

Presentations On Commodity Market Issues Set For National Hard Spring Wheat Show

By Lois Kerr

The 59th Annual Hard Spring Wheat Show Committee has scheduled two speakers to discuss commodity market issues. Mike Krueger, The Money Farm founder and president, along with Jim Peterson, North Dakota Wheat Commission marketing director, will discuss key issues in the global market during this year's Wheat Show proceedings. Both men will speak on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 7 at the Williston Airport International Inn.

Peterson will begin the market discussions at 3 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon. He will zero in on the export markets and will present a talk dealing with important challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the export market for spring wheat and durum.

"I'll take an overall look at the current year and identify the major factors that are challenging our exports and also discuss areas of opportunities," he says. "I will project into

the future to identify potential areas of problems and areas of gain."

He continues, "Everything is not bleak. We are still enjoying good prices and it still looks to be a good year for high wheat prices. I will talk about challenges such as the growing presence of Black Sea wheat, a cheaper wheat that does affect global prices. I'll highlight this and talk about how we can compete and how we can educate buyers."

Peterson considers Asia a success story as Asians are



Jim Peterson



Mike Krueger

mimicking the western lifestyle, including the dietary habits. "Growing interest in the Western lifestyle bodes well for us," Peterson comments. "I'll talk about these factors and how they can prove favorable to us."

Peterson assists with three major program areas: export marketing, trade policy and issues, and research/consumer service. He seeks to increase export and domestic sales of North Dakota grown wheat.

Peterson also gathers and analyzes market information, and evaluates transportation

issues that affect North Dakota.

Following Peterson's presentation, Mike Krueger will speak at 3:30 p.m.on Tuesday, Feb. 7 and will discuss market volatility: what causes this and what it means for our markets and for prices. "I will discuss U.S. and world supply and demand and key market factors," Krueger remarks. "High prices mean good profits."

Krueger founded and serves as president of the Money Farm, a grain marketing advisory service located near Fargo. The service works with individual farmers, country elevators, and others associated with agriculture.

Krueger also serves as senior analyst for World Perspectives, a Washington, DC- based international agricultural consulting company.

Anyone interested in markets, the global outlook, and what challenges and opportunities lie ahead in the coming year should plan to hear these presentations.

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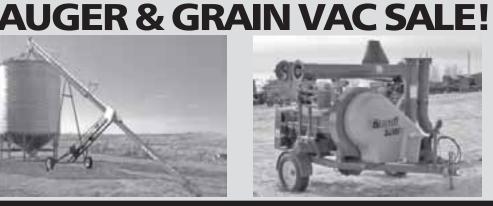
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59th National Hard Spring Wheat Show Set For Feb 6-8

By Lois Kerr

This year's 59th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show will once again offer an outstanding informative event that will provide important, timely information to area Ag producers. This year's educational portion of the show, scheduled for Feb. 7-8 at the Williston Airport International Inn, will offer attendees information and updates on a wide variety of topics, including market information, precision farming, soil health and ecology, cropping practices, and best management practices. People who attend this year's show will have the opportunity to hear three keynote speakers: nationally renowned speaker Danny Klinefelter, James Hoorman and Mike Krueger.

"This year we are intensifying our information on farm business management and soil health as we believe these topics are becoming more and more important for success in the farming operation," says Warren Froelich, Williams County Extension agent. "The Wheat Show committee has identified these areas as high priority issues for producers."

He continues, "We have three keynote speakers this year to cover these topics. Danny Klinefelter was scheduled to speak last year, but because of a snowstorm he was unable to get here, so we have invited him back this year. He will discuss the 12 best management practices, and being prepared to borrow in a risk management environment. Our second keynote speaker, James Hoorman, Ohio State University, has conducted extensive research in the areas of soil health and water quality. He will focus on agricultural cropping systems that mimic the natural world and how these systems tend to be more efficient and profitable. Our third keynote speaker, Mike Krueger, The Money Farm founder and president, will share information about commodity markets."

The educational portion of the Wheat Show begins on Tuesday, Feb. 7 with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast. Attendees will hear a talk on the challenges of change for local governments.

At 9.a.m., keynote speaker Danny Klinefelter will present his 12 best management practices. Following

an 11:30 a.m. lunch, Klinefelter will continue his presentation with a discussion on being prepared to borrow in a risk management environment.

After a 2 p.m. break, sessions continue with a presentation by Jim Peterson on U.S. wheat exports, the challenges and opportunities. At 3:30 p.m., keynote speaker Mike Krueger will discuss the new market volatility and what causes it and what it means. At 5 p.m., attendees can enjoy a deli buffet and social, and at 6 p.m. listen to a talk on precision farming presented by Frontier Equipment and Gooseneck Implement, Williston. This discussion will end the Tuesday presentations.

Educational discussions begin again on Wednesday morning, Feb. 8 at 7:30 a.m. at the Williston Airport International Inn, when Tanja Fransen, National Weather Service, Glasgow will give a 2012 growing season weather outlook. At 9 a.m., sessions resume with keynote speaker James Hoorman discussing soil ecology and nutrient recycling. At 9:45 a.m., representatives from several malt companies, beer breweries, and a researcher in the barley field will present a panel discussion on barley cropping systems in western North Dakota.

James Hoorman returns at 10:40 a.m. with a discussion on the impact of soil compaction and organic matter on soil water storage.

The noon recognition luncheon featuring Coty Black begins at 11:30 a.m.. Black will present an entertaining talk on how to return greater yields in our own lives rather than in our wheat fields.

Following the luncheon, James Hoorman returns for the third and last time to talk about home grown nitrogen. At 2:30 p.m., attendees will hear a report from the U.S. Durum Growers, at 3 p.m. Jeremy Pederson, UDSU area extension cropping specialist will provide a small grain variety update, and at 3:30 p.m., Tom Scherer, NDSU agricultural engineer, will wrap up the proceedings with a discussion on using tile to control salinity and the water table in agricultural fields.

This year's wheat show should provide attendees with excellent, useful information that will help them improve their farming practices.

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Hoorman To Present Soil Quality Discussions

By Lois Kerr

The 59th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show committee has identified soil health and quality as one of the essential issues farmers and ranchers will have to deal with in the coming years. To address soil quality, the committee has invited James Hoorman, Ohio State University assistant professor and Extension educator, as one of three keynote speakers. Hoorman will present three separate talks during the Wheat Show, scheduled for Feb. 6-8 at the Airport International Inn, Williston. Hoorman's topics include soil ecology and nutrient recycling, homegrown nitrogen, and the biology of soil compaction.

Hoorman's first presentation, scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 8, will cover soil ecology and nutrient recycling. "I'll discuss organic matter, microbes, and how they help to recycle nitrogen and phosphorus and the nutrient effect of this," Hoorman comments.



James Hoorman

The second presentation, scheduled for 10:40 a.m., will

deal with the biology of soil compaction, how to increase water storage in the soil, and explain the importance of reducing soil compaction. "Soil compaction reduces infiltration," Hoorman remarks. "Cover crops counteract this, and the more organic matter in the soil, the better everything works. The goal should be to have something living and growing on the soil year round. This mimics Mother Nature, and it allows the soil to store water and nutrients much more efficiently."

Hoorman's third and final presentation, scheduled for 1:45 p.m. will deal with homegrown nitrogen and how landowners can produce nitrogen through the growing of nitrogen producing crops. "I'll talk about how the use of legumes, such as peas or clover, will increase soil nitrogen content," Hoorman says. "People can grow these crops specifically to produce nitrogen."

Hoorman believes soil health will prove to be a major issue in the coming decades.

"We'll have nine billion people to feed by 2050," he observes. "There is one area no one talks about, and that is soil. We discuss genetics but we rarely talk about soil health and quality, but better soil will increase production."

He continues, "For example, a farmer rips out a fence line and puts it into production. He'll get his best crops off that fence line for several years, but after tilling that fence line for years, the row comes down to the level of the rest of the field. We need to improve soil health and water retention ability, so the goal should be to bring the rest of the field up to the level of the fence row, not knock the fence row down to the level of the rest of the field."

Hoorman has conducted extensive research in the areas of soil health and water quality.

Hoorman will present vital information for farmers and ranchers.





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Subsurface Drainage Systems Presentation Scheduled For National Hard Spring Wheat Show

By Lois Kerr

The MonDak region has experienced excessive moisture the past few years, and in some cases this has led to salinity problems in farm fields. Water flows from high spots and pools in lower areas, leaving behind a salty residue and often a very high water table level. To address these subsurface drainage issues, the 59th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show Committee has asked Tom Scherer, NDSU Extension ag en-



Tom Scherer

gineer, to discuss the use of perforated pipe to control salinity and the water table in agricultural fields. Scherer will speak at 3:30 p.m.on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at the Williston Airport International Inn.

"Subsurface drainage is just using buried, perforated pipe to drain off water," says Scherer. "This allows water to drain away, similar to how a sump pump works in a house. This is a form of water table level control, and can be used anywhere that people have local conditions where the water table is a problem. I will focus my discussion on where this method may apply and where it will not apply."

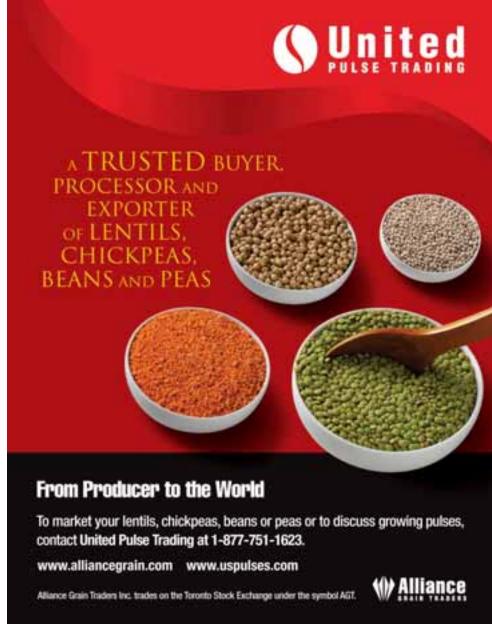
The idea of subsurface drainage may sound like a relatively new idea to those in the MonDak, but subsurface drainage in one form or another has existed for centuries. "This isn't a

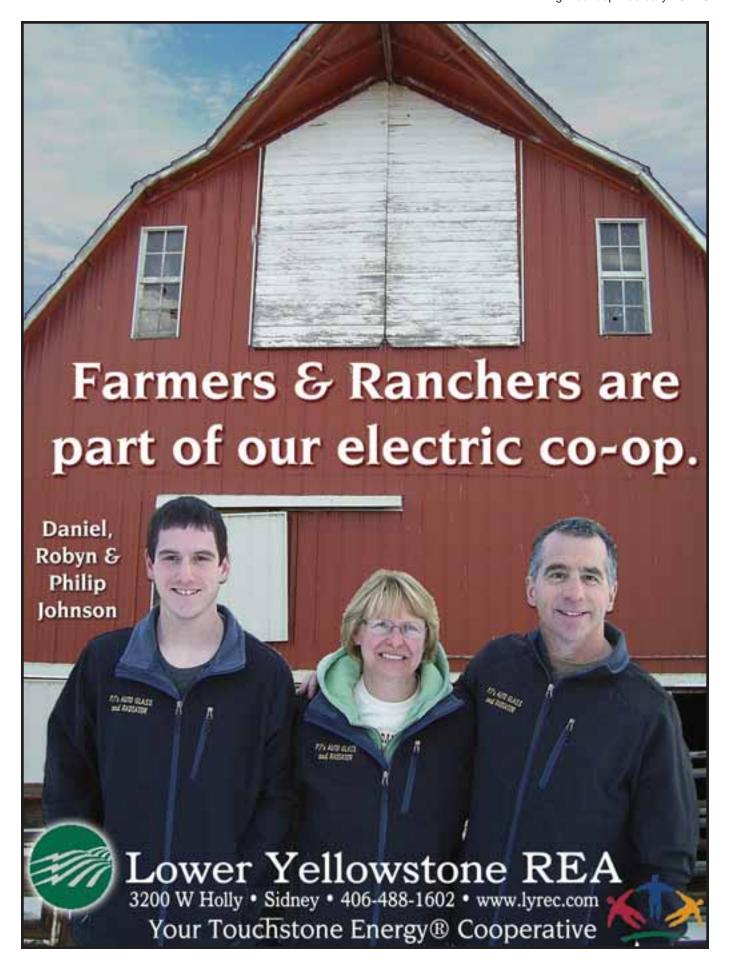
new idea," Scherer points out. "You've heard of the Seven Hills of Rome. Well, in among those hills was swamp land that the Romans drained using subsurface drainage techniques. The Greeks also used this method, so it isn't new technology although it is new to this area. It is all about controlling the rise of the water table level."

He continues, "The first time this was used in the United States was in upstate New York in 1835, and in 1885, 800 acres of New York City's Central Park was tiled for subsurface drainage purposes. In the Red River Valley, people have designed systems for their entire fields."

Scherer points out that generally, farmers bury the perforated pipe three to four feet below ground surface to get good drainage results. "The pipes aren't buried that deeply," he says. "I will talk about this, and I will discuss cost estimates and figures. Technology is changing quickly, so this isn't all that difficult to do. Implementation costs depend upon several variables."

Scherer, born and raised on a Minnesota dairy farm, earned his PhD in ag engineering from the University of Minnesota, Scherer worked for the State of Minnesota and as an assistant professor and irrigation specialist at the University of Arizona prior to accepting his current position as Extension ag engineer with NDSU. His responsibilities as ag engineer include leadership and development of statewide educational programs involving irrigation systems and management, on site wastewater (septic) systems, private water delivery and treatment systems, drainage, and water resource management.

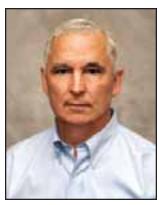




Klinefelter One of Three Keynote Speakers for 59th Annual Hard Spring Wheat Show

By Lois Kerr

The Wheat Show committee has invited Dr. Danny Klinefelter, Texas A&M University and Texas AgriLife Extension economist, to serve as one of three keynote speakers for this year's 59th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show, scheduled for Feb. 6-8 at the Airport International Inn, Williston. Klinefelter will deliver two presentations on Tuesday, Feb. 7 beginning at 9 a.m. and through these dis-



Danny Klinefelter

cussions will present new ideas, stimulate thought and provide attendees with useful information to take home and put to use in their farming operation. "Dr. Klinefelter was to speak last year, but due to storms, he was unable to get here," says Williams County Extension agent Warren Froelich. "We have asked him back this yaer as he is well-known for his understanding of Ag economics."

Klinefelter's first presentation, entitled "Twelve Best Management Practices" begins at 9 a.m. For the past two decades, Klinefelter has directed a program entitled "The Executive Program for Ag Producers (TEPAP)" which features the best farmers and ranchers in America. From these top farmers and ranchers, Klinefelter has culled 12 practices that these outstanding farmers and ranchers routinely follow. Klinefelter also selected these management practices to discuss because anyone can implement them. "These are not necessarily the twelve best management practices, but they are twelve practices that any producer can do if he makes them a priority," Klinefelter remarks. "If someone is looking for ways to get better and to improve his operation, this is a good way to start. These practices require some work, but you don't need much to put them into place. I will focus on what farmers and ranchers can do for their operation by using practices that improve profitability, and that anyone can implement if he wants to."

Klinefelter will present his second talk at 1:45 p.m., when he discusses 'Being Prepared to Borrow in a Risk Management Environment'. He has built this presentation around 12 questions that a producer needs to answer and support before he approaches a lender for credit. "I'll talk about the financial components of a business plan,"

Klinefelter comments. "If a person is prepared at this level, he is very well prepared. Even if a banker does not ask all these questions, a producer still needs to know the answers to these questions if he wants to remain profitable."

The Ag community has experienced a great volatility and a higher premium on risk management in the past several years, and Klinefelter believes this trend will not change. "We'll never go back to the way it was," he says. "The bar has been raised as businesses become more complex. People who don't succeed may work very hard, but being singularly focused is not enough."

He continues, "People better be good at the business, but there are a few things that differentiate the top producers from the rest of the pack. Everyone is concerned with low costs, good information, and a focus on marketing, but these factors alone are not enough. It takes these basics to stay in the game, but to get to the top, a person needs more than this."

Klinefelter points out that people need financial smarts, otherwise known as risk management skills. "Marketing encompasses purchasing as well as selling," he notes. "Farmers need to know how to purchase as well as how to sell. They need to take advantage of opportunities. There are opportunities that arise during the year. I will talk about these opportunities and talk about how to handle risk. Risk brings opportunities but a farmer needs to know how to capitalize on this and he needs to have a plan put together. I will discuss the different practices that the better managers follow."

Besides his role as professor and extension economist with Texas A&M and Texas AgriLife extension, Klinefelter also directs TEPAP and co-directs the Texas A&M Family and Owner-Managed Business program. He also serves as president of his family's Illinois farm corporation.

Klinefelter has authored or coauthored eight books and over 400 articles on management and finance. He was named Honor Professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 2006, and in 2009 the 25th anniversary issue of the Top Producer Magazine listed him as one of 25 people in the world who will have the greatest influence on the future of American agriculture. Klinefelter received the American Agricultural Editors Association's Distinguished Service to Agriculture in 2010.

Klinefelter will deliver a powerful, thought-provoking presentation that can only aid the agricultural sector to improve.



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Monday, Feb. 6

1:00 Bread Fair - 300 area 5th grade students learn to make bread.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

- 7:30 Welcome: Mayor Ward Koeser Breakfast \$6
 Room Host: Ken Kjos
 Challenges of Change for Local Governments
 Dan Kalil, Chairman, Williams County
 Commission, Ward Koeser, Williston Mayor
- 9:00 Twelve Best Management Practices
 Danny Klinefelter, Extension Economist Texas
 A&M University
- 11:30 Room Host: Floyd Miller
 Lunch \$8
 Sponsored by Williams County Farmers Union
 Disasters Greg Wilz, Director, North Dakota
 HomeLand Security

Monday - Wednesday, Feb. 6-8

- 1:45 Room Host: Ron Sylte

 Being Prepared to Borrow in a Risk

 Management Environment Danny Klinefelter,

 Extension Economist Texas A&M University
- 2:30 Break
 3:00 U.S. Wheat Exports Challenges and
 Opportunities

Jim Peterson, Marketing Director North Dakota Wheat Commission

- 3:30 The New Market Volatility What is the Cause & What Does it Mean for Our Markets
 Mike Krueger, Founder and President,
 The Money Farm
- 5:00 Social & Deli Buffet
 Room Host: Keith Brown
- 6:00 Precision Farming What's next?
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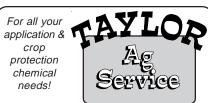
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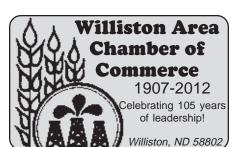
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Wednesday, Feb. 8

- 7:30 Breakfast \$6 Room Host: David Schmidt
 2012 Growing Season Weather Outlook
 Tanya Franzen, National Weather Service,
 Glasgow, Montana
- 9:00 Soil Ecology & Nutrient Cycling
 James Hoorman, Extension Educator, Ohio
 State University
- 9:45 Barley in Western North Dakota Cropping Systems

Representatives from Anheuser-Busch, MillerCoors, Rahr Malting Company, Cargill Malt & the Institute of Barley & Malt Sciences presenting a panel discussion.

10:40 Impact of Soil Compaction & Organic

Matter on Soil Water Storage

James Hoorman, Extension Educator, Ohio
State University

11:30 Recognition Luncheon

MC: Dusty Berwick Roast Beef Dinner \$9 Coordinated by Ag Committee of Williston Area Chamber of Commerce.

Speaker: Coty Back "What Are Your Yields?" His entertaining speech will focus on how to return greater yields in our own lives rather than in our wheat fields.

- 1:45 Home Grown Nitrogen Room Host: David Kjorstad
 James Hoorman, Extension Educator, Ohio State
 University
- 2:30 Report from US Durum Growers
 Keith Deutsch, President, Doug Opland, Vice
 President
- 3:00 Small Grain Variety Update

 Jeremy Pederson, Area Extension Cropping
 Systems Specialist
- 3:30 Using Tile to Control Salinity and the Water
 Table on Agricultural Fields
 Tom Scherer, NDSU Extension Agricultural
 Engineer
 4:00 Adjourn





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Top Ten Growers Harvest Great Crop Despite Tough Year

By Lois Kerr

Sidney Sugars Incorporated held its annual Top Ten Grower award luncheon on Wednesday, Jan. 18 to honor those growers who brought in an outstanding crop. Russ Fullmer, Sidney Sugars agriculture manager, congratulated the top ten growers and pointed out that they, along with the rest of the Valley, faced a lot of challenges this year.

"Last year, we came off a bad winter to start the growing season," Fullmer noted at the luncheon. "We had a huge amount of snow, then spring came and it rained and rained, so growers struggled to get out and plant their crop."

Some growers managed to get started by the end of April, but many acres remained unplanted until late May. Then the warmer air finally melted the remainder of the snow, bringing with it massive flooding. "It kept raining and still the

snow hadn't melted," Fullmer commented. "Then it began melting, and everyone with low fields got hit. Growers lost about 1000 acres throughout the Valley to flooding."

After months of endless moisture, the rains stopped abruptly. Sunshine returned to the Valley, a fact that enabled many fields to begin growing good strong beets. "The spigots got turned off, and away we went," Fullmer commented. "Growers had a lot of weed control to contend with because of all the moisture, but the Roundup Ready beets came up, we had good stands, and beets grew very well."

Growers in all of the area enjoyed great growth with the exception of Savage. Savage growers experienced the wrath of four hailstorms in four weeks, one of which demolished crops in several fields and left other fields stunted and badly damaged. "There was a real whiz-bang storm in Savage," Fullmer said. "Nothing was left and a few fields were totally stripped. Growers in the area had an average loss of 7-8 tons per acre in some fields."

Harvest time finally arrived, bringing unseasonably warm tem-

peratures that put a temporary halt to the harvest process. However, with the return of cooler weather, harvest proceeded quite smoothly. "We started harvest at Sugar Valley in Fairview and at the factory yard on schedule, but it got hot so we delayed harvest for a week," Fullmer said. "Once we got going again, though, everything went well. Growers brought in clean beets and overall harvest continued without interruptions."

Growers averaged 25.2 tons per acre, with an average sugar content of 17.5%.

The open winter has aided storage and the factory has seen minimal pile losses. At press time, only Sugar Valley and the factory yard had beets left for processing. The factory should finish the slice by the end of the month.

Sidney Sugars Incorporated Top Ten Growers Crop Year 2011

247 Acres or More

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar %	Brei N	Quality Rating
6J Farms Inc	. 280	. 33.6	17.46	29	33.95
Payette Farm Inc	. 351	. 29.5	18.20	25	32.70
Country Lane Farms Inc.	. 436	. 29.5	17.97	27	32.43
Justin & Anita Karst	. 460	. 29.3	17.45	28	31.84
Scott & Donna Flynn	. 430	. 27.7	18.08	24	31.71

50 - 246 Acres

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar %	Brei N	Quality Rating
Tveit Land & Cattle Co	130	. 31.9 .	18.24	34	33.85
Gary & Duane Lapp	63	. 29.1 .	18.45	24	32.75
James Bieber	66	.31.2 .	17.32	25	32.68
KAR Inc	200	.30.0 .	17.91	25	32.67
Allen & Carol					
Lachenmaier	202	.27.8	17.95	18	31.69

Congratulations to the "Top 10 Growers" for 2011



Front row (L to R): Tveit Land and Cattle (Nolan and Larry Tveit Jr.); Gary and Duane Lapp; James Bieber; KAR Inc. (Miles Knudsen); Carol and Allen Lachenmaier. Back row (L to R): 6J Farms (Terry Cayko and Toby Miller); Payette Farms Inc. (Kent and Jantz Payette); Country Lane Farms (Bud and Ron Norby); Justin and Anita Karst (Justin Karst); Scott and Donna Flynn (Scott Flynn).

247 Acres or More

Planter **Test Stand Days**

Feb. 22 & 23 Sunrise **Equipment** in Sidney 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar %	Brei N	Quality Rating
6J Farms Inc	. 280	. 33.6	17.46	29	33.95
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164 Sugars Sidney, Montana

6J Farms Garner Top Spot In 246+ Acre Category

By Lois Kerr

6J Farms, Terry and Vicky Cayko, along with essential help from Toby Miller and Cayko families Jacquelyn and Chris Free and Jessica Cayko and her two boys, East Fairview, have earned top spot this year in the 246+ acre category of Sidney Sugars Incorporated's annual top ten recognition awards. Cayko, who has farmed all his life, has been in the Top Ten six times, and has earned top spot twice.

Cayko admits the year looked dismal at the start, but as the season progressed, his crop responded to sun and moisture and produced extremely well. "A lot of my

acres got flooded," Cayko says, "but what survived really produced well. We had 87 sugarbeet acres totally gone from flooding, but as the season progressed I knew I had a good crop and everything just fell into place."

Cayko believes that knowing the land and matching that soil type to the correct seed variety plays a key role in success. "Knowing your ground is essential," he remarks. "Seed companies have different varieties, all of which are good, but you have to know your ground and your disease pressures and choose accordingly. The Valley has been in sugarbeets a long time, and there are a lot of diseases around, so you've got to be careful and choose the variety that best fits your soil type and the prevalent diseases. We've found our ground does best with BetaSeed."

He adds, "We've also learned not to over irrigate early, especially in a wet spring."

Cayko used 100% Roundup Ready beet varieties this year. He appreciates what Round Ready beets allow him to do, and he feels confident seed companies will continue to improve the ability of these varieties to produce more sugar. "We can do a great job on weed control with Roundup Ready beets," Cayko remarks. "The sugar this year didn't reach average levels, but we're seeing a climate change around here and it is staying warm longer into the fall. This contributes to lower sugar content as beets need cooler temperatures to signal them to start producing sugar. However, varieties are getting better all the time and seed companies



Toby Miller, hired hand, and Terry and Vicky Cayko, 6J Farms, Fairview, were the winners this year in the Top Ten 246+ acre category.

can offer varieties with better disease packages and with better sugar producing abilities."

He adds, "It's all a learning process with Roundup Ready beets, but we have a good group of growers and they will adapt."

Cayko credits a lot of his success to his hired man, Toby Miller. "My right hand man is a God- send," he comments. "He's had so much experience farming on his own, and this really helps. If I have to go somewhere, Toby takes over and I know everything will be done correctly."

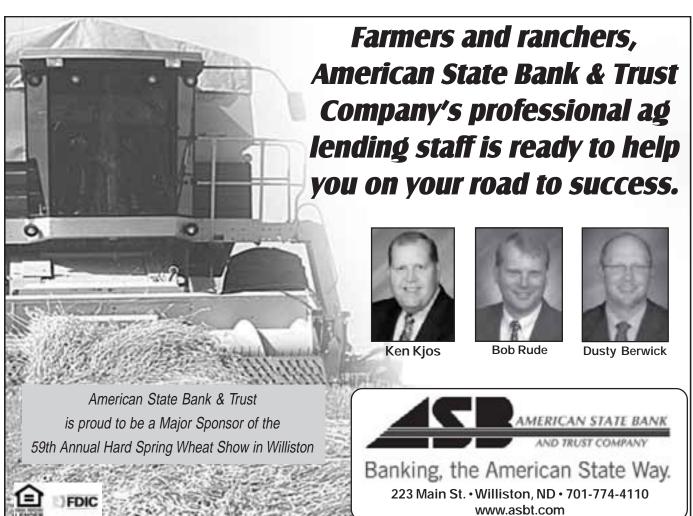
Cayko enjoyed a good harvest this year, with his only delay due to warm temperatures in early October. "We started hauling to Sugar Valley and worked one day before we were shut down because of heat," Cayko says. "We know we need to wait and let temperatures cool down because we can't afford to put warm beets into the pile. This only hurts all of us as warm beets do not store well, so it was a good decision by Sidney Sugars to delay harvest for a week. We were then blessed that the weather held. This was one of the best harvest years we've had. The beets grew during that extra week, so everyone won."

Cayko expects to continue farming for as long as he is able. "I love growing sugarbeets," he concludes. "I watch that tiny seed grow bigger and bigger all summer. With Roundup Ready beets, there are no weeds, so I'm proud to look out and see the beets grow to maturity. That makes it all worthwhile."



Sidney Sugars Top 10 For 2011

Top five growers (50-246 acres) are front row (L to R): 1st - Tveit Land and Cattle Co. (Nolan and Larry Tveit Jr.), Fairview and Culbertson; 2nd - Gary and Duane Lapp, Miles City; 3rd - James Bieber, Fairview; 4th - KAR Inc. (Miles Knudsen), Culbertson; 5th - Carol and Allen Lachenmaier, Miles City. Top five growers (greater than 246 acres) are back row (L to R): 1st - 6J Farms (Terry Cayko and Toby Miller), East Fairview; 2nd - Payette Farms Inc. (Kent and Jantz Payette), Fairview; 3rd - Country Lane Farms (Bud and Ron Norby), East Fairview; 4th - Justin and Anita Karst (Justin Karst, East Fairview); 5th - Scott and Donna Flynn (Scott Flynn), Cartwright.



Tveit Land & Cattle Co. #1 In Sidney Sugars Top Ten

By Lois Kerr

The Tveit Land and Cattle Company, Culbertson and Fairview, has earned top honors this year in the Sidney Sugars Incorporated annual Top Ten growers list. Brothers Larry and Nolan Tveit brought in an outstanding sugarbeet crop this year which earned them the number 1 ranking in the 50-246 acre category.

The Tveits, farming together since they both graduated from high school, have an irrigated farm in Culbertson and a dryland farm between Sidney and Culbertson. With the exception of a two-year hiatus, the Tveits have grown sugarbeets for the past two decades and in that 20 years, the brothers have made the top ten list five times and earned the top spot this year for the second time.

The brothers enjoy growing sugarbeets, but they stopped planting the crop in 2007 due to seemingly insurmountable weed issues, but in 2009 they once again began growing beets, thanks to Roundup Ready varieties. "Kochia is the number 1 weed problem for us, and because of weed populations, we didn't grow beets for two years" says Larry Tveit. "Roundup Ready beets allowed us to control weeds. Sugarbeets are a viable crop now because of the price of sugar, so we started growing them again in 2009. If we can grow a crop that brings a return, we will do it."

The Tveits have an established rotation, and this year, because of the massive flooding experienced by so many growers, luck played a role in their success. "We have land under flood irrigation and land under pivots," Larry remarks. "We hit the right year in our rotations for sugarbeets as this

was the year we planted them on the flood irrigated fields. The land we have under pivots we couldn't plant this year because it was under water."

The brothers do not feel they do anything unusual to produce an outstanding crop. They do agree, however, that although Mother Nature, of course dictates the weather, sound management practices do make a difference in success rate. "Any grower can be in the top ten in any given year," says Larry. "Mother Nature is key; we cannot control the weather we get. However, management is important."

"Timing is very important," adds Nolan. "Timing is more crucial in a sugarbeet crop than it is in many other crops. Paying attention to detail is required. If the crop needs sprayed on Sunday, spray on Sunday, not on Saturday or Monday."

Harvest brings its own set of challenges, from finding help to adverse weather conditions. The Tveits find farming in Culbertson, particularly when harvest time rolls around, slightly different than farming a few miles further south, as those few miles often mean a change in weather conditions and may require a change of harvest plans. "There are different conditions in Culbertson," says Larry. "It generally gets colder earlier, but this year it was too warm and we were shut down for a week, which caused problems with our harvest crew. However, it is in everyone's best interest for beets to store well, and we see more pile loss when beets are brought in too hot, so we understood the delay."

Another key factor in a successful harvest lies in the abilities of the harvest crew. "Having the proper employees

is important," Larry remarks. "A good harvest crew gives you an edge, and it also makes it easier and a little less stressful. If you have good weather, a good crop, and a good crew, it really helps."

Nolan adds, "It's getting harder to find people to help. Harvest is always stressful, but it can be fun, too, when the weather cooperates. I think this year, after the heat delay, we had a nearly perfect harvest. This let us get the beets out more quickly with a short crew. The crew made it possible."

The Tveits do not plan to make any significant changes for next year. They also expect to see sugarbeet crops continue to improve, thanks to better seed. "We'll follow our normal rotation," Larry concludes. "The sugarbeet companies are coming out with new and better seed and with more disease-resistant packages. This will help everyone have better crops."

Congratulations to the Tveits for bringing in a super crop.



Nolan (left) and Larry Tveit.

DAWSON COUNTY HOUSE & REAL ESTATE

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012 at 2:00 P.M.

Sale Location: HUNGRY IOE HALL, GLENDIVE, MT



The Owners Chardmand Karen Adamson will offer the following property to the public at auction. The final but will be subject to their approval. The Owners reserve the right to accept at reject any and all bids.

From Glendie, MT - Bernieft an Road 261 (Gate City Radiator & Welding) for 2 5 miles.

HISPORT DOOR PROV.

TOTAL ACRES + 7-6 DEEDED ACRES
Section 17, Township 134, Range 525, Sovery is pending.
Includes 1014 sq ft Insuse w/3 bedooms, 2-baths, shigle car
affected garage, 126 sq ft enclosed porch, wood deck, certail
se, full finished becemen, 25-80 Wood Barn witin root, 20x125
Lagn to Pole Framo, 30x00 implement shod wiperfoliom 6-2
big doors (1-overhead), 30x00 shell Quonat, 3400 bushel
Grain film, 3 wells (2-submersibles, 1-wipump jack)

PARCEL (ID) TWO TOTAL ACRES +/-74.9 DEEDED ACRES OF WHICH +/-72.4 ACRES ARE FLOOD WRIGATED Section 17, Township 15M, Runge 55E flast in S25E4

FWHICH + /- SB.68 ACRES + /-42, 11 DEEDED ACRES
OF WHICH + /- SB.68 ACRES ARE FLOOD RRIGATED
Section 17, Township 15M, Range SSE C.O.S. 945, Tact 2 in
Sed

Repids Irrigation District. There is arrigation pipe as well as some buried main line pipe to imigate Pancels (1) One and (2) Two. This is all flood intigation.

A title commitment has been intered and will be available, at

their inspersit to prospective beyons for impection prior in sale day. The above may or may not be the proper legal description, it was taken from the Dawson County tax malegia. The above down distantible fine property to be south.

There is tentactic Goose hunting in the fields in the fall and Winter.

No romanal rights transfer.

All water rights held will transfer.

Taxes will be pro-caled from the day of classing.

Standard sweary life insurance will be provided by the seller through First American Title Holding Company, 264 N Kendrick Ave, Suite 205. Glendive, MT (405):95-5482

Cash. 10% down sale day, the belance due at chosing the week of May 28th, 2012 at the offices of George Huss, Attorney at Law, 507 Pleasant Street, Miles City, MT 59301 406-234-3054.

A 2% buyer's premium will be added to the woming 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 tall to close, the down payment is non-retundable. If the Deliers hall to close, 100% of the down payment will be returned. At this time there is no known reason that the Sellers would not be able to close. All funds are held in the encrow account of George Huss. Altomay at Law. 507 Pleasant Street, Miles City, MT 50301. 406-234-3054.













AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:

What a great location so it is only 5 minutes from Glendive! The house is older but has been well taken care of and is very nice. This land is very productive due to the irrigation.

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"Take A Break"

By Lois Kerr

LOOP-A-WORD WHEAT

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

S	Е	K	Α	С	D	N	U	0	R	G	Е	N	0	Т	S
М	Ν	С	Τ	1	U	С	S	-	В	Α	G	G	Ζ	Ε	D
Α	Ν	-	L	0	Μ	Ε	S	S	Ρ	Α	Ν	С	Α	Κ	E
L	W	В	M	Α	С	Α	R	0	Ν	I	Ρ	I	С	Κ	R
L	Н	Α	Ν	Α	1	С	Κ	F	L	0	U	R	R	Ζ	Α
G	Ο	G	F	Ε	Т	R	0	Ρ	Ρ	В	Α	Τ	S	Α	Р
R	U	Ε	U	F	Т	-	M	0	С	В	R	Ε	В	I	F
Α	Ν	L	Υ	0	L	U	٧	Α	Κ	R	U	Ε	S	Ρ	R
1	M	U	R	U	D	Ε	L	Т	Ε	I	Α	Ν	Α	R	В
N	- 1	Ε	Τ	0	R	Ρ	0	G	R	S	Ε	С	S	D	Υ
P	L	Α	Ν	Τ	R	R	W	-	Ν	Т	Ε	R	Κ	Ε	R
В	L	U	Ε	Ε	Т	Т	R	U	Ε	L	Α	Ε	R	Ε	С
N	0	I	Τ	I	R	Τ	U	Ν	L	Т	0	С	Н	0	R
Н	R	Ζ	L	S	Ρ	R	1	Ν	G	Т	S	R	Α	С	S
U	Ε	L	0	Ζ	Ε	Α	S	0	Ο	R	G	Α	Ν	I	С
L	Α	F	Α	Ν	I	F	F	U	Μ	D	R	U	0	S	Р
L	Т	М	R	Е	G	Т	Α	Е	Н	W	W	Н	ı	Т	Ε

bagel dough muffin small grain white biscuit dumpling nutrition semolina winter bran durum organic soft sour(dough) bread éclair pancake farina stoneground buns pasta cake fiber plant spring(wheat) cereal flour popover toast cheese(cake) gluten pretzel tortilla cookie vitamins hull protein cracker kernel red(wheat) waffle donut roll wheatgerm macaroni

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

1. __ A T C H 2.B R O __ D 3. __ I G H T 4. C H A _ M

5. B L __ N D

6. C L A __ P 7. S __ A C K 8. L __ D G E 9. S P O R **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.

Pasta Varieties ex: spaghetti

ODYDVAP

FPZTCIPOOC

TDIDZNAC

HPAAP

OCAVQ CAP

SNG XCPY

WQYCOOC

ZNXCAC

WPXXQIICAP

See answers on page 26.







Ag Related Disaster Discussion Slated For 59th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show

By Lois Kerr

North Dakotans know the toll the oilfield traffic has taken on state roadways. To a lesser extent, people realize that the weather conditions North Dakota has experienced the last few years also have contributed to serious road problems within the state. To address disasters as they relate to the ag community, with an emphasis on the road conditions rural North Dakota must deal with, the 59thAnnual National Hard Spring Wheat Show Committee has asked Greg Wilz, North Dakota Homeland Security director, to speak during the Tuesday, Feb. 7 session of the Wheat Show, held at the

Williston Airport International Inn. Wilz will speak during the Tuesday noon luncheon.

"I'll be focusing on the effect of disasters on the ag community," Wilz remarks. "I'll talk about the disasters North Dakota has seen in terms of the impacts they have had."

He continues, "The roads are dreadful, and this goes be-

yond the oil field impacts.
Natural disaster



Greg Wilz

impacts, such as record snowfall, have left roads in part of the state where people can't even get to their fields."

Wilz points out that over the past three years, North Dakota has lost roads that will never be usable again. "The state will have to rebuild or reroute many of these roads," he says. "At one level, rural roads where there is oil activity are an issue, but outside of the oil impacts, there's another issue. Through snow and flooding, over 1400 roads in North Dakota need a grade raise on parts of them as they are still under water. The constant moisture has filled up the prairie potholes, and North Dakota is the heartland of these prairie potholes. Some areas that have been dry for the last 20 years are now back in sloughs and marshes."

Wilz, since January of 2006, has reorganized the Department of Emergency Services into two divisions and has restructured the state's planning and response process. He believes the state needs to take a proactive approach in supporting local governments.

During his tenure as director, Wilz has supported 11 declared presidential disasters and numerous state declared emergencies.



Nypen Retires From LYIP

By Lois Kerr

After serving the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP) for 17 years, Manager Jerry Nypen will retire effective Feb. 17 to pursue other interests. "I've been at this type of work for nearly 40 years, and I decided it was time to try other things," Nypen remarks. "When you work for wages, there's no reason to do the same thing your entire life."

Nypen began his duties with LYIP in January 1995, bringing with him 21 years of prior experience gained from different irrigation districts. "I managed the Greenfields Irrigation District near Great Falls for 17 years," Nypen remarks. "It was an 83,000-acre rehabilitation and betterment project northwest of Great Falls. I got acquainted with Don Steinbeisser and Bud Groskinsky, and they had an interest in me coming to Sidney to do rehabilitation work on this project. They, along with Glenn Asbeck, had the foresight to want to keep LYIP improved, so they convinced me to relocate to Sidney to help."

He adds, "The Board of Control here was already making improvements. I continued to assist in this process and to provide additional measures."

Nypen likes to rebuild; to make improvements in order to better serve the needs of the water users. He set to work upon arriving in Sidney and 17 years later, he can look back at some true accomplishments. "We developed a water accountability system and rehabilitated all of the waterways to improve carrying capacity," Nypen remarks. "We've tried to combine conservation efforts while at the same time improving service to farmers by reducing rationing periods and increasing the capacity of the system. We've installed supplemental structures at creek crossings such as Lone Tree Creek in Sidney, and we've installed automated control structures on the main canal to reduce waste and improve water distribution."

He adds, "Conservation measures in this irrigation district are always ongoing as there are always improvements to be made. Farming keeps getting more intense all the time and farmers can't afford any crop stress."

Nypen will not single out one particular upgrade as any more important than any other. "All improvements are important," he notes. "All of them lead to improved delivery efficiency so that adequate water is delivered through the high water demand periods. LYIP's biggest concern is to be able to deliver water at all times in proper amounts in a fair and equitable manner."

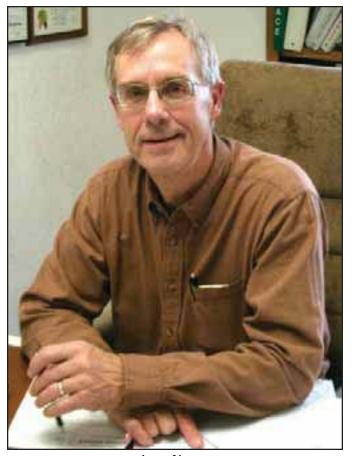
He continues, "There is a very concerted effort here from both the irrigation district and the water users to

use water prudently. When I started here in Sidney, farmers predominantly used flood irrigation methods. There have been continual improvements in flood irrigation practices but also about 20% of the farm units are now set up with sprinkler systems and that number will grow dramatically in the future. It is this combined effort that really defines this area as a leader in water conservation."

Nypen appreciates his time in Sidney and acknowledges the assistance and support he has received from the community. "I have had the privilege of working with good people," Nypen remarks. "I've worked with five irrigation district boards and they all have been excellent to work for. Sidney itself has its own splendor and I will miss this."

Nypen will move to Minnesota to start the next phase of his life. "One important reason for moving to Minnesota is to be closer to our son's family, especially our two grandchildren, before they grow up," Nypen says. "It will be hard to leave Sidney, but new adventures lie ahead. We've never lived in Minnesota, but I'm sure we'll find splendor there in our rural setting."

He concludes, "It is time to pursue something new. I'm not retiring, I'm just changing venues.



Jerry Nypen

Bergman Retires From MSU/EARC To Accept Position With WREC

By Lois Kerr After serving 38 years as agronomist, plant breeder, and director of the Montana State University's Eastern Agricultural Research Center (EARC), Sidney, Dr. Jerry Bergman has retired from the MSU university system effective Dec. 31. Bergman has accepted a permanent position with the Williston Research **Extension Center** (WREC) as director of the facility, a position he has held on



Bergman speaking at the EARC groundbreaking ceremony.

a part time basis for the past 18 years. Bergman began his duties with WREC on Jan. 1 and will oversee dryland and irrigated crop research and the pure seed production.

Bergman made the switch to the Williston center for a variety of reasons, with the principal reasons pertaining to budget issues and size of the respective centers. "I decided to take this step and the big factor is budgets," Bergman remarks. "The budget for WREC is \$1.6 million, while the budget for the EARC is \$423,000. Unlike the EARC, which has had no funding for capital equipment and no funding for seasonal workers, Williston has money for equipment and has funding to hire seasonal help."

He continues, "The WREC also has 160 acres of irrigated land at Nesson Valley and 800 acres of dryland at the research center. We also will lease an additional 500 acres of dryland with a high water table. The EARC in Sidney has 110 irrigated acres and 40 acres of dryland. With the larger budget and more land at the Williston center, possibilities for expanded research at the WREC are much higher."

The WREC currently tests 22 different dryland and irrigated crops. Bergman plans to increase cropping system research, along with value added and high value crop research.

Bergman praises the North Dakota legislature with its vision for agriculture. "Statewide, North Dakota appreciates agriculture and supports Ag research," he remarks. "North Dakota is a strong supporter of agriculture and makes a larger investment in agriculture and agricultural growth than does Montana."

Bergman will leave his safflower research behind, but he hopes MSU continues to grow and develop what he has established in safflower breeding and development. Bergman also plans to continue the cooperative effort between the EARC and the WREC. "The three independent research programs we had at the EARC were safflower, sugarbeets and durum," Bergman states. "We cooper-

ated with the WREC as Williston tested durum, winter wheat, and early generation safflower for the EARC, and at the EARC we tested early generation malt barley and corn under irrigation to help develop improved irrigated malt barley and corn for the MonDak. My hope is that all the research will continue, and I will do everything I can to strengthen and continue this cooperation, not only with the EARC but also with the USDA/ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Lab, Sidney. I also hope we can continue to share resources to avoid duplication and to get the best use we can from staff, the facilities, and the equipment. My view is that whatever advances can be made at any of our agricultural research centers benefits and enhances the MonDak region."

He adds, "I would have preferred to continue the formal cooperative relationship between MSU and NDSU that we had going for the past 18 years, but that is not an option."

Bergman appreciates the support he has received from the Sidney area and from area ag businesses and interests. "I greatly appreciate my thirty eight years at the EARC and all the support I've received from ag producers, Richland Economic Development, and the community," Bergman concludes. "I also appreciate the strong support from Sidney Sugars and the MonDak sugarbeet growers. They have been outstanding. It is amazing the support the EARC received from them for research. The Montana Wheat and Barley Commission also has strongly supported Ag research by providing grants, and safflower companies have also been very good to us."

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Conservation District Accepting Applications For Conservation Cost Share Program

Richland County Conservation District is currently taking applications for their conservation cost share program. The program is in its second year with funding for the program provided by the Richland County Commissioners. In 2011, landowners were able to improve irrigation systems, drill water wells for livestock, install stockwater tanks, fences and pipelines and plant trees with this program. The District is targeting landowners that would like to implement conservation practices but they never rank well with the NRCS EQIP program due to the size of their projects. Small projects are the focus of this program.

Landowners in Richland County seeking to implement conservation practices on their property may be eligible for 50% cost share on the practices. The conservation districts share for 2012 is limited to \$5000 per applicant. Practices must benefit the natural resources in Richland County, design standards and specifications need to follow NRCS speci-

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February Puzzle Answers

Keyword: horseshoe

Crypto-list: asagne, vermicelli, macaroni, penne, linguini, bow ties, fusilli, rotini,

fettuccini

fications where applicable. Applications are available at the conservation district office and will be accepted until Feb. 28. The conservation district will rank the applicants using ranking criteria and contracts will be awarded by March 31. Proposed practices must be completed within one year of approval and payment will be made upon completion and inspection of the project. Projects that have been implemented prior to contract agreements are not eligible for cost share. The Richland County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will make all decisions on prioritizing and acceptation of applications.

If you have a smaller conservation practice that would enhance the natural resources in Richland County, stop by the conservation district office at 2745 W Holly St. to pick up an application or call 433-2103x101 to have an application sent to you. Applications are due back to the conservation district by Feb. 28 and applicants will be notified by March 31, 2012 if they will be funded.

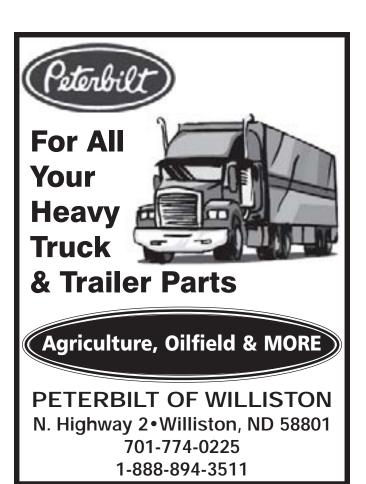
The Art Of Farming WIFE Calendar Art Contest Rules

In recognition of National Agriculture week (National Agriculture Day March 8, 2012), WIFE (Montana Women Involved in Farm Economics) invites Montana's school children to express their ideas on farm life by participating in WIFE's 26th statewide calendar art contest. Winning entries grades K-8 will be awarded a cash prize at the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place levels in each grade's division. Winners whose pictures are used will also receive a calendar.

All entries are to be done horizontally on 8 ½ x 11" white paper with dark, black lead pencil or black ink. Any aspect of agriculture that is of interest to the students may be drawn. Any depiction of alcohol or tobacco will not be accepted. Student's name, grade, school, address, town and zip code should be clearly printed on the back of their picture.

No entries can be returned, but WIFE may display or use student's artwork for various WIFE projects throughout the state. Entries must be postmarked on or before April 15, 2012. Artwork will be judged on the basis of originality.

Please send all entries to: Gladys Walling, PO Box 55, Winifred, MT 59489, 406-462-5330 for more information.





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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 ap-

proximately 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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Canine Influenza A Potential Problem

By Lois Kerr

We all remember West Nile, a virus passed to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes. Because this disease was new to the human population, we did not have antibodies for it. Some people caught the virus and never knew it as their bodies could handle it; others became mildly ill, and a few people who caught the virus became quite sick. A handful of people died from this disease.

Well, it is now the turn of our canine companions to go through the same process. Canine influenza is spreading throughout the U.S., and although some dogs that contract the virus show few symptoms, other dogs can become ex-

Canine influenza, a new disease for dogs, can strike any size or breed of dog. Symptoms associated with this upper respiratory disease can be mild or quite severe, depending on the individual dog's ability to fight the virus. The influenza can make a dog quite ill and can prove lethal in some cases.

tremely sick very quickly and can die within the span of a few short days after exposure to this virus.

First documented in Florida in 2001, the virus quickly spread throughout the southern tier states, along the east coast, and through to west coast states. By 2009, veterinarians had documented confirmed cases of this influenza in 30 states, and today, 38 states have documented cases of canine influenza. Although to date Montana, North and South Dakota, and Nebraska have had no confirmed cases in dogs, Idaho and Wyoming do have documented cases of canine influenza, which means it is only a matter of time before the virus reaches the MonDak region.

Dr. Jessica Waldock, High Plains Veterinary Clinic DVM, Sidney, explains that this is a new viral disease for dogs and that those people who plan to take dogs with them out of state, or who board their dogs frequently, need to consider vaccination as a means of protecting their animal friends. "Canine influenza is an upper respiratory disease," she says. "Dogs cough, similar to a kennel cough; they may be lethargic, depressed, have no appetite, and may initially have a high fever. This is a new disease, so dogs have no antibiotic response to it and it can hit dogs hard. The influenza travels quickly, but so far is mainly prevalent in the south, in kennels, racing areas and boarding facilities. If you plan to take your dog into any of these areas, you should vaccinate the animal and give it a booster prior to leaving, and then vaccinate annually. Even if you just plan to board your dog, ideally it should still have the vaccination."

She adds, "Some dogs that catch this influenza will be fine, while others will get very sick."

If a dog becomes ill with canine influenza, it must be quarantined from other dogs for a two-week period. "Incubation is generally two to four days," Waldock comments. "After resolution of the virus, it can still take up to ten days for a dog to shed the virus, so the animal needs to be isolated for a two-week period."

Waldock advises that vaccination does not ensure that a dog will not get the influenza. Rather, vaccination helps the dog fight the virus. "Vaccination does not prevent canine influenza," she remarks. "It is not a treatment; it is supportive care and decreases the clinical symptoms."

Waldock recommends that anyone who notices their dog coughing or exhibiting other upper respiratory problems should contact a veterinarian immediately. "Come in and visit your veterinarian if your dog shows signs of upper respiratory distress," Waldock says. "We also recommend that you vaccinate your dog if you plan to board it, take it out of state, or if it comes into frequent contact with other dogs."

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A Little Bit Country

Youth Horse Group Organized

By Warren Froelich NDSU Extension Agent, Williams County

In one of my columns early last summer I mentioned there was an effort by some parents to organize a 4-H youth group which would focus its studies and activities around horses. I am happy to report such a group has been formally organized. Currently, it involves approximately a dozen young, enthusiastic boys and girls who reside in areas from Ray to Williston. Judging from the first two meetings, the young members are very eager to learn about the care and training of horses.

As with any youth development venture, adults are needed to give guidance and leadership. Often times this adult involvement is the biggest obstacle to establishment of the formal youth ventures. In this instance, the group is very fortunate to have Dave Smithberg and Tana Conlin offer their time to coordinate learning activities of the club. With their leadership and involvement of many of the moms and dads, this group has a great start on the journey to learn a lot about those things necessary for a good relationship between man and horse.

Unusable Pesticides Collected Through Project Safe Send

Each summer I call attention to project Safe Send, a program whereby the North Dakota Department of Agriculture travels across the state to collect unusable pesticides. This past July one of the 12 stops was Williston.

Agriculture Commissioner, Doug Goehring, reports more than 380 people brought in a total of 189,996 lbs. of potentially dangerous pesticides. Included in this year's collection were products such as DDT, arsenic, strychnine and mercury compounds. Veolia Environmental Services, Blaine, MN, collected, repackaged and transported all of the pesticides to out-of-state incinerators.

Since 1992, more than 7,700 people have used Project Safe Send to get rid of their unusable pesticides, almost three million pounds. Project Safe Send is funded by fees paid by pesticide manufacturers to register their products in North Dakota. Public involvement and support has helped maintain the program's strong, bipartisan backing in the North Dakota Legislature.

Details of a 2012 Project Safe

Send have yet to be announced. It is a safe bet the Ag Department will conduct a collection but the pick-up point for this area will likely be at another nearby community.

Mountrail Durum Ranks High

The 2011 Research Report contains performance data of all the crops and their varieties grown in this region. Because durum is the number one crop in acreage for this area, I am always interested in how the varieties compare in yields. A quick glance at the 2011 yields shows a lot of variability, usually depending on location. For instance, yields at New Town and Crosby were unusually low while the data obtained from the Powers Lake and Ray off-station sites were nothing to write home about.

So, I studied the 3-year averages. There is data for about 15-20 varieties. Often, all of the numbers lead to indecision, anyway for me. However, there is one durum variety that always seems to be at the top or very near the top. It is Mountrail. Over the three years, 2009-2011, Mountrail is at the top of the list at Crosby and Ray and comes in second at the Powers Lake and New Town locations.

Copies of the research report are available free of charge. I encourage growers to study this data as you make variety decisions for 2012.

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Steam Tractor Finds Home In Crane



Dave and his son Daniel plowing with the Case Engine on June 14, 2009 at the Lewistown (Pioneer Power Days) antique tractor and engine show.

By Lois Kerr

Boys never grow up; their toys just get bigger and more expensive. Or so says Dave Vanek, Billings, who delights in acquiring old tractors and then restoring these antiques to working condition. Vanek recently sold one of his three restored 'toys', a 1912 Case Steam Traction Engine, to Jerry Satra, Crane.

"I bought this Case Steam Traction Engine (tractor) in 1987 from a family estate sale near Medicine Hat, Alberta," Vanek remarks of the tractor now in Crane. "I restored it in 1989 and took it to its first threshing show in Lewistown in 1990 and I've taken the tractor to that show ever since. This particular tractor is the second of three that I've restored."

He laughs and adds, "I've been interested in old tractors ever since I first crawled onto the seat of one near Geraldine, MT. when I was four years old. I own that one now, too! The restoration and use of these tractors is just so cool. It's an antique tractor disease that you never get over. My dad calls it the 'rust disease' and claims it is terminal."

Vanek points out that these old steam tractors, which have a top speed of 2.5 miles per hour, required a lot of work and several men to keep them running, but they still accomplished more in a day than could a team of horses. These tractors also made it possible to break more ground in the west. "These tractors were used for breaking sod, threshing, saw mill work, and any other chore requiring belt or drawbar power," Vanek explains. "Western U.S. and Canada were broken up with these steam engines as these machines can easily pull an eight bottom moldboard plow, depending on engine size, of course."

Farmers typically used coal to stoke these tractors, which work exactly like a steam locomotive, but farmers

could also use wood, straw, oil, or any other fuel to build steam to power the machine. "Most farmers used coal or oil when farming because of the practicality of those fuels," Vanek comments. "If the engines were used to run saw mills, then wood was the fuel of choice for obvious reasons, and at threshing time farmers often burned straw."

Farmers needed both water and a fuel source to keep the tractors running. "You have to have water in the boiler, fill it to the proper level, then build a fire and heat it up," Vanek says. "It takes about two hours to build up enough steam to run the machine. There's a sight glass on the boiler to show you the water level. The engineer has to balance the fire and the water to get the proper pressure."



Jerry Satra and Dave Vanek in front of the Case Steam engine.

He continues, "Once it is running, it needs constant attention, so farmers usually had a crew. It takes two people to run a steam engine, the fireman who keeps the pressure up and manages the fuel input, and the engineer who operates and maintains it. Another one or more people had to haul water and fuel from a source to the tractor."

This model has a single speed, and goes the same speed forward or backward. Vanek says that some of these steam engines had a higher road gear for use as freighting engines.

Vanek enjoyed working with this tractor and attended the Lewistown tractor show with it, but eventually he decided to part with this machine. "I had a lot of fun with this tractor and so did my kids," Vanek says. "We even paraded it down Main Street in Lewistown. However, I decided to sell it to pay off student loans."

Jerry Satra, the new owner, first saw this machine at Lewistown and he promptly fell in love with it. When Vanek put the tractor up for sale, Satra heard of it through a friend and contacted

Vanek. The result? The tractor now has a new home.

"This tractor was a delayed Christmas present to myself," Satra comments. "I'm still thinking about what I'll do with it. If I can find a saw mill, I'll use the tractor to run that."

He laughs and concludes, "I don't think I'll farm with it, but watch for black smoke this spring."



Vanek points out some of the finer details of the Case steam traction engine to new owner Jerry Satra.



This Case steam engine has provided a lot of fun for Dave Vanek, right, who has now sold this toy to Jerry Satra, left.

Ag Researchers

Test Pulse Seeds For Ascochyta

By MSU News Service

Researchers at Montana State University are seeing an increase in the number of samples of pulse crops containing significant amounts of the fungus blight Ascochyta over the past year.

The findings represent an increase compared to blight researchers found in the 2010 samples, particularly in the lentil crop. With pulse crops going into the ground soon, there is some confusion about the acceptable level of Ascochyta in a given crop.

Ascochyta is a potentially serious fungal disease in pulse crops, including lentils, peas and chickpea. The disease can defoliate plants and spread rapidly. One way to prevent Ascochyta blight is to plant fungus-free seed. Growers can test seed lots for Ascochyta, by sending a sample to the MSU Seed Lab.

The test takes 10 days after the seed is plated, as the fungus needs to grow out of the seeds before it can be identified. Send seed to the MSU Seed Lab now to leave plenty of time to receive the results and make management decisions before planting.

While there are no definitive acceptable levels of the fungus, there are guidelines:

There is a 0% tolerance for chickpea because it is very susceptible to Ascochyta blight.

Pea and lentil are more resistant, so MSU Plant Pathologist Mary Burrows recommends less than 2-5% Ascochyta in the seed for these crops.

There are no definitive thresholds for disease development: a higher number may indicate a greater risk for disease development because more fungus goes into the field, but it does not necessarily mean the disease will manifest.

Conversely, a low/zero number does not mean the disease will not occur. The disease requires a susceptible crop, the pathogen and a conducive environment.

If the level of Ascochyta is above the threshold, Burrows recommends using LSP/Mertect fungicide at planting. This is the only seed treatment fungicide with good efficacy against Ascochyta blight according to MSU trials. This is applied in addition to seed treatment to control damping off and root rots.

Dynasty (azoxystrobin) can also be effective for lentils, but is not registered for peas and not recommended for chickpea since it's a strobilurin.

The species of Ascochyta causing blight in chickpea in Montana and North Dakota is resistant to strobilurin fungicides. There are a number of fungicide options if disease develops in the field, but application soon after disease onset is critical for the control of this rapidly spreading disease.

For specific directions, call the Seed Lab at 406-994-2141 or visit online at http://plantsciences.montana.edu/seedlab.



Sidney High School FFA Places 3rd

The Junior Varsity Farm Business Management team for Sidney FFA for Jan. 16 was made up of Ethan Chamberlain, Emily Schaff and Marianne Gartner. This team tested for a 3rd place finish. Only three points separated the top three teams. First place team was Lambert FFA, followed by Plentywood FFA prior to Sidney's placing of third. Eleven teams from northeastern Montana participated. Individually, Ethan tied for 1st, Emily placed 7th and Marianne placed 17th out of 50 area FFA competitors. The next Career Development Event is Agriculture Mechanics on Feb. 20. Over 13 schools are expected to attend with over 140 volunteers, junior varsity or varsity contestants. Sidney is the host for the event and welcomes community support and volunteers for the day's event. Businesses are welcome to supply extra awards/prizes for top contestants. Please contact Gary Schaff at gschaff@sidney.k12.mt.us or call 433-2330 and leave a message.







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AUCTIONEERS NOTE

Roger and Matthew at Riverside Marine & Cycle will be holding their semi-annual ATV and Motorcycle Inventory Reduction Auction on February 25, 2012. This will be the first year that it will he held in Sidney, MT. These machines have been run through the shop and are ready to be used. This sale will be held inside at the Richland County Fairgrounds in Sidney, MT. This is your opportunity to have a good used ATV on your ranch for calving season! Purchase your ATV or Side-by-Side now, and be ready for Spring! We hope to see you there!



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A Little Bit Country

Ranchers Analyze Forage Quality

By Warren Froelich NDSU Extension Service, Williams County

For as long as I can remember, livestock producers have recognized that not all forages are equal in their ability to produce animals. For decades the feedlot, dairy and swine industries have used laboratory analysis of available feeds to balance rations to obtain maximum economic returns. Beef cow-calf producers have been slow to incorporate this technology. However, I sense there is a growing trend among ranchers to analyze forages to be fed during the winter months.

Getting a representative sample of forage is as important as the technical expertise of the laboratory. All too often, forage testing consists of someone collecting a few handfuls of a single bale of hay, cramming it into a bag and throwing it in the mail. A one-pound sample sent to the lab at the beginning of the feeding season is a very small sample that must represent an enormous quantity of feed. Surely, expecting so much from so little should require a great deal of care when selecting the sample.

Hay probes are effective tools for sampling dry forages. It is important to use a core sampler specifically designed for hay. The cutting edges of the sampler should be sharp. This is extremely important when sampling alfalfa, as a dull blade tends to collect more leaves. Take multiple samples of a given type of hay to assure greater accuracy. When sampling, keep the hay probe parallel to the ground. Do not divide the sample. This causes separation of leaves and stems.

Two methods can be used to evaluate hay and haylage, wet chemistry or NIRS (near infrared reflectance spectroscopy). For common forages, NIRS can be used and often is the method of choice due to speed and reliability of the procedure. For uncommon forages and forage mixtures always request wet chemistry. Once you have obtained a feed sample, immediately send it to the laboratory. Feed companies, elevators, and private laboratories analyze feeds.

Ranchers have a tendency to use forage testing during years when it is obvious hay quality is low. However, there is some real benefit of knowing how good the forage is during above average years. Those who find their feed supply to be above average can save money by reducing supplements or incorporating below average feed. Such practices can help to maxi-

mize economic farm returns.

When forage quality is low, testing is the most important investment you can make. This is a good time to consider a 'wet chemistry' lab analysis. When producers find no choice but to utilize inferior quality feeds, experience shows that it's prudent to discount the expected nutrient value. Even though you are trying to save on feed inputs, poor quality feeds generally do not elicit the animal performance expected. NIRS, although quick and inexpensive, should not be relied upon in these cases.



About The Ag Roundup



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AFTER HOURS CALL FORWARDING TO SERVICE REP

Ag Research In Montana Faces Peril

By Lois Kerr

Agriculture has been the number 1 industry in Montana since the territory became a state, and agriculture will remain the number 1 industry into the foreseeable future. As global population increases and arable land decreases, the real challenge of feeding hungry mouths will continue to escalate, yet rather than supporting agriculture, including ag research, the State of Montana seems to have a cavalier attitude towards the entire concept of reaping a living from the earth. This fact becomes painfully obvious when we compare Montana to its neighboring agricultural state, North Dakota.

North Dakota understands the importance of agriculture and supports it's ag sector to ensure the health and stability of this vital industry. While Montana has allowed agricultural research to decrease in scope, North Dakota increases its funding for ag research with every legislative session. Both Montana and North Dakota each have seven research centers scattered throughout their respective states, but the similarities end there. Comparing two neighboring State research centers within the MonDak region, the Williston Research Extension Center (WREC) in Williston, North Dakota and the Eastern Agricultural Research Center (EARC) in Sidney, Montana, opens our eyes to the huge discrepancies and to the undeniable fact that Montana really does not consider ag research of much importance.

According to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Services, the EARC serves ten counties in eastern Montana that encompasses 13 million cropland acres, amounts to 27% of the crop acres in Montana, and accounts for over \$600 million in agricultural receipts. The EARC operates under the measly budget of \$430,000.

On the other hand, the WREC in Williston serves 5 million crop acres, accounts for 14% of the total crop acres in North Dakota, and has \$550 million in total ag receipts. The WREC budget?? \$1.6 million dollars, a budget that is more than three times the size of the budget the EARC has for its allotment. What is happening to agricultural research in Montana, and why?

Ken Kephart, who serves as head of the Montana State University (MSU) Department of Research Centers and also as the superintendent of the Southern Agricultural Research Center in Huntley, agrees that ag research in Montana faces serious challenges that must be addressed if the State intends to remain strong in agricultural production. "I am concerned about declining appropriations over time," Kephart states. "For example, in the 2002 special session, the legislature did away with capital equipment expenditures, and

that situation continues today. No research center has received money for equipment from the Montana Legislature since 2002."

He continues, "The Montana State University system has five independent agencies, among them the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, or MAES and the Extension Service. The legislature determines the amount of money provided to these agencies. We receive 80-85% of our budget from the State, and the remaining 15% comes from a federal formula funding."

Montana has seven branch off campus research centers. Kephart points out that many legislators mistakenly assume the funding they allocate goes entirely to the seven research centers, but this is not the way it works. "The MAES receives about \$12 million from the State and \$2 million from the federal government," Kephart comments. "People think that \$14 million gets divided among the seven research centers, but that is not the case. The MAES represents the research arm of the entire College of Agriculture at MSU with researchers and research programs both on campus and at the research centers. Only about \$2.5 million gets distributed among the seven research centers, and the remainder is spent on campus. Good agricultural research comes out of the main campus, but in perspective, the research centers have struggled to maintain programs."

The money received from the federal government has remained relatively static for the past two decades, but the funding from the state legislature has not. "The state budget, in terms of money allocated, has been increased through the years, but when we adjust these dollars for inflation, we discover we have \$1 million less in real dollars to work with than the system was allocated twenty years ago," Kephart points out. "The result? We have experienced a 43% reduction in total personnel who work for the MAES over the past twenty years. This reduction has adversely affected both on- and off-campus research programs."

He continues, "We are having a difficult time recruiting and retaining faculty and staff that represent the core of the applied research programs in the department. We normally have 16 faculty positions, but currently we have six vacancies at five of the seven research centers. We have nine vacant support staff positions, so we are presently down from 50 people to 35. During the last session of the legislature, the MAES was only one of two agencies that received a budget increase, but it was only to offset the 8.5% cuts we received the year before. We didn't make any gains. We

Continued on next page.

merely got back to square one from two years ago."

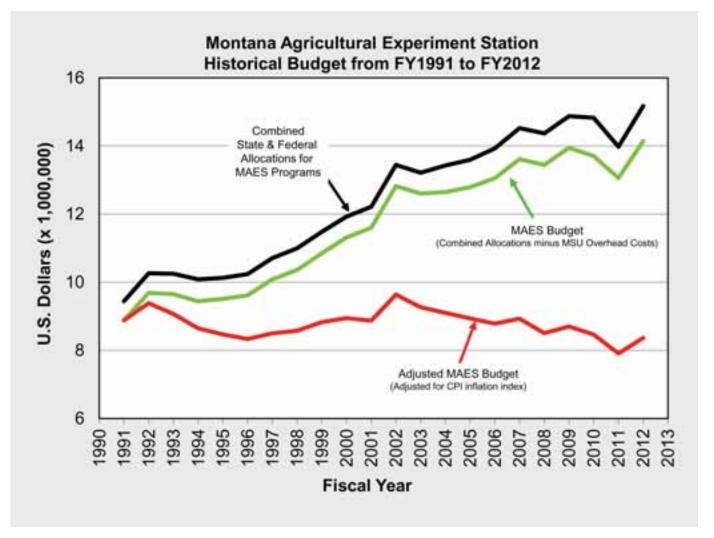
Several factors continue to contribute to the deterioration of ag research capabilities in Montana. "I feel our salaries are not competitive with other states and with industry," Kephart says. "As well, not as many universities are teaching applied agricultural research. We'd have an easier time finding a molecular biologist than we do finding a general agronomist. As well, the number of people from off the farm is also shrinking. We have people who before college had no background in ag production until they went to college. Moving from a metropolitan environment to a rural area can be a culture shock, and many of these people are not attracted to this change."

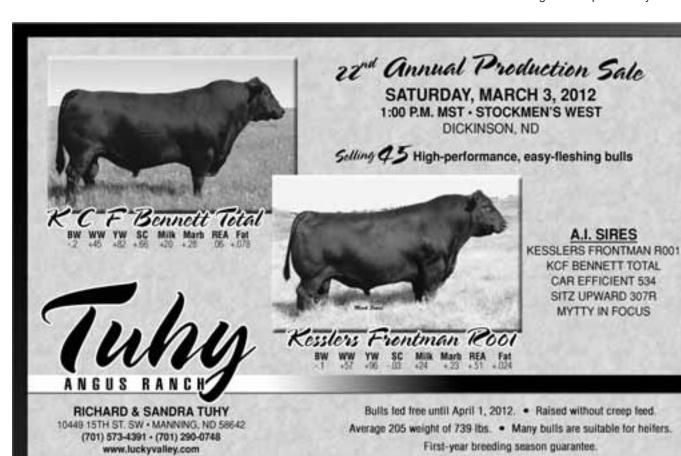
Individual research centers generally have strong support from locals, but Kephart says we as an agricultural community and state must widen our view and realize that all research centers across the state benefit agriculture and we as agricultural people must expect strong support for ALL research centers if we want agricultural research capabilities in Montana to strengthen and grow. "The state of Montana is provincial," Kephart notes. "There is excellent support for the local centers but locals often don't care about the other centers across the state. There is good research going on at all the centers. People seem to think we should

close a few of them and use the money to shore up the others. That was tried and it didn't work. We need all seven centers where they are, and we as Montanans need to support all of them."

Unless we elect legislators that truly care about agriculture and that strongly support all aspects of agriculture, including research, the prospects for continuing quality ag research look grim. "It appears that legislators are less and less involved with agriculture," Kephart explains. "They have no background or previous ties to agriculture. Given the present economic environment, maintaining the money from the federal government will be harder and harder, and the future looks scary."

The gains the MAES made in the last legislature appear to have been merely a band-aid measure and do not address the long term future and need for expanded agricultural research programs in Montana. We as a people can do something about that. This is an election year. If you care about Montana's number 1 industry, quiz candidates long and hard, discover where they stand on agriculture, and what they intend to do if elected. Only by electing advocates for agriculture will we stand a chance of keeping our agriculture industry and particularly our agricultural research capabilities strong and vibrant.







A Little Bit Country

North Dakota Wheat Has Huge Economic Power

By Warren Froelich NDSU Extension Agent, Williams County

In its 2010-2011 Annual Report to Producers, the North Dakota Wheat Commission states that wheat producers can take pride in knowing the wheat industry continues to be one of the largest economic contributors to the North Dakota economy, agricultural or otherwise, accounting for nearly one third of all farm and ranch marketings. The direct cash value of the North Dakota wheat and durum crop is nearly \$2.4 billion, which generates an additional \$4.8 billion in commercial activity for a total positive economic impact of nearly \$7.2 billion in state economy.

Equally impressive is the fact that North Dakota's increasingly diverse agriculture industry in total continues to contribute more than \$20 billion in economic activity in North Dakota in an average year and nearly \$30 billion in a very good year.

World durum production fell to 1.28 billion bushels in 2010, 15% less than 2009's record crop. Planted acres dropped to historical lows in Canada curtailing their production by nearly 50%. Production was also lower in North Africa. Production in the European Union (EU) was marginally higher and U.S. production stable.

Production of U.S. durum reached 107 million bushels in 2010, virtually unchanged from the 110 million produced in 2009. Increased planted acres in North Dakota and above average yields pushed production higher. Desert durum production in California and Arizona fell by nearly one-third to 19.5 million bushels, but North Dakota and Montana increased by 10% to 87.5 million.

Demand for durum was paced by near record food use and a second straight year of strong exports. Domestic demand was estimated at 95 million bushels with 84 million in food use. Pasta remained a popular food choice, keeping sales strong, and the discount of durum to hard red spring wheat shifted a higher percent of all pasta to 100% durum. The 84 million bushels in food use was second only to the 86 million reached in 2006.

Quality shortfalls in the U.S. crop challenged exports in some markets, but the attractive price for U.S. durum in the first half of the marketing year led to strong early season sales. Tunisia, the EU and Venezuela offset reduced demand from Algeria and Morocco.

Producer durum prices ranged from a low of \$4.58 per bushel in 2010 to a high of \$8.60 in April 2011. However, the durum market remained at a discount to 14% protein hard red spring wheat for most of the year. Declining world durum supplies and realization of significantly lower U.S. plantings

in 2011 led to sharply higher durum prices by June 2011 with producer prices finally pushing above \$10 per bushel.

You can get the latest wheat market information during the Wheat Show on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Mike Krueger, The Money Farm founder and president, will share his thoughts regarding market volatility. In addition, Jim Peterson, North Dakota Wheat Commission marketing director, will discuss the challenges and opportunities existing in the U.S. wheat export market. He will also share his recent three-week travel to Asian countries to promote the quality of the 2011 crop.

Empty Saddle Memorial Foundation Honoring Lost Horsemen With Scholarships & Donations

"Mend Them Teach Them" The Empty Saddle Memorial Foundation's motto defines its focus on our youth.

In the past three years, the ESMF has worked to honor the lost horsemen of the area by helping out with the education and the medical needs of area youth with donations made to the foundation in memory of its honorees. Honorees for 2010 were Neal Hermanson and Levi Wisness and Richard Bahm, A.J. Franzen and Bud Sperry were honored for 2011.

ESMF honorees spent an important part of their lives in the lives of their horses.

This time shaped who they were. Honest and confident, these honorees knew humility, self-discipline, respect, trust and the responsibility of leadership. It is hoped that these admired character qualities will inspire young people to follow in our honorees' footsteps.

Donated funds are used to award educational scholarships and provide medical assistance to youth in the area. To date, the foundation has given more than \$10,000 in scholarships and medical assistance. Donations can be awarded or given to recipients in the memory of the individual honorees, or all honorees.

The Empty Saddle Memorial Foundation is a 501 (C) (3) non profit corporation founded in April 2010.

For information about scholarship applications, youth medical assistance, membership or donations, contact Nick Lonski at 701-565-2044.

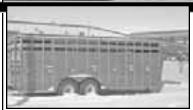
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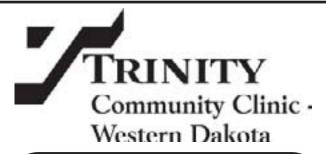


Jamie Rosaaen With her 4-H Steer

> Not Pictured Dalton Miske Wibaux 4-H



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Meadow Muffins . . The Corn Flakes Cure

By Ken Overcast

If cowboy BS'ers had a union, they'd more than likely kick me out ... that is if they'd ever let me join in the first place. I really don't think there'll probably ever be such an organization, (... because who in the world could they possibly trust to take care of the dues money?) but if such an association did actually exist, there are a couple of rules that would most definitely be in their by-laws.

- 1. Never, ever tell a story that's 100% the truth. (There are lots of good reasons for this one, but we won't go into that now.)
- 2. Never, ever tell a story that makes you look like an idiot. (The reasons for this one should be fairly obvious.)

This little story is going to break 'em both. It's not only all the truth, but it's also going to make me look sort of stupid ... (although I really don't need a lot of help in that particular area.)

The fall of 1970 found me and my bride on a place on Clear Creek on the north side of the Bear Paw Mountains. I was working for Harry Olson, and it was sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The cattle were shipped, the hay was all up, and we were doing the usual fall chores.

Harry had an old wooden grain bin with a pile of rye in it that he'd thrashed a year or two before, and he wanted to take it in to the feed plant in town to have it mixed with a little barley to be made into pellets for the cows.

Boy, was that some awful stuff. It was full of smut or ergot or whatever that stuff was, and the dust was as black as coal. Bein' the low man on the totem pole, it was my job to get in the bin and shovel that valuable commodity into a little auger that he'd stuffed in a window. I don't know if anyone has ever died from breathin' that black junk, but it sure wouldn't surprise me any if that were the case. I think it was beyond a doubt the worst bin I've ever had the pleasure of shovelin' in my life.

By the time we finally got that truck full, I was in pretty bad shape. I could hardly see, and breathin' was almost out of the question. I was coughin' and spittin' that black goo on the ground, and would have given a month's pay for a drink of water. Of course, we didn't have one.

It was late in the afternoon by the time we got the tarp on the truck and headed the 17 miles or so into town. We dumped the truck at the feed plant, with the elevator operator wisely donning a face mask as the black dusty smut cloud enveloped a couple of blocks in both directions. "Thirsty?" Harry asked as we got back in the truck.

Boy, was that an understatement. I would have gladly sucked the juice out of the bottom out of a hoof track at that point.

"Yea, a little," I bravely understated in return, not wanting to let on exactly how bad I felt. Cowboys are tough, you know.

We stopped in at the Bar X down at the foot of Main Street. Blondie Austad was the proprietor, and the place was running over with rancher types. Ma Blatt ran the restaurant in the back of the bar, and it was getting close to supper time, but of course we couldn't eat because the women folk were looking for us to be home. That very well may have been mistake number one.

Getting something to wet your whistle at Blondie's was fairly easy, and in retrospect I perhaps should have been a little more selective about what I ordered. In all fairness, there WAS water in that concoction someplace, but not enough to counteract whatever else was in there. That was more than likely mistake number two.

Harry likes a little nip once in a while, and not wanting to look like a slacker in front of my boss, I ordered what ever he had, and drank as many of them as he did. The exact numbers escape me, but with all the neighbors in town celebrating the Holiday season, the count would have been fairly substantial. That was definitely mistake number three. But then, cowboys are tough, you know.

It was snowing big ol' flakes as we at long last pointed the truck back south to the ranch. Whatever else was mixed in with that water I drank at Blondie's had quite a grip on me by now. I couldn't have hit a bull in the butt with a scoop shovel. We were late for supper, but really not too bad. It was only about 7 o'clock or so.

The little bride and I were camped four or five miles up the creek from the home place where Harry lived, and when we arrived at his place, I got in the old International feedin' pickup and headed up the county road for home.

It was becoming clearer to me all the time that Blondie Austad had apparently tried to poison me. Everything seemed to happen in slow motion, and my entire body felt like it had been pumped full of Novocain and then submerged in molasses. To make matters worse, the hood ornament on the old pickup kept spinnin' around in the windshield, and

Continued on next page.

Meadow Muffins...

the fences on either side of the county road kept crossing each other.

Cowboys are tough, you know, and I had to make 'er home, so I pulled the old pickup into four-wheel drive just in case that durn road tried to give me the slip, which it in fact did on a fairly regular basis.

By the Grace of God I made it home. They say He looks out for children and idiots, and I dang shore wasn't a kid anymore.

Even the door knob was hard to catch as I stumbled into the porch. The cook had left me a little note that she had gone to a baby shower or something and that I was on my own for supper. Something to eat didn't even sound good by now. A nice padded casket would have looked a whole lot better, but I knew that one of the keys to possible survival just might be getting something in my stomach to dilute all that poison. Dang that Blondie anyway.

I found a box of Corn Flakes, and a big pitcher of milk and clumsily began the dilution/detoxification process. I started to shovel down that cereal like my life depended on it. Things didn't go very well. Upon reaching its designated

Custom Compliance & Consulting Opens In Sidney

Marilyn Bail, after 27 years as a truck driver and compliance officer, has opened Custom Compliance and Consulting in the Yellowstone Marketplace Mall 102 N Central Ave., Sidney.

Bail came to Sidney from western Montana after spending two years in Williston.

The new company offers all DOT compliances both federal and state, hours of service, a collection site for DOT and non-DOT drug screens, pro rate permits and fuel taxes. They are first responders in regards to truck accidents and post-accident drug screens. They also offer complete startups for new truck companies, insurance filings, backgrounds on all new hires for any companies. They offer Fed Ex pickup and delivery. Truckers can also drop off paperwork for out of the area employers. They will do billing, invoices and payroll for any company.

"We also can contract to do new hire screenings for any company and do mock audits for companies to make sure they are in compliance," states Bail.

Melissa Dickson is the new operations manager for the company. Dickson has previous experience in safety and compliance. She moved to Sidney from Ohio two years ago.

"This is a highly needed company in this area," quotes one of their many customers.

Coming soon will be OSHA, H2S and fit testing.

Custom Compliance and Consulting will be holding a grand opening Feb. 1-4. The office is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. You may reach them at 406-433-8230.

destination, the milk and corn flakes immediately began a rapid assent back to the bowl from which they had come. It was not a pretty sight.

The next morning told the tale. It had stopped snowing the minute I'd gotten home, and there were four-wheel drive tracks going from one barrow pit to the other all the way back to the home ranch. Unfortunately that wasn't the worst of the tale. Apparently, there had been TWO pitchers of milk in the fridge. One from the cow we were milking, and one full of milk-replacer that the cook was feedin' to a bum calf.

Yea ... you guess it. I had picked the milk-replacer. Don't let anyone tell you that milk-replacer will mix with that tanglefoot poison that Blondie used to peddle, because it won't.

All was not lost however, because only a dang fool will refuse to benefit from his mistakes, and I have definitely learned my lesson.

I haven't touched Corn Flakes since.

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



Custom Compliance & Consulting Staff

Shown front is Melissa Dickson, Custom Compliance and Consulting operations manager, and back Marilyn Bail, owner. Custom Compliance and Consulting opened Jan. 16 in the Yellowstone Marketplace Mall.

2012 Winter Grazing Seminar Feb. 16-17 In Conrad

Attention cattle ranchers - don't miss this event! This year's Winter Grazing Seminar will feature some of the top names in the agriculture industry. Come see Fred Provenza, Marni Thompson, Chris Christens, Marsha Goetting and Patsy Houghton in Conrad.

The first day of the seminar will feature Dr. Fred Provenza, Utah State University professor emeritus, with a very interesting presentation on grazing animal behavior. This information can be used to assist and improve grazing management on any ranch. The next speakers will be Marni Thompson, Natural Resources Conservation Service Resource conservationist, and Chris Christiaens, Farmers Union. They will share their experience on a successful Cows Eat Weeds project in Pondera County. The original Cows Eat Weeds de-

sign was developed by Kathy Voth who used studies from Dr. Provenza and it's all about animal behavior.

The first day will conclude with a steak banquet emceed by DNRC's Ray Beck and will feature entertainment from the Ringling 5.

The second day of the seminar will begin with Dr. Marsha Goetting, Montana State University Agriculture economics professor. Dr. Goetting gives a hands-on, real-life presentation on agriculture estate planning. This is something for every Montana ranch family. The final speaker of the day will be Dr. Patsy Houghton, Heartland Cattle Company, McCook, NB. Dr. Houghton is the pioneer of the now common terminology of "professional heifer development". Along with heifer development and calf weaning, Dr. Houghton is actively involved with cattle health, nutrition and reproduction research at her facilities. The event will conclude with a question and answer panel with all of the speakers at the seminar.

The 2012 Montana Winter Grazing Seminar is hosted by a partnership of the Toole, Glacier,

Liberty and Pondera County Conservation Districts, in cooperation with the Governor's Rangeland Resources Executive Committee (RREC) and the Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

Registration for the seminar begins at 10 a.m. on Thursday. Registration fees include meals during the event (lunch & dinner Feb. 16, breakfast and lunch Feb 17), all speakers and entertainment for \$45 prior to Feb. 3 and \$50 thereafter. For more information, contact Kody Farkell, Pondera County Conservation District administrator, at kody.farkell@mt.nacdnet.net 406)-278-7611 x101 or Heidi Crum, Rangeland Resources Program state coordinator, hcrum@mt.gov 406-444-6619.





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Pesticide Website Offers New Tools For Gardeners, Homeowners, Applicators

By MSU News Service

The Montana State University Pesticide Education Program has created a new website for homeowners and applicators across the state.

The "Pesticide Contamination Around the Home and Garden" website was built in response to the MSU Schutter Diagnostic Laboratory receiving over 112 garden samples which showed symptoms consistent with pesticide exposure from a class of chemicals known as "growth regulator herbicides" in 2009 and 2010.

The website links tools from MSU, the University of Arizona, University of Minnesota and Washington State University to help applicators and educators properly diagnose pesticide drift or soil contamination. The tools include photographs, online guides and 2009 presentations from WSU.

By asking themselves a few questions available on the website, homeowners or educators might reach solutions without additional support. They could also decide to contact the Montana Department of Agriculture for enforcement action, county Extension agents for further diagnosis or the MSU Pesticide Education Program for questions about pesticide product labels and action modes.

Homeowners or applicators can find directions, too, for conducting their own soil bioassays, links to deter-

mine their pesticides' environmental characteristics, and additional reference materials including the MSU MontGuide titled "Minimizing Pesticide Contaminated Soil around the Home and Garden," and the new DOW Agro "Aminopyralid Stewardship' brochure.

MSU Pesticide Education Specialist Cecil Tharp said applicators should be especially cautious if they are using pyridine carboxylic acid herbicides, such as aminocyclopyrachlor, clopyralid, picloram, fluroxypyr, triclopyr and aminopyralid. These active ingredients can persist for years in grass clippings, compost or manure. Vendors and homeowners should confirm previous pesticide applications on incoming manure, compost and/or grass clippings prior to use or further distribution. Applicators should give homeowners or other client's written or verbal warnings as to the restrictions related to grass clippings or manure collected from treated locations.

For more information, homeowners and applicators can contact their county Extension agent or go to http://www.pesticides.montana.edu and select the "Non-Target Plant Toxicity around the Home and Garden" link. They can also contact the MSU Pesticide Education Program at 406-994-5067 or ctharp@montana.edu.

MFU Statement On Keystone XL Pipeline Status

The Montana Farmers Union (MFU) made the following statement concerning President Obama's recent Keystone XL Pipeline decision:

"The Montana Farmers Union at its convention held in October 2011, passed a Special Order of Business that addressed the Keystone XL Pipeline, its safety needs and landowner protections.

"The Special Order of Business pointed out that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Keystone XL pipeline does not include any additional requirements beyond those required for the Keystone 1 Pipeline, which has seen 14 leaks and numerous additional considerations required of TransCanada.

"Given these circumstances, MFU members be-

lieve it is necessary to take appropriate safety precautions to protect Montanans, its farms, ranches, land, air and water from potential adverse impacts of this pipeline.

"Specifically, MFU believes that consistent thickness and quality of steel should be required for the entire pipeline, not just "high consequence" or urban areas.

"We understand that President Obama did not pass judgment on the merits of the pipeline," said MFU President Alan Merrill. "As the evaluation process continues to move forward, as we believe it will, MFU will continue to work for appropriate and necessary safety changes and landowner-protections before support for the pipeline is possible."





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Nitrogen Guidelines For Cereal Forages

MSU News Service

Cereal grains such as wheat and barley are viable alternative hay crops and can provide valuable grazing opportunities. Due to drought resistance, good yields and ability to break pest cycles of perennial crops, annual forages can be a good fit in northern Great Plains production systems. An ongoing study provides preliminary nitrogen guidelines for some annual forage crops in Montana.

"In the most recent year with collected data (2008), approximately 200,000 acres of cereal forages were grown in Montana, making it the fourth largest acreage crop," said Andy Lenssen, USDA Agriculture Research Service research ecologist, Sidney.

However, there are no Montana fertilizer nitrogen guidelines for these crops. Insufficient nitrogen availability can decrease forage yield, increase producer costs and decrease potential profit. On the other hand, excess nitrogen combined with inadequate available soil water can cause the forage to contain nitrates at levels toxic to livestock.

A multi-year study funded by the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee is underway to develop fertilizer nitrogen guidelines for forage barley and winter wheat. Field trials are being conducted with Hays barley planted in April, and Willow Creek winter wheat planted in September at a farm near Froid and at the Southern Agricultural Research Center, Huntley.

"Dryland forage yields over the past two years have been good, ranging from one to four tons per acre for Hays barley and as much as five tons per acre for Willow Creek winter wheat," said Lenssen. At Froid, the available nitrogen, meaning fertilizer nitrogen plus soil nitrate-nitrogen, needed to maximize yields ranged from about 27 lbs. of nitrogen per ton of Willow Creek winter wheat when based on soil sampling to a depth of two feet, to 37 lbs. of nitrogen per ton when soil was sampled to three feet. Hays barley required an average of 60 lbs. of nitrogen per ton in a two-foot soil depth sample.

"The apparent higher nitrogen requirement of barley could be misleading," cautioned Clain Jones, MSU Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences Extension soil fertility specialist. "Given Froid's relatively coarse soils and that much of the rainfall comes in the spring, it is likely some soil nitrate leached, overestimating the barley's actual nitrogen need," explained Jones.

Barley grown at Huntley required only 31 lbs. of available nitrogen per ton of forage. The soils at Hunt-

ley are higher in clay and have lower leaching potential than at Froid. Warmer temperatures at Huntley also encouraged more plant growth early in the season. These factors would allow more of the soil available nitrogen to be captured by the barley crop at Huntley.

"Winter wheat's apparent nitrogen requirement was less than barley's, likely in part because it is better at scavenging nitrate at deeper depths," said Jones. Winter wheat would have a larger root system than barley by late April, when barley is just emerging, allowing winter wheat to take up more available nitrogen. It can also root deeper to capture the soil nitrogen that was leached by spring rains below barley's rooting depth. At Froid, the average soil nitrogen in the two to four foot soil depth in fall was similar to what was available in the top two feet. By spring, the two-four foot soil depth contained twice the available soil nitrogen as the top two feet, which is a substantial amount of nitrogen for deep rooting winter wheat to tap into. This implies substantial amounts of leaching. Jones suggests soil be sampled to at least three feet where possible to best calculate nitrogen rates for winter wheat.

Fertilizer placement affected some yields. Barley yields were higher both years at Froid with banding versus broadcast applications. Spring fertilizer applications can have higher volatilization losses of ammonia to the atmosphere, due to moister soil surface conditions than often found in early fall. Banding protects nitrogen fertilizer from volatilization losses. Banding did not increase yields of barley at Huntley or winter wheat at either site.

The other concern with nitrogen fertilization of cereal forages is the risk of high forage nitrate concentration. Forage nitrate levels were never greater than 0.2%, well below the 0.5% level toxic to pregnant animals. Banding rather than broadcast fertilizing did not significantly increase the risk of high nitrate in feed.

"Since yields are a function of rainfall, basing nitrogen rates on a conservative yield potential and then topdressing if it's a wet year would be the best idea," concluded Jones.

This would reduce the potential for nitrate leaching and avoid nitrate accumulation, especially in hot, dry years. A third year of testing should help in developing more solid fertilizer nitrogen guidelines for barley and winter wheat as annual forages. Further validation of guidelines will improve cereal forage productivity and nutrient utilization, and improve economic sustainability of Montana producers.

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11 - 12 p.m. Keeping the Farm in the Family

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Presented by Leo McDonnell - U.S. Cattlemen's Association

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. "Smile-Smart Medical Imaging, Less Exposure Presented by Kevin Maxwell, MD

3:30-4:30 p.m. . "Behavioral Health Care in Rural Montana"

Presented by Monica Melchior, LCSW

Saturday

10 - 11 a.m. Diesel Fuel and Lubricants Presented by Greg Cross-Cross Petroleum

II - I2 a.m. Community Supported Agriculture
Presented by Ann McHale & Bruce Smith-Farm to Table Project

I - 2:30 p.m. New Zealand Sheepherders Adventure

Presented by Kelsey Gibbs 3 - 4 p.m. FFA in Schools

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Rwandan Scientist Works With MSU Researcher To Battle Plant Disease

By Carol Schmidt, MSU News Service

A Rwandan scientist is working with Montana State University scientists to understand a disease that is devastating to staple food crops in his country.

Theodore Asiimwe, director of agriculture in Rwanda's southern agriculture zone and coordinator of biotechnology unit of his country's agriculture board, is completing a three-month fellowship at MSU that will help him understand Ralstonia solanacearum, the causal agent of potato bacterial wilt as well as wilt in crops that belong to the solanaceae family, such as tomato and eggplant.

Asiimwe is at MSU on a Borlaug Fellowship administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Borlaug Fellowship promotes agricultural development by supporting scientists from developing countries.

Asiimwe came to MSU in October to work with Barry Jacobsen, MSU professor and Extension specialist in plant pathology. Jacobsen is an expert in potato and sugarbeet diseases, especially the biological control of soil borne pathogens and noxious weeds. Asiimwe is also working with other MSU scientists, including Alice Pilgeram and David Sands.

"Because the pathogen is economically important in my country, I needed to work with someone in the U.S. who had a background with it," Asiimwe said. "With Ralstonia, you want to get it right from beginning."

R. solanacearum is a pathogen found worldwide, but is most common in tropical environments. It survives in soil and surface water and infects plants through the roots, multiplies in xylem vessels blocking water transport leading to wilting and death of the plant, Asiimwe said.

Although R. solanacearum is not found in Montana, Jacobsen has studied the pathogen. He said strains do exist that could survive Montana's winters and could threaten the state's potato seed industry. One of his previous graduate students, who was from the African country of Mali, wrote her graduate thesis on the races of the bacteria found in her samples of Ralstonia. The results were published and the USDA, which sponsors the Borlaug scholar program, contacted Jacobsen to see if he would be willing to work with Asiimwe.

Jacobsen explains that once the races of the bacteria in the Rwandan samples are identified, scientists can determine the best means to control the disease, including resistant potato varieties, biocontrols and disease-resistant root stocks of tomato and other crops.

While at MSU, Asiimwe is using different techniques such as use of selective media, biochemical characterization, immuno studies, plant-host pathogenicity trials and DNA fingerprinting to understand the soil-borne pathogen.

As part of the program, Jacobsen traveled to Rwanda, which he calls a "stunningly beautiful and progressive country," to help Asiimwe collect samples that were brought to

MSU.

"A lot of what he is doing is DNA work, which is the modern way to identify races," Jacobsen said. "We can also do confirming work in the plant quarantine center here. We are unique in having that ability."

In fact, Asiimwe said while he was working at MSU he was surprised to learn the rate at which Ralstonia solanacearum becomes contaminated, making it hard to get pure isolates.

Jacobsen said that when Asiimwe returns to Rwanda Jan. 10, he'll be able to set up experiments similar to the ones he has been doing at MSU and continue his research. Jacobsen will also return to Rwanda to help Asiimwe implement Ralstonia management strategies there.

While he is at MSU, Asiimwe is also learning about Montana's potato seed certification program. While Rwanda has a program to produce disease-free potato seed that is similar to Montana's, Asiimwe has seen how the seed program can be transferred to private certified seed growers.

Asiimwe won distinction among this year's 34 Borlaug scholars, who hail from developing countries in Asia, South America, Africa and the Middle East, when he was selected to give a few remarks and introduce U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack at a Borlaug meeting on the sidelines of the 2011 World Food Prize events.

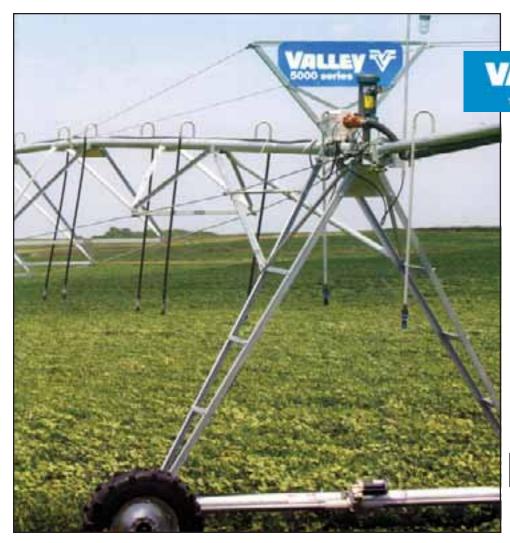
The scholars are in the U.S. on a USDA program honoring Norman E. Borlaug, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his success in developing high-yield wheat varieties and reversing severe food shortages in India and Pakistan in the 1960s. The goal of the program is to help increase scientific knowledge in developing countries through collaborative research that will improve agricultural productivity.

"I have enjoyed being able to work with knowledgeable scientists who offered me great hospitality," Asiimwe said.



Theodore
Asiimwe hopes
that the
techniques and
knowledge he is
learning on a
three-month
Borlaug
Fellowship at
MSU will help
him control a
disease that is
devastating to
several important
food crops in

Rwanda, including potatoes, tomatoes and eggplant. Asiimwe is working with MSU plant pathologist Barry Jacobsen. (MSU photo by Kelly Gorham)



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