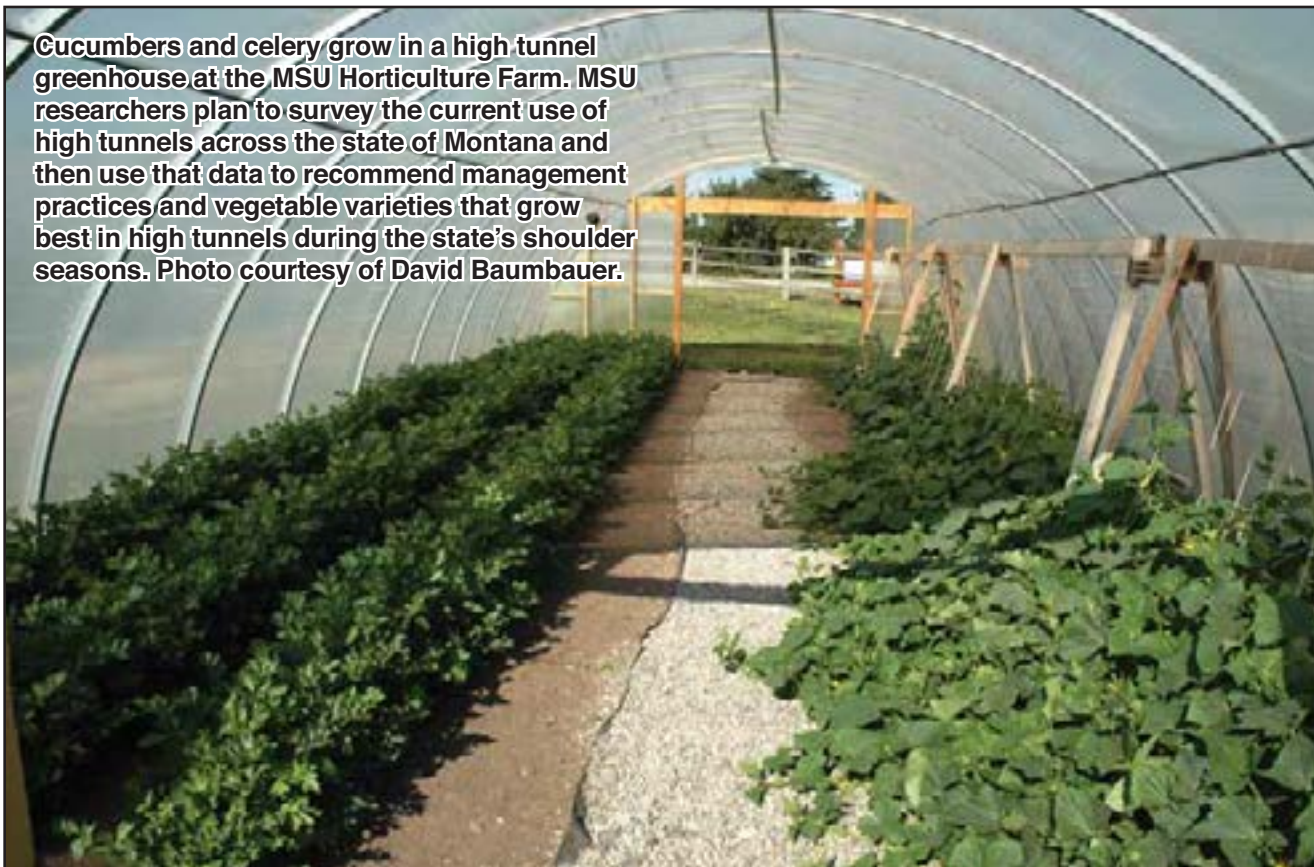
“Our goal in gathering data on farms using high tunnels is to eventually be able to offer Montana’s market gardeners the best tools for success in a market that’s seeing major growth,” Burgess said. “We want to find out which crops make the most sense to grow in the shoulder seasons and look at potential diverse production success for that two and half-month off-season production.”

Burgess said the SERP program will research varieties, timing and use of additional heat retention materials, such as row covers, for vegetables grown in high tunnels in the spring and fall shoulder seasons. The SERP project is funded by the Montana Agriculture Experiment Station, and through the Montana Department of Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Block Grant - a federally funded program that benefits projects that enhance the competitiveness of Montana specialty crops. Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, peas, lentils, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

Farmers across Montana currently using high tunnels interested in sharing data for the SERP research project can email hortfarm@montana.edu. Participants will then be directed to the web survey.

In addition, farmers and other interested individuals who are interested in touring the Horticulture Farm at MSU and learning about its 10 high tunnels are invited to a public field day on Thursday, July 30, from 4-7 p.m. The day will include farm tours, high tunnel research tours, taste testing and informational talks on a variety of research projects. The farm is located off West Garfield Street in Bozeman.

Cucumbers and celery grow in a high tunnel greenhouse at the MSU Horticulture Farm. MSU researchers plan to survey the current use of high tunnels across the state of Montana and then use that data to recommend management practices and vegetable varieties that grow best in high tunnels during the state’s shoulder seasons. Photo courtesy of David Baumbauer.





FARM AUCTION



SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015 10:00 A.M.

LOCATION: SIDNEY, MT, RICHLAND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
OWNER: STEVE LUNDERBY 406-480-1424 • Lunch will be available.

FARM MACHINERY

- 2010 JD 9630 4WD Tractor, 800/70R38 tires, SF1 auto steer, 2,629 hours, deluxe cab
- JD 9320 4WD Tractor, 710/70R42 tires, PTO, 5,604 hours
- SF2 Auto Steer System
- (2) 2011 Deere 6-way Dozers & Frames, model 7200 (1-lbs 9630, 1-lbs 9320)
- 2011 JD 7930 MFWD Tractor, IVT transmission, 3 pt, PTO, 380/90R54 tires, suitcase weights, 3,780 hours
- 2011 JD 8285R MFWD Tractor, IVT Shuttle Shift, 320/90R54 tires, duals on front, 3 pt, PTO, suitcase weights, 2,740 hours
- Case IH MX170 MFWD Tractor, 3 pt, PTO & Case IH L755, Front-end Loader w/bucket & grapple
- 2010 Krauss 21' Ripper Dominator, model 4850
- 2010 Krauss 36' Field Finisher, model TL6400
- Flau 24' Tillage Soil Finisher
- JD 24-row, 22" Planter, model DB44 w/2x2 & Intra liquid fertilizer, Martin row cleaners, auto air bag down pressure
- JD 12-row, 22" Planter, model 1730 w/floating row cleaners
- JD 12-row, 22" Planter, model 1730 w/2x2 & Intra liquid fertilizer
- 2006 Wic 12-row, 22" Beet Digger w/rear steer
- (3) Red River 6-row, 22" Beet Diggers
- 1999 Amity 12-row, 22" Defolator, w/rear steer
- Wic 12-row 22" Defolator
- (2) Artway 6-row Defolators, model 786A
- 2009 Landoll 30' Mulcher
- 2009 Eversman 22' Offset Disc, model 4300
- Krauss 13' Disc Ripper
- Eversman Ditch Puller
- 2013 3 pt, Disc Closer (Nisheka)
- Heath 3 pt, 6-bottom Spinner PLOW
- 6-row Top Saver
- Alloyway 22" Beet Cultivator, model 3030
- Letstock 12-row, 22" Bedder
- 12' 2-wheel Box Scraper



COMBINE, CHOPPER, ROAD GRADER, SWATH & MISC.

- 2006 JD 9760 STS Combine, 1,642 separator hours, deluxe cab
- 2011 JD 635 Flex-Head w/air finger reel
- 2006 JD 635 Draper Header
- 2011 JD 612C Chopping Corn Head
- 2012 JD Chopper, model 7750, auto steer, auto tube, Kernel processor, 800/65R32 tires, 618 hours
- 2013 JD 778 Rotary All Crop Head
- 2009 JD 6408 Pickup Head
- Stalk Chopper
- JD 670A Road Grader, 6WD, new engine & transmission, hydraulic Ripper in front
- MacDon 30' pull-type Swather, model 3000
- Johnson 2-wheel Header Trailer
- Kilbros Grain Cart, model 1810
- Jiffy model 920 Bale Processor



TRUCKS & TRAILERS

- 2006 Peterbilt Semi Truck, C15 Cat, 525 hp, 10-speed, steerable third axle & Weldt 4400 gal Fuel Tank
- 1990 Paramount 4-axle Pup Trailer, 8,000 gal Fuel Tank
- 2003 Volvo Semi Truck, 435 hp, 13-speed, wet kit, steerable third axle, 893,000 miles
- 1999 Int'l 9400 Eagle Semi Truck, Cummins 475 hp, 10-speed
- 2009 Trail King 53' Live Bottom, 4-axle Trailer w/48" belt, front & back axle lift, electric tarp
- 2006 Trinity 50' Live Bottom, 3-axle, Steel Trailer w/48" belt
- 2005 Trinity 50' Live Bottom, 3-axle Trailer w/40" belt
- 1999 Strong Box 50' Live Bottom, 3-axle Trailer w/36" belt
- 1989 Utility 42' Flatbed Hay Trailer & 1977 Fruehauf 40' Flatbed Hay Trailer w/dolly & bale racks, (hauls 48 bales, pyramid style that can be sold as hay train or separate)
- Petroleum 20', 2-axle Pup Trailer (used for hauling water)
- 1979 Beal Pup Trailer, 5,400 gal
- 1979 Fruehauf 2-axle, 40' Water Tanker, 9200 gal
- (2) Double Axle Dollys
- Flatbed 32' Spread Axle Hay Trailer
- M & K 20' Manure Spreader, mounted on Kenworth Cabover Truck

SPRAYERS, DRYER, TENDER & MISC.

- 2010 Case IH SPX160 Sprayer, 1600 gal Tank w/100' Booms
- 2011 Demco 3 pt. Sprayer, 500 gal Tank w/60' Booms
- Saddle Tanks for 55 or 60 series Tractor
- 300 gal Elliptical Tank w/brackets (fits on JD 7930 or 8200R series Tractors)
- 2012 GSI Corn Dryer, model 1222 Air Stream w/70' Grain Auger, propane (nearly new)
- Meridian Seed/Fertilizer Tender, model 375RT w/hydraulic Honda engine
- 2012 Brandt 1390HP Swing-a-way Auger
- Kwik Clean Grain Cleaner, 3-phase, 5 hp
- 2012 Self/T pull 6" Ag Pro w/Truck hooks
- Heinke Roller Mill
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- Miller Bobcat 250 AC/DC portable Welder

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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:

Steve has consolidated with another large farm/ranch and has decided to sell one line of machinery. The machinery is in very good to excellent condition with low hours and most have been shedded. There will be no small items at this sale. The line of equipment will start selling at 10:00 sharp. Hope to see you on April 18th! Rick



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Calf Losses Before Birth A Concern-The Best Way To Determine What Caused An Abortion Or Stillbirth In Cattle Is Lab Testing

By NDSU Extension Services

Abortions can be a major concern for cattle producers.

An "abortion" is the discharge of the fetus prior to the end of the normal gestation period, according to Gerald Stokka, North Dakota State University Extension Service veterinarian and livestock stewardship specialist. Many abortions occur in the first 45 days of conception (called early embryonic death), and the embryos or fetuses are so small that they may not be seen.

Other abortions may occur near normal calving time, and determining whether the cow has aborted or given birth prematurely is difficult. A stillbirth is when a full-term calf is born dead, with no evidence of the cause of death.

Abortions have many causes, including physiological problems (such as hormonal imbalances), metabolic problems, toxicoses and/or infectious diseases caused by protozoa, fungi, bacteria or viruses, says Neil Dyer, director of the NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Abortions and stillbirths can be the result of a direct effect, such as viral, bacteria or protozoal organisms gaining entrance to the fetus. The fetus also may have abnormal development (congenital defects) that results in abnormalities noted at delivery, such as a lack of the anus opening or an inside-out calf, or inherited genetic defects such as "curly calf" or "fawn calf" syndrome.

Indirectly, abortions and stillbirths can be a result of an interruption of the connection between the fetus and the dam, or illness of the dam. The fetus is nourished and oxygenated via the organ called the placenta. This is a very intimate connection between the two, and any disruption can impact the fetus negatively or result in its death.

Inflammation of this organ is called a "placentitis." Bacterial, fungal and protozoal infections can cause placentitis. Mycotic abortions are one of the more common results of fungal infections.

Stillbirths can be frustrating because producers often do not see any indication of the cause or evidence of excessive labor. These simply can result from an umbilical cord rupture, premature separation of the placenta or the placenta blocking the nostrils after the delivery of an otherwise healthy calf.

Regardless of the cause, abortions may be sporadic or occur as "storms." The normal abortion or stillbirth rate would be 1 to 2 percent of cows in a herd. Losses greater than this are abnormal, and producers should seek veterinary assistance to identify the cause, NDSU Extension beef cattle specialist Carl Dahlen advises.

"The best chance of identifying what caused an abortion is prompt submission of fetal and placental tissues and maternal blood or serum to a diagnostic laboratory," Stokka says. "Contact your veterinarian for assistance with diagnostic efforts, sample submission and identifying management strategies to reduce the risk of future abortions."

Danielle Steinhoff Accepts Role Of Agriculture And Natural Resources Extension Agent In Williams County, ND

By Tie Shank

WILLISTON: Danielle Steinhoff, formerly of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, and now a resident of Williston, ND, recently began her employment with the NDSU Extension Service as the new Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent.

Steinhoff graduated from NDSU in December 2014 with a Natural Resources Management degree and a minor in Range Science. During the summer of 2012 she worked at Lewis and Clark State Park in Epping, ND as the park interpreter. In addition to being NEPA concepts certified, Steinhoff is a certified instructor of Project Wet and Project Learning Tree.

In her new role, Steinhoff's responsibilities will include: Helping lead and instruct children in the 4-H program on agriculture and nature, providing local farmers/ranchers with new information provided from NDSU and to be a resource for people in the community when wondering about anything involving the outdoors.

Steinhoff states, "My goals are to continue to answer questions and provide help for the residents of Williams County, also surrounding area. I am looking into starting a 4-H Shooting sports team this Fall and maybe another judging team, possibly Range judging – (in a year or two possibly)."

In her free time, she enjoys spending time outside hunting, fishing and just relaxing. "I also enjoy playing sports and visiting with family/friends," states Steinhoff.

Steinhoff's office is located in the Williams County Broadway Commons building. She can be reached at 701-577-4595 or via email at Danielle.Steinhoff@ndsu.edu



Danielle Steinhoff



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MT Dept. & Ag Organizations Team Up For National Ag Day Lunch In Capitol - All-Montana Lunch Served To Legislators

Submitted by Jayson O'Neill

MT Dept. of Agriculture Public Information Specialist

Helena, Mont., Governor Steve Bullock welcomed a Capitol full of people to celebrate National Ag Day with state legislators, the department of agriculture, state agriculture organizations, and agriculture advocates. The all-Montana meal with items such as beef brisket, baked ham, roasted lamb and potato salad with local potatoes fed hungry legislators.

"It's a great day to celebrate National Ag Day in Montana, and remember all that farmers and ranchers do to ensure that we have abundant, safe, healthy food to eat. This is a day where we give thanks and celebrate food produced right here in Montana," said Governor Steve Bullock.

The semi-annual luncheon featured an all-Montana meal that included beef brisket, baked ham, roasted lamb, chickpea lime salad, local potato salad, wheat bread, brownies and honey donated or purchased locally. The event also hosted 16 agriculture organizations that set up booths throughout the rotunda providing an opportunity to showcase agriculture to legislators in attendance.

"Agriculture in Montana is growing and innovating every day in what we grow and how we grow it. Montana is now a leader in the production of dry peas and lentils that are a great rotational crop for wheat and enhance soil. We also lead the nation in barley acres planted and our cattle genetics are in demand around the world," said Director Ron de Yong.

Revised numbers provided by USDA Economic Research Service show the value of Montana's agricultural production was \$5.3 billion in 2013, with over 28,000 farms or ranches across the state of which 97% are family farms. Montana has nearly 2.5 cows for every person in the state, and is a leading producer of wheat, barley, dry peas, lentils, sugar beets, and honey. Wheat is Montana's number one export, with approximately 75% exported to Asian markets.

Montana is known around the world for our high quality grains, pulse crops, seed potatoes, sugar beets, sweet cherries, and beef. For a complete list of rankings and more information on Montana agriculture visit the National Agriculture Statistics Service's annual state bulletin.

National Ag Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America to increase the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society. The Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the Montana Department of Agriculture, visit agr.mt.gov.



2015 Montana Ag Day serving an all Montana meal.



Ag Day signs on the Capitol. Photos courtesy of the MT Dept. of Agriculture.

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BeefTalk: The Big 60 Means 60 Percent Calved In 21 Days! The 60 Percent Goal Is Very Realistic

By Kris Ringwall, Beef Specialist, NDSU Extension Service

The big 60 means that 60 percent of the cows calved in the first 21 days of the calving season. That is achievable, doable and good. Sixty percent was the goal.

The evaluation of the cattle business is ongoing, and producers always should take advantage of the quick and easy ways to evaluate the operation. Calving time is here or soon will be, so it's the best time to make the mental note and paint it on the barn wall.

What was this year's number? In this case, start by counting the number of cows kept for calving. I mean all the cows kept for calving. This includes the ones behind the barn and every other pasture or pen affiliated with the operation.

After calving for three weeks, count the number of cows that have calved. The answer should be 60 percent or greater. This probably is the simplest, yet greatest indicator of the current managerial success of the cattle operation. For those who meet or exceed the 60 percent threshold, there should be a pause for self-appreciation. Continued monitoring of the managerial efforts should keep the herd working.

For those who greatly exceed the 60 percent number, production is good. However, before your exuberant exclamations are made, check the financial sheet. Sometimes excess production actually comes at a significant expense.

For those who did not make the 60 percent rate, failure to achieve it means a failing grade. Sorry for being harsh but the business world is harsh and few condolences are made. However, do not sulk. Instead, reassess all that is going on in the operation.

Excuses, excuses, excuses. Has one ever taught school? After a very thorough exam, students often have an excuse if the exam grade was not what was expected. Too much work, too much to do, too many places to be or too many friends to visit. The reality is that there was too little studying.

Cattle producers, as with all people, often are no different than students, just a little bit older. However, the results of an evaluation often also are met with excuses, but moving forward is critical, and evaluations are part of that process.

The baseline data benchmark that is utilized to come up with the 60 percent calved in the first 21 days of the season comes from the North Dakota State University Extension Service through the North Dakota Beef Cattle Improvement Association's database. This database is used to calculate the typical performance of beef cattle herds by analyzing those herds that utilize the cow herd appraisal of performance software program.

The current benchmark for the percentage of cows calving within the first 21 days is 61.1 percent, which includes the production years of 2009 through 2013.

The 60 percent goal is very realistic. In fact, if one goes back to the 1999 benchmark that includes the years 1994 through 1998, the percentage of cows calving within the first 21 days was 57.2 percent. Cattle

producers are improving reproduction, which is indicative of the good management and selection criteria for the cows and bulls within the herd.

What about those who are not quite where they want to be in terms of having the cows calving early in the calving season? It might be management or genetics, so each beef producer needs to sit down and self-assess the operation and how the operation is meeting the demands of modern beef production.

The evaluation always is health-related. Is the herd health program adequate? A trip to a consulting herd health professional is a good choice. Once herd health is covered, points to consider are nutrition, nutrition and nutrition. The bottom line is that cows that do not breed on time following calving have not had their nutritional needs met.

The answer to the problem is twofold. A producer can re-evaluate the nutritional inputs and increase them or find a genetically different cow that will perform with the nutritional inputs available. The choice is up to the producer. Keep in mind that the amount of feed available is important, and so is the timing and availability of the feed in relationship to the current gestational or nursing status of the cow.

How much do the cows weigh and milk? How much feed does each cow require? What feed is available? How is the environment affecting the feed requirements of the cattle? Are all the cows able to eat or is the competition strong within the herd? Can the cattle be sorted? Is the production stage and feeding regime matched?

All these questions and more need an answer, especially when the percent of cows calving in the first 21 days is below 60 percent.

Keep searching for the answer.

May you find all your ear tags.

Your comments are always welcome at <http://www.BeefTalk.com>.

For more information, contact the NDBCIA office, 1041 State Ave., Dickinson, ND, 58601, or go to <http://www.CHAPS2000.com> on the Internet.

Ensure Your Burn Does Not Become the Next Wildfire

**Submitted by Crystal Beckman, Fire Prevention & Investigation Coordinator
MT Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation**

Spring burning season is here. Burning is a great way to clear dead vegetation and clean up. Before you light up this spring, take the necessary precautions to ensure your burn does not become the next wildfire. Obtain a permit or contact local authorities, burn early in the day and check weather for afternoon or next day wind conditions. Be sure to have adequate equipment, assistance and water supply with you and always make sure the area is cold to the touch before leaving. Checking the following day is also important as stumps or roots may be holding heat that could re-ignite. If a fire does get out of control call 911 immediately.

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Lot 1 – RA B67 Uncommon D75

(RA Uncommon B67 x Vermilion Nebraska L095)

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	Marb	REA	Fat
+11	-2.6	+58	+91	+31	1+.22	1+.25	1+.039



Lot 2 – RA W5 Lead On D76

(RA Lead On W5 x WMR Dateline 210)

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	Marb	REA	Fat
+8	-0.5	+53	+88	+22	1+.18	1+.64	1+.033



Lot 3 – RA Z79 Identity D25

(RA Identity Z79 x WMR Dateline 210)

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	Marb	REA	Fat
+8	+0.8	+55	+98	+21	1+.33	1+.39	1+.036



Lot 4 – RA Brilliance D16

(SAV Brilliance 8077 x Vermilion Nebraska L095)

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	Marb	REA	Fat
+12	-1.3	+50	+81	+25	1+.17	1+.59	1+.030

Additional Reference Sires:

RA Identity Z79 • RA Lead On W5
 RA Regency B93 • RA Uncommon B67
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Wheat Midge Populations Lower In 2015 Than 2014

By NDSU Extension Services

Only 7 percent of soil samples show a moderate to high risk for wheat midge infestation.

Soil samples in North Dakota indicate decreased levels of overwintering wheat midge larvae (cocoons) for the 2015 season, according to Janet Knodel, North Dakota State University Extension Service entomologist.

A total of 196 soil samples were collected from 21 counties in the fall of 2014 to estimate the regional risk for wheat midge. The distribution of wheat midge in 2015 is based on unparasitized cocoons found in the soil samples.

"Only 7 percent of soil samples statewide are moderate to high risk for wheat midge infestation, in contrast to 21 percent last year," Knodel says. "These 'hot' spots will need to be scouted to determine if fields are above economic thresholds and warrant an insecticide treatment for controlling wheat midge in 2015. Overall, most of the state is at low risk for wheat midge, which will reduce input costs, such as insecticides for wheat production."

The high-risk pocket of 800 to greater than 1,200 midge larvae per square meter are concentrated in the northwestern area of North Dakota in Mountrail and Divide counties, she adds. Areas with moderate risk of 501 to 800 midge larvae per square meter are only in Williams County.

Wheat midge populations decreased by more than half from last year and ranged from zero to 1,500 midge larvae per square meter, with an average of 61 larvae per square meter in 2014. In 2013, wheat midge populations ranged from zero to 3,285 midge larvae per square meter, with an average of 140 larvae per square meter.

In the remaining counties, 44 percent of the samples had one to 500 larvae per square meter (low risk) and 55 percent had zero larvae per square meter.

"Although one to 500 midge larvae per square meter is considered low risk, it is good insurance to scout for the orange flies at night when temperatures are greater than 59 F and the winds are calm (less than 6 mph) during the heading to early flowering crop stages," Knodel says.

A degree-day model is a good predictor of wheat midge emergence for timing field scouting. The model is based on spring wheat development. It is available on the NDSU North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network website at <http://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/wheat-growing-degree-days.html>.

"It's looking like an early spring in 2015, and early planting (prior to 200 degree days for wheat midge) is a good way to decrease wheat midge damage because the crop will be in susceptible growth stages before the wheat midge emerges," Knodel says.

The economic thresholds are the same as in past years: one or more midge observed for every four or five heads on hard red spring wheat, or one or more midge observed for every seven or eight wheat heads on durum wheat. If wheat scab is a problem due to wet conditions during flowering, most insecticides labeled for wheat midge control can be tank-mixed with a fungicide.

Besides the good news of wheat midge populations being low, the parasitic wasp *Macroglanes penetrans*, which kills wheat midge larvae, has increased slightly to 11 percent parasitism from 7.6 percent in 2013.

"Although the parasitic wasp and wheat midge populations are cyclic, wasps play an important role in keeping wheat midge controlled naturally," Knodel says.

Parasitism rates ranged from zero to 100 percent across the state, with the higher rates occurring in areas where midge populations have been high during the past few years, such as Burke, Divide and Williams counties. Seventy-three percent of the larval cocoons had zero parasitism in 2014.

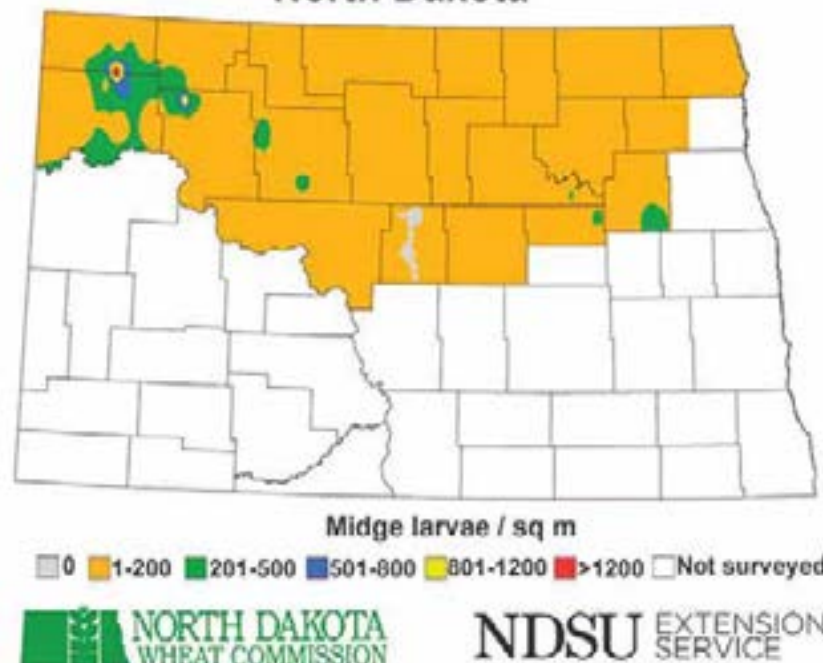
"We need to continue to conserve parasitic wasp populations when possible by spraying insecticides only when wheat midge populations are at economic threshold levels, and avoiding any late insecticide applications to minimize the negative impacts on the parasitic wasps that are active at that time," Knodel says.

NDSU Extension Service agents collected the soil samples.

The North Dakota Wheat Commission supports the wheat midge survey.

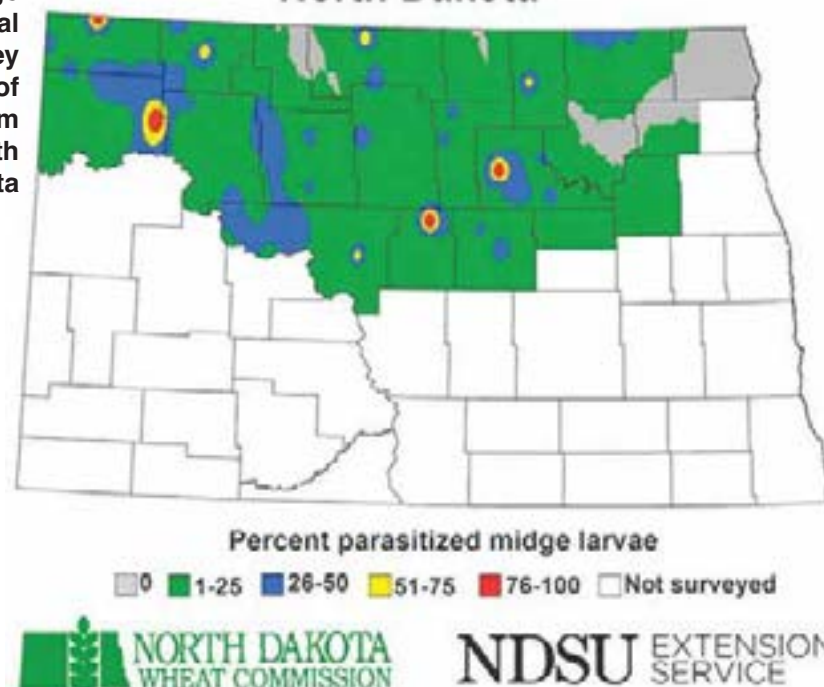
2014 Wheat Midge Larval Survey North Dakota

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2014 Wheat Midge Larval Survey Percent Parasitism North Dakota

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USDA Extends ARC and PLC Deadlines - Farmers Have Until April 7 to Update Yields, Reallocate Base Acres, and Make Final Selections

WASHINGTON – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today provided farm owners and producers one additional week, until April 7, 2015, to choose between Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), the safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill. The final day to update yield history or reallocate base acres also will be April 7, 2015.

“This is an important decision for producers because these programs help farmers and ranchers protect their operations from unexpected changes in the marketplace,” said Vilsack. “Nearly 98 percent of owners have already updated yield and base acres, and 90 percent of producers have enrolled in ARC or PLC. These numbers are strong, and continue to rise. This additional week will give producers a little more time to have those final conversations, review their data, visit their local Farm Service Agency offices, and make their decisions,” said Vilsack.

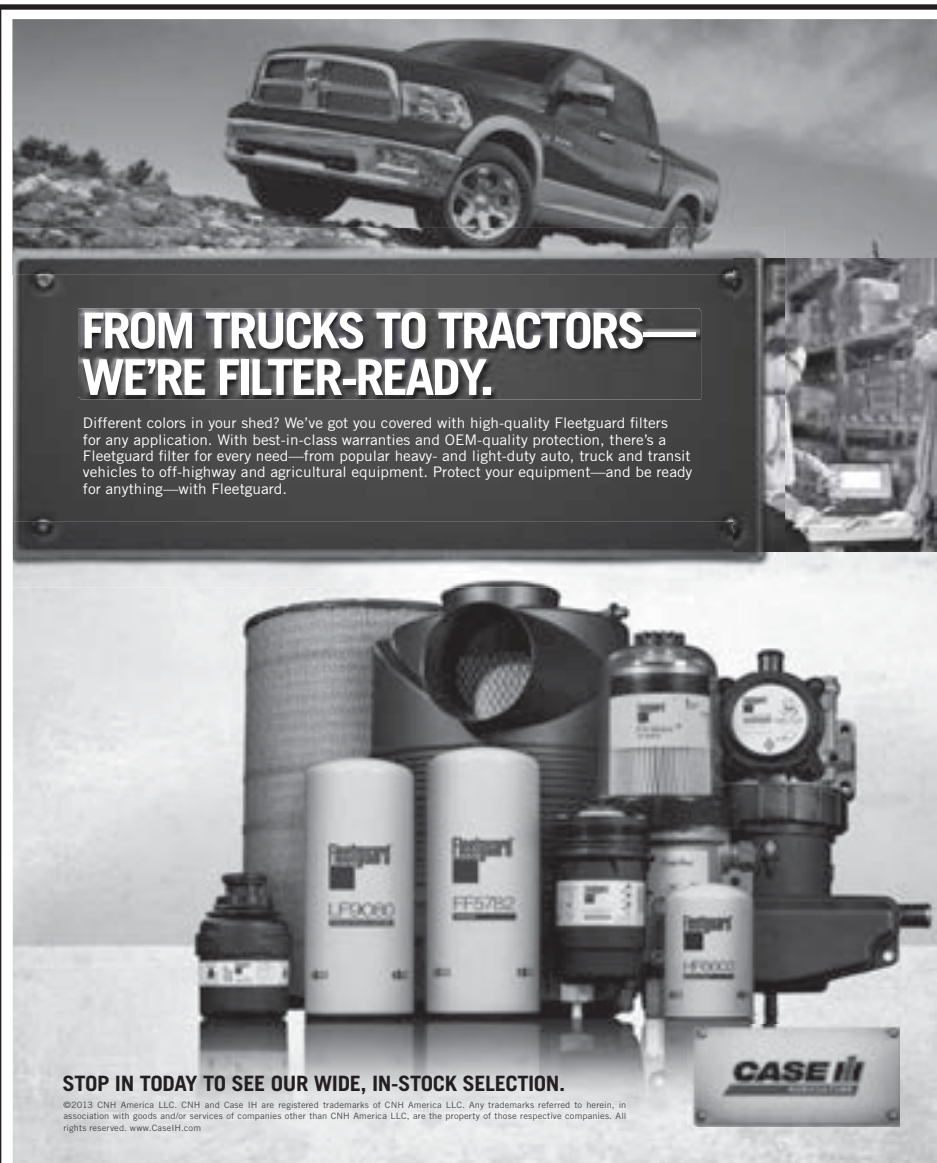
If no changes are made to yield history or base acres by the deadline, the farm’s current yield and base acres will be used. If a program choice of ARC or PLC is not made, there will be no 2014 crop year payments for the farm and the farm will default to PLC coverage for the 2015 through 2018 crop years. Producers who have an appointment at their local FSA offices scheduled by April 7 will be able to make an election between ARC and PLC, even if their actual appointment is after April 7.

These safety-net programs provide important financial protection against unexpected changes in the marketplace. As part of the strong education and outreach campaign launched by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in September, to date more than 5 million educational postcards, in English and Spanish, have been sent to producers nationwide, and more than 5,000 events with more than 430,000 attendees, including training sessions and speaking engagements, have been conducted to educate producers on the programs. The online tools, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc, which allow producers to explore how ARC or PLC coverage will affect their operation, have been presented to more than 3,400 groups.

Covered commodities under ARC and PLC include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

Producers need to contact the Farm Service Agency by April 7. To learn more, farmers can contact their local Farm Service Agency county office. To find local offices, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

The 2014 Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.



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United Agronomy, LLC started doing business in Williston in the spring of 2005 as a satellite out of Berthold which was established in 2000. In 2011, they merged with Dakota Quality Grains agronomy division, allowing them to open offices in Parshall, Ross and New Town. The company employs 34 full time people, which includes agronomists, plus seasonal employees as needed.

United Agronomy offers retail sales of fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, seed, inoculants and more. They provide delivery of all products and custom application if needed.

Williston manager Jason Hanig feels their crop scouting expertise puts them a step above the competition. Their sister research company, Vision Research, contracts with manufacturers to answer grower and research questions. United Agronomy gains first hand knowledge of some products 2-3 years before they are named and sold to the agricultural marketplace. Various crop scouting services are offered through Vision Research ranging from occasional visits to weekly scouting application and reporting.

Hanig is prod of the accomplishments of the Williston location. In just 10 short years, the division has grown to include 2 full time agronomists, 3 certified custom applicators, 1 office assistant, Hanig as manager plus 8 seasonal employees.

Stop by United Agronomy at 1109 6th St. E. in Williston for all your crop input needs or services or call them at 701-572-3227. They're always happy to share their expertise.



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lance@unitedag.com



Manager Jason Hanig
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USDA Implements 2014 Farm Bill Provision To Limit Payments To Non-Farmers - Department Proposes Changes To “Actively Engaged” Rule

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a proposed rule to limit farm payments to non-farmers, consistent with requirements Congress mandated in the 2014 Farm Bill. The proposed rule limits farm payments to individuals who may be designated as farm managers but are not actively engaged in farm management. In the Farm Bill, Congress gave USDA the authority to address this loophole for joint ventures and general partnerships, while exempting family farm operations from being impacted by the new rule USDA ultimately implements.

“We want to make sure that farm program payments are going to the farmers and farm families that they are intended to help. So we’ve taken the steps to do that, to the extent that the Farm Bill allows,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “The Farm Bill gave USDA the authority to limit farm program payments to individuals who are not actively engaged in the management of the farming operation on non-family farms. This helps close a loophole that has been taken advantage of by some larger joint ventures and general partnerships.”

The current definition of “actively engaged” for managers, established in 1987, is broad, allowing individuals with little to no contributions to critical farm management decisions to receive safety-net payments if they are classified as farm managers, and for some operations there were an unlimited number of managers that could receive payments.

The proposed rule seeks to close this loophole to the extent possible within the guidelines required by the 2014 Farm Bill. Under the proposed rule, non-family joint ventures and general partnerships must document that their managers are making significant contributions to the farming operation, defined as 500 hours of substantial management work per year, or 25 percent of the critical management time necessary for the success of the farming operation. Many operations will be limited to only one manager who can receive a safety-net payment. Operators that can demonstrate they are large and complex could be allowed payments for up to three managers only if they can show all three are actively and substantially engaged in farm operations. The changes specified in the rule would apply to payment eligibility for 2016 and subsequent crop years for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs, loan deficiency payments and marketing loan gains realized via the Marketing Assistance Loan program.

As mandated by Congress, family farms will not be impacted. There will also be no change to existing rules for contributions to land, capital, equipment, or labor. Only non-family farm general partnerships or joint ventures comprised of more than one member will be impacted by this proposed rule.

Stakeholders interested in commenting on the proposed definition and changes are encouraged to provide written comments at www.regulations.gov by May 26, 2015. The proposed rule is available at <http://go.usa.gov/3C6Kk>.

Today’s proposal was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill. To learn more about Farm Service Agency, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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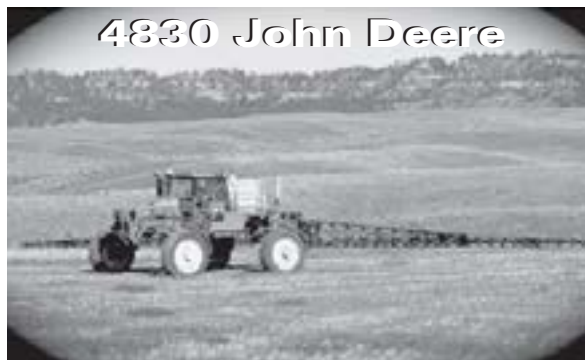
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Farm Credit Services Holds 2015 Annual Stockholders Meeting

Submitted by Farm Credit Services Of ND

(MINOT, ND) – Stockholders of Farm Credit Services of North Dakota, ACA elected two directors at their annual meeting which was held at the Holiday Inn in Minot on Tuesday, March 24, 2015. Rollin Tonneson, Souris, ND and Bryan Ankenbauer, Bowbells, ND were both re-elected to four-year terms. Stockholders also re-elected Mark Birdsall – Berthold, Barry Scheresky – Des Lacs, Dean Schoenberg – Mohall, and newly elected Tom Alveshere, Harvey and Alan Effertz, Velva, for one-year terms on the nominating committee.

“FCS had a very successful year in 2014. Loan business increased, new business growth was robust and credit quality continued to be very strong,” says Claude Sem, CEO. “We expect continued financial strength in 2015 and are proud of the Pat-NOW philosophy and the impact it has had on our members and their operations,” added Sem.

Over 240 attendees were at the annual stockholders business meeting and dinner which concluded with an excellent presentation by Bruce Vincent, motivational speaker and environmentalist.

Farm Credit Services is a member-owned agricultural credit association providing loans to farmers and ranchers for real estate, machinery, livestock and operating needs. FCS also offers life & disability and crop insurances to the rural community. FCS of ND serves 17 counties in northwest North Dakota through branch offices located in Minot, Bottineau, Carrington, Crosby, Rugby and Williston, including Bowbells Crop Insurance (Bowbells), Schaen Crop Insurance (Rugby) and Ward County Crop Insurance (Minot).

4-H Communication Arts Contest

By Tie Shank

WILLISTON: On Sunday, April 19th, the 4-H Communication Arts Program will be hosting an arts contest at the Broadway Commons Building at 302 E. Broadway in Williston.

The 4-H Communication Arts program helps participants develop communication skills that are useful throughout a lifetime. It provides participants an opportunity to practice their skills before a group and to gather and organize information, equipment and props for public presentation. It develops participants' confidence in making public presentations; and evaluate and enhance communication skills.

The Communication Arts program is open to any youth involved in Extension youth programs. It includes two age divisions: the pre-teen division (youth 8-12 before September 1 and the teen division (youth ages 13-18 before September 1), the start of the current 4-H year.

* Registration/participation list is due in the extension office by April 13th from club leaders.

Date: April 19, 2015

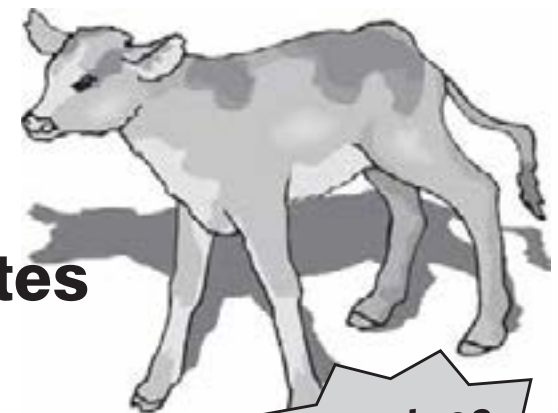
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Nevins Family Carries on the Farming Legacy



Above: The Nevins property. Middle: The Nevins Family from L-R Heather Nevins, CJ Nevins, Kolton Nevins, and Chuck Nevins. Right: The Nevins Farms Inc. sign with the family brands. (L to R) Chuck Nevins brother's brand, the farm brand, and Chuck Nevins brand.

By Meagan Dotson

Chuck and Heather Nevins have been farming and ranching their entire lives and through it they are instilling a way of life, appreciation, and work ethic in their sons Kolton and CJ Nevins. The main homestead that Chuck grew up on has been in his family since 1910 and the land that they currently live on was an addition bought in 1996. Each person contributes including the boys who help with branding, fencing, operating some of the farm equipment, and harvesting wheat, barley, and oats.

"Growing up out here has taught our boys to be self-sufficient and they have a lot of freedom. They are very considerate and always ask if we need their help before they do anything else; they love the animals and know a lot about the herd," said Chuck and Heather of their sons.

Teaching their boys to lend a helping hand and be involved isn't something that only applies to their life at home, but extends into everything they do. Leading by example, Chuck is dedicated to all the hard work that goes into caring for their cattle and planting, tending to, and harvesting the crops. Heather, who works at the Health Department and graduated from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, MT with a Bachelors of Art Degree in K-8 education, is involved with organizing the Bra Auction for the Cancer Coalition. Her mother, who is a breast cancer survivor, rallies the grandkids and together they make a bra to donate to the auction. Heather is also on the Brorson School Board where her youngest son, CJ still attends.

"There are so many opportunities in the community," said Heather, discussing the organization and scheduling that it takes to make everything run smoothly. "Staying busy is normal for us."

As a family they have participated in the Relay for Life and the Ribbon Walk which takes place in June and raises funds for local cancer treatment. The family attends the Shepherd of the Valley Church in Sidney, MT and Kolton and CJ are both involved with the church's Youth Group. They recently got back from a Youth skiing trip in Bottineau, ND.

Kolton, a junior at Sidney High School, has been on the Junior Varsity and Varsity Football Teams as well as the manager of the girls Varsity Basketball Team his freshman and sophomore years. Sixth grader CJ Nevins plays soccer, was on the sixth grade traveling basketball team, and played on the fifth and sixth grade football team who took first at state last year.

The two of them are active in the Brorson Farm Hands 4-H Club and Heather volunteers as the Organizational Leader for the club. Both boys have taken an interest in leather craft, woodworking, shooting sports, and raising and showing steers. Kolton is a Junior Leader and has taken an interest in welding and become proficient in leather craft. CJ is interested in veterinary science and is on the livestock judging team and in 2014 was awarded a County Trophy for sheep judging.

"We want the boys to be a part of the community and not just simply live in it; we want them to know how great our community is and that there is a lot to gain from being involved," added Heather.

The Nevins family is one who makes everything they do count, who seize the opportunity to be involved and lend a helping hand whether on their farm and ranch, at their schools or church, or in the community they call home.

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MT Agriculture Business Association Announces Compact Support As SB 262 Heads To House For Hearing

Submitted by Shelby DeMars

(Helena, Mont.)—After being passed by the Montana State Senate with strong bi-partisan support and endorsed by Montana's major agriculture and water use groups, the CSKT Water Compact begins its journey through the Montana State House with a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee. As the Compact moves through the legislative process, support for the Compact continues to grow. The Montana Agriculture Business Association (MABA) is the latest group to announce its support of the Compact.

"Our members, and their customers, rely on a healthy agriculture industry, and that hinges on water certainty," said Marty Lundstrom, President of the MABA. "The Compact provides that certainty through a contractual agreement that protects existing water rights and access to irrigation water at levels of historic use."

The MABA is comprised of more than 230 retailers, distributors, seed companies, and fertilizer suppliers that support Montana's agriculture industry.

"We're speaking out in support of the Compact to make sure our elected officials in Helena know that if the Compact fails, the impacts will spread far and wide through our economy," explained Arleen Rice, Board Member of the Montana Agriculture Business Association. "The Compact doesn't just impact the Flathead—it protects and strengthens all of Montana. Without it, farmers and ranchers face decades of expensive litigation and the retailers that provide our agriculture community with the products that they need will also suffer and face the same uncertainty."

The Compact has received support from Montana's largest and most influential agriculture and water use groups—including the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, the Montana Stockgrowers Association, the Montana Water Resources Association, and now, the Montana Agriculture Business Association.

"The support of the Montana Agriculture Business Association for the Compact is a strong endorsement of the benefits the Compact provides," said Shelby DeMars of Farmers and Ranchers for Montana (FARM). "This vote is about recognizing the misinformation that has been spread about the Compact, considering the facts, and seeing the Compact for what it is—a negotiated agreement that will make our agriculture industry, and our state, stronger."

The support of the Montana Agriculture Business Association comes as the House Judiciary Committee schedules the bill for its hearing in the House. The bill hearing will be held on Saturday, April 11th, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the Montana State Capitol in Room 303, the Old Supreme Court Chamber.

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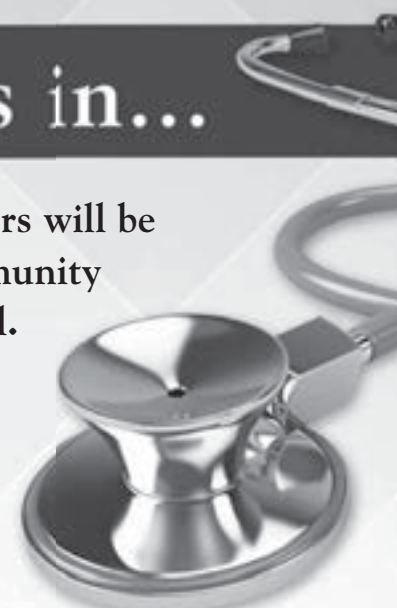
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