

# Farm & Ranch Monthly Magazine

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# AR ROUNDUP

## August 2014 Edition

## Staying One Step Ahead of New Wheat Pest

See page 4



# Richland County 4H Fairtime Activities

Submitted by Josie Evansen

## 4-H Livestock Sale to Start at 5:00 p.m. on Friday August 1<sup>st</sup>

The 4-H program in Richland County has been growing. This year Richland County 4-H has 12 active and amazing clubs that have been participating all year in many different 4-H events. With all the growth in the 4-H program, the livestock barns at the fair will be full of exciting exhibits for people of all ages. This year we will have market and breeding beef, dairy, horses, dairy, market and breeding sheep, hogs, and goat, as well as alpacas. 4-H members will also be exhibiting their rabbits, poultry, cats and dogs. In addition the market livestock program will be holding their annual sale on Friday August 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the 4-H arena. The sale will be following the 4-H award ceremony starting at 4:00 p.m. and the Cloverbud Animal Parade. All are welcome to attend these fun and entertaining events to support the Richland County 4-H members and program.

## 4-H Exhibit Building

The 4-H Exhibit Building this year will have a vast display of projects completed by Richland County 4-H members. In the 4-H program, youth have the opportunity to partake in projects that enhance important life skills. As 4-H in the nation continues to grow 4-H projects are becoming more diverse. The projects that youth can now enroll include projects from sewing to sport fishing, cooking to skate boarding, and woodworking to robotics. Our 4-H members have been busy all year long and we will have many displays this year including; gardening projects, art and craft projects, quilts, citizen and leadership exhibits, as well as many more. The 4-H exhibits will be on display from Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup> at noon to the conclusion of the fair on Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup>. We would like to invite everyone to stop by and take some time to enjoy the exhibits that Richland County youth have completed this past year.

## 4-H Calendar of Events for 2014 Fair

### Tuesday, July 29, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Indoor Interview Exhibit Judging  
10:00 a.m. – Deadline for all 4-H Horse Entries  
11:30 a.m. – Horse Show  
Sidney Saddle Club Arena

### Wednesday, July 30, 2014

8:30a.m. – Horse Show  
11:30 a.m. – 4-H Food Booth Opens  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Entry of Hogs, Sheep, Goats, Beef & Dairy  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. –Weighing of Market Beef  
4:00 p.m. – Judging of Poultry  
6:00 p.m. – Judging of Dogs, Cats, & Rabbits  
7:00 p.m. Small Animal Round Robin  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Weighing of Market Goat, Hog, & Sheep

### Thursday, July 31, 2014

8:30 a.m. – 4-H Livestock Judging of Swine, Sheep, Dairy, & Goat  
5:00 p.m. – 4-H Market Beef Judging

### Friday, August 1, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 4-H Showmanship (Sr. & Jr.)  
11:00 a.m. – Large Animal Round Robin (Sr. & Jr.)  
4:00 p.m. – Trophy & Awards presentation  
5:00 p.m. – 4-H Livestock Sale

### Saturday, August 2, 2014

10:00 a.m. – Member & Alumni Obstacle Course  
6:00 p.m. – Check out of 4-H Horse Exhibits

### Sunday, August 3, 2014 - 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Check out of all 4-H Exhibits, including Livestock

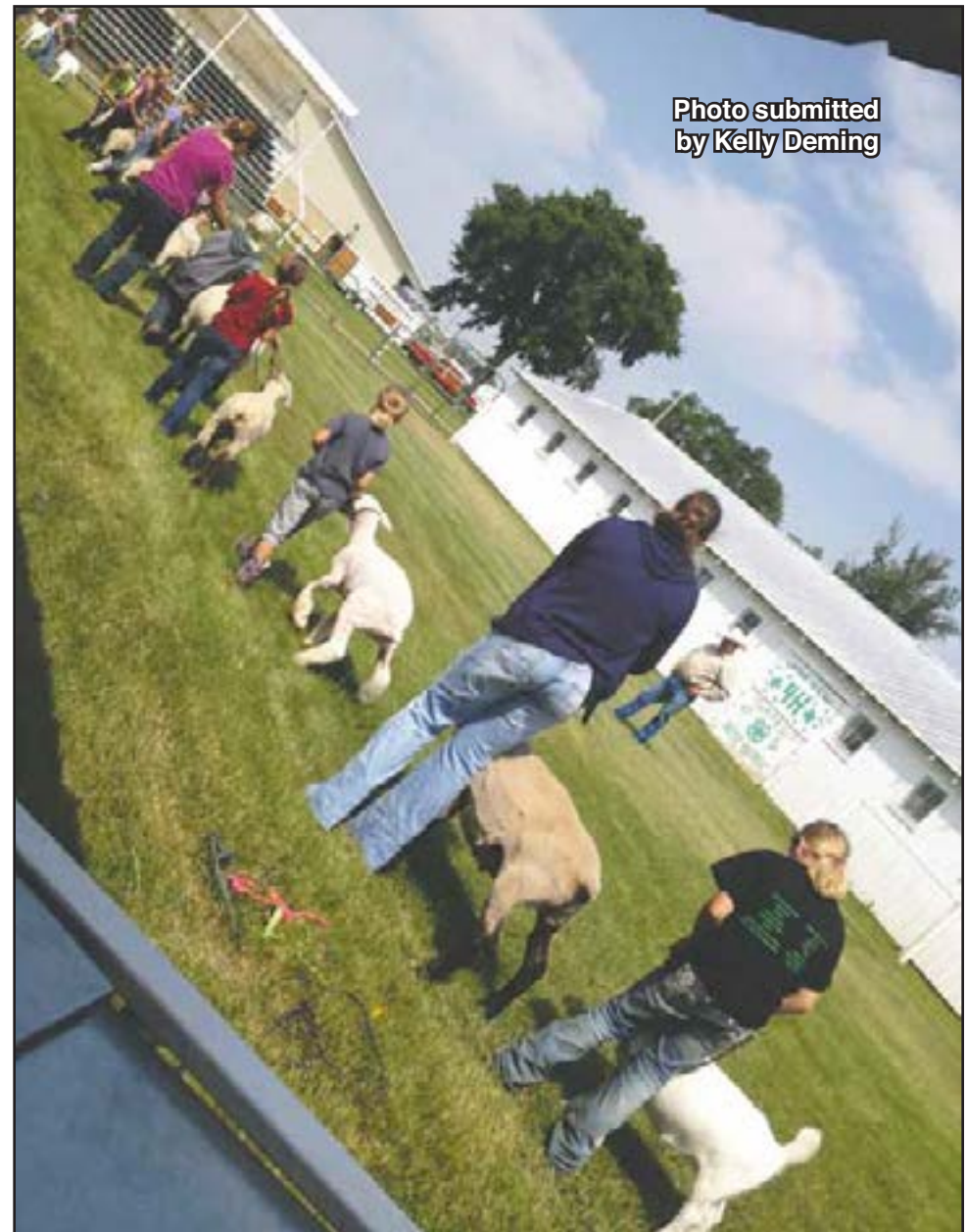


Photo submitted  
by Kelly Deming

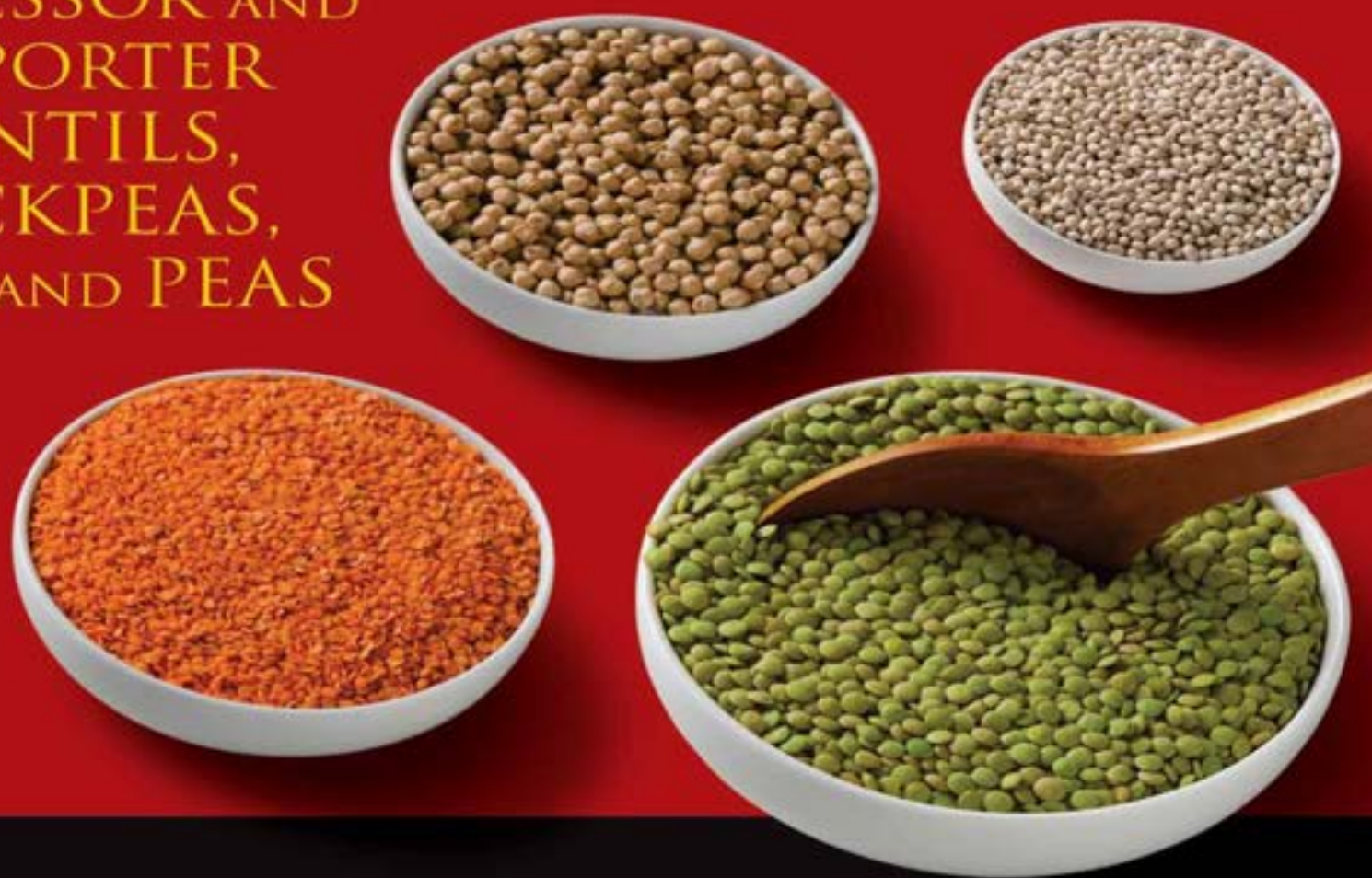
## Clubs in Richland County

Badlands Brushpoppers  
Brorson Farmhands  
Fair View  
Forever Buds  
Homesteaders  
Lambert Hi-Liters  
Missouri River Ranchers  
Richland Aces  
Richland Rascals  
Richland Rockets  
Three Buttes  
Yellowstone Valley Trailblazers





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# Important Pest Alert: Orange Wheat Blossom Midge in Richland County

By Tim Fine

As was feared, the Orange Wheat Blossom Midge has been found in Richland County. Pheromone traps that were placed in fields by staff at the EARC have been capturing an increasing number of this potentially serious wheat pest. The photograph below shows a trap taken from a field in Richland County. If you are a wheat producer, it is imperative that you scout your fields for the pest. A recommended method for scouting is to go into your field at dusk as the midge adults (if there are any present) will be hovering above the canopy at that time. Pick 3 to 4 random spots in the field and monitor the adult midge activity. If you notice 1 midge per 6 wheat heads then

control may be warranted. Provided that this threshold is met, the optimum stage to apply an insecticide is when 70 percent of the crop is headed. Applications prior to this growth stage will result in reduced control. In fact, if only 30 percent of the crop is headed, you should wait up to four days before treating. Likewise, applications made after 70 percent heading may result in reduced control and can potentially kill beneficial parasitic wasps as well. For more information on control options, crop progress, and Midge monitoring results, consult the MSU Pest Management Network at <http://pestweb.montana.edu/>. Information in regards to control can be found at [http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPIM:Orange\\_Wheat\\_Blossom\\_Midge](http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPIM:Orange_Wheat_Blossom_Midge)



Above: EARC research scientist Dr. Joyce Eckoff holds a pheromone trap containing the Orange Wheat Blossom Midge during the EARC Field Day on July 24. The EARC is asking local producers to place these traps in their fields at dusk to collect data to help combat the pest. The traps are available at the EARC office in Sidney. Inset: Close up of the wheat midge pheromone trap collected in Richland County. The small, orange dots are Orange Wheat Midge Blossom Adults.





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new JD 553 load with 6' bucket.....\$34,500  
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3 hyd's, dual PTO, 18.4r42 singles, JD 741 SL loader, 8'  
bucket, grapple, joystick .....\$98,500  
2008 JD 7330 (125 PTO HP) IVT tranny, MFWD, 3 pt hitch, 3  
hydraulics, dual PTO, 18.4X38 singles, JD 741 SL loader,  
8' bucket, grapple, joystick .....\$109,500  
NH TV140 Bi-directional, 4 hyd, PTO on loader end, 2  
hyd's on engine end, 480/85r34, NH 7614 loader &  
grapple.....\$52,500

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master, low low hours .....CALL  
2006 JD 9660STS, 520/85r38 duals .....CALL  
2002 JD 9650 STS, 800/70r65 singles, chopper ...\$95,000  
1990 JD 9600, 30.5x32 singles, chopper, chaff  
spreader.....CALL

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(60%rubber).....\$3,000  
2013 JD 635FD, draper platform with HHS in rigid .....CALL  
2013 640 FD, draper platform, no HHS in rigid.....CALL  
2012 635 FD draper platform, no HHS.....CALL  
2010 JD 630R platform, pickup reel.....CALL  
2004 JD 635F Flex platform, 35' .....CALL  
1998 JD 930 platform with pickup reel.....CALL  
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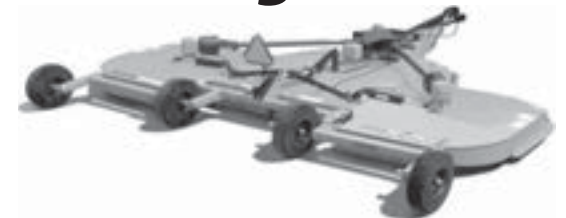
(2) 2011 JD 568 Round Balers, loaded. H241 & H242 ...\$32,500 ea  
2011 JD 568 round baler, loaded, net wrap.....\$36,500  
(2) 2009 JD 568 Round Baler, loaded. H176 & H206...\$34,500  
2007 JD 568 Round Baler. Loaded except for kicker bar.  
H277.....\$28,500  
2005 JD 567 round baler.....\$16,900  
2001 JD 567 Round Baler w/ net wrap, mega wide.  
H077 .....\$16,900  
1994 JD 535 Round Baler. H202 .....\$8,500  
1998 NH 664 Round baler with net wrap.....\$5,950  
3970 Forage Harvester .....\$8,950

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840 Loader mounts for 8000 series.....\$500  
JD741 SL Loader, 8' bucket, grapple, joystick, 7520  
mounts .....\$9,500  
2005 Brandt 5000EX grain vac .....\$9,500

2013 Brandt 13x70HP swing away auger w/ hydraulic  
winch & hopper mover .....\$23,900  
2013 Brandt 13x70HP swing away auger with hydraulic  
winch .....\$21,900  
2011 Farm King 12x42 swing away auger with hyd  
hopper mover.....\$13,900  
2009 Brandt 10x60 Swing away auger.....\$9,500  
2006 Brandt 10x70 swing away auger with pit express  
drive over hopper.....\$11,900  
2001 Brandt 10x60 swing away auger .....\$7,500  
2011 JD XUV 850i gator.....\$9,950  
Diamond 72" & 62" mowers.....\$2,500

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# Richland County Fair & Rodeo

Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

By Tie Shank

If there's one thing you can count on, it's the fact the Richland County Fair and Rodeo will be an action packed, exciting event for all ages.

This annual event is known as the show window of agricultural achievement in eastern Montana and western North Dakota. It officially began as a fair in 1920, evolving from a community street fair to a fair and rodeo that entertains over 30,000 people each year.

The event kicks off on Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> with the Agricultural Building opening to accept Floriculture exhibits at 6:00 am. Various judging will take place throughout the day; Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture, 4-H Horse Classes and Showmanship, 4-H Livestock exhibits. North Star Amusements Carnival begins at 4:00 pm and the Yampa Valley Boys will be performing three Free performances throughout the day on Wednesday.

Thursday is Co-Op Day. Livestock judging will begin at 8:30 am, the carnival will open at 1:00 pm, Yampa Valley Boys performances, action entertainment from 1:00 – 9:00 pm, Karen Quist performing Cowgirl tricks inside the Old Commercial

Building, strolling Stilt Characters, FREE Root Beer Floats in the Sponsor Tent at 4:00 pm and the day will wrap up with Military Appreciation Night at an action packed PRCA Rodeo beginning at 7:30pm.

Friday – 4H Showmanship begins at 8:00 am with the rest of the day almost a repeat of the day before. Sorry no Root Beer Floats today. The Trophy and Awards Presentation will begin at 4:00 pm and the 4-H Livestock Sale will follow at 5:00 pm. Winding down the day will be the “Tough Enough to Wear Pink Night” at the PRCA Rodeo beginning at 7:30 pm.

Saturday – The final day will begin at 10:00 am with a 4-H Member & Alumni Obstacle Course, carnival opening at Noon, Free entertainment by the Yampa Valley Boys, Action entertainment (Laser tag, Speed Pitch, Football Toss, Basketball Shoot, Nascar Racing), Strolling Stilt Characters and lastly – an unforgettable country music concert with Josh Turner and special guest David Nail beginning at 7:30 pm.

Get your tickets at the fair box office.

If you'd like more information or to would like to view a detailed fair schedule, log on to [www.richlandcountyfairandrodeo.org](http://www.richlandcountyfairandrodeo.org) and click on Schedule.

## Josh Turner – Roughstock and Rambler Tour Coming to Richland County Fair on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

By Tie Shank

Born in November, 1977, Josh Turner was raised by his parents near Lake City, South Carolina. He grew up as a devout Christian and sang bass in a gospel quartet called Thankful Hearts. Turner made his debut on Grand Ole Opry in December 2001 with “Long Black Train,” where he received a standing ovation for an encore.

His debut album was released in 2003, followed by his second album in 2006, his third in 2007, fourth in 2010 and the fifth album was released in 2012.

Turners' wife, Jennifer, travels with him when he's on tour, playing keyboards and singing background vocals. The two have three sons together.

Turner recently released his first book “Man Stuff” – Thoughts of Faith, Family and Fatherhood. Josh says the book discusses topics every man can relate to and draw from to grow in his spiritual and personal journey.

#1 selling country music artist, David Nail, joins Turner

The 2012 number one selling single “Let it Rain” country music artist David Nail will be joining Josh Turner for an unforgettable night of country music.

Nail was born and raised in Kennett, Missouri. In 2009 he married his longtime girlfriend, Catherine.

Nail debuted his single “Memphis” in 2002 and signed five years later with MCA, which is now Universal Music Group Nashville. His first album, “I'm About to Come Alive” was released in 2009, the second, “The Sound of a Million Dreams” in November 2011 and he recently released his third album, “I'm on Fire.”

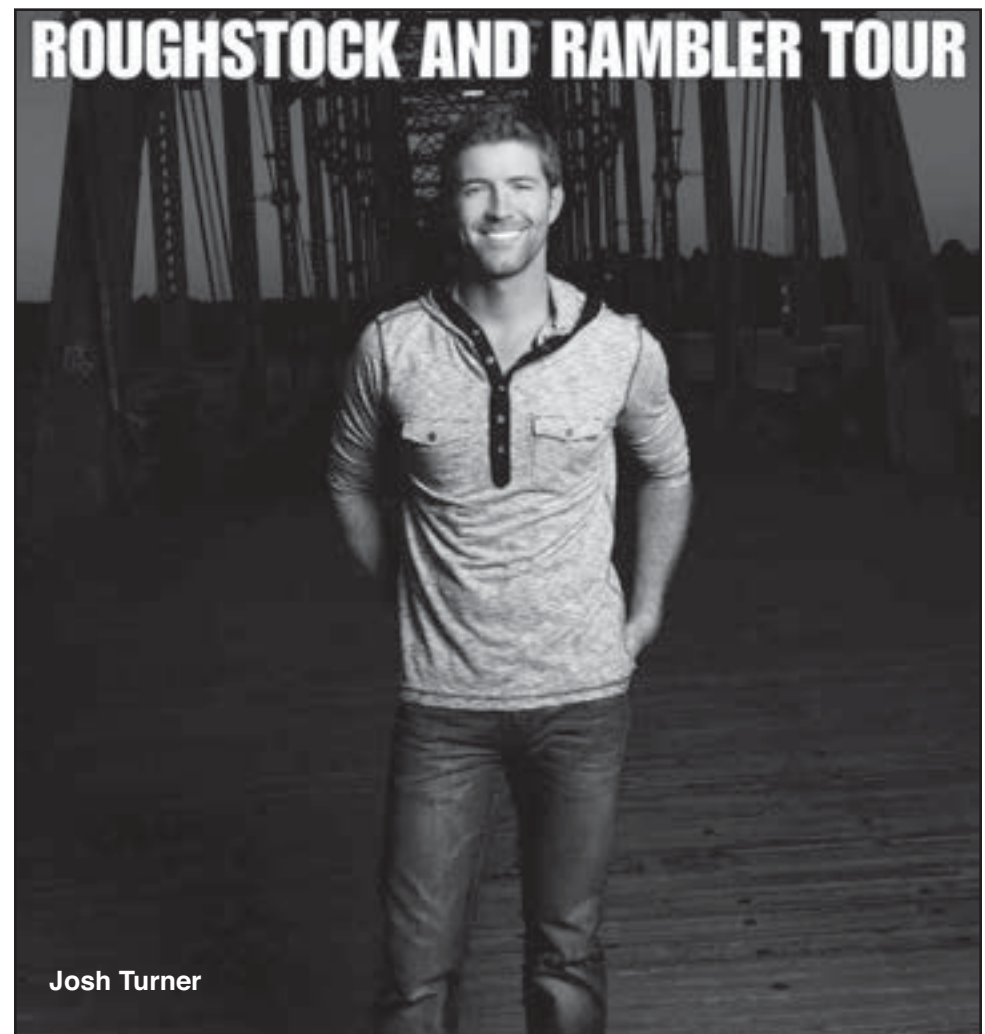
Nails singles, “Kiss You Tonight” and “Whatever She's Got” continue to climb the charts and wow audiences of all ages.

The combination of these two award-winning country music artists will keep you on your feet!

A limited number of general admission tickets available at the Richland County Fair box office.



David Nail



Josh Turner



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2005 CaseIH MX255, MFD, 3pt, 3638hrs, 480/80R42 Duals w/CaseIH LX780 loader & grapple.....	\$108,000
Bobcat T190 track loader, cab, auxiliary hydraulics, 2002hrs .....	\$22,000
IH Hydro 70, gas engine, new tires, dual loader, grapple .....	\$10,000
1994 Case IH 7140 MFD, 3 remotes, 20.8 x 42 Duals, 7800 Hrs .....	\$49,000

## USED MISCELLANEOUS

Farmhand 25' mulcher .....	\$11,500
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(2) John Deere 2700 disc grippers, 7 shank.....	\$22,000 each
2005 Parma 30' mulcher .....	\$25,000
Case 75XT Skidsteer, 2400 hours....	\$23,000

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2005 Brandt 2SB4000, suspended boom, 90', 1500 gal. tank .....	\$25,000
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Monosem 6 row, 24" planter.....	CALL

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2008 CaseIH RB564 round baler, 8700 bales, mesh wrap, wide pickup, endless belts, hydraulic pickup lift, central lube ...	\$26,500
2006 RBX563 Round Baler, wide pickup, mesh wrap, endless belts, 8,000 bales, good cond.....	\$26,000
CIH RBX 563 baler, mesh, wide pickup...	\$25,000

2003 CaseIH RBX562, MeshWrap, Like New .....	\$24,500
2011 Haybuster 2650, hydraulic chute lift, big tires, very good condition.....	\$16,000
1999 CaseIH RS561 .....	\$12,500
2008 Vermeer Processor, BP8000 ...	\$10,500
1995 CaseIH 8465 .....	\$8,995
1994 CaseIH 8480 Softcore .....	\$6,995
1990 Hesston 560 Round Baler.....	\$5,500
New Holland 1475 mower conditioner... \$8,500	
<b>USED COMBINES</b>	
2006 2388, 2103 engine hours/1656 sep. hours, chopper consigned.....	\$115,000

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# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Sidney Chamber Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament Winners



## 1st Place Winners

The Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture held its annual Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament on July 14 at the Sidney Country Club.

1st place winners of Montana Silver Belt Buckles commemorating the 15th Annual Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament are Brett Hilde, Harold Schlothauer, Luke Mahlen, and Trent Panasuk sponsored by Horizon Resources.

## 2nd Place Winners

2nd place winners of a Richland County Centennial Gift package are Kelly Keysor, Stacy Brown, Della Pewonka and Greg Breuer sponsored by Upper Missouri Power Coop.

Prize sponsors were the Sidney Chamber Agriculture Committee, Sidney Livestock Market, Yellowstone Chiropractic, Meadowlark Brewing Company and the Sidney Herald.



## 3rd Place Winners

3rd place winners of a Brew Fest package are Guy Salvold, Dana Berwick, Luke Anderson and Grant Salvold sponsored by Farm Equipment Sales.

Other prize sponsors included ProBuild, Richland County Fair & Rodeo, The Cattle-Ac, Mitchell's Oil Field Service, The South 40, The Sidney Country Club, The Fringe, IAP Eagles Landing, Zero Jensen and John Errecart.







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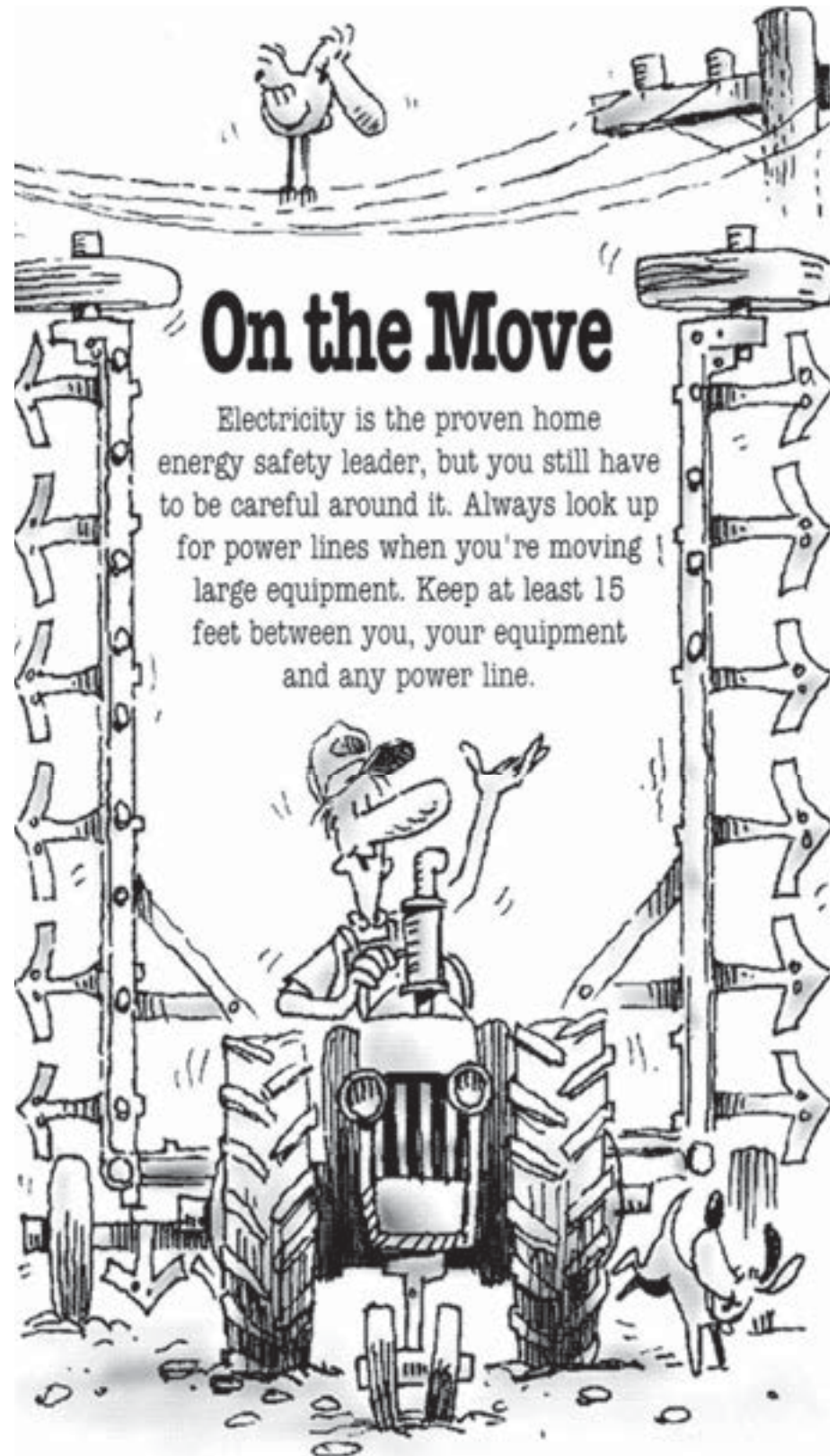
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# A Steak in Ag The Ag Agenda

**Submitted by R-CALF USA**

R-CALF USA may be defined as a non-profit producer organization, but our work benefits anyone who eats meat and lives in an economy that includes agriculture. We're more than a producer organization; we're your organization!

**USDA Approves Checkoff Advertisements Featuring "North American Beef"**

Last February R-CALF USA submitted a complaint to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack alleging unlawful use of U.S. beef checkoff program dollars in advertisements that improperly encouraged consumption of "North American Beef."

In response, USDA Under Secretary Edward Avalos decided that using beef checkoff program funds to pay for promotional advertisements featuring "North American beef" complies with the beef checkoff program because he viewed the advertisements as referencing, not promoting, North American beef.

The USDA prohibits U.S. cattle producers from using their beef checkoff funds to promote and advertise their USA beef – beef that is born, raised and slaughtered in the United States.

This is truly an outrageous decision as USDA does not even have a definition for "North American beef." The North America continent includes Central America and the Islands of the Caribbean Sea.

USDA is sanctioning consumer deception by approving government-mandated advertisements that mislead consumers into believing that their Wendy's burger may have originated in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras or Panama.

Former GIPSA Chief Dudley Butler sends an open letter to industrial agriculture activist Steve Dittmer.

In addition to calling Dittmer's writings "yellow journalism" and asserting the activist has a penchant for "fiction disguised as the truth," Butler provided facts to dispel the myths that leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives continually espouse to block USDA from finalizing the rule that Butler had proposed.

Responding to the activists' false claim that the GIPSA rule would eliminate value added programs, Butler stated his rule did not affect legitimate value added premiums and discounts but it did protect all farmers and ranchers from discriminatory pricing and other deceptive practices.

Butler also staunchly defended his belief that the NCBA "has lost its way by placing big meat packers and retail interests over cattlemen's interests."

His letter states: "Why does NCBA fight country of origin labeling? The consumers want it, but the packers don't. Why does NCBA fight the GIPSA rules that deal with unfair practices? Most farmers and ranchers want rules ensuring fair trade, but the packers don't."

R-CALF USA continues to explain to members of Congress that they have been misled by industrial agriculture activists like Dittmer and the NCBA and that domestic livestock producers deserve the protections accorded them by antitrust legislation like the Packers and Stockyards Act; but, he said, "Such protections cannot be extended to domestic farmers and ranchers unless the GIPSA rule is first finalized."

All letters, comments and presentations mentioned above are available at [www.r-calfusa.com](http://www.r-calfusa.com).

Make plans to attend the R-CALF USA Convention Aug. 29-30 in Cheyenne, Wyo, and hear from experts on issues affecting the U.S. cattle and sheep industries. For more information visit [www.r-calfusa.com](http://www.r-calfusa.com).

R-CALF USA is solely funded by donations and member dues. Please consider becoming a member. For more info or to join, go to [www.r-calfusa.com](http://www.r-calfusa.com), 406-252-2516.

**By Bob Stallman, President  
American Farm Bureau Federation**

Americans expect straight talk from their government. If our government says something, you ought to be able to take it to the bank, as the saying goes.

The Environmental Protection Agency is not meeting that expectation. Instead of making things clear when it comes to how the proposed "Waters of the U.S." rule would affect farmers and other landowners, the EPA is muddying the waters.

**It's Complicated**

Two Supreme Court rulings have limited EPA's and the Corps of Engineers' authority under the Clean Water Act to waters that are navigable or have a "significant nexus" to navigable waters. EPA claims the rulings "complicated" the permitting process. The reality is not all that complicated: The agencies dislike the rulings and are simply trying to write regulations that allow them to do what the Supreme Court has said they cannot do—regulate nearly all waters.

EPA has said that it only wants to bring "clarity and consistency" to the process. That sounds reasonable. Good talking point. The only problem is the statement does not reflect what is in the proposed rule. The regulation will automatically regulate countless small and remote so-called "waters" that are usually dry and, in fact, look like land to you and me. This is far more than a "clarification." It is a dramatic expansion of federal power. Expanding the federal government's jurisdiction under the guise of bringing clarity and consistency to the process is the opposite of straight talk.

**We Read the Fine Print**

When regulators show up on farms and ranches, they won't be looking back at talking points to decide whether farming requires an expensive federal permit. They will use the regulation. So let's take a look at the fine print.

Ditches - The rule regulates ditches as "tributaries." EPA claims that the rule would exclude ditches, but the so-called ditch exclusion only covers ditches dug entirely in "uplands." The rule doesn't define "uplands" (so much for clarity), but we know that uplands are not wetlands, and most ditches are "wetland" at some point along their length. That's just one reason Farm Bureau believes the narrow ditch "exclusion" will be meaningless.

Farming exemptions EPA offers assurances that all farming and ranching exemptions are being preserved under the rule. But those exemptions are extremely limited when it comes to activities in jurisdictional waters. That's why the exemptions will not protect most ordinary farming and ranching from permit requirements if ditches and low spots in farm fields are regulated, as they will be under the proposed rule.

Under the rule, federal permits would be needed for common farming activities such as applying fertilizer or pesticides, or moving cattle, if materials that are considered pollutants would fall into regulated low spots or ditches. Farmers can't wait for federal permits to fertilize or protect their crops from pests and diseases. Permits also would be required for activities such as plowing, planting and fencing in these new "waters of the U.S." unless a farmer has been farming the same land for decades, raising hurdles for beginning farmers.

Landowners could be in for a rude awakening faced with penalties or lawsuits for the very things EPA says the rule doesn't cover. Farm Bureau is dedicated to preventing that from happening, and we thank those leaders in the House and Senate who, in a bipartisan manner, are standing up for farmers and other landowners.

We hope EPA officials will read the fine print. We have, and that's how we know it's time to Ditch the Rule!

Bob Stallman is president of the American Farm Bureau Federation and is a beef cattle and rice farmer from Texas.



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# New Guide Available on Japanese Beetles in Montana

**Submitted by Laurie Kerzicnik**

A guide to help Montanans detect, monitor and control Japanese beetles is now available from Montana State University Extension.

Prior to 2013, the Japanese beetle was established in a small area of Billings, but had not spread. In 2013, it was introduced into seven municipalities through shipments of infested nursery stock, said insect diagnostician Laurie Kerzicnik.

The larvae are pests of turf grass. Lawns with yellow patches might indicate an infestation. The adults feed on more than 300 plants, but they prefer roses, apple, grape, cherry, raspberry and linden. They also eat field crops, vegetables and ornamental bushes.

Japanese beetle larvae, also known as grubs, are about one inch long when they mature. They are off-white, have a C-shaped body and three pairs of legs. Japanese beetle adults can be half an inch long. They have a metallic green, oval body with bronzed outer wings. They have five small tufts of white hair along the sides of their abdomen and two more patches protruding from the last segment of their abdomen.

A variety of approaches are available to control Japanese beetles, Kerzicnik said. Montanans can use insecticides or plant resistant species, such as lilacs, spruce and the common chokecherry. They can use biological controls, which include parasites, nematodes, fungi or other organisms.

For more information about the Japanese beetle, including its life cycle, behavior, susceptible plants, and control methods, Montanans can request an MSU Extension MontGuide by visiting the online store at [http://store.msuextension.org/Products/Japanese-Beetle\\_\\_MT201404AG.aspx](http://store.msuextension.org/Products/Japanese-Beetle__MT201404AG.aspx) or emailing [orderpubs@montana.edu](mailto:orderpubs@montana.edu) <<mailto:orderpubs@montana.edu>>. The MontGuide was written by Kerzicnik and MSU Extension Horticulture Associate Specialist Toby Day. It is a June 14 publication numbered MT201404AG.



Japanese beetle adults feed on a rose. (Photo by Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood).



This is a Japanese beetle larva. (Photo by David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org).



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Pacific's road to becoming a steel and recycling giant began as a one-man operation in Spokane, Wash. Joe Thiebes emigrated from Germany in the 1880's and followed his family's business tradition of trading hides and furs. Soon, Thiebes sent his son, also named Joe, to the wilds of Montana. In the early 1920's the younger Thiebes officially founded Pacific Hide & Fur Depot in Great Falls. During World War 1, the company expanded beyond furs and hides into collecting ferrous and nonferrous scrap. This scrap metals venture eventually led the firm to branch out in the 1950's into sales of new steel products. The Thiebes family business continued into the third generation, with another son again named Joe, joining forces with his father as the company steadily opened additional locations under the Pacific Hide & Fur name.

The Thiebes family owned the company and the senior Joe Thiebes continued to serve as chairman of the board until his death in 1988, through he wasn't involved in Pacific's day-to-day management. The end of daily family involvement in the business came with the death of the younger Joe Thiebes in 1982. However, Pacific is dedicated to carrying on the Thiebes family tradition of "shooting straight". Today, Pacific is an employee-owned corporation with 43 branch offices in Washington, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, Montana & Alberta, Canada.

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# Food Ingredient Fears Target Wheat

By Stewart Truelsen

It's one of the most iconic scenes from America's Heartland, combines sweeping slowly over golden fields of wheat, sun peaking from behind puffy white clouds, trucks on the edge of fields hauling wheat to silos that look like prairie castles from afar.

But every now and then the sky darkens and a thunderstorm rolls through and that's what is happening to wheat with the gluten-free diet craze. Wheat has become a victim of food ingredient fears.

There is a medical basis for certain people to avoid bread and other foods made from wheat. These are people with celiac disease, who cannot tolerate gluten, a protein found in wheat, rye and barley. This genetically based, autoimmune disorder affects an estimated 1 in 133 persons, fewer than 1 percent of the population.

Celiac disease damages the lining of the small intestine and interferes with the absorption of nutrients from food. There are several hundred symptoms of celiac disease although some people with the disease have no symptoms at all. Typical symptoms include fatigue, depression, bloating and abdominal pain.

The only way to obtain a diagnosis is through a blood test and endoscopy biopsy. The Celiac Disease Foundation <<http://celiac.org/>>warns people not to attempt self-diagnosis. Yet, that's exactly what many seem to be doing. They either think they have celiac disease or non-celiac gluten sensitivity, for which there is no recommended test.

According to NPD Group, a market research firm, nearly 30 percent of the people

responding to a recent survey said they were trying to avoid gluten.

Fears about gluten now go way beyond gluten intolerance. They include unsubstantiated claims linking it to dementia, Alzheimer's, autism, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis. In other words, diseases and health problems that have baffled medical researchers are now suddenly linked to eating gluten. Crazy as it seems, some people believe this.

Cornell University researchers are amazed at how easily food misconceptions spread without any real evidence. In one study, they found that people who feared food the most were better educated but got most of their food facts from Facebook newsfeeds, Twitter, blogs or friends. Compared to the rest of the population, they also had a greater need to share their opinions with others.

The Wall Street Journal//counted 1,000 groups on Facebook with "gluten-free" in the name including a dating group for gluten-free singles.

It may seem like hysterical nonsense, but don't tell food marketers and restaurants that. They are cashing in on the trend with gluten-free products and menus. The same holds true for the publishers of diet books and self-appointed experts like a popular neurologist who advises everyone to stop eating all grains. This has become the next big wave after fat-free and non-GMO foods.

Except for a small segment of the population that can't tolerate the protein, avoiding gluten in the diet has no proven basis for being a healthier choice. In fact, gluten-free products may contain fewer vitamins, less fiber and more sugar, and typically they cost more.

## USDA Seeks Public Comments on Conservation Programs

Submitted by Dan Janes

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) North Dakota Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Aaron Krauter announced today that a public meeting will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Courtyard by Marriot in Moorhead, Minnesota to solicit comments on a recently completed draft analysis that examines the potential environmental impacts of changes to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enacted by the 2014 Farm Bill.

CRP encourages farmers and ranchers to establish long-term vegetative species, such as grasses or trees, on environmentally sensitive farmland to help reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. The draft environmental analysis was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 1970, which requires federal government agencies to review the environmental effects of proposal federal actions.

FSA has scheduled five public meetings to provide opportunities for public comment. Stakeholders interested in farmland conversation are invited to attend, and FSA representatives will be available to answer questions. The meetings will be at the

Holiday Inn, 1100 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Great Falls, Montana 59501 on August 4, at 6:00 p.m.- 8:00p.m.

The draft environmental analysis can be reviewed online at: <http://crpspeis.com>. For questions, producers should contact their FSA officer information online at [http://crpspeis.com/Resources/Documents/CRP SPEIS Draft NOA.pdf](http://crpspeis.com/Resources/Documents/CRP_SPEIS_Draft_NOA.pdf) and [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Today's announcement was made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in saving or the taxpayer. Since the enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conversation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and commuting facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill) <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>

## Nomination Deadline Nears for Farm Service Agency County Committees

Submitted by Isabel Benemelis

U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan Garcia reminds farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers that Aug. 1, 2014, is the deadline for local FSA county committee nominations.

County committees are an important link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers and ranchers elected to local committees share their opinions and ideas on federal farm programs.

"There's still time for eligible farmers and ranchers to get involved in this year's county committee elections," said Garcia. "Nominate yourself or a candidate of your choice to serve on the local county committee. I especially encourage the nomination of beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as women and minorities. This is your opportunity to have a say in how federal programs are delivered in your county."

While FSA county committees do not approve or deny farm ownership or operating loans, they work closely with county executive directors and make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues.

Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are about 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to 11 members that are elected by eligible producers.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area where the person is nominated.

To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign the nomination form, FSA-669A. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections) <<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>>. Forms for the 2014 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2014. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3 and are due back to the local USDA Service Centers on Dec. 1. The newly elected county committee members will take office on Jan. 1, 2015.



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# EARC Field Day



Duane Peters, Sidney Sugars Agronomist spoke about Sugarbeet Varieties and gave a very positive outlook on this year's sugarbeet crop.



The Eastern Ag Research Center held thier annual feild day July 24 in Sidney. Pictured is Dr. Jamie Sherman, MSU Associate Research Professor speaking about the MSU Spring Wheat breeding program.



Dr. Bart Stevens, USDA-ARS Agronomist presented an update on his three year Sugarbeet Phosphorus Study.

EARC Sugarbeet Phosphorus Study					
Fertilizer Treatment	Fertilizer Treatment	Aug 28 '13	Jan 17 '14	May 14 '14	Aug 14 '14
0-0-0	0-0-0	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-20	0-0-20	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-40	0-0-40	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-60	0-0-60	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-80	0-0-80	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-100	0-0-100	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-120	0-0-120	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-140	0-0-140	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-160	0-0-160	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-180	0-0-180	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-200	0-0-200	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-220	0-0-220	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-240	0-0-240	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-260	0-0-260	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-280	0-0-280	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
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0-0-400	0-0-400	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-420	0-0-420	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
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0-0-860	0-0-860	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-880	0-0-880	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-900	0-0-900	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-920	0-0-920	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-940	0-0-940	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-960	0-0-960	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-980	0-0-980	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14
0-0-1000	0-0-1000	10.0	17.14	10.0	17.14



Sherry Turner MS, MSU/MAES EARC Research Associate dicussed Integrated Control of Ascochyta Blight of Chick Pea.



Dr. TheCan Caesar, USDA-ARS Soil Microbiologist presented her Soil Biology Reseach on Battling Cercospora on Sugarbeets with Bacterial Biocontrols.



Dr. Hans Scheider, MSU/MAES EARC Plant Pathologist (left) talked about Integrated Control of Beet Cyst Nematodes. Dr. Barry Jacobsen, MSU Intern Dept. Head of Reasearch Centers spoke about Integrated Control of Rhizoctonia Solani on Sugarbeets.



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# Regional Pulse Crop Lab to be Established at MSU

By Evelyn Boswell

Work is beginning this summer to establish a regional laboratory at Montana State University for diagnosing insects, diseases and weeds in pulse crops.

Chickpea, dry pea and lentil growers should be able to send samples to the lab this fall, said MSU Extension Plant Pathologist Mary Burrows, who is directing the project. Space previously occupied by the MSU Extension Water Quality program will be remodeled and turned into a “clean” laboratory this summer. Burrows hopes to hire a lab supervisor/scientist by September.

The Pulse Crop Health Diagnostic Laboratory will be located in Marsh Lab along South Nineteenth Avenue in Bozeman. Funding came through the 2014 Farm Bill, which provided \$150,000 for the lab through its “Plant Pest and Disease Management” programs.

“Since very few pulse pathogens have accredited tests, this laboratory will be a leader in developing routine diagnostic methods for pulse crops, which can be extended to other legume plant species,” Burrows said.

“We are very happy to be able to offer this service for growers,” she added.

Gary D. Adams, state plant health director for the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (APHIS, PPQ) in Montana, said, “The funding represents our commitment to partner with our stakeholders to achieve our mutual goals of identifying and responding to invasive pests and diseases that pose a threat to American agriculture and increasing public involvement in our efforts to stop their spread, all while keeping export markets open for U.S. products.

“Cooperators from Idaho, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Washington all know there is a need and support this lab to protect this growing industry,” Adams added. “Acreage of these crops has significantly increased in the last 10 years, particularly with dry pea, where 338,000 acres were planted in 2003 and 840,000 acres were planted in 2013.”

Burrows said Montana, Idaho, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington are the main pulse crop-growing states in the country, with 80 percent of their grain going overseas.

Growing demand, price supports and the explosion in using pulse crops to fill fallow acres are responsible for the increase, Burrows said. Wheat growers, especially in the area of Montana known as the “Golden Triangle,” are planting pulse crops during fallow years because they don’t require a lot of water, they break the life cycles of pests, and they increase farm income.

Shannon Berndt, executive director of the Northern Pulse Growers Association, said Montanans grew pulse crops many years ago, but the acreage has increased steadily since 1997. Sometimes the market favors lentils. Other times, it’s dry peas. But in the past three or four years, the demand for chickpeas has been especially strong because of the popularity of hummus snack food. Chickpeas are a major component of hummus.

Berndt and others said MSU research has also played a significant role in the growth of Montana’s pulse crop industry.

“We are very grateful and depend upon the research going on at MSU,” said David Oien, organic farming pioneer and co-founder of Timeless Seeds Inc. in Ulm. “The research being done is especially valuable to the new growers that grow for us, the next generation returning to family farms.”

Berndt said, “The research being done at MSU currently is extremely important to the continued growth of acreage in Montana.”

She added that the new lab “will really play an integral role in better varieties, and it will open up additional marketing opportunities.”

As the number of pulse crop acres grows, issues involving disease, pest man-



**Mary Burrows, looking here for ergot bodies in wheat seed, is director of a new project that will establish a Pulse Crop Health Diagnostic Laboratory at Montana State University. (MSU photo by Kelly Gorham).**

agement and weed control will become increasingly important, Berndt said. Burrows specifically mentioned viruses, fungi, bacterial and nematode diseases.

“Traditional and molecular diagnostic tools are needed to discriminate between pest species, help us monitor the crop for new diseases and to detect and eliminate pests of concern,” Burrows said.

Berndt noted that Burrows took the initiative to establish the new lab and said MSU’s central location is ideal for serving pulse crop growers from North Dakota to Washington. Burrows added that the idea of setting up a regional pulse crop lab at MSU took the cooperation of several entities. In addition to APHIS-PPQ in Montana and the Northern Pulse Growers Association, those groups were the Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Seed Growers and the U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council.

Once it’s running, the pulse crop lab will work closely with other MSU laboratories, Burrows said. Among them will be the Schutter Diagnostic Laboratory of which she is director. The Schutter lab already diagnoses plant diseases and pests, but Burrows said it isn’t equipped to handle plant diseases and pests that are specific to pulse crops. The Montana State Seed Lab focuses mostly on wheat and grasses.

The new lab will also be available to assist other laboratories when they have a large number of samples they need to screen, Burrows said.

Ron Larson, manager of the Montana Seed Growers Association and interim manager of the Montana State Seed Lab, said the state seed lab currently cooperates with the Schutter Diagnostic Lab on pulse crop ascochyta disease testing, and he believes the regional pulse lab will offer more opportunity for producers to get answers to new pest and disease issues that have shown up in Montana, neighboring states and Canada.

“The opportunity to offer a well-staffed and adequately funded research lab that is ready to deal with new diseases and pests presents a very proactive benefit to the pulse industry as it continues to develop in Montana and the surrounding states,” he said. “New lab tests that could become routine could be transferred to the commercial side of the lab while the research portion continues to deal with new challenges.”



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# Farm Credit Marks 98 Years of Service to U.S. Agriculture & Rural America

Submitted by Teresa Kjellberg

Nearly 100 years after the U.S. Congress established Farm Credit [www.farmcredit.com](http://www.farmcredit.com) to serve as a reliable source of credit for the nation's farmers and ranchers, Farm Credit Services of North Dakota and the entire Farm Credit System remain a sound and vital financial resource for rural America. Today marks the cooperatives networks' 98th anniversary.

"For 98 years, the Farm Credit System has served agriculture and rural America as a dedicated, reliable, competitive, customer-owned source of credit," said Claude Sem, CEO. "America's agricultural producers and rural communities have benefited greatly from the vision and foresight that went into establishing the Farm Credit System."

Today, about 40 percent of the dollar volume of outstanding loans to U.S. farmers and ranchers comes from Farm Credit. The federally chartered network is comprised of 82 privately owned institutions, including four wholesale banks and 78 direct lending associations that operate in every county in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Farm Credit Services of North Dakota specializes in providing credit and related services to farmers and ranchers in northwest North Dakota. In addition, the Farm Credit System provides financing for the processing and marketing activities of these borrowers, as well as to rural homeowners, certain farm-related businesses, and agricultural and public utility cooperatives.

In support of its mission of service, Farm Credit System institutions also have programs specifically focused on meeting the needs of young, beginning and small farm and ranch operators. In 2013, more than 40 percent of new loans made by Farm Credit were to small producers, those with annual gross agricultural sales of \$250,000 or less.

"Today, Farm Credit celebrates its heritage as it continues to fulfill its mission to serve U.S. agriculture and rural America," says Sem. "Farm Credit was established as a permanent system of credit that is to be responsive to the needs of our nation's agricultural sector, and we look forward to continued success and a bright future," he adds.

## About the Farm Credit System

For nearly a century, Farm Credit has been a national provider of credit and related services to rural America through its cooperative network of customer-owned lending institutions. Farm Credit provides more than \$200 billion in loans and leases to farmers, ranchers, rural homeowners, aquatic producers, timber harvesters, agribusinesses, and agricultural and rural utility cooperatives.

Our mission is to provide products and services that exceed customer expectations. For more information about the Farm Credit System, please visit [www.farmcredit.com](http://www.farmcredit.com).

## About Farm Credit Services of North Dakota

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

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# STAMPEDE

By Jerry Palen



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# The Role of an Extension Agent

**By Tie Shank**

The first Extension Agent in Richland County, A.D. Anderson, began in 1917. He held the post of Richland County Extension Agent until 1920. A.D. did get some help, in the form of a home demonstration agent (which is what they were referred to then), in 1919 when Gladys Kyte joined him. Since those first two agents blazed the trail for Extension in Richland County, there have been 42 others who have held the title of Extension Agent as either an agent for 4-H, Agriculture, or Family and Consumer Sciences (as it is referred to now since the title change from home demonstration agent and home economics agent).

Of all 44 people that have held the title of Richland County Extension Agent, there are a few things that stand out. The shortest tenure of an agent in Richland County was less than a year and that distinction was held by both Arne Skedsvold and Sterling Swigart. Fred Barkley, the agent with the longest tenure, still calls Sidney home. He held the position for 28 years. The second-longest tenure was held by Red Lovec, who worked at the same time as Fred and also still calls Sidney home. Red was in the Richland County Extension Office for 25 years before retiring. Right on the heels of both Fred and Red, was Judy Johnson, who recently retired from the office after serving as Family and Consumer Sciences Agent for 21 years. Excluding the agents whose time spent as an Agent in Richland County totaled less than a year, and the three agents who currently hold the position, the average tenure of an agent since the beginning is 4.6 years.

The question that quite frequently gets asked of an extension agent is "What exactly is it that you do?" And the typical answer that one would receive from an extension agent is "It depends on the day." The broad scope of an agent's position description is that as an agent, one is charged with taking the non-biased, research-based information being conducted at the land grant university (which is Montana State University) and sharing it with the citizens of the county.

There are primarily three areas Extension Agents work in; Agriculture, 4-H, and Family and Consumer Sciences. While these three areas seem fairly cut and dry, there are quite a few topics and areas of research that fall under each of these categories.

In agriculture, the Extension Agent is not only charged with sharing information and instructing people in ways to increase production of crops and livestock on a large scale, the agent must also help people with backyard gardens, trees and landscaping, and all of the other issues that come up in regards to being successful in production agriculture.

The 4-H program has gone through numerous changes since its inception. 4-H was initially formed as clubs for kids to participate in so they could learn more about production agriculture at an early age. The program has now expanded and includes projects in robotics, technology, and many more.

As previously mentioned, the Family and Consumer Sciences Agent was initially referred to as the home demonstration agent. Some programs taught by the first agents would not be allowed in today's politically correct society. Now, the Family and Consumer Sciences Agent teaches classes in regards to health and wellness, financial planning and stability, food safety, cooking, canning, and home maintenance.

If you'd like more information on becoming an Extension Agent or on other positions within the Richland County Extension office, contact the office at (406) 433-1206

**Red Lovec was in the Richland County Extension Office for 25 years before retiring.**



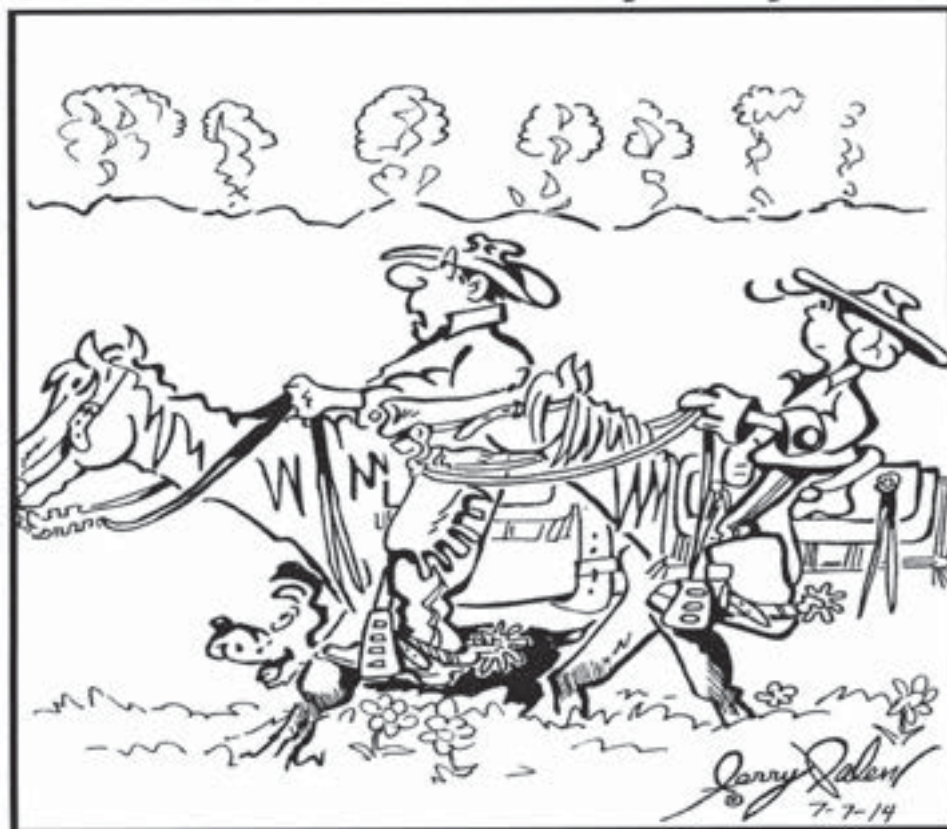
**Current Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine.**





# STAMPEDE

By Jerry Palen



"Smoke signals? Nah, it's the start of barbecue season."

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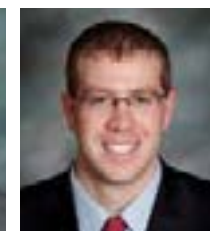
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# 7th Annual MonDak Harvest Fest Tractor & Pickup Pull August 23<sup>rd</sup>



**By LaVanchie Starkey**

As we begin to see the summer wind down there are still many activities planned in our community. Following the Richland County Fair & Rodeo is the Lone Tree Gun Show and the Sidney Jaycees Demolition Derby. And we mustn't forget the 7th Annual MonDak Harvest Fest Tractor & Pickup Pull, scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Richland County Fairgrounds. Hosted by the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, this event continues to grow as we see more competitors wanting to test their "metal".

New this year is the Full Pull sled provided by Full Pull, Inc of Mandan, ND. In the past we have had a percentage pull with the winner being determined by the percentage of their own weight pulled. A Full Pull is determined by footage, making it

much easier for fans to see who the winners are and cheer their favorites on. Tractor classes consist of: Farm Stock—No Modifications, Improved and Modified. Pickup categories are 4x4 & 2x4 Stock, Heavyweight/Diesel and Modified

An ATV and Lawnmower pull will again be provided by Marvin Varner of Terry, MT. Classes will include ATVs under 500cc, 500 to 700, over 700, steering wheel class, along with lawnmowers.

Weigh-in for participants begin at 3:00 pm. Registration fees are \$25 and will be added to the purse to be awarded to our top finishers.

The grandstand gate will open at 5:00 pm with the pull beginning at 6:00 pm. A beer garden and concessions are available on the grounds. Call 406.433.1916 for more information.



# Hail Insurance Deadline Approaching - Purchase Hail Insurance by Aug. 15

**Submitted by Jana Mertens**

With some much needed rain falling across most of Montana, now is the time to evaluate your crop insurance needs. Montana farmers and ranchers can still purchase state hail insurance through August 15 by contacting the toll free number at (844) 515-1571 or visiting the website at <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Commodities/HailInsurance/> to obtain forms.

With last year's record hail insurance claims, the Hail Board purchased reinsurance to ensure that any and all claims made by Montana producers covered by the state hail insurance program will be paid.

County Department of Revenue offices will no longer be processing new policies; instead they will be providing information to interested parties on how to begin the process. Forms are also available at Montana State University Extension Offices and Conservation District Offices.

At the request of producers and authorized by the State Legislature, the dry land hail insurance rate increased to \$75 per acre and \$114 per acre for irrigated land. The Hail Board also approved a five percent premium increase. Producers should contact the Montana Department of Agriculture to discuss coverage and rates.

Contact Information - Montana State Hail Insurance Program, PO Box 200201 Helena, MT 59620 Toll Free: (844) 515-1571 Phone: (406) 444-2402 Fax: (406) 444-9422

The Montana State Hail Insurance Program was created in 1917 to provide basic hail insurance coverage on any crop grown in Montana.

The program is directed by a five-member board consisting of the department director, insurance commissioner, and three other members appointed by the Governor.

The Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the department, visit [www.agr.mt.gov](http://www.agr.mt.gov)



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