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LYIP Fixes Washout Near Savage

See page 10

Field Days Provide Excellent Information

By Lois Kerr

I am always amazed at the new information attendees can learn on a field tour. Farmers may studiously keep up with new information and technology, but attendance at a field day always provides new tidbits of useful information they may not find anywhere else. This year's MSU-Eastern Agricultural Research Center's (EARC) field day, held on Thursday, July 19, was no exception.

For instance, Dr. Prashant Jha, weed scientist at the Southern Agricultural Research Center who spoke at the EARC field day, told the crowd that lambs quarters, wild buckwheat, and field bindweed ALL have natural tolerance to Roundup and that growers will face increasing problems in dealing with these weeds. Scientists have confirmed that some areas have Kochia that exhibits Roundup tolerance as well, so Jha encourages people to contact him if they suspect they have any type of weed that shows tolerance to Roundup. "We will come to your farm, select seed from the suspected tolerant plant, analyze the seed, and if it is tolerant, we will give strategies and alternatives to the farmer to assist him in controlling these tolerant weeds," he

commented.

Jha also pointed out that it takes five years to discover Roundup tolerant plants. "If just one tolerant plant remains in a field and produces seed, in five years you will have 30 to 40% resistance in that field," he said.

Jha advised farmers to use a variety of chemical in their control program. "There are good alternatives out there that help take the pressure off," he remarked. "I urge farmers to act proactively to manage weeds. Timing and rate is essential."

Another little tidbit of information gleaned from the field tour concerned safflower. The safflower varieties MonDak and Cardinal, developed by Dr. Jerry Bergman, now the director of the Williston Research Center, have produced over 2000 pounds of seed on dryland for the past three years. Also, the top three crop returns in the last few years have been safflower, sunflower, and canola. All three of these crops have improved disease and yield packages, which have allowed growers to capitalize on these oil crops.

Other interesting pieces of information the audience learned at the field day include the fact that this year Montana certified seed growers have an all time high planting of 72,000 acres of certified seed. All solid stem varieties of wheat have come from one ancient variety a researcher discovered seventy years ago.

EARC researchers have some extremely interesting data on fusarium and how well or poorly the coded trial beets perform in fusarium infected ground. Dr. Charles Flynn encourages all growers to attend the sugarbeet field tour scheduled for August. "We put all the coded trial varieties into our fusarium trial test," he reported during field day. "This is quite a dramatic test; some varieties are nearly dead while other varieties look marvelous. Growers need to attend the sugarbeet tour in August to see this for themselves."

Field trials are well worth attending. People can learn a tremendous amount in a short period of time. This information can only help a grower improve his or her operation.



During this year's field tour, Dr. Charles Flynn discussed the various sugarbeet experiments underway at the EARC.

PRE-HARVEST SAVINGS!

4WD TRACTORS

1994 JOHN DEERE 8570, (250 ENG HP), 4WD, 12 SPD TRANS, 4 HYDS, 20.8X38 DUALS	\$55,000
2001 CASE IH STX 325, POWERSHIFT, PTO, 4 HYDS, 20.8R42 DUALS	\$99,500
JOHN DEERE 8430, (175 PTO HP) 3HYDS., 20.8X34 DUALS	\$15,000

USED MFWD & 2WD TRACTORS

2011 JD 8285R (285 ENG HP), POWERSHIFT, MFWD, 3 PT W/ QUICK HITCH, 4 HYDS, PTO, 380/90R45 DUALS, 380/80R38 FRT, SNGLS LOW HOURS, FACTORY WARRANTY	\$202,750
2004 JD 7920, (170 HP), IVT TRANS., MFWD, 3 PT W/ QUIK HITCH, 3 HYDS, PTO, 480/80R46 DUALS	\$99,500
2004 JOHN DEERE 7920 (170-HP), IVT TRANS, MFWD, 4-PT HITCH WITH QUICK HITCH, 4 HYDS, 380/90R50 DUALS	\$97,500
1976 JD 4630, (150HP), QUADRANGE, 20.8X38, PTO, JD DOZER .	\$16,500
1973 JOHN DEERE 4430, (125 PTO HP), QUAD RANGE TRANS., DUAL PTO, 2 HYDS, 20.8X34 DUALS	\$12,500
IH 766, (85 HP), CAB, 2 HYDS, 18.4X34 DUALS, 5' SIDE MOUNT MOWER ...	\$7,450
2007 JOHN DEERE 7930 MFWD, (180 PTO HP), IVT TRANS, PTO, 3 PPT HITCH, 4 HYDRAULICS, 380/90R50 DUALS	\$119,500
2010 JOHN DEERE 7130 MFWD, (100 PTO HP), 24 SPD POWERQUAD TRANS, DUAL PTO, 3 HYDS, 480/80R38 SGLS.	\$74,500

LOADER TRACTORS

2007 JD 7930 (180 HP), IVT TRANS, MFWD, 3 PT HITCH, 3 HYDS, 480/80R46 DUALS, W/ JD 746 SL LOADER, 9' BUCKET, GRAPPLE JOYSTICK	\$134,500
2003 JOHN DEERE 6320 (85 HP), 20 SPEED POWERQUAD TANS W/ LH REVERSER, MFWD, 3 PT, 3 HYDS, 18.4X30 SGLS, NEW JOHN DEERE 563 LOADER, 7' BUCKET, GRAPPLE	\$57,500
2011 JOHN DEERE 7130 MFWD, (100 PTO HP), 24 SPD POWERQUAD TRANS, DUAL PTO, 480/80R38 SGLS, LOW, LOW HOURS, FACTORY WARRANTY, JD 740 LOADER, 8' BKT, GRAPPLE, JOYSTICK	\$109,500
(2) 2010 JOHN DEERE 7130 MFWD, (100 PTO HP), 24 SPD POWERQUAD TRANS, DUAL PTO, 3 HYDS, 480/80R38 SGLS, NEW JD H380 LOADER W/ 8' BKT, GRAPPLE, JOYSTICK	\$92,750
2003 JOHN DEERE 7520 MFWD (125 PTO HP), 16 SPD POWERQUAD TRANS, DUAL PTO, 3 HYDS, 520/85R38 SGLS, 741 LOADER W/8' BUCKET, GRAPPLS, JOYSTICK	\$79,500
1998 JOHN DEERE 7810 MFWD (150 PTO HP) 16 SPD POWERQUAD TRANS, DUAL PTO, 3 HYDS, 14.9R46 SGLS, JD 740 LOADER, 8' BKT, GRAPPLE, JOYSTICK	\$54,500
1991 JOHN DEERE 4755 MFWD, (175 PTO HP), 15 SPD, PPOWERSHIFT TRANS, PTO, 4 HYDS, 14.9R46 DUALS, LIKE NEW ALLIED LOADERS\$49,500	
2011 JOHN DEERE 5055E MFWD, (55 ENG HP), JD LOADER	\$30,000

TILLAGE

JOHN DEERE 960 FIELD CULTIVATOR, 42 1/2' HARROWS, NICE	\$12,500
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MISCELLANEOUS

2010 JD R450 W/16' ROTARY ONLY, 134H	CALL
WALINGA 510 GRAIN VAC	\$6,500
REM 552 GRAIN VAC	\$5,500
WOODS BW180 BATWING MOWER, 15'	\$8,500
WOODS 3180 BATWING MOWER, 15'	\$8,500
WOODS S106 DITCH BANK MOWER	\$1,750
2011 DEMCO 3 PT SPRAYER, 60', 500 GAL	\$12,500
2006 BRANDT 100', 1000 GAL, WHL BOOM	\$11,000

HAY & FORAGE EQUIPMENT

HESSTON 8100 WINDROWER, 16' AUGER PLATFORM, 21' DRAPER PLATFORM	\$19,500
JOHN DEERE 3960 FORAGE HARVESTER W/3 ROW ROW CROP 30"	\$11,500
JOHN DEERE 3960 FORAGE HARVESTER	\$2,500

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JOHN DEERE 2 ROW ROW CROP 30"	\$2,250

ROUND BALERS

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2011 JOHN DEERE 568, WIDE PICK-UP, BIG TIRES, NET WRAP	\$39,500
2010 JOHN DEERE 568, WIDE PICK-UP, BIG TIRES, NET WRAP	\$37,500
2003 JOHN DEERE 567, WIDE PICK-UP, NET WRAP	\$24,500
2005 JOHN DEERE 567, WIDE PICK-UP, NET WRAP	\$24,500
1991 JOHN DEERE 535	\$6,500
JOHN DEERE 510	\$1,500
2009 JD 568 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICK-UP, BIG TIRES, NET WRAP	\$33,500
2008 JD 568 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICK-UP, BIG TIRES, NET WRAP	\$32,500
2008 JD 568 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICK-UP, BIG TIRES, NET WRAP	\$31,500
2005 JD 567 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICKUP, NET WRAP	\$22,500
1989 JD 535 ROUND BALER	\$8,500
2002 CASE IH RBX 561 ROUND BALER	\$16,900
2005 JD 567	\$23,500
2005 JD 567	\$16,500
2003 JD 567	\$21,900
2003 JD 567	\$21,500
1989 JD 535	\$8,500
2009 JD 568	\$33,500
2011 JD 568	\$38,500
2010 JD 568	\$41,500
2010 JD 568	\$42,500
2008 JD 568 340BN	\$31,500
1998 VERMEER 605L	\$11,500
1993 VERMEER 605K	\$7,500
2006 VERMEER 605M, BIG TIRES, NET WRAP	\$21,500
2006 NEW HOLLAND BR780, NET WRAP	\$16,500
1996 CASE IH 8480	\$5,500
CASE IH 8440	\$1,500

USED COMBINES

2008 JD 9770 STS, 520/85R38 DUALS, CONTOUR MASTER, CHOPPER, LOW HOURS	CALL
2010 JOHN DEERE 9670 STS, 520/80R38 DUALS, CONTOUR MASTER, CHOPPER	CALL
2008 JOHN DEERE 9670 STS W/ 520/80R38 DUALS, CHOPPER CALL	CALL
2006 JD 9660STS, DUALS, CHOPPER	CALL
2002 JD 9650 STS, 800/65X32 SINGLES, CHOPPER, GRAIN TANK EXT	CALL
1992 JD 9600 30.5X32 SINGLES, CHOPPER, CHAFF SPREADER	CALL
1992 JOHN DEERE 9600, 30.5X32 SGLS, CHEPPER, CHAFF SPREADER	CALL
JD 8820 COMBINE 30.5X32, 224 PLATFORM	CALL
1983 JD 7720, 24.5X32, STRAW AND CHAFF SPREADER, 224 PLATFORM	CALL
2004 CASE IH 2388, AFX ROTOR, 30.5X32 SINGLES, YIELD & MOISTURE MONITOR	CALL
2004 JD 893 CORNHEAD	CALL
JD 635F HYDRA-FLEX	CALL
2009 CASE IH 2010 RIGID PLATFORM, BAT REEL, LESS THAN 100 HOURS	CALL
BISON DOUBLE HEADER TRAILER	\$3950

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Montana Has Thousands of Dams, Training Offered to Owners

Montana has 3,500 inventoried dams and possibly as many as 10,000 if stock ponds are included, says Michele Lemieux, manager of the Montana Dam Safety Program and civil engineer with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Although most of those dams are too small or remote to endanger human life if they fail, it's important that owners know how to inspect, maintain and operate them, Lemieux said. To provide that training, the DNRC hired Montana Watercourse at Montana State University to organize free workshops that will target the owners of small Montana dams.

"Failures have great impact on county resources, often involving local sheriff, county commissioners, county road crews and local emergency responders," Lemieux said. "In many instances, local emergency responders are unfamiliar with the dams located in their areas and dam safety procedures. Providing county personnel with training and information on how to identify and respond to dam problems will improve response and minimize damage."

Janet Bender-Keigley, program coordinator for Montana Watercourse, organized a May 31 workshop in Harlowton and said other workshops will be held this year.

Scheduled so far are an Aug. 3 workshop in Kalispell and an Aug. 16 workshop in Billings. Each will run from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and includes a free lunch. The Kalispell workshop will be held at the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks headquarters at 490 N. Meridian Road. Participants must register by July 31. The Billings workshop will be held at the Northern Plains Resource Council at 220 South 27th Street. Participants must register by Aug. 13.

To reserve a spot, call (406) 994-6671 or email mtwatercourse@montana.edu.

Plans are under way for fall workshops in Great Falls, Malta and Miles City, Bender-Keigley said.

Participants will learn how to inspect dams, rehabilitate outlet pipes and control aquatic weeds and invasive species, Bender-Keigley said. The workshops will also cover concrete repair and emergency actions in case of dam failure.

Lemieux recommends that owners of small rural Montana dams inspect their dams annually and after any noticeable earthquake. Northwest and southwest Montana have the highest probability of seismic activity, she said. Among other things, owners should examine concrete for cracks, rust stains and seepage. They should check corrugated metal pipes for corro-

sion, check the embankment for rodent holes, watch for new seepage and sinkholes, and periodically remove small trees.

"Trees are fine around reservoirs, but keep them away from the dam," Lemieux said.

The design life of corrugated metal pipes ranges from 30 to 50 years, depending on the surrounding soils.

"When they fail, they can take out the whole dam," Lemieux said.

She added that failure of corrugated metal pipes is the most common cause of dam failures in Montana.

Failures become more common as dams begin to age, and most of those failures are caused by a lack of preventative maintenance, Lemieux said. Some of Montana's dams are more than 100 years old, with most of the older dams made out of earth and the larger made from concrete.

The Yankee Doodle Tailings Dam near Butte is Montana's tallest dam, standing 570 feet high, Lemieux said. The Fort Peck Dam is the state's largest.

Of all the dams in Montana, 150 are classified as "high hazard" and subject to strict state and federal regulations. The classification means their failure could endanger life downstream, but it doesn't reflect the actual condition of the dams, Lemieux said.

Montana's other dams are classified as "significant hazard" or "low hazard," and it's up to their owners to maintain them. Significant hazard refers to the potential for significant property or environmental damage downstream. Low hazard refers to limited or no property damage during failure. Most of Montana's significant and low hazard dams are in Eastern Montana. The owners might be ranchers, cities or counties.

The DNRC issues permits for the high hazard dams, but not the others, Lemieux said. Since the Dam Safety Program focuses its outreach and education efforts primarily on high hazard dams, owners of low and significant hazard dams would benefit from the upcoming workshops, she added.

Montana's dams serve a variety of purposes, including flood control, irrigation, water supply for livestock and recreation. Small ponds built for their aesthetic value tend to be located in Western Montana, while dams in Eastern Montana are more likely used for irrigation or livestock, Lemieux said.

Funding for the dam owner workshops came from a \$17,000 grant awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the DNRC.

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2000 JD 7810, 8878 hrs., 14.9x46 tires, power shift, 3 pnt, MFD, 4 remotes, quick hitch	SOLD!	\$54,000
1995 JD 8100, 14.9x46 duals, 3 pt, MFD		\$49,900
2005 Case IH MX 230, MFD, 3 pt, suspended front axle, 320x54 duals, 3,400 hrs		\$95,000
1994 Case IH 7240, 8827 hrs, MFD, dual loader, 3pt		\$49,000
JD 4840, 3 pt, PTO		\$22,500

MISCELLANEOUS

Case IH 415 Mulcher, 25'	\$14,000
Fox Corn Chopper	\$4,995
H&S 12R24 Cultivator, guidecones, tunnel shields, flip up discs	\$4,995
Alloway 12R24 Cultivator, flipup discs, tunnel shields	CALL
Artsway Belly Mower, 6', mounts for a Farmall C	Consigned
Brilliant 24' mulcher	\$13,000
2008 FarmKing 10x72 auger	\$9,500

AIR DRILLS & SPRAYERS

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

2008 Case IH 7010, 380 Sep./520 engine, yield & moisture monitor, long unloader, like new condition, just traded	\$229,000
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2005 Macdon 963 Draper head, 35', bat reel, no transport, gauge wheels	\$31,000
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USED HAYING EQUIPMENT

2006 RBX563 Round Baler, wide pickup, mesh wrap, endless belts, 8,000 bales, good cond.	\$26,000
1999 CaseIH RS561	\$12,500
1995 CaseIH 8465	\$8,995
1994 CaseIH 8480 Softcore	\$6,995
1990 Hesston 560 Round Baler	\$5,500
John Deere 530 round baler	\$5,500
CIH RBX 563 baler, mesh, wide pickup	Just Traded
2008 CaseIH RB564 round baler, 8700 bales, mesh wrap, wide pickup, endless belts, hydraulic pickup lift, central lube	\$29,900
2005 Frontier 18 wheel high capacity rake	\$16,000
Sitrex 20 whl rake, good condition	\$8,900
2003 CaseIH RBX562, MeshWrap, Like New	\$24,500
2001 JD 4890 Windrower, 18' auger head	\$39,000
2006 CaseIH WD 1202 Windrower, 16' head, 980 hrs, very good cond.	SOLD! Just Traded
2004 CaseIH WDX 901 Windrower, 18' head, 950 hrs., new guards & knives	\$49,000
2000 CaseIH SC416 mower conditioner, 16', 1000 pto	\$9,500

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USDA Announces Sign-Up Date For Highly Erodible Land Initiative Under The Conservation Reserve Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will begin sign-up for the Highly Erodible Land Initiative under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on July 23, 2012. The purpose of this initiative, announced by Secretary Vilsack in February, is to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. Producers may enroll at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. Enrollment will continue until the 750,000 acre limit has been met.

"CRP is an important program with more than 25 years of success in protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation," said Vilsack. "We are excited to include this new initiative that targets the most fragile cropland, in addition to other targeted initiatives that are currently available under the CRP."

CRP is a voluntary program designed to help farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Currently, 29.6 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Through this Highly Erodible Land Initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible cropland for a period of 10 years. Croplands with an Erodibility Index of 20 or greater are eligible for enrollment.

In March, Secretary Vilsack announced an increase of 1 million acres of land in a new CRP Initiative to Restore Grasslands, Wetlands and Wildlife. On June 12, a portion of the 1 million acres available for the initiative were allocated. Initiatives receiving acres are: Wetland Restoration, 200,000 acres; Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (Quail), 150,000 acres; Duck Nesting Habitat, 150,000 acres; and Pollinator Habitat, 100,000 acres. Sign-up for the Pollinator Habitat initiative began on June 12 as part of the continuous sign-up criteria.

CRP has a quarter-century legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States. Under CRP, farmers and ranchers plant grasses and trees in crop fields and along streams or rivers. The plantings prevent soil and nutrients from washing into waterways, reduce soil ero-

sion that may otherwise contribute to poor air and water quality, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. Plant cover established on the acreage accepted into the CRP will reduce nutrient and sediment runoff in our nation's rivers and streams. In 2011, as a result of CRP, nitrogen and phosphorous losses from farm fields were reduced by 623 million pounds and 124 million pounds respectively. The CRP has restored more than two million acres of wetlands and associated buffers and reduces soil erosion by more than 300 million tons per year. CRP also provides \$1.8 billion annually to landowners-dollars that make their way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs. In addition, CRP is the largest private lands carbon sequestration program in the country. By placing vulnerable cropland into conservation, CRP sequesters carbon in plants and soil, and reduces both fuel and fertilizer usage. In 2010, CRP resulted in carbon sequestration equal to taking almost 10 million cars off the road.

In 2011, USDA enrolled a record number of acres of private working lands in conservation programs, working with more than 500,000 farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices that clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, and prevent soil erosion. Moreover, the Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, implement the Farm Bill, maintain a strong farm safety net, and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its most productive periods in American history thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our producers.

August Puzzle Answers

Keyword: fairground

Crypto-list: pencil, notebook, eraser, crayons, paste, paper, backpack, pens

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Massey Ferguson 1655L Tractor (LI) Call
Massey Ferguson GC2600L Tractor (LI) Call
Versatile 876 Tractor (LI) Call
03' CIH STX450 Tractor (LI) Call
Versatile 575 4WD Tractor (LM) Coming in

Sprayers

Brandt QF-1500, 100' Wheel Boom Sprayer (LI) Call
Top Air TA1600 Sprayer (LI) Call
Top Air TA1200 Sprayer (LI) Call
Redball 690, 132' Sprayer, Auto Height (LM) \$24,999
Summers 100' Wheel Boom Sprayer (LI) Was \$10,500 Is \$7,500
Versatile 275 SP Sprayer (LI) Call

Air Drills

39' Morris Maxim Air Drill w/7 1/2" spacing, 2" steel press wheels & 6240 TBH Cart #1307 (LI) Was \$36,000 Is \$29,500
40' John Deere 730 Air Drill, 6" spacing, knockon sweeps w/787 TBT cart #1383 (LI) Was \$32,500 Is \$22,500
40' Bourgault 5700 Air Drill, 7" spacing, 2" steel press wheels w/3225 TBH Cart #1319 (LI) Was \$32,500 Is \$22,000
39' Flexi-coil 5000 Air Drill, 9" spacing, 3 1/2" steel press wheels w/2320 TBT Cart #1315 (LI) Was \$38,000 Is \$30,000

33' Flexi-coil 5000 Air Drill, 7 1/2" spacing, 2" steel press wheels & 1110 TBH Cart #1426 (LI) Was \$23,000 Is \$20,000
Case IH 8500 Air Drill (LM) \$7,000
45' John Deere Hoe Drill, 8" spacing w/1900 Cart (LI) \$72,500
34' Morris Maxium Air Drill w/7140 Tank (LI) \$36,500
Morris Maxium III Air Drill w/8336 Tank (LI) Call

Hay Equipment

(2) Massey Ferguson 2856A Balers (LI) Call
'03 Hesston 956A Auto Cycle Round Baler (LI) Was \$23,500 Is \$16,500
'00 Hesston 856A Round Baler (LI) Was \$19,500 Is \$12,500
4865 New Idea Baler (LM) \$5,000

Combines & Headers

'11 Gleaner S77 Combine (LM) \$305,000
'05 Challenger 670 Combine (LM) \$130,000
'03 Gleaner R75 Combine (LM) \$135,000
(3) '02 Massey Ferguson 8780 Combines (LI) \$89,500
'02 Gleaner R62 Combine (LM) \$95,000
'00 Gleaner R62 Combine (LI) Was \$89,500 Is \$75,000
'94 Gleaner R62 Combine (LI) Was \$75,900 Is \$65,000
'94 Gleaner R62 Combine (LM) \$25,000
(2) '94 Gleaner R72 Combines (LI) Your Choice Was \$45,000 Is \$39,000

'97 Gleaner R62 Combine #11387 (LI) Was \$58,000 Is \$51,000
'98 New Holland TR98 Combine (LI) \$50,000
(2) '94 Gleaner R62 Combine #1444, 197 (LI) Was \$42,000 Is \$35,000
'92 Gleaner R62 Combine #752 (LI) Was \$38,000 Is \$32,000
'92 Gleaner R72 Combine (LM) \$29,000
'91 Gleaner R70 Combine #732 (LI) Was \$25,000 Is \$18,500
'90 Gleaner R60 Combine #1300 (LI) Was \$22,000 Is \$15,000
(2) '89 Gleaner R60 Combine #673, 128, 1234 (LI) Was \$20,000 Is \$15,000
'82 Gleaner N7 Combine #1120 (LI) Was \$8,500 Is \$5,000
(9) Gleaner N6 Combines (LI) Best Offer
'09 Gleaner 3000 8-30 Corn Header (LM) 35,000
Gleaner 400 Short Head (LM) \$2,500
Gleaner 22LM Header (LM) \$2,000
30' Gleaner 300 Head 9" Seedcater Pans (LM) \$12,000
Case IH 1040 30' Draper Head P/U Reel (LM) \$25,000
36' AGCO Draper Head (LM) \$9,000
MacDon FD-70 Flex Draper 40' (LM) \$86,900
MacDon FD-70 Flex Draper 35' (LM) \$79,900
Miscellaneous Draper Headers (LI) Call

Miscellaneous

Dixie Chopper Mowers (in stock) (LI) Call
Cub Cadet Lawnmowers (LM) Starting at \$1,799
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Outback STS Guidance (LM) \$2,000
Outback S3 Guidance (LM) \$3,000
Outback EDRIVE TC (LM) \$3800
Outback EDRIVE X (Hyd Kit) (LM) \$7,400
Outback EDRIVE X (Steer Ready) (LM) \$6,000
Bee Line Granular Box (LI) \$500
Mayrath 8'X41' Auger (PTO) (LI) Was \$1500 Is \$1,450
Farm King 13'X70' Auger (LI) Call
Farm King 12'X92' Augers (LM) Coming In
Farm King 12'X122' Augers (LM) \$27,500
Wheatheart 13'X111' Swing Away Auger (LM) \$18,000
Geringhoff Sun Lite Fits JD7030 (LM) \$49,999
Sioux Panels & Gates (LI) Call
Ezee-On Post Pounders (LI) Call
CFR Highline Bale Processor (LI) Call
Grade Master Blades, 7'-8'-10'-12' (LI) Call
Land Pride Box Blades (LI) Call
XL78 Highline Rock Picker (LI) Call
Hy-Grade 1400RS Scraper (LM) \$18,330
Demco 750 Grain Cart, Tarp & Scale (LM) \$33,000
Demco 850 Grain Cart, Tarp & Scale (LI) \$38,000
Demco 1050 Grain Cart Tarp & Scale (LI) \$45,000
Maurer Header Transport (LM) \$8,900
707 Leon Loader w/Bucket (LM) \$5,500
Service Truck Body - 1 Ton Pickup (LM) \$750
1995 Ford F-550 Service Truck (LM) \$12,500
Cub Cadet Enforcer, 54' (LM) \$4,500

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Prairie Fare

Do You Know How to Freeze in the Heat of Summer?

**By Julie Garden-Robinson
Food and Nutrition Specialist
NDSU Extension Service**

Take the short quiz to test your knowledge of freezing techniques to keep your food at its best.

"Mom, have you seen Audrey lately?" my teenage daughter asked.

"Who's Audrey?" I replied.

She giggled and said, "Oh, I meant Audrey II. She's outside in the garden climbing over the fence." Now it made sense. I realized she was referring to the movie character Audrey, the massive carnivorous plant from the musical "Little Shop of Horrors." My daughter has been watching videos on YouTube and singing the songs around our home.

I wasn't sure I wanted to see a real-life Audrey, though. I like to sleep at night.

Our Audrey is a huge pumpkin plant that has crept over the fence surrounding our garden and appears to be on the way to our house. We are retraining Audrey to stay within the confines of our garden, but that plant has a mind of its own. If that doesn't work, I have a clipper and I'm not afraid to use it.

With all the flowers on her vines, Audrey probably will be the mother of many pumpkins this year.

If you have been diligently watering your garden in the heat this year, you may have some prolific plants, too. You may find that you will need to preserve some of your produce so it doesn't go to waste.

Freezing is one of the easiest ways to preserve your produce. The process involves a couple of steps designed to maintain the quality of your produce so you can enjoy it at top quality next winter.

Many people regularly freeze food, so here's a short quiz to test your knowledge of freezing techniques to keep your food at its best.

(1.) Which of the following are not suitable for long-term freezer storage? (Choose all that apply.) a. Plastic sandwich bags b. Bread wrappers c. Cottage cheese containers d. Freezer bags

(2.) If food is not frozen in proper containers, it may develop brownish-white spots from the loss of moisture. What is this called?

(3.) Stopping the action of enzymes in plants is important to help prevent discoloration, toughening or off-colors. What is the name of process of scalding vegetables in water or steam to stop these enzymes?

(4.) True or false: All vegetables require the same amount of steaming or scalding in hot water prior to freezing.

(5.) True or false: Prior to freezing, the heated vegetables should be cooled quickly to stop the cooking by plunging in cold, running water or ice water.

How did you do? Here are the answers.

Answers: 1. a, b and c are not appropriate. 2. Freezer burn is a form of dehydration that occurs when food is not prepared and packaged properly for freezing. 3. Blanching

inactivates enzymes and improves product quality. 4. False 5. True.

Be sure to freeze only top-quality produce. The quality of the end product is only as good as the quality of the starting ingredients. Use only freezer containers and label the containers with the contents and date.

For example, string beans are blanched for three minutes and then cooled before packing, sealing and freezing in the appropriate package. If you have prolific pumpkins later in the season, consider freezing some. Before freezing, rinse the pumpkin, peel, remove seeds and cut into pieces. Cook or steam until tender. Or bake in a 350 F oven until soft, remove seeds and freeze. Package the pumpkin in freezer containers or freezer bags. Leave a 1/2-inch headspace between the top of the pumpkin and the cover.

Corn on the cob can be frozen whole, but the amount of time for blanching varies based on the size of the cobs. Small ears are blanched for seven minutes, medium ears for nine minutes and large ears for 11 minutes prior to packaging, sealing and freezing.

For more information about freezing and other techniques for food preservation, including freezing, canning, pickling and food dehydration, see the NDSU Extension Service food preservation collection at www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/preservation.html. To freeze vegetables, see publication FN187. To freeze fruits, see FN182. For an overall food freezing guide, see FN403.

Try some corn on the cob prepared outdoors and then consider freezing some fresh cobs to enjoy later using the information in one of the publications noted. This grilling technique adds a smoky, garlicky flavor to one of summer's favorite vegetables.

Grilled Corn on the Cob

6 ears of corn
3 Tbsp. butter, melted
1 clove garlic, minced (optional)
1 Tbsp. chives, chopped (optional)
Salt and pepper, to taste

Preheat your grill and spray or lightly oil the grill grating. Open the husks and remove the silk. Soak the cobs in a bowl of cold water for 30 minutes. Remove from the water and shake to remove excess water. Secure husk in place by tying with an extra piece of husk. Grill for about 15 minutes on a medium-hot grill, turning a couple of times.

Melt the butter in a small pan. Add the garlic, if desired, and saute. When the corn is cooked, remove the husks and brush with garlic butter. Sprinkle with chives if desired.

Makes six servings. Each serving has 90 calories, 2 grams (g) of fat, 3 g of protein, 19 g of carbohydrate, 2 g of fiber and 15 milligrams of sodium.

(Julie Garden-Robinson, Ph.D., R.D., L.R.D., is a North Dakota State University Extension Service food and nutrition specialist and professor in the Department of Health, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences.)



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LYIP Crew Restores Main Canal



Water pours out of the main canal through the 40 foot washout that occurred south of Savage at the end of June.

By Lois Kerr

Most readers know that the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project's (LYIP) main canal suffered a 45 foot wide washout in late June near the Marlow Iversen farm south of Savage. Readers also know that this washout disrupted irrigation for many farms during the time span it took for crews to repair the blowout, refill the canal, reprime the laterals, and reschedule water deliveries.

What many readers may not realize, however, concerns the hard work, long hours, and dedication to restoring water delivery as quickly as possible that the entire LYIP staff displayed during this time.

The main canal washout occurred at approximately 4:30 am on Thursday, June 28. Water master Don Mastvelten arrived on the scene within minutes of receiving a call from the Sheriff's department that water was running over the road on County Road 104. Mastvelten immediately called ditch rider Pat Micheletto and had him shut down the gates at Intake. Micheletto and Mastvelten then opened spillways between Intake and the main canal break and shut off the Savage and Thomas Point pumps to drain the canal as quickly as possible. Because of the large quantity of water stored in the main canal, it took hours for the break site to drain sufficiently so that work on repairs could begin. While waiting for the water to subside and for the area to dry sufficiently to support heavy equipment, LYIP foreman Bill

Hamburg organized operators and crews to move the dozer, track hoe, and compactor to the site and ready the gravel trucks for action.

LYIP received many offers of assistance during this waiting period, a fact that LYIP Manager James Brower greatly appreciates. "In the time it took to shut off Intake and for the canal to drain, what began as a 20 foot washout eroded to become a 45 foot washout," he comments. "The County phoned and volunteered the use of their large sheep's foot compactor, and delivered it on site for us. Utilities responded quickly and located lines for us, and many farmers and local businesses offered use of equipment. I truly appreciate the offers of help and the way that the community joined together to offer assistance."

Work began with the excavation of spoiled material that made up the original bank. Using the track hoe, operators removed 20 to 25 feet of bank on both sides of the washout to reach stable, solid bank. Crews then began the lengthy process of hauling rock from the Fisher pit, and using the hauled material to reshape and slope a new bank and to key this new material into the solid ends of the washout. An operator on the dozer spread each load as it arrived and the compactor operator drove back and forth on site to pack this new material into a solid, sturdy bank.

The crew worked until 9 pm on Thursday the 28th, went home filthy with dust and grime, and tired to the bone. They

had only enough energy to shower and have a quick bite to eat before falling into bed. They all returned to the job site to resume working by 5 a.m. on Friday morning.

On Friday the work of hauling material, spreading, shaping, and compacting the new canal bank continued. The crew remained on the job until 8:30 Friday evening, when they finished the job and water once again flowed through the main canal to serve farmers and ranchers in the valley.

However, the work had only begun for water master Don Mastvelten and the ditch riders. Mastvelten began priming the main canal on Friday afternoon and worked nearly non-stop through the weekend and into Monday July 2 to stabilize the canal and ensure water delivery. Once the canal was primed, ditch riders began a long week of hard work to make sure individual users received water. This process took time because of high demand, and also required some water rationing to enable ditch riders to get water to all users in need. "Don (Mastvelten) worked without a break for three days," Brower notes. "Because the heat, there was an enormous demand for water during this time, so it took a week to stabilize water levels in the main canal and the laterals. Because of this high demand, water rationing was introduced for a week. Farmers cooperated during this time and coped with the fluctuating water levels."

He adds, "Historically, this was one of the shortest water outages we have had for a washout on the main canal bank."

Brower feels the entire LYIP crew deserves a word of praise. "These men are heroes for working so hard to restore water to the users," he remarks. "They did a fantastic job of getting water back in the canal so quickly."

Following the washout incident, Brower and Mastvelten spent three days inspecting the entire canal, looking for damage and evaluating high water marks. They found several areas in need of cleaning and maintenance, so the LYIP plans to initiate serious canal maintenance work in the fall and over the coming winter. "It

is important to minimize damage and flooding in emergencies, so we will do main canal maintenance and clean drains and laterals to reduce this potential damage," he comments.

Brower and Mastvelten also examined the records for the past three years and determined that this year's water levels were normal or below previous years' high water marks.

The LYIP work crew spent a lot of time and energy to ensure water users could resume irrigating as quickly as possible. They all deserve a word of thanks and a pat on the back for their tremendous effort.



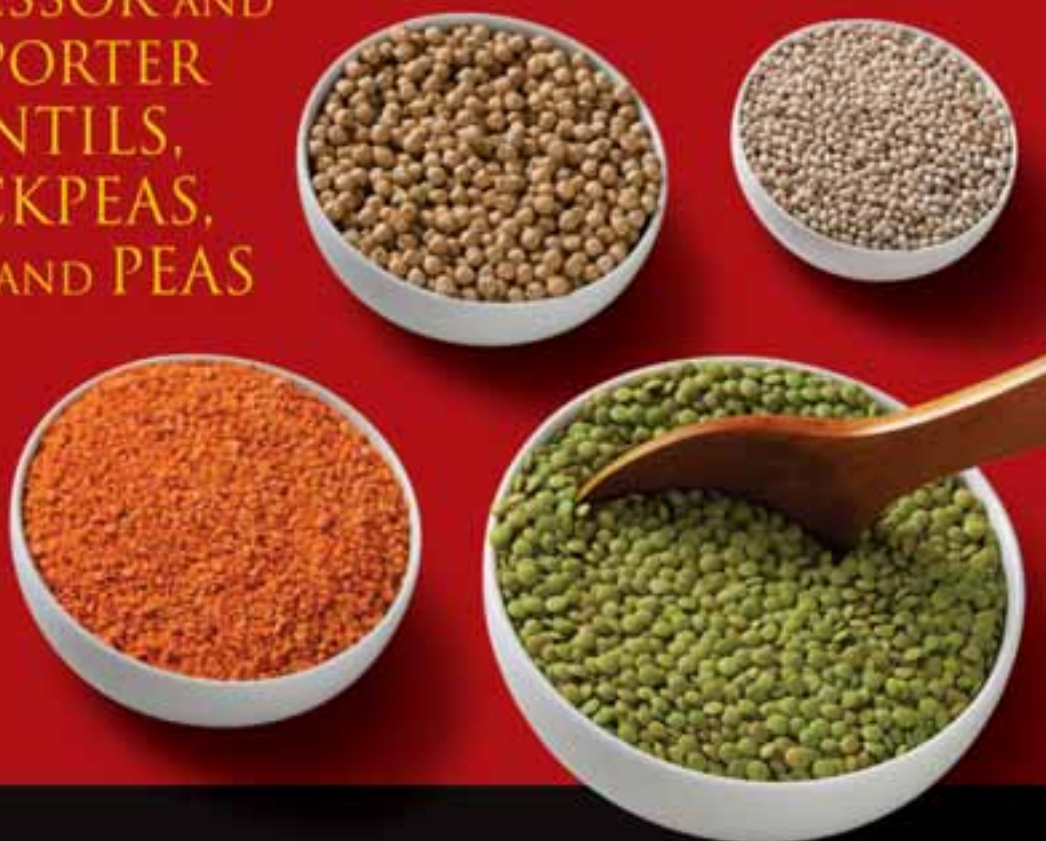
Water from the main canal washout flooded several fields and a county road.



LYIP crews used a trackhoe, a dozer, and a sheep's foot compactor loaned to them from the County to repair the main canal washout.



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"Take A Break"

By Lois Kerr

LOOP-A-WORD Tractors

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

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

axle	fork (lift)	loader	radiator	vehicle
battery	fuel line	lugs	radio	wheels
body	fuse	metal	repairs	windshield
brake	gauge	model	seat	wires
bucket	gearshift	odometer	signal	
clutch	horn	oil	speed	
dash	handle	paint	start	
diesel	horsepower	park	steer	
door	ignition	pedal	tape deck	
duals	keys	plugs	tires	
exhaust	lights	power	transmission	

KEYWORD: To find the keyword, fill in the blanks 1 to 10 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	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. C L E _ _ T | 6. C _ _ I M P |
| 2. C O _ _ C H | 7. S _ _ U R S |
| 3. D R _ _ F T | 8. T R _ _ M P |
| 4. C _ _ A S H | 9. S C O _ _ E |
| 5. _ _ I R T H | 10. S L I _ _ E |

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.

School supplies

ex: scissors

TYVMZK

VBDYFBBJ

YPOIYP

MPOSBVI

TOIDY

TOTYP

FOMJTOMJ

TYVI

See answers on page 6.

A Little Bit Country

Several Possible Causes for White Wheat Heads

By Warren Froelich
NDSU Extension Agent
Williams County

Nearly every year wheat growers of this area report white heads, sometimes in alarming numbers. For this area of the state, a majority of the problem is caused by the wheat stem maggot which invades the stem cutting off nutrients to that part of the plant above the location of the maggot. An easy test for the presence of the maggot is to gently pull on the affected stem. If it comes out with just slight resistance the bottom of the removed stem will have a brown discoloration and evidence of chewing by the maggot.

Given this year's unusual heat and dry conditions one should not rule out other reasons for the white heads. These include root rot, sterility, scab, barley yellow dwarf and even herbicides.

Root rot is usually characterized by the heads of the whole plant being white or off-color. The whole plant can be easily pulled from the soil. The roots and crown will be a discolored brown rather than being a healthy white or cream color.

Heat sterility is a strong possibility this year. With sterility issues often just the tips of heads are white and shriveled.

Fusarium head blight (scab) causes wheat head tissue to turn a purplish white or the heads often have some green and some whitish spikelets. If the whole head is infected the stem right below the head looks

brownish to purplish.

The barley yellow dwarf virus infections may cause whole plants and heads to turn prematurely.

Herbicides and hot temperatures generally add stress to wheat plants. This situation can cause premature white heads in which the majority of the plant stays green but heads are white. A common symptom is for this to occur in patches, sprinkled in an area or in strips.

Marcia McMullen, Extension Plant Pathologist at NDSU, believes it is possible for a number of factors working together to cause white heads.

Tree of the Week

The Ohio Buckeye is a rare tree of this area but there are a few. Like many other trees, it is not very drought resistant. It also tends to do better in areas where the soil pH is between five and seven. Most of our soil sites are above 7 so it does have some toleration of slightly basic soils.

Ohio Buckeye is a medium-sized tree with an oval to rounded crown. The unique characteristics about this tree include the palmate compound leaves, terminal candle-like flowers and large globose fruits. The leaflets are about 3-5 inches long and arranged much like spokes on a wheel. The margins of the leaflets are finely serrated with pointed tips.

Look for this tree to grow 20-40 feet high with almost an equally spread of its crown. So, it has a lot of potential for shade. It forms a tap root which makes the root system much different than most other trees grown in this region.

Ohio Buckeye has no major insect problems. In fact extracts of this tree species are toxic to some pests.

Some of the suggested cultivated varieties include Autumn Splendor, Homestead and Prairie Torch. These have been released by the University of Minnesota, South Dakota State University, and North Dakota State University.

If you give this tree the opportunity to grow with supplemental water, look for a medium green leaf color during the growing season and a yellow to amber fall color. Without sufficient water, the leaves will easily scorch.

The logo for Roundup WEB.COM features the word "Roundup" in a large, bold, 3D-style font with a metallic or chrome-like texture. Below it, "WEB.COM" is written in a smaller, simpler, all-caps font.

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2012 Horse Extravaganza

By Waynette Molloy

Once again there will be one night of entertainment that is free and well worth your time to look into. During the fair on Wednesday night, everyone will have the rare opportunity to see some of the most beautiful and talented horses and riders in the Mondak region. I hope you take advantage of the free show. You will again have the chance to view draft teams, rare breeds, talented riding exhibitions and horses of every color and size.

We always start out with a flag presentation. We are blessed to have so many talented youth in our area, and many are in 4-H and Rodeo. We plan to do several different flag presentations this year. We will have our 4-H presenters and hopefully Rodeo Queen Jade Brunsvold will do a presentation as well as the Flag Presenters for the Rodeo.

We will be entertained by the Sheridan Silverados Equestrian Drill Team from Plentywood with 12 members who are coming to perform for us. We are very thrilled to have them. If you came last year, you saw a marvelous performance from them. Our home-town Drill Team is taking the year off to recruit new members. If you are interested in joining, call Peggy Ann Strupp at 488-1666. We hope to have Peggy Ann and her Appaloosa and Dalmatian Team perform for us again this year, as we missed them last year.

This year we hope to get a local group who is trying to gain interest in starting a Ranch Sorting group for competitions. There have already been some competitions and the interest is growing. Hopefully we can get them to come and put on a demonstration for everyone!

We hope to get the Curlys here this year as well as some Tennessee Walkers and Morgans. Also, some Missouri Fox Trotters have moved into the country and we will try to get them to come strut their stuff. We hope to see the Peruvian Passo and a Halflinger Team as well as some Shires and Clydesdales. We are still working on some Carting exhibitions and hopefully will have some Mules represented this year. We hope to have a Queen exhibition and will have several Duet performances. We were able to get Victoria Netzer to perform another show-stopper for us. She has been away at college and has placed in the top in the College Rodeo Finals.

You know, these guys spend a lot of time and money hauling from far away to bring you beauty and talent. Don't disappoint them by not coming to see them!

As you can see, there is something for everyone! So, on Wednesday night, August 1st at 7:30 at the Richland County Fair Rodeo arena, come see this Free show. Anyone who would like to perform or show their breed is welcome!

Contact Waynette Molloy at 406-488-5982 before August 1st.

For anyone interested, the 4-H Horse Show will also be at the fairgrounds on Wednesday, August 1st, beginning at 8 am. This will include over 20 youths doing showmanship, riding patterns, trail, driving, English and Western, English jumping and greenhorse. Ranch Horse, Reining, Trail, Leadline and Speed Events are on Tuesday afternoon at the Sidney Saddle Club beginning at 3 pm.

So, if you have any interest in horses or are just looking for some fantastic entertainment that is free to boot, come on down and check us out!



Sumer Riedle and Jade Brunsvold perform at last year's Horse Extravaganza.

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Richland County LAND AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012, 2:00 P.M.

OWNER: A&P Peterson Farms Inc., whose address is 4141 Cleveland Ave., Sidney, MT 59101 will offer the following property to the public at auction. The final bid will be subject to their approval. The Owners reserve the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

PROPERTY LOCATION: From Sidney, MT South on Hwy 16 at the junction take Hwy 23 for 2.8 miles, turn right on Hwy 261 South for 1 1/2

miles. Property starts on the right.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Section 28, Township 22N, Range 59E, MPM

240 +/- Acres Irrigated & 90 +/- Acres Grassland & Building Site

Section 28, N2/4 and except a tract in the E1/2 as conveyed to the State of Montana for the benefit and use of its Department of Highways, by Eargar and Dale Deed, recorded at Book A-107, Page 297

IRRIGATION: 240 +/- Acres of Flood Irrigated Land. The irrigation pipe goes with the property. The irrigation water comes from the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District.

HOUSE & BUILDINGS: Owner 1372 sq ft three bedroom house with basement, 1 1/2 baths, forced air propane, central air, detached 3 car garage, 20x20x12 woodshop, six grain bins, 2 summer buildings, heated L-shaped stock/grainery, stock barn, four other buildings.

A title commitment has been ordered and will be available, at that time, to prospective buyers for inspection prior to sale day. The above may or may not be the proper legal description. It was taken from the Richland County Tax Records.

TAXES: Taxes will be prorated from the day of closing.

TITLE INSURANCE: Standard owner's title insurance will be provided by the seller through Security Abstract Title Company, 100 2nd Street SE, Sidney, MT 59270 (406)433-1010.

TERMS: Cash. 10% down sale day, the balance due at closing approximately 60 days from sale date at the office of Security

Abstract Title Company, 100 2nd Street SE, Sidney, MT 59270 (406)433-1010

BUY/SELL AGREEMENT: The Buy/Sell Agreement will be prepared by Matter Law Office, Don Matter Attorney, 10600 South Central Ave., Suite 2, Sidney, MT 59270 406-433-1311

BUYERS PREMIUM: 4.2% Buyers Premium will be added to the winning bid price to arrive at the total contract price paid by the purchaser.

Your bid is considered acceptance of the terms of this auction. If you, the Buyer fails to close, the down payment is non-refundable. If the Seller fails to close, 100% of the down payment will be returned. At this time, there is no known reason that the Seller would not be able to close. All hands are to be held in the escrow account of Security Abstract Title Company, 100 2nd Street SE, Sidney, MT 59270 (406)433-1010

All information is from sources deemed reliable, but is not guaranteed by the Seller or the Auctioneer. Offering is subject to error, omission, and approval of purchase by owner. We urge independent verification of each and every item submitted to the attention of any prospective buyer. It is every potential bidder's responsibility to accept/decline for or her due diligence in whatever manner he or she deems advisable. Announcements made on sale day take precedence over any printed materials. The property sells "As is-Where is"

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Rick Kniepkamp (406)485-2548 or (406)433-1032 cell

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:

The Peterson Heirs have decided to liquidate their property in Richland County and offer it to the public at auction. This is a great piece of irrigated land and is only 10 minutes from Sidney! Don't miss this opportunity! Hope to see you on September 5th at the Elks Lodge. Rick



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Canola Possible Forage Crop for Livestock

NDSU Extension Service

Canola can be an alternative feed for livestock, but producers need to be aware of the challenges.

Drought-challenged dairy producers facing forage shortages may be able to feed their cows canola and related crops, provided they take certain precautions.

"Recent rains were spotty, and encroaching drought in North Dakota has livestock producers scrambling for much-needed forage," says J.W. Schroeder, North Dakota State University Extension Service dairy specialist. "Dairy managers are particularly concerned about feed shortages because they rely on high-quality forage to make milk. The drought elsewhere will result in greater competition for locally grown forages."

For North Dakota producers, crop aftermath, crops zeroed out for insurance purposes and regrowth of harvested crops stimulated by late-season rains may offer additional forage for certain classes of livestock. Crops that could be fed to cattle include canola and related crops such as brown, yellow and Oriental mustard.

"While these crops make palatable feed, it may take one or two days for cattle to become accustomed to their taste," Schroeder says.

If canola is hayed, drying time is critical to avoid moldy feed later, he says. Typically, the plants take four to six days to dry to proper moisture levels (16 to 18 percent moisture content) for baling. Canola tends to turn dark as it cures, but this shouldn't affect palatability.

However, cattle resist eating stemmy canola forage, Canadian producers report. They believe the forage is unpalatable because of its high sulfur content. Some producers also noted that dairy cattle diets high in canola forage resulted in an undesirable taste in the milk.

"Given the high cost of fuel, evaluate the field closest to you before spending money to bale and haul what might have limed use," Schroeder advises dairy producers.

A better option may be to ensile the canola if it is leafy and has some height, although canola is high in moisture (75 to 80 percent) and wilting it to 65 percent moisture will take time, he says. Harvesting a mixture of the mature stand and the regrowth will reduce the moisture, and crimping will hasten the drying process.

Also, ensiling will reduce nitrate content by 30 to 70 percent, making feeds that are high in nitrate safe to feed.

However, feeding canola creates some risks. Canola can cause bloat in some instances. Also, some producers have noticed that cattle tend to develop scours when fed canola hay or silage as the only source of roughage. Schroeder says canola hay or silage should not make up more than 50 to 60 percent of the total feed intake on an as-fed basis.

Another drawback is that canola contains high levels of sulfur (0.5 to 1.3 percent on a 100 percent dry-matter basis). Producers need to remember that well water and byproducts such as distillers grain also may have high levels of sulfur, Schroeder says. The National Research Council recommends that total dietary sulfur not exceed 0.4 percent on a dry-matter basis.

If cattle diets exceed recommended levels of sulfur intake, several things may occur:

Cattle fed canola and related crop roughages long term as the sole source of feed may develop hemolytic anemia. Feeding

at levels of 50 percent or less should prevent this condition.

Feeding canola and related forages to cattle for long periods may inhibit their use of trace minerals, particularly copper and selenium. Producers should add fortified trace mineralized salt and various mineral supplements to their cows' diets to ensure the animals receive the recommended levels of copper and selenium on a daily basis.

In some situations, high levels of dietary sulfur create hydrogen sulfide gas in the rumen. This may lead to polioencephalomalacia (PEM), a dietary disease that can cause lesions to form in the brain. Clinical signs include a lack of muscle coordination, facial tremors, teeth clenching, circling, stupor and cortical blindness followed by the animals leaning or lying down, convulsions and death.

Producers also need to be aware of any pesticides or herbicides that were applied to the crops they plan to use as feed. Remember, the original intention was not to raise the crop for feed. Double-check the pesticide application records to confirm any usage or withholding restrictions are met.

Schroeder says another challenge of using canola as forage is that newly harvested canola stubble provides limited nutrition for grazing (around 6 percent protein). The nutritional value increases considerably when late-summer rainfall produces green regrowth from germination of seed remaining in the stubble.

Also, green canola regrowth subjected to moisture stress during summer can be toxic to grazing animals, including cattle and sheep. Researchers don't know the exact type of toxin causing the problem, but Australian sheep growers have reported an unidentified toxin has resulted in sheep losses.

Despite these potential problems, canola hay and wrapped silage or baleage can be a valuable feed source if producers follow some precautions when introducing these feeds to their stock, Schroeder says.

According to Australian research, canola hay and silage from failed or frosted canola crops has been fed to livestock for more than 15 years. Most of the reported problems have involved only a small number of animals from each herd, and almost all of the problems have been associated with a rapid change of diet.

Schroeder has these recommendations for safely introducing animals to canola hay or silage:

Do not offer large amounts of canola hay or silage to stock. Introduce it slowly by replacing a part of the diet and increasing the proportion of canola fodder during a period of days, or blending it in a total mixed ration.

For confined stock, try to offer a mixture of fodder types, at least for the first two weeks of using canola. Stock with access to dry pasture when introduced to canola fodder should have no problems.

Watch stock for any signs of nitrate poisoning or sensitivity to light. The symptoms of nitrate poisoning are profuse scouring, a sudden drop in milk production, rough coat, and occasionally shivering and staggers. The symptoms of photosensitization are reddening or scabs on the ears, muzzle or other areas.

Learn all you can about the history of the crop. Ask the grower how much and when nitrogen fertilizer was applied, and the level of drought stress in the crop. Fodder made from crops that were badly stressed or had high applications of top-dressed nitrogen fertilizer may have increased levels of nitrates.



MonDak Harvest Fest

Tractor & Truck Pull

August 25, 2012

Richland County Fairgrounds Sidney, MT

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- **Children's Pedal Pull & Race ~ 4:00 pm •**

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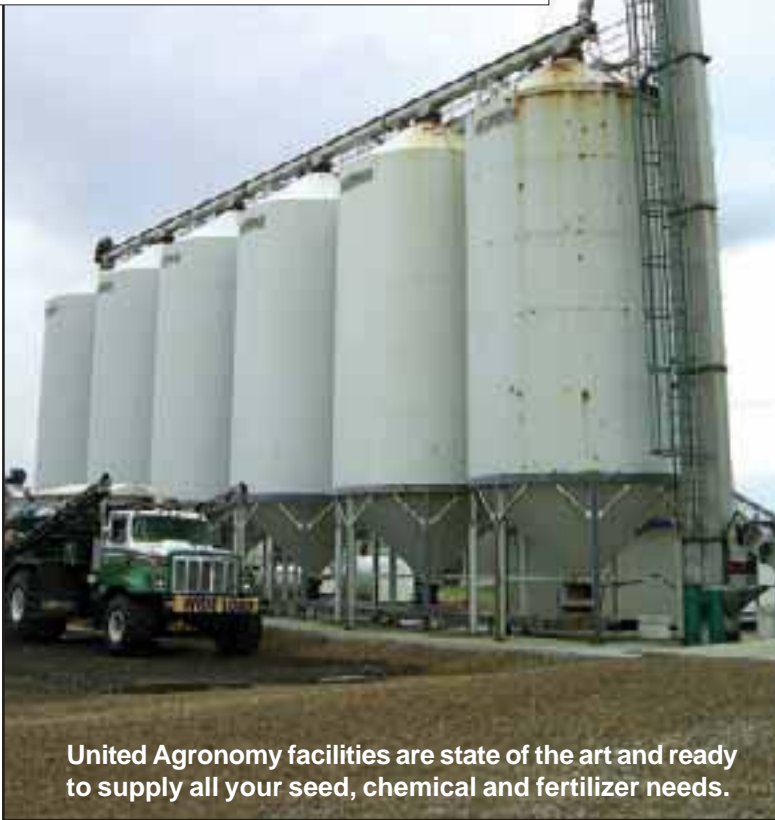
United Agronomy, LLC started doing business in Williston in the spring of 2005 as a satellite out of Berthold which was established in 2001. In 2011, they merged with Dakota Quality Grains agronomy division, allowing them to pick up offices in Parshall, Ross and New Town. The company employs 30-35 full time people, which includes 15-18 agronomists, plus seasonal workers 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. With the knowledge they gain, United Agronomy is able to put those research products in the ground 2-3 years before they're offered on the regular market. Various crop scouting contracts are offered through Vision Research, ranging from occasional visits to weekly scouting, application and reporting.

Hanig is proud of the accomplishments of the Williston location. In just 7 short years, the division has grown to include 2 full time agronomists, 3 certified custom applicators, 1 receptionist, Hanig as manager, plus additional staff as needed.

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Registration Now Open For Taking Root

Montana Farm to School Conference

The Office of Public Instruction and its Montana Team Nutrition Program along with Montana State University and Learning by Nature are hosting the inaugural Taking Root: Montana Farm to School Conference on August 16-17, 2012 at Montana State University in Bozeman.

Through workshops and field trips, participants will explore a wealth of Farm to School topics throughout the cafeteria, classroom and community, network with a variety of stakeholders, and be inspired by the diverse ways Farm to School has taken root across Montana. Teachers, administrators, school foodservice professionals, students, parents, and community partners from early childhood through 12th grade, as well as ranchers and farmers are encouraged to attend.

Farm to School is a national not-for-profit network that aims to improve child nutrition by helping children under-

stand and experience where their food comes from. It incorporates healthy, farm-fresh food in school meals and snacks, provides increased opportunity for garden-based learning, provides agriculture education across the curriculum, and strengthens community-wide connections to support Montana's local farmers and children's well-being.

This conference will highlight:

School Gardening: Tips for making it work in Montana and school garden field trips (PreK-12).

Keeping it Local: Tips for incorporating local foods in child nutrition programs and school fundraisers.

Food = Learning: Teaching kids to make healthy food choices and meet science and math education standards.

From Garden to School Cafeterias: Ideas for successful service learning projects and agricultural education lessons (PreK-12).

Local Food Purchasing Toolbox: Ensuring food safety and staying within your budget.

Policy Update: National Farm to School Network.

Community: Cultivating strong partnerships.

Day 2 Optional Field Trip: School & Community Gardens Tour sponsored by Learning by Nature.

Registration is now open. Registration for Aug. 16 is \$45.00, while the shorter field trip session on Aug. 17 costs \$25.00.

Renewal units from OPI, Montana Early Childhood Project, and School Nutrition Association are available – 7.5 hours for August 16 and 3.5 hours for August 17, 2012.

For more information and to register, visit: www.montana.edu/cs/conferences/farmtoschool.

Montana Team Nutrition works with educators, school administrators, school food service managers, parent groups and community members to provide training and technical assistance centered on implementing student wellness through school-based programs, like school meal programs, nutrition education and physical activity. Located at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana Team Nutrition is part of the Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



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Meadow Muffins . . . Severance Pay from the Diamond X

By Ken Overcast

There's not a lot that can get under a cowboy's hide, but there are a few things that most of them would just rather not do. One of them is wranglin' dudes ... that's almost the bottom of the barrel.

Not long ago I ran into an old pardner of mine that I hadn't seen for over thirty years. I'd heard he'd been killed in a wreck when the brakes went out on a truck he was drivin'. The story I'd gotten was that he was haulin some cows off a lease in the mountains in Wyoming and had wound up down in the bottom of a canyon underneath a truck load of cows. Imagine my surprise when I ran into him down by the stockyards one day. It was even worse than I'd heard. He ain't dead at all ... he's a dude wrangler over in Jackson Hole.

That's one of the main reasons cowboys are dead against gun control. When you run onto a deal like that how can you put the poor guy out of his misery?? Naw, I didn't shoot him, but I dang shore felt sorry for him. He's totally lost all of his self respect.

Then there's another guy I need to tell you about. Dave Kilgore is a good ol' boy and has his head in the right place, at least most of the time, but he wound up fallin' into another one of those traps that cowboys try to keep their feet out of. He's gotten himself a job workin' for one of those rich absentee ranch owners from back East.

Oh, I guess you really can't blame either one of those guys with the way things are goin'. Real ranch jobs on

Continued on next page.



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Meadow Muffins. . .

Continued from previous page.

workin' ranches are getting' harder to come by all the time, and when you do finally find a good place to work, the poor ol' rancher hasn't got any money, so you're almost as well off without any job at all.

Well ol' Dave went to work for the Diamond X. I hope I never get that poor. It belongs to a trust-funder from the east coast by the name of Abigail Vandersnoot. I guess it isn't her fault that she was born in a bed with silk sheets on it, but rich knuckleheads like her sure make it hard on the folks that are tryin' to make a livin' off this land.

Ms. Vandersnoot is in her early sixties someplace and a little portly of build. The only time she was ever in the Real West before was the jillion times she flew out to California, and then she saw it from forty thousand feet of altitude. But she's a cowgirl now, by George, although I've heard she has to special order her Wranglers with the forty eight inch waist.

The first thing she did was to hire Dave ... "because he's a real cowboy, and I want a real wild west ranch." Yea, right.

Dave was broke and down on his luck, and the rumor has it, had been drinkin' pretty heavy for a day or two before he accepted the job. When he finally regained his mental faculties, it was too late. He'd already given his word, so he had to go through with it. Besides, a regular paycheck probably has some appeal, even when a guy's sober.

The first thing the boss did was have Dave haul most of the cows to town, because "they're making those disgusting little piles all over the grass." I guess that's not all bad. Now they have grass to burn, and the few cows that are left sure don't bother the fence much.

One of the main things that Ms. Vandersnoot found attractive about hiring Dave was that he looked like she thought a cowboy should look. I think it was a pure accident that she actually found someone that knew what he was doing, and other than putting up with some of the old girl's Eastern stupidity, it was almost like being on a pension. He really had it pretty easy, and the "bunkhouse" was like livin' in the Ritz Hotel compared to some of the shacks he's had to camp in.

Dave had actually gotten to sort of like his new boss. She was always asking his advice about "proper cowboy protocol." Bless her blue-blooded heart, but she really wants to fit in and create a genuine western atmosphere for her eastern friends to come visit. As with a lot of folks with too much money, she doesn't care if the outfit actually functions ... it just has to LOOK right.

Well, things took a turn for the worse, and Dave got himself canned. Here's what happened:

"I had a heifer that was calvin' about bed time, and it looked like it might be an hour or two before she was ready to deliver, so I stayed up and read the paper, and went and checked her again. She still wasn't ready and needed more time, so I went back in and pulled off my

clothes and climbed into bed. I dosed for a few minutes until that little automatic alarm clock in my brain went off, and after a look at the real clock, got up to check the heifer again.

It was a warm evenin' last April (in the forties someplace) so I just left on those old sweat pants I sleep in and pulled on my boots. I grabbed my hat and overall jacket by the door and headed down to the barn with the flashlight. I was pretty sure she'd have the calf by herself anyhow, and I could just go back to bed. That ain't the way things worked. It was almost two in the morning by now, and I could see the heifer was going to need a little help, so I got her caught and strung out the calf puller.

It wasn't a real hard pull, but I ran into a genuine snag. That little ratchet deal on the calf puller got all tangled up in one of those big ol' legs on my sweat pants. The calf was about half born, and I couldn't stop where I was and try to untangle the durn thing, so I didn't have much choice. The calf's tongue is hangin' out and I'm in a hurry, and I can't get the puller untangled, so I just kicked off my boots and pulled off my sweat pants and finished the job with those britches going around and around in the calf puller gears.

The calf was fine, and I stuck him in a pen with his Mom, and thought all was well ... except for those old purple sweat pants. They really got chewed up in that little ratchet deal, and were a real mess. "The heck with them," I thought to myself. "They look like they're plumb shot anyway. I'll just dig 'em out of there in the morning."

I have to admit there was more of a cool breeze than I thought there was. I pulled my boots back on and headed back to the bunkhouse in my BVD's. In all fairness I probably WAS a sight for sore eyes all right, but just when I got under the yard light, here comes Ms. Vandersnoot out of the big house.

She's all decked out in her Holstein hide vest with those big ol' Wranglers stuffed in her boots and has on her fringy shirt with the rhinestones on it. It seems she was up listening to some of her opera music when she saw the light go on in the barn, and was comin' down to watch the action.

'David Kilgore! That is not proper attire for a cowboy! I expect authenticity on my property! Gather your belongings ... your position is terminated immediately! To avoid any wrongful discharge litigation, you may rest assured that a complete severance package will be forthcoming from the accounting department!'

"I guess she must have meant I just got fired ... and after I saved the ol' Bat's calf, too."

Severance package?? Accounting department?? As soon as I lose what little pride I have left I'm headed over to the Diamond X. I hear they're lookin' for a new hand, and I've still got a couple of those rhinestone shirts around here someplace that I used to play music in ... if they'll just go around my belly.

Keep Smilin'....

and don't forget to check yer cinch.

Ken Overcast is a recording cowboy singer that ranches on Lodge Creek in North Central Montana where he raises and dispenses B.S. www.kenovercast.com

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USDA Authorizes Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP Acres in North Dakota

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Aaron Krauter, today announced that in response to drought conditions, FSA has authorized emergency haying and grazing use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for all North Dakota counties.

"North Dakota producers interested in emergency haying and grazing of CRP must contact their local

FSA offices to obtain approval to hay or graze CRP," said Krauter. Any approved emergency haying and grazing of CRP cannot begin until August 2, 2012, which is after the end of the primary nesting and brood rearing season in North Dakota. "Producers will also need to obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that includes haying and grazing requirements," he said.


Under CRP emergency haying and grazing provisions, haying activity may not occur after August 31, 2012, and grazing activity may not occur after September 30, 2012. The acreage eligible for emergency haying and grazing is limited to those conservation practices eligible under the emergency release of CRP for haying and grazing purposes. Currently there are approximately 1.6 million acres of CRP available for emergency haying and grazing in North Dakota. There are an additional 10,200 acres of Conservation Practice 25, Rare and Declining Habitat available for emergency grazing purposes only. Wetland and farmable wetland conservation practices are considered to be environmentally sensitive; therefore, are not eligible for emergency haying and grazing.

On July 11, 2012, Secretary Vilsack announced that the 25 percent CRP payment reduction will be reduced to 10 percent for all 2012 emergency haying and grazing authorizations in order to provide greater flexibility to farmers and ranchers in response to the drought conditions.

Under emergency haying and grazing provisions, producers are reminded that the same CRP acreage cannot be both hayed and/or grazed at the same time. For example, if 50 percent of a field or contiguous field is hayed, the remaining unhayed 50 percent cannot be grazed; it must remain unhayed and ungrazed for wildlife habitat purposes.

In an effort to proactively serve North Dakota farmers and ranchers, the North Dakota Farm Service Agency and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture are encouraging producers to utilize the on-line hay finder services available via www.hayexchange.com and www.haybarn.com.

For more information and to request approval for emergency haying and grazing of CRP acres contact your local FSA office.



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King Ranch: This ranch has 3,100 contiguous deeded acres, farms 1,200 acres, and summers 200 cows. The 6,100 sq ft executive 6 bedroom home has outstanding views of the Beartooth and Crazy Mountains. The King Ranch is 20 miles NW of Billings, MT, \$2,690,000. Call Jeff Klaus-406-855-1081

Reservoir Ranch: This 275 cow ranch puts up 2,000 ton of quality hay using 4 pivots (1 new) and side rolls. The large reservoir is used for irrigation and attracts a lot of waterfowl. A large spring supplies irrigation water, and is home for large trout. The ranch fronts HWY 91 and Interstate 15 only 8 miles north of Dillon, MT. Call Clifton 406-860-7319

Phillipsburg Valley Ranch: This 550-600 cow ranch has 7 pivots, and puts up 1,600 ton of hay. There are 2 miles of Trout Creek. Elk frequent the ranch in large numbers. Moose, sheep & mountain goats are in this area. Georgetown Lake (summer water skiing) and winter snow skiing at Discovery Basin are 10 minutes away. Phillipsburg, MT. Call Clifton 406-860-7319

Alder Gulch Ranch: This beautiful 566 acre Wyoming ranch is only 12 miles southwest of Sheridan at the base of the Bighorn Mountains. The historic Bozeman Trail crosses this ranch. A polo field is a couple minutes away. Deer and elk have been taken on the ranch. The owners have meticulously managed this cattle operation for several generations. Sheridan, WY. Call Clifton 406-860-7319

Dry Creek Ranch: This 480 acre ranch has irrigated hay meadows and dense pine timber creating a wildlife paradise. The shooting preserve license can be renewed. Pheasants, turkeys, deer, and routinely elk dine here. The modest ranch improvements adjacent to the county road are only 3 mile southwest of Melstone, MT. Call Jeff Klaus-406-855-1081

Twin Creeks Ranch: ½ mile of the South Fork of MacDonald Creek and one half mile of Duncan Creek join on the ranch. The 3,700 sq ft home, barn, shop, corrals, and outbuildings are picture perfectly maintained. 18 miles from either Lewistown or Grass Range, or just west of the pristine village of Forest Park, MT. Call Jeff Klaus-406-855-1081

South Willow Creek Pasture: Currently this property is returning \$32,808 annually in CRP payments plus hay and/or grazing income creating an excellent investment. Large mule deer bucks have been taken. There is a well, with electricity, and a pipeline. This 2320 acre fenced property borders Hwy 12 only 5 miles east of Roundup, MT. Call Jeff Klaus-406-855-1081

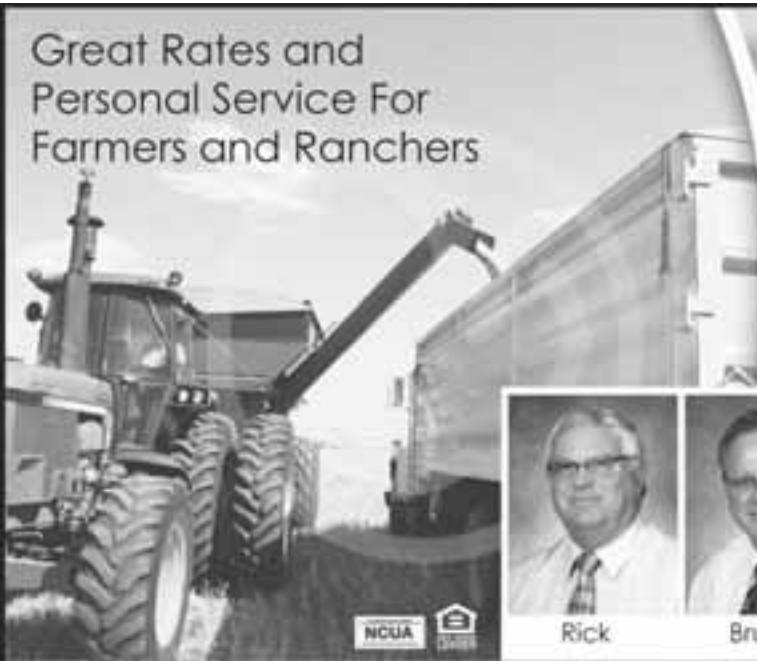
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Richland County 4-H Busy Getting Ready For Fair

4-H Exhibit Building

Fair time is just around the corner and it's shaping up to be a good year for all the 4-H members. Members have been working hard for the past year on skill building projects ranging from Quilting to Aerospace to Leather Craft. This year in the exhibit building you will see projects like Cake Decorating, Robotics, Welding and one youth has taken on the task of completely restoring a tractor. Between working on projects for the fair, participating at the State Congress at the Montana State University Campus in Bozeman, and

the different 4-H workshops, they have been very busy this summer. The fair is all about showing off what this area's youth can do, and the indoor exhibits are a big part of what 4-H is about. Many of these exhibits will lead into much more than just a project, they will spark an interest that will carry on past the teenage years. The indoor exhibits will be on display in the 4-H Exhibit Building, from Aug. 1st to conclusion of the fair on Saturday. We invite everyone to stop by the 4-H Exhibit Building and enjoy the hard work that is put into these projects.

Livestock Sale Set For 5:00 p.m.

Awards at 4:30 pm Friday Aug. 3

Fair is just a few days away and the Richland County 4-H youth are prepared to show the excellent work they have done in caring for their animals. The livestock program has been very strong with many new members showing livestock for the first time this year. The barns are going to be full of high quality, market ready animals ready for the sale. Members take part in many educational programs throughout the year including a Market Quality Assurance program that insures that the animals are properly fed, handled, and cared for. Friday night will include an awards show at 4:30 p.m. that will include the presentation of awards to members that are donated by area businesses. Buyers, parents, and the general public are invited to attend the awards ceremony to take part in celebrating the hard work that our Richland County youth have put into their 4-H projects. The sale is going to start at 5:00 p.m. on Aug. 3 at the 4-H arena located between the beef and swine barns. As a way to say thank you, one of our 4-H clubs will prepare a meal that evening to show our buyers how much we appreciate your support. Thank you to all past and present buyers, without your support the 4-H program would not be the success that it is.

Have a meal at the 4-H food booth and help raise funds to re-build it

The 4-H Food Booth is preparing for another great year at the fair. The menu this year will include the old favorites and a new item, a beef brisket sandwich. Our hamburgers, chicken wraps, biscuits and gravy and chicken burgers were among the crowd pleasers from last year and we hope that you have an opportunity to try one or more. The tradition at the 4-H Food Booth is a home cooked meal at an affordable price. If you get hungry, stop by and try our new brisket sandwich and finish it off with a piece of homemade pie with a scoop of old fashioned ice cream. As with all things, the food booth has seen its better days and in the near future it will be re-built. A campaign will begin at this year's fair to "brand the new booth". So stop by and fill out a form so that your brand can be included when the building is re-done.

Roosevelt Co. Fair Celebrates 100 Years of Montana 4-H

Montana 4-H celebrates 100 years since its inception, and you are invited to celebrate! Join us for the kickoff to the Roosevelt County Fair on Wednesday, August 8 with a style show and quilt display at the Old Armory. Refreshments start at 6:30 P.M. followed by the style show at 7 P.M. Take a peek at hot, new, fall fashions for young and old alike from area businesses. See the latest styles from Creekside Clothiers, Vanity, Bryans, Little Muddy Dry Goods, Hi-Line Sports, The Other Place, and many more!

Register for fabulous door prizes and enjoy delicious cake for Montana 4-H's 100 year celebration. This year's cake is donated by Cheryl Arthur in memory of Dorothy Hofman, long time Roosevelt County Extension agent.

Also on display will be homemade quilts from the past and present. MSU Extension office is looking for your quilts to display. Do you have a quilt you would like to display proudly? Perhaps you have a quilt grandma made or you have constructed yourself, we will display them all! Pull out those precious quilts and display them at the 4-H Celebration of 100 Years Style Show. The deadline to display your quilts is Friday, August 3. Contact the office at 787-5312 for more information or stop by the MSU Extension office at 307 Broadway, located next to the library. We would love to display your quilts.



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Good luck to all the exhibitors and 4-Hers



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Pony Express Releases Debut Album

By Lois Kerr

The four man band Pony Express, headquartered in Grassy Butte, ND has released its debut album 'Delivering God's Mail to You'. Lead singer Nikki McAlpin, who ranches in the Grassy Butte area, wrote all the songs and sings them on this Country Christian CD. A song from the CD, "God's Always There", was released nationally in May to Country Christian stations and within two weeks reached the Top 100. This song will also be released on Country stations across the nation in early August.

"We sing upbeat, Country Christian songs," says McAlpin. "I share the stories behind the songs of my life in rodeo, training horses, ranching, and just sorting out life with God holding the reins. Our purpose with our music is to introduce people to Jesus and to deliver messages from God to our listeners."

The band, its music, and its origins trace its roots back to a very special horse named Ticket. McAlpin grew up on a ranch in Colorado, and horses and rodeo became a burning obsession. "I was a rodeo kid, and I didn't figure I was worth much," she comments. "I thought that if I could win that silver buckle, I could be someone. Rodeo consumed my life. I bought a horse I named Ticket because I thought he would be my ticket to winning, and he was. We were in great rodeo condition, and we won barrel races."

Tragedy struck when Ticket's larynx collapsed and paralyzed, leaving the animal with very little ability to breathe. Of course this left him useless for completion. After an unsuccessful surgery, veterinarians assured McAlpin that Ticket would never run again. However, a miracle occurred.

"I didn't know God real well at that point in my life," McAlpin remarks, "but I prayed to the only source I knew of that could produce the miracle we needed. We found a new hospital, a new set of superb surgeons who really doubted that they could correct the problem. They told me prospects were dim and that Ticket would never run again, but my heart told me prognosis was incredibly positive. I just had a



Pony Express: (L-R) Mark Entzi - sound, Valerie Entzi -keyboard, harmonies, Nikki McAlpin - lead vocals, song writer and Kurt Rockeman - guitar.

feeling of belief that God would allow Ticket to run again."

She continues, "God guided the surgeons' hands. Even the surgeons told me that they had never had an operation go so well and they had never seen anything like it. A year later, a horse that people said would never run again did so, and we won. It was a miracle."

This incident and a few significant encounters with Christian people led McAlpin to the strong beliefs she has today. Ticket, however, was only the first miracle. The second involved her music career. "The only singing I ever did was in my truck with the windows rolled up," she says. "I never liked being in front of people. So when the Lord put me in front of a microphone in 2004, I said 'Lord, I think you have the wrong girl'. However, by the summer of 2005, I had a band and we were singing at events."

She continues, "My song writing is about the same. I had never written a song in my life. Then one day in 2005 I wanted to write a song about forgiveness and the freedom it gives a person. The Lord literally handed me the song "What's in Your Saddlebags." Two more songs followed. And although

I never had any desire to go to Nashville, or have radio releases, God had other plans. In 2007 a radio station manager heard my songs and within a few days I was signed with a recording company. In 2008 Robert Jason became my producer and has brought in some of Nashville's best players for my recordings on CD."

McAlpin and Pony Express strive to provide their audience with a good listening experience while at the same time getting their message out. "Our music is fun, our stage show is fun, but the message is our whole purpose," McAlpin comments.

McAlpin's band and entourage includes Watford City teacher Valerie Entzi on keyboard and harmonies, Mark Entzi, sound man and the band's prankster and comedian who keeps them all upbeat while traveling, Kurt Rockeman on guitar, Jake and Sam McAlpin, McAlpin's two sons who are all round helpers and travelling partners, and her husband Brett McAlpin, her main supporter and source of encouragement. "This is a family enterprise. I couldn't do this without help and support from my family," McAlpin states.

She adds, "'Valerie Entzi and Kurt Rockeman have been incredible blessings as players, friends and Christians. Mark Entzi became our sound man and we've never been the same since. Mark is a jokester, prankster, and also a devout Christian man. It has been one of the greatest blessings in my life to travel with these people and to deliver God's messages and songs with them."

Pony Express performs at County fairs, cowboy

churches, and other events. "We are mainly a hot weather group because Valerie and Mark teach school at Watford City," McAlpin concludes. "We've played at the Watford City ribfest, county fairs, we've played in Canada, we will do Cowboy Church events, and we played at the band show in Dickinson."

Listen for the group's release "God's Always There" on country stations. Interested people can email Pony Express at ponyexpressmusic@ndsupernet.com, or request bookings or the debut CD at 701-863-7064.



This photo was taken in Manitoba, Canada following a Cowboy Church performance. Top row: Dale Vincent (host), Mark Entzi, Valerie Entzi, Anne Vincent (host), Nikki McAlpin, Sam McAlpin on lap. Middle: Kurt Rockeman. Front: Jake McAlpin

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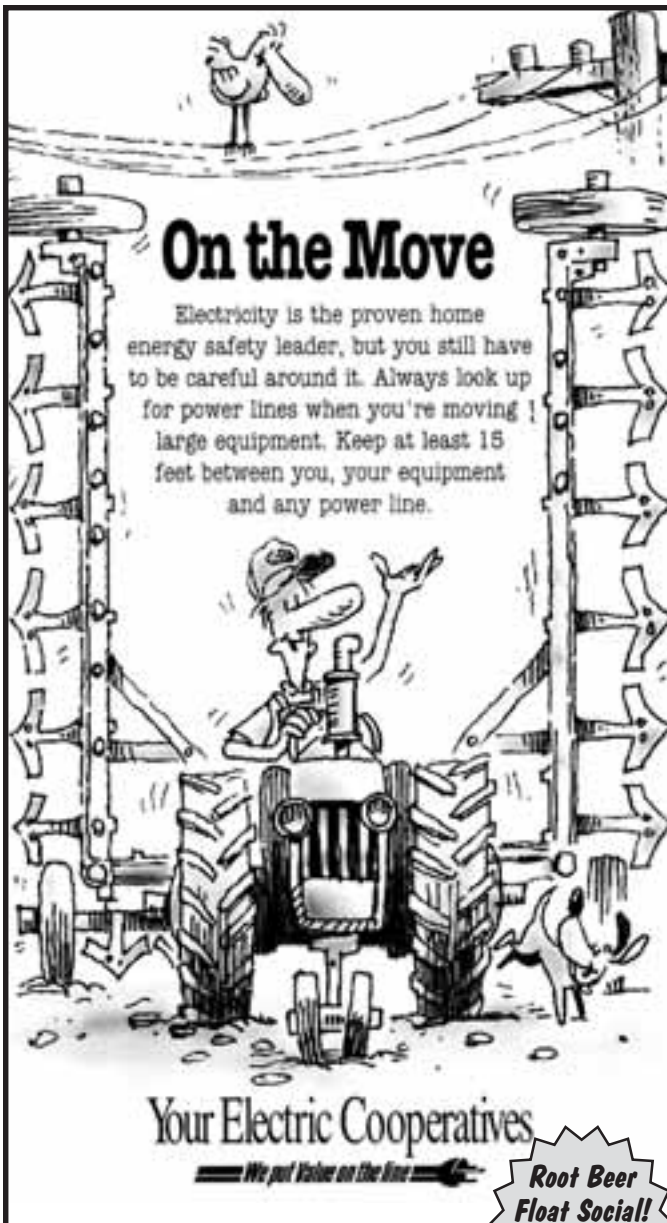
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4-Her Excited To Show Her Birds

Kyle Topp of Sidney loves animals, and birds in particular. 4-H is a perfect fit for her to not only enjoy the animals but also learn as much as she can about them, and how to care for them. The daughter of Kevin and Colleen Topp, 12 year old Kyle has been a member of the Richland Rockets 4-H club for 5 years, including 2 years in Clover Buds. This year she will take a steer, her horse and several chickens to the Richland County Fair.

Topp got her start in the chicken project when her brother bought her Mom some chicks for Mother's Day 4 years ago. She has been raising and breeding chickens ever since. "I like animals," Topp explained, "and birds are just plain cute." She raises purebred Buff Orpingtons, Bantams and Rhode Island Reds. She'll take the purebreds to the fair for show, but she'll use a 2 to 3 year old cross Bantam/Rhode Island Red for the showmanship competition. Although she prefers to use a rooster in the showmanship competition because they are more colorful, this year she will use a hen.

Showing chickens is serious business. The birds must be clean, in good health, and not bony or skinny Topp explained. She bathes the chickens and cleans their legs, wattles and combs with baby wipes. Roosters must have their spurs clipped prior to showing to reduce possible injury to the 4-Her, the judge and other chickens. Claws on

either sex are clipped a couple of times a year.

As a showman, Topp is judged by how the bird looks and how she is showing the bird. She must present the birds correctly and show that she knows about her bird. One year, the judge asked how many different kinds of feathers there are in a chicken's wing. Topp looked at the wing and answered 3. The correct answer was 8, so she gladly gained some more knowledge about her bird.

The 4-H'er must wear a long-sleeved button-up shirt and jeans. A cowboy hat is optional. The judges prefer no dangling earrings or necklaces, as they distract the birds.

Topp says raising chickens is a lot harder than she thought it would be. They require plenty of food and fresh water daily. She also has ducks, which muddy the water frequently, making her watering chores more time consuming. She collects the eggs daily and has found that happy, healthy chickens lay more eggs. She sells those eggs for \$1.50/ doz. She lets the chickens roam around the yard allowing them to get more protein by eating grass, and cleaning up on bugs. Topp has incubated 2 batches of chicks fairly successfully and has had 3 hens hatch clutches of chicks. The ducks also end up hatching out chicks when a hen takes advantage of a temporarily empty nest. Both hens and ducks end up a bit confused!



Kyle Topp and her cousin Emma Thompson with Topp's award winning rooster, Chance. Topp has captured the Chicken Showmanship Championship 3 years running.

Topp has been able to use her chicken project in other ways outside of 4-H. Her science fair project was to find out which feed makes a hen lay bigger heavier eggs. Using the chickens made the project more interesting because there are so many variables when working with live birds. She took first place in Sidney, then 2nd place in Billings. She also entered a Broodmasters.com competition on line and was accepted for competition, winning a T-shirt and a gift certificate. Grand prize in the contest is a trip to Washington, DC. She will get the results of the national competition August 15.

Topp also entered an original story in the national magazine Backyard Poultry, and won 1st place in her division. She was the only entry from the state of Montana, but came away with a stuffed chicken and a one year subscription to the magazine. Topp also used her chickens for her 4-H Demonstration, taking first place with how to make a chicken waterer.

Be sure to check out the poultry division at the Richland County Fair, and take in the showmanship competition as well. These kids work hard all year and are proud to show their skills and knowledge in front of the judges and you!



Kyle Topp demonstrates one of the Showmanship positions with her Bantam Rhode Island Red hen.

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BeefTalk

Let the Cattle Rest and Check Water and Check Water and Check Water

By Kris Ringwall, Beef Specialist
NDSU Extension

Producers need to be very proactive about the potential seriousness of pending weather scenarios.

There are days when finding bright spots is hard because the beef industry is in a bit of a tough spot. Things will work out, but, for today, it is tough.

For the short term, heat, humidity and windless days are bad news for cattle. Actually, for most living things, heat and humidity are not good. The confounding effects of direct and immediate health issues with cattle, along with long-term feed availability issues, have even the well-seasoned producer worried.

The problem is not new, but, unlike last year, the temperatures continue to reach for triple digits and the scarcity of seasonal rains across the U.S. is seriously impacting feed reserves.

In the short term, heat impacts cattle performance because cooling down, or the dissipation of body heat, is critical for survival. High temperatures do not allow for a good mechanism to effectively dissipate a cow's internal body heat production. The body needs to function at a preset temperature range, so internal alerts sound loud and clear when that temperature gets out of the acceptable range. Death will ensue unless a normal body temperature range is restored.

Recent high heat and humidity, plus relatively calm days, trigger overheating. Although the common thought is that this is a feedlot problem because of the confinement and proximity of the cattle to each other, heat exhaustion knows no boundaries. For instance, cattle have a typical rectal temperature of 101 F. As the ambient temperature and humidity go up and the wind goes down, the ability of an individual to remove excess body heat goes down.

A heat stress index has been calculated to determine what alarms should go off and is well described in a new publication authored by NDSU's Carl Dahlen and Charlie Stoltenow. The NDSU Extension Service publication "Dealing with Heat Stress in Beef Cattle Operations" is available at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ansci/beef/as1615.pdf> or through your local Extension office.

Producers need to be very proactive about the potential seriousness of pending weather scenarios. Common cow sense tells us that cattle should not be worked when the heat index indicates stress. Why? Those animals that have adapted to higher temperatures have a much larger tolerance for large swings in body temperature.

For instance, a camel obviously can tolerate heat, but a cow is not so fortunate. A cow prefers a very stable body temperature that preferably does not vary much more than 1 F under normal conditions.

Any activity can increase a cow's body temperature several degrees. Even inactivity during a period of a high heat can increase a cow's body temperature. Water intake and excretion are required to reduce the cow's body temperature.

The point to remember is the body is trying to expel heat. Even when things seem alright, if internal heat production exceeds the body's ability to dissipate heat, the individual or group of cattle are in a crisis situation. Even with emergency intervention, such as external cooling with cold water, internal metabolic disturbances already may have advanced, resulting in weakness, muscle tremors and collapse. As the circulatory system tries to respond, the cascading of failed heat-regulating mechanisms results in circulatory collapse and death.

Even in recovered cattle, the disturbance of their electrolytic balance needs time to recover. Those cattle that are older, fat, late-term pregnant or have a compromised respiratory system are subject to increased fatality rates.

Likewise, newborn calves are very susceptible to heat stroke. Any cattle that are dark in color also will be more at risk.

There really is not much that, as producers, we don't already know. Water, water and more water, combined with no to low disturbance, helps. Cows and calves will seek shade and a breeze. Artificial shading and air circulation usually are impractical in the world of extensive cow-calf production.

Having cattle adapted to the environment is a key to a long-term production system that works. Is a hot day in July worth changing cattle type? Is a cold day in January worth changing cattle type?

While you ponder the question, let the cattle be and check water and check water and check water because water is critical. However, with the past high temperatures, high humidity and no wind, a producer can do everything right but still have cows die. Somewhere in the middle is comfort. In other words, cold and hot, wet and dry, full or hungry, fast or slow, the list could go on and on.

In the short term, one side might be better than the other but, in the long term, the middle is not too bad. In passing through the extremes, one can always rest assured you will pass back through the middle. For that, I guess, there is some rest. However, the environment is harsh and, at times, the environment wins and we lose.

May you find all your ear tags.

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

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

N.D. Creeps Into Worst Drought Since 2008

The U.S. Drought Monitor, updated weekly, shows drought is impacting 26 percent of North Dakota, according to Adnan Akyuz, state climatologist and assistant professor of climatology at North Dakota State University.

"This is the worst drought to hit North Dakota since September 2008," Akyuz says. "Today 16 percent of the state is under severe drought and 10 percent of the state is under moderate drought."

Drought started to creep into the state at the end of November 2011 after a record drought-free stretch. North Dakota was drought-free for 115 consecutive weeks from Sept. 15, 2009, through Nov. 29, 2011.

"At the beginning, the drought was a welcome change after three back-to-back major floods on the Red River," Akyuz says. "However, changing weather patterns led to the conditions in which precipitation no longer could overcome evaporative demand and the demand for the plants to sustain healthy growth."

"At the beginning of the planting season this spring, if the soil had not been charged with moisture from the previous wet season, conditions would have been much worse," Akyuz adds.


He is concerned about the moisture recharge this fall.

"Even if the weather pattern changed now, it might not help the crop that is already in the field," he says. "However, the change is desperately needed to recharge the soil before getting into the freeze so that moisture


could be utilized for the spring planting next year."

But Akyuz sees no changes in the weather pattern during the next two seasons.

That means the above-normal temperatures forecasted for this fall and winter would exacerbate the ongoing drought conditions in North Dakota, he says.





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High School Rodeo Bible Camp Set For Copper Spring Ranch

A four-day CSR Rodeo Bible camp will be held on Aug. 6-9 by Copper Spring Ranch and Bridger Ministries for this fall's incoming high school freshmen through seniors.

The camp, at the Bozeman Quarter Horse ranch near Four Corners, features eight hours of instruction each day by some of the top professional and collegiate cowboys and cowgirls who will work with the young cowboys and cowgirls in a Christian atmosphere.

Brian Anderson, assistant manager at Copper Spring Ranch and a long-time rodeo competitor, will be the camp director.

Trey Johnson of Amarillo, Texas, the 2000 Resistol/PRCA Rookie of the Year and long-time PRCA competitor, will teach the heel-ing classes and help

lead the activities for the boys in the camp.

Lisa Anderson, assistant manager at Copper Spring Ranch and a Montana, Texas, and Columbia River Circuit Finals competitor, will oversee the barrel racing event and supervise the girl's activities.

Montana Circuit contestant Ross Wagner of Laurel will teach the heading portion of the team roping. Kevin Peterson, a College National Finals competitor and Montana State University team member from Bozeman, and PRCA standout Jordan Weaver of Bend, Oregon, will teach the calf and breakaway roping.

Lana Tibbetts of Miles City, Mont., a former College National Finals champion, will teach the goat tying category.

The camp fee of \$150 includes lodging and food. The four-day camp curriculum will focus on motivation, faith and improving the young contestant's skill sets.

The camp concludes on Thursday, Aug. 9 with a student rodeo at 10 a.m. in the ranch's outdoor arena.

For additional information, visit www.copperspringranch.com or call the ranch office at 406.585.7008.

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