



Farm & Ranch Monthly Magazine

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August 2015

Beet Crops Are Growing Steadily

See page 8.

Lone Tree Gun Show Coming August 14 - 16



By Dianne Swanson

The Lone Tree Gun Show will celebrate its 25th year August 14-16 at the Richland County Fair Event Center in Sidney. Hours for the show are 5-8 pm Friday; 9am – 6pm Saturday and 10am – 3pm Sunday. Admission is only \$5 per day with children 12 and under free when accompanied by an adult.

Co chairs Jim and Leann Pelvit and Tim and Brenda Larson offer a quality experience for vendors and attendees alike. The show is operated under the rules and regulations of the Weapons Collectors Society of Montana. All federal, state and local gun laws are obeyed.

The popular show features 160 tables with guns, ammo, coins, knives and

sharpeners, antiques and collectibles, fishing gear and more. The grand prize this year is a 25-06 Mossberg Patriot with 3 X 9 scope and wood stock. Second place will win a Nikon Range Finder 600 yd.

Proceeds from the event are distributed to local non-profit entities. Past recipients include 4-H Shooting Sports, Boys and Girls Club of Richland County, Sidney Trap Club, Salvation Army, Sidney Chamber of Commerce, Hunter Safety and the Richland County Christmas Coalition.

For more information about the Lone Tree Gun show, please visit www.lonetree-gunshow.com or call 406-480-5594.

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For Taylor Searer, 4-H Involvement Will Be A Life-Long Interest



By Meagan Dotson

Taylor Searer, a 2015 graduate of Sidney High School, is in his eleventh year of 4-H and his fourth year as an Ambassador, or representative of the 4-H program in Richland County. He is entering hogs, steers, and goats to be judged at his final Richland County Fair 4-H judging and showing.

Searer will be showing one of his two steers, which he began working with over the 2014-2015 winter and one of his three hogs that he got in February of this year. Wednesday August 5th from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm livestock exhibits will be entered and market beef will weigh in and from 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm hogs, sheep, and goats will weigh in. Beginning at 8:30 am on Thursday August 6th swine, sheep, dairy and breeding beef, and goats will be judged and market beef will be judged at 5:00 pm. Friday August 7th 4-H Junior and Senior showmanship will start at 8:00 am and the 4-H livestock sale will be held at 5:00 pm in the 4-H arena. Two percent of all sales will go to the 4-H program and the rest of the money is profit for the 4-H member, after deducting the cost of expenses.

Searer explains the responsibility and work that goes into raising and showing animals including proper feeding to get the animal to the ideal weight for their frame, or 'finishing', making sure they have access to clean water, cool conditions particularly for the hogs, and working with them for showmanship purposes. He also talks about knowing his limitations, determining how many animals he could care for without overwhelming himself. But, 4-H isn't just about raising and showing livestock. Searer also has painting, drawing, and woodworking projects, what are considered indoor projects that are being entered in the fair; 4-H requires members to have at least one indoor project entered in addition to any livestock entries and with countless projects for all interests, there is certainly something for everyone.

As a Richland County Ambassador, Searer has attended Fall Training which is only for 4-H Ambassadors, where they learn leadership skills, Rec Lab, and Congress.

"I find that 4-H is fun and enjoyable. Being an Ambassador I've gotten to meet a lot of people throughout the state," said Searer and adds, "The friends that I've made in 4-H are lifelong friends."

Though this will be Searer's last year entering 4-H projects in the Richland County Fair, he plans on volunteering and being available to help out when he can.

"4-H doesn't just end; you can always be involved. My dad has been involved in 4-H his whole life pretty much and he got his kids involved and when I have kids they will be involved too. All the work pays off in the end," he noted.

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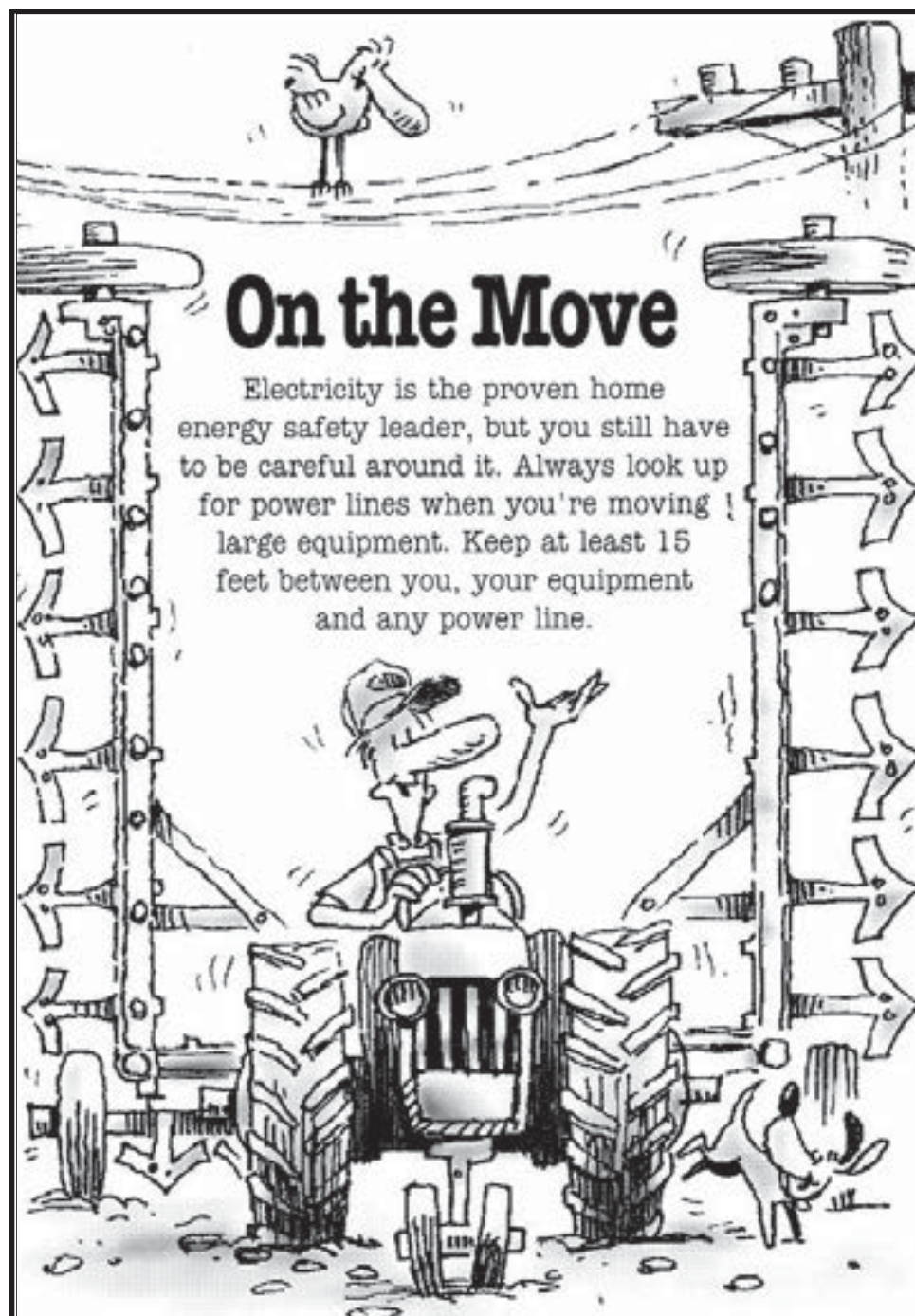
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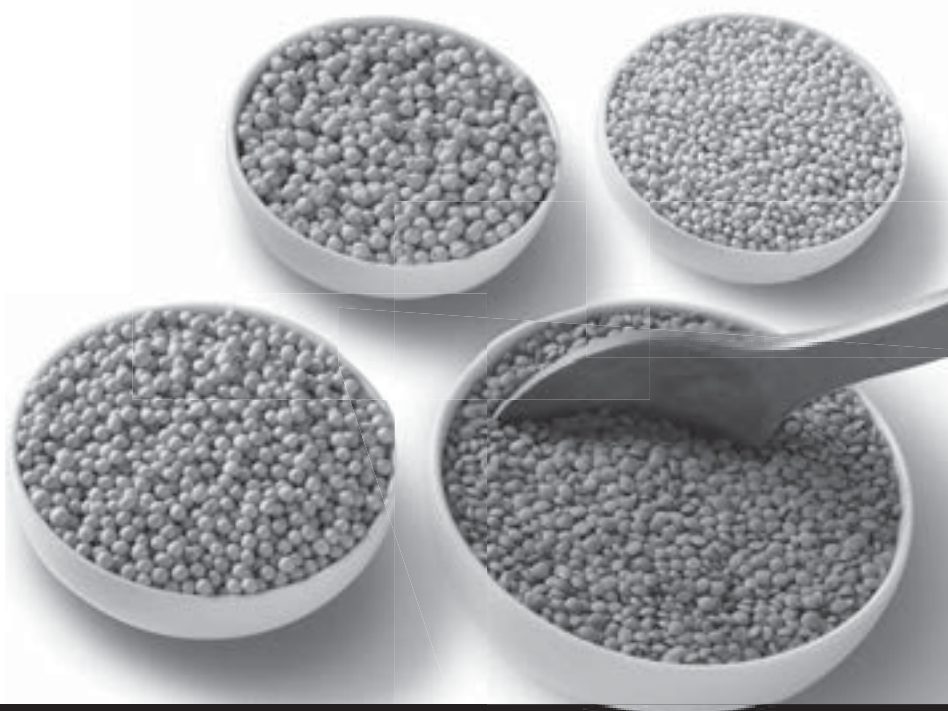
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Good luck to all the exhibitors and 4-Hers



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Beet Crops Are Growing Steadily; Harvest Is Planned To Begin On Schedule

By Meagan Dotson

The 2015 beet crop is growing steadily with the summer heat, rapid irrigation and harvest is estimated to begin on schedule.

Planting began slightly early this year, about the second or third week of April as the ground was warm and moisture came up through the ground evenly in many fields. Growing conditions have been good throughout the spring and summer, minus the hail. Approximately 9,500 acres have seen hail at different times with varying severities. Fields that were hailed on early in the season have recovered, however, beets that had a full growth canopy suffered more damage during later hailstorms causing energy to be diverted into making new leaves rather than developing the beet itself.

There is estimated to be 28.3 tons/acre this year, which is what the new average is expected to be with the Roundup Ready beets and the acres are a little bit better than they were in 2014. The first sample, which samples tonnage rather than sugar content, was taken the week of July 6 and was one of the better sam-

ples according to Russ Fullmer, agricultural manager. The second sample will be a benchmark for sugar content.

Preparing the grounds at Sidney Sugars will begin in September, moving pilers and getting equipment ready. Harvest should start near the end of September, beginning as early as possible, with hopes for consistent fall weather. While cooler weather is best for beet storage, beets store decently in consistently warmer weather as well.

"We want one temperature or another," said Fullmer. "It's the back and forth that isn't good for beet storage."

With the season on track, farmers and Sidney Sugars alike prepare for beet harvest. Sidney Sugars employees as many as 200 people between the factory and campaign and Express Personal out of Grand Forks, ND will be returning in September to hire harvest employees for the factory. For anyone interested in working campaign, which runs from October-February, they can pick up an application at Sidney Job Service, 211 N Central Ave, Sidney, MT.



Beet fields south of Sidney show a healthy growth canopy despite summer hailstorms.

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Canning Preserves Family Traditions, Creates Memories

By Meagan Dotson

Growing up on the eastern Montana plains I have many harvest memories, from my mother driving beet truck while I played on the edges of the fields, to my grandma blanching and freezing corn my grandpa brought in from the garden. Canning produce has been something that all of the women in my family have done and I can fondly recall standing in the back of my grandpa's truck picking choke cherries by the bucket-full which my grandma would then turn into her beloved choke cherry syrup. The house was uncomfortably warm and the sweet smell of syrup filled every inch of that warm space as she canned it in mason jars to give as gifts and sell at craft sales.

As an adult, there are certain traditions I have purposed myself to learn in an attempt to carry a part of my family's past into my present and canning has become one of those. Every fall my mother visits friends in Idaho and stops at the local orchard to purchase lugs of peaches, pears, and plums and together we spend a day or two preserving them for the year.

And so the process begins... I haul jars and rings to her house to be washed, slip skins off of peaches and pit them, peel and core pears, heat lids, and spend a day or two sticky with fruit juice, decked out in my apron, and continually watching the clock to pull jars from the hot water bath at the appropriate times. After four years of canning together, my mom and I have a pretty good rhythm and, honestly, canning is just more fun with a friend. Over the few short years I have been doing this, we added plums and tomatoes to our canning extravaganza and I have ventured out making homemade applesauce, apple butter, pear butter, and plum jam and this year we have plans to make buffalo berry jam, which my mother tells me is delicious. One of these summers I will brave the gnats and go out to pick choke cherries and make syrup from my grandma Claudine's recipe, not because I miss the syrup, but because I miss her as she passed away in 2013.

My hope is that my children will take an interest in this tried and true form of food preservation; maybe they will want to learn themselves, but at the very least I hope they develop an understanding of the work that goes into things that can be so easily taken for granted. Most of the women before me canned out of necessity, knowing that there wouldn't be fruits and vegetables over the winter if they didn't. Truthfully I struggle to keep a garden alive at all, but canning isn't limited to what you can grow yourself; I am happy to put sale-priced produce to good use for months to come. For me it is the satisfaction that comes with seeing those lovely jars full of good food, the appreciation of learning something from my mother that she learned from hers, and taking the time to slow down and take in the beauty that comes with the season from the window of that overly

warm kitchen. Most importantly, I hope that my kids will have happy memories of going to grandma's to can fruit and tomatoes; I hope that they will regard that warm, sweet-smelling kitchen as affectionately as I did as a child... as affectionately as I do as an adult. It is quite interesting to me that doing something so domestic can make me feel like such a rock-star.



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Richland County Members Participate At Montana 4-H Congress

Submitted by
Josie Evenson

Eight 4-H members proudly represented Richland County at Montana 4-H Congress from July 7th to 10th. Montana 4-H Congress provides youth from across the state an opportunity to come together on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman and participate in an event like no other. Congress offers both youth and adults a venue in which to learn, be challenged, and most of all, have a great time with their peers. Montana 4-Hers have been attending an event like Congress for over 77 years. Congress has become an important tradition for many 4-H members across the state. The eight members that represented Richland County were:

Johren Carpenter, Brady Gorder, John Helmuth, Jake Kunda, Tess Ler, Taylor Schepens, Taylor Searer and Kyle Topp. Carpenter, Gorder, Helmuth, Ler, Schepens and Searer all represented Richland County 4-H as ambassadors. Helmuth competed in the Livestock judging and received 5th place in the state contest. Tess Ler and Kyle Topp both competed in the Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks contest. Topp received a blue for her Illustrated Talk on Buck Brannaman

Congress Participants from Richland County.
Back Row from left to right: Taylor Searer, Jake Kunda, John Helmuth. Front row: Taylor Schepens, Johren Carpenter, Tess Ler and Kyle Topp. Not pictured Brady Gorder



and Ler took 2nd place over all with her Demonstration titled "Decoratively Delicious." Taylor Schepens and Johren Carpenter represented Richland County in the Quilting Contest. Schepens received 4th place and Carpenter was named the state contest winner. With this honor, she won a trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta Georgia this fall.

Declarations Needed for LYIP

By Dianne Swanson

Despite over a decade of study of over 150 alternatives multiple times, millions of dollars spent by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and other entities and a determination of the best possible solution to ensure the survival of the pallid sturgeon in the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, a lawsuit filed by the Defenders of Wildlife and Natural Resources Defense Council threatens to derail the entire process and put the survival of the fish and the communities along the rivers in jeopardy.

An administrative court hearing on the injunction will be held on August 12 in Great Falls. Prior to that, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation project is seeking declarations attesting to the benefits of the irrigation project and the harms caused by any delays. Those benefits are endless and include the obvious such as the Sidney Sugars factory, the Busch Ag plant and the economic vitality of the communities along the Yellowstone. Other benefits may not be so obvious but are just as important. Those include the raising of the water table during irrigation which recharges our drinking wells and creates wildlife habitat, the increased tax base from irrigated land vs. dry

land, the dollars generated by feed byproducts from Sidney Sugars and Busch Ag, the animal feed grown in the valley which has gone all over the United States, Japan, and Canada in times of drought, the extensive work conducted by both the EARC and the NPARL, just to name a few.

Anyone wishing to make a declaration is invited to send it to Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, 2327 Lincoln Ave SE, Sidney MT 59270. Attorneys for LYIP will review the declarations and use what they deem is best to defend the project.

For those people who care about the pallid sturgeon, the lawsuit will delay, perhaps forever, the completion of the fish bypass, which has been chosen as the best solution to ensure survival of the prehistoric fish while not hurting the communities. The project has gone out for bid and construction is due to start this fall. It will take approximately 3 years to complete the concrete weir and fish passage. That is the time frame given the pallid sturgeon before extinction in the wild. Delaying the project, with no quick, viable alternate solutions, is imperiling the wild fish and virtually guaranteeing its demise. To date, the only solution proposed by the plaintiffs would include the removal of the diversion dam at Intake. Farmers would then be required to pump water for irrigation; a process that would generate pollution – harming all species, and that is financially unfeasible.

While many of the declarations in support of the lawsuit favor recreational activities, some ask USACE to change the flows of water from Fort Peck dam to help the pallid sturgeon. According to James Brower, manager of LYIP, studies prove there is not enough distance from Fort Peck to Lake Sakakawea to allow for larval drift, no matter what the flows are out of the dam. "That's why it makes even more sense for the USACE to do a fish bypass at Intake," he explained. He added that Fish and Wildlife could still get common sense changes to Fort Peck spills even with the changes at Intake. One is not dependent on the other. "The fish bypass at Intake gives the pallid sturgeon larval a much better chance at survival, and it doesn't hurt the farmers, ranchers and the communities in north eastern Montana and the rest of the river drainage," Brower stated. "

The State of Montana and MT Fish and Wildlife have filed an amicus brief in support of the fish passage at Intake. Governors, as well as senators and congressmen from both Montana and North Dakota have been asked for support of the Intake project and LYIP. Any help from the public in defending life as we know it in the Mon-Dak region would also be greatly appreciated.

For more information, please contact Brower at Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, 406-433-1306.



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Sister Duo Tigirlily Will Perform At The Richland County Fair & Rodeo Aug. 5

By Meagan Dotson

The musical talents of Tigirlily will be at the Richland County Fair in Sidney, Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 7:30 p.m. The sisters Kendra and Krista Slaubaugh, 19 and 17, will be performing their unique blend of sound incorporating country, pop, blues, and folk stylings.

Both sing and write music and Krista plays the guitar and drums while Kendra plays piano. The duo have recorded three albums with the first two, "A Good Place to Start" and "North Dakota", being recorded in their high school band room. "Victory", their third was recorded in Nashville with Louis Newman producing. They have recently released a new single entitled 'Pretty Girls' and all of their songs are available on iTunes.

The sisters from Hazen, ND began performing together at church and quickly realized they both dreamt of turning their passion for music into a career. About 2 1/2 years ago, they decided to take their music careers more seriously and their hard work has paid off. They have performed all over North Dakota and the surrounding states in addition to performing in Nashville, TN. They've also generated a fan-base on YouTube and have had some amazing opportunities to open for artists such as Love and Theft, Thompson Square, and Joe Diffie just to name a few. Kendra and Krista have performed at the Last Best Country Fest in Billings, and at the Medora Country Concert Series.

At the 2015 North Dakota Music Awards, Tigirlily was awarded Best Original Band, Best Song, Best Video,

Best Stage Show, and the U Rock Award, which is given in recognition of artists who give back. They are looking forward to their upcoming performances and are thankful for all those who come out to support them. For more information, visit www.tigirlily.com.



Sisters Kendra and Krista have performed all over North Dakota and the surrounding states as well as in Nashville, TN.

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The Sidney Sugars Incorporated factory has served the Sidney area since 1925, providing an outlet for farmers to grow and sell sugarbeets. In 2002, American Crystal bought the Sidney factory from Holly Sugar and the Sidney factory became part of the American Crystal Company and took the name Sidney Sugars. Sidney Sugars operates as a wholly owned subsidiary of American Crystal Sugar Company.

Each year Sidney Sugars contracts sugarbeet acres with area growers. Not only does this allow producers to grow a high value crop but it also provides employment at the factory and at the six beet receiving stations

located from Powder River to Culbertson. The company generally employs approximately 60 seasonal workers for the beet receiving stations during harvest each year and hires approximately 120 seasonal employees to work at the factory during the winter months where they produce white sugar for sale around the country. Winter campaigns generally last about four months.

Sidney Sugars has 90 year round employees and has 120 sugarbeet growers.

The company also produces approximately 50,000 tons of pressed pulp each year and 35,000 tons of molasses for sale.

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Martina McBride With Special Guest Love & Theft In Concert Saturday, Aug. 8

By Meagan Dotson

Martina McBride with special guest Love and Theft will be in concert Saturday, Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The highly anticipated event will be held during the Richland Co. Fair and Rodeo Aug. 5-8 in Sidney.

The chart topping singer songwriter has won Female Vocalist of the Year by the Country Music Association four times and has won Top Female Vocalist by the Year by the Academy of Country Music three times. McBride is a 14-time Grammy Award nominee and is well known for songs such as "Wild Angels", "Independence Day", "My Baby Loves Me", and "This One's for the Girls".

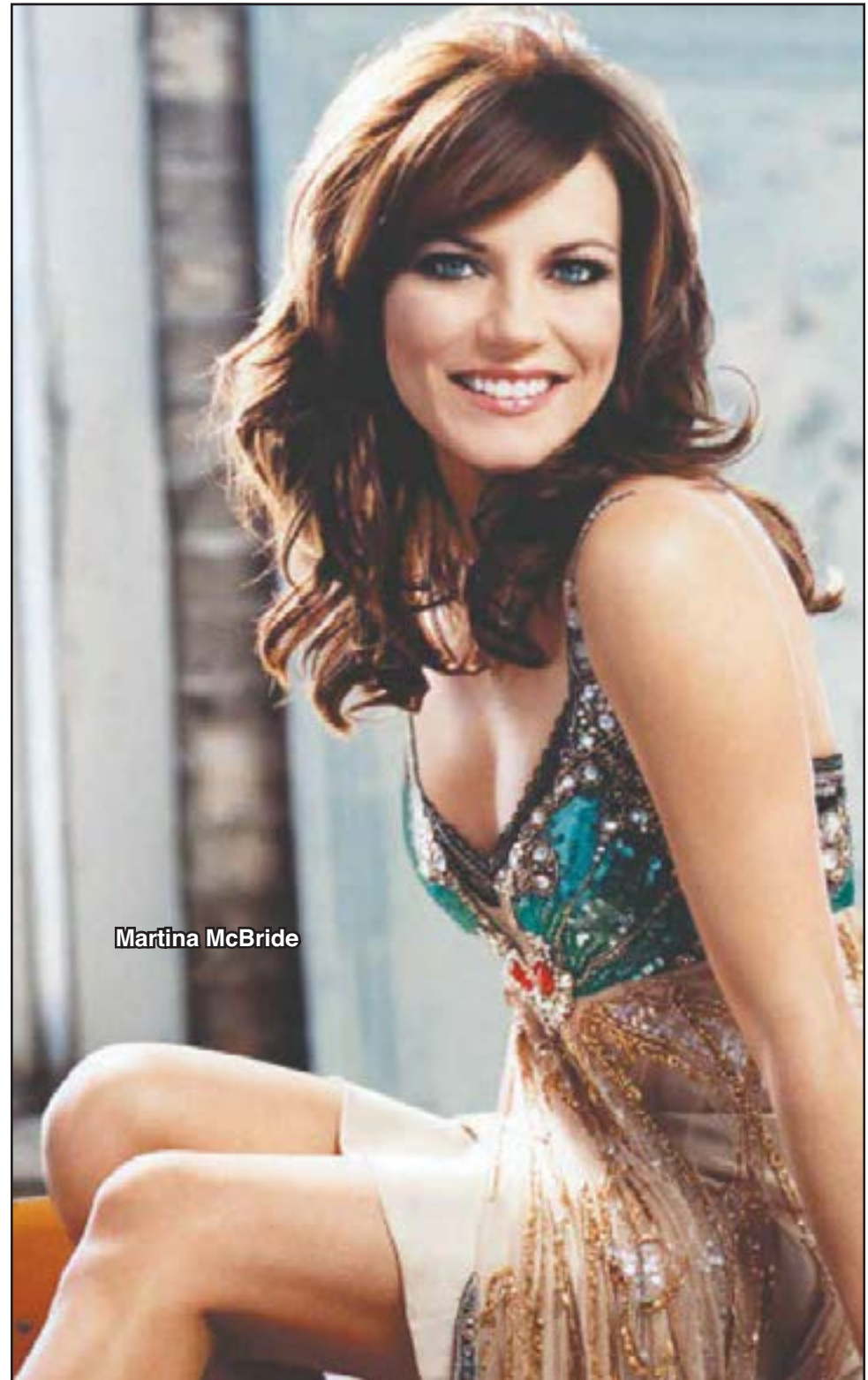
The Richland Co. Fair Board had determined prior to the 2014 Richland County Fair and Rodeo that McBride would be headlining this year; the singer is scheduled to perform in Billings and Helena, as well as in Saskatchewan, Canada around the same time.

Love and Theft will be opening Saturday night. The duo Stephen Barker-Liles and Eric Gunderson have been Academy of Country Music, Country Music Association, and Country Music Television nominees and are known for such hits as "Angel Eyes" and "Runaway". Love and Theft have released three albums: "World Wide Open", "Love and Theft", and "Whiskey on my Breath". The band has also released their version of "Wrong Baby Wrong" which was originally recorded in 2009 by McBride.

Tickets for the concert are on sale at the Richland Co. Fair office, 2118 W. Holly St., Sidney. Packages are \$68 and include one concert ticket, a ticket to each night of the rodeo, and one admission button. General admission pre-sale tickets are \$45 prior to July 31 and \$50 if purchased the week of the fair so hurry into get your tickets today.



Love and Theft



Martina McBride

Sidney ARS Plans Plant, Insect ID Station At Fair

By Beth Redlin

Wondering just what kind of bug that is? Or that funny looking plant? Concerned that you may have unwanted weeds or insect pests encroaching on your garden or field? Bring your samples to the Richland County Fair and get them identified.

Insect and plant specialists with the USDA Agricultural Research Service's Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory (NPARL) in Sidney MT, will be on hand Friday evening of the fair to help identify plant or insect samples brought in by interested fairgoers. The plant and insect identification station will be held at the NPARL fair booth located at the front of the Agricultural Building from 6-8 pm on Friday, August 7.

Interested persons are encouraged to bring their plant and insect samples for identification at that time, although they can also drop off samples throughout the four-day fair for analysis. Insect samples are best brought in plastic or glass jars or containers while plant samples can be brought in plastic or paper bags (paper is best for moist samples). It's also best to have a sample of the whole plant, including roots and flowers wherever possible, to speed identification.

To further speed identification, forms asking for additional information on where a particular plant or insect was collected, along with surrounding habitat and other details, will be available, both at the booth during the fair and ahead of time at the NPARL website (www.ars.usda.gov/pa/nparl). As noted above, persons unable to participate on Friday can bring in samples earlier and drop them at the NPARL booth for analysis. You will be asked to provide a phone number or email address so that we can contact you with the results. We will do the same for those samples researchers are unable to fully identify on Friday.

For more information, contact Beth Redlin at 406-433-9427

or 406-433-2020
or by email
at beth.redlin@ars.usda.gov.

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