AG ROUNDUP

Farm & Ranch Monthly Magazine

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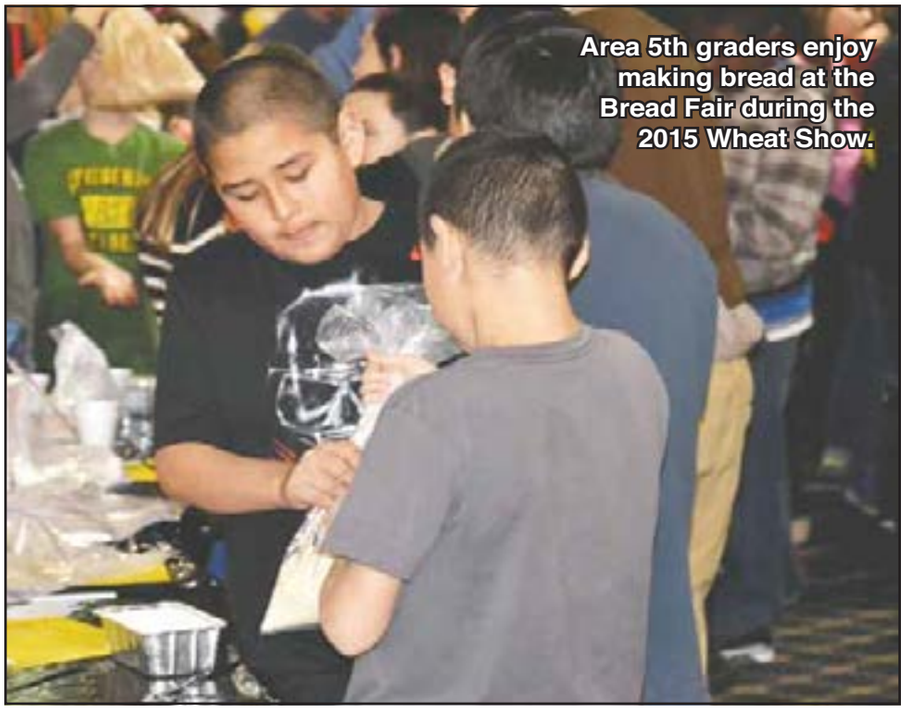
February 2016

Hard Spring Wheat Show Edition

63rd Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show in Williston Feb. 3-4



Area 5th graders enjoy making bread at the Bread Fair during the 2015 Wheat Show.

Submitted by Brian Kaae, Wheat Show President

Welcome from the 2016 National Hard Wheat Show. Through the years, the Wheat Show has brought prospective and exciting new ideas to the region's producers. This year promises nothing less!

First let me give a shout out to the people and organizations who make this event possible. Take a few minutes to look through the list of sponsors and remember to personally thank them for their help. You will also find a list of the board and committee members. Give them your thanks also. Last but not least, Williams County Extension deserves a big thank you for carrying the heavy load and getting the leg-work done.

This year we kick things off with a presentation on what promises to change the way we farm – UAVs. John Nowatzki of NDSU will wake up our minds with what could be the future. How to make the most of what looks to be a difficult marketing year is Ed Usset's specialty so be sure to attend his talk followed by Dwight Aakre sharing some insight on a farm's larger expenses, land costs or more accurately cash rent.

Finding a profitable bottom line in 2016 could be a challenge. Elston Solberg and Jack Feenstra have several presentations designed to help you gain more dollars out of your fields. Cliff Naylor will take us "Off the Beaten Path" as we enjoy lunch sponsored by the Williams Co. Farmers Union. After an evening bite we'll listen as Ed Haugen speaks about his passion "Keeping the Farm in the Family."

Day two dawns with Jodi Bruns discussing family farming relationships with "Communicating and Valuing Differences in Your Farming Operation" followed by Andy Swenson with world wheat economics.

Dynamic speaker V.J. Smith will get us motivated with his talk "Simple Choices Big Rewards." Make sure to get your awards banquet tickets early because V.J. will continue to entertain and inform us during the meal with "Where is Your There?"

After the tables are cleared, Montana's weatherman, John Pulasky will share his insights with El Niño and the Price of Chicken. We finish off our event with a quick update from NRCS and SCD. The final event is an overview of the H2 A Visa Consultants (foreign worker) program. Bring yourself or bring a carload of friends, maybe even let your wife drive her own car—heck gas is cheap, but however you get there make sure to attend the 2016 Hard Wheat Show February 3rd & 4th.

Welcome to the
63rd National Hard Spring Wheat Show!
Feb 2-4, 2016 at the Grand Williston Hotel

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TO THE

"TOP TEN GROWERS" & 20/20 CLUB INDUCTEES OF 2015!

20/20 Club Inductees (L-R): Matt Stedman, Rocky Norby & Ryan Haidle.

Top Ten Growers Back Row (L-R): Cody Tibbetts, Brock Tibbetts, Cory Conradsen, Troy Conradsen, Shawn Conradsen, DJ Rice, Brent Hagler, Wade Hagler, Alex McPherson, and Craig McPherson. **Front Row (L-R):** Del Nollmeyer, Dennis Schmierer, Lee Roy Schmierer, Harlan Conradsen, Brad Tveit, Larry Tveit Jr., and Nolan Tveit.

20/20 Club Induction

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar%
Norby Inc.	1,404	26.69	20.05
Haidle Farms Inc.	489	31.28	20.08

50 - 312 Acres

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar%	Quality Rating
Nollmeyer Farms	263	40.07	19.25	35.28
DKS Farms Inc	78	39.82	19.21	35.14
L. Schmierer Farms Inc.	83	39.55	19.15	34.97
Conradsen Bros Inc	225	40.79	18.51	34.83
Tveit Land & Cattle Co	130	41.04	18.25	34.67

313 Acres or More

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar%	Quality Rating
Tibbett's Agland LLC	472	37.34	19.27	34.21
Triple C Farms Inc.	399	37.88	18.75	33.90
Rice & Sons Inc.	360	33.05	19.97	33.19
Triple H Farms	394	34.47	19.35	33.14
McPherson Farms Inc	413	34.65	19.17	33.03

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Five Common Mistakes in Grain Marketing

Explore a different approach to marketing

Wednesday, February 3rd at 8:15 am
By Tie Lemerond

Edward Usset serves as a Grain Marketing Economist for the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota, the developers of FINPACK software and a variety of educational programs. Working with his colleagues at CFFM and in extension, Ed developed the award winning "Winning the Game" series of workshops. In addition, he manages Commodity Challenge, an online marketing education game that uses real-time cash and futures data. He teaches "Commodity Markets" at the University. The 2nd Edition of his book, "Grain Marketing is Simple (it's just not easy)" was released in November, 2015.

Edward Usset

Usset will be presenting Five Common Mistakes in Grain - Explore a different approach to marketing on Wednesday, February 3rd at 8:15am. Ed identifies common mistakes in grain marketing, such as the reluctance towards pre-harvest marketing and holding grain in storage too long. Discover that great marketing is not predicting prices, but eliminating mistakes in our everyday decisions. See how eliminating mistakes can create a solid foundation in the development of pre and post-harvest marketing plans.

Off the Beaten Path with Cliff Naylor

Wednesday, February 3 at Noon
By Tie Lemerond

Reporter, weatherman, photographer and speaker Cliff Naylor will be speaking during the lunch hour on Wednesday, February 3rd.

During his career, Naylor has won over 25 broadcast television awards for sports reporting, news reporting, feature and documentary reporting, news and sports photography.

"A large portion of my job is feature reporting. I love traveling across the state finding unique and interesting stories in rural North Dakota for my weekly "Off the Beaten Path" series which airs every Friday on the Evening and Night Reports," states Naylor. "My first television job was in Glendive, Montana, as weatherman and sports anchor at KXGN-TV. From there I moved to Williston, North Dakota, was the news director at KUMV-TV from 1979-1982. I then moved out of state to become the chief photographer and sports director at KMVT-TV in Twin Falls, Idaho. I worked in Idaho from 1982 to 1988 then returned to North Dakota where I now am a reporter and photographer with KFYR-TV. In 1999 I added the job of morning weatherman to my list of duties."

Cliff Naylor

Naylor will be gearing his presentation towards Williams County.

You are invited to share in his knowledge and experiences over a delicious plate of Beef Tips and Noodles. Lunch is $10.

For more information, please contact the NDSU Extension Office. 7001-577-4595

NATIONAL HARD SPRING WHEAT SHOW

63rd

Feb. 2-4

Grand Williston Hotel
Williston, ND

13 Deadly Sins of A North American Farmer

Wednesday,
February 3 at 10:45 am
By Sheridan Martin

Jack Feenstra will be speaking at the February Williston Wheat Show and his passion is agriculture and lifelong learning. He is familiar with all facets of farming. From Dryland agriculture to irrigation, from feedlot to subsistence farming in Central Africa.

Jack and his wife Annemarie run a crop consulting business called Chinook Crop Care Ltd. The business specializes in environmental compliance for large feedlots, dairies and hog enterprises. They maximize the financial return on crops by maximizing returns on farmers' own resources while minimizing negative impacts on the environment. Together, he and his wife have successfully minimized inputs and distribute scarce resources for many of their clients.

Jack Feenstra

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Elston Solberg to Speak at the 63rd Annual Hard Spring Wheat Show at the Grand Williston Hotel February 3

Discussing Expertise On The 7Rs Of Successful Crops

Wednesday February 3 at 2:45 pm, 3:20 pm and 4:25 pm
By Tie Lemerond & Sheridan Martin

Elston Solberg, M.Sc., P.Ag

Join Elston Denzil Solberg, Canadian Director of Agri- Knowledge of Agri-Trend Inc. at the Wheat Show in Williston, ND, Wed., Feb. 3, as he shares his knowledge and expertise on the 7Rs of Successful Crops – Think Balance, Balance, Balance at 2:30 p.m., 3:20 p.m. and 4:25 p.m.

Solberg has over 25 years of research expertise to Agri-Trend, through his work as Head Cereal Specialist and Research Agronomist with Alberta Agriculture.

As an accomplished speaker and Head of The Agri-Knowledge Division, Solberg has been involved in agricultural projects throughout North America, Europe, China and Australia.

Elston grew up in Ryley, Alberta where he worked on a mixed dairy farm and learned about hard work and tenacity. Even in his youth, Elston knew that science was going to be his career focus.

Elston completed his BA in Agriculture and his MA in Soils at the University of Alberta. While completing his masters, he worked full time as a research associate with mentor Dr. Marvin Norberg and continued working on many practical research projects for 8 years full time, and 7 years part-time after leaving to join Alberta Agriculture to work in research and extension for 17 years. During these endeavors, Elston moved back to his hometown and served on Village council for 9 years, 8 of those years as mayor, and was Chair of Beaver Regional Waste Management and Chair of the Joint Councils of Beaver County. In 2002, Solberg left his position as Lead of the Field Crop Development Center, started Sun Mountain Inc. and began his affiliation with Agri-Trend where he is currently the Director of Agri-Knowledge. Elston's most recent achievement was establishing a speaking, teaching, training and publishing company called EarthDirtSoil.

Solberg has authored, co-authored, and published many research papers in a wide variety of technical and industry journals, and has contributed to numerous articles throughout the ag-media sector. He has been instrumental in raising awareness of copper fertilization, and is one of the world's foremost authorities on sulphur nutrition.

Elston Solberg is a fervent believer in human potential and the constant advancement of the world. He believes that in the next 35 years we will need to grow all of the food man has consumed in the last 10,000 years. He wakes up every day to help growers distribute scarce resources with the challenge that every acre of cultivable land will need to grow 70% more food by 2050.

NATIONAL HARD SPRING WHEAT SHOW

63rd

Feb. 2-4

Grand Williston Hotel Williston, ND

What Can a Soil Test Do For You

Wednesday, February 3 at 1 pm
By Sheridan Martin

Christ Augustin

During the February Wheat Show in Williston, you can see Christ Augustin who works as an Area Extension Specialist/Soil Health at North Central Research Extension Center in Minot, ND.

Christ Augustin grew up near the town of Crystal, ND where he worked on the family farm. It was here that Chris gained his love of agriculture and respect of the land while helping out with small grains, sugar beets and potatoes. After high school, he went on to college at NDSU where he earned his B.S. and M.S. in Natural Resources Management, emphasizing Soil Science. During his time at NDSU, Chris was very active in school and held leadership positions in many organizations.

In the spring of 2008, Chris moved to Carrington, ND to work for NDSU Extension service as a Nutrient Management Specialist. Here, he worked with farmers' and ranchers' fertility programs and consulted them on environmental issues.

March of 2012, Chris Augustin moved to Minot where he now hopes to help farmers improve their soil resources. He is excited to improve North Dakota's soil by educating producers, technical service providers, and others on current and emerging soil management practices. *information for this article was provided by the NDSU Extension Office in Williston, ND

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El Nino and the Price of Chicken

Thursday, February 4 at 1:45 pm
By Sheridan Martin

John Pulasky will be at this year's Williston Wheat show discussing El Nino and the price of chicken. This seminar will be about how severe weather can alter history.

Pulasky comes from a heavy agricultural backround that included memberships in 4-H and FFA. Through these programs he has developed dedicated stewardship of Montana's resources and way of life. He has working relationships with diverse county, state and federal agencies and associations; including serving as a supervisor with the Yellowstone County Conservation District. For over 20 years, Pulasky has taught Aviation Meteorology at Rocky Mountain College in Billings.

Pulasky has developed and implemented a number of K-12 environmental education and outreach programs. He and his wife live on a farm east of Billings, MT and in his spare time he produces and broadcasts five daily weather reports over a four state radio network.

John Pulasky

NATIONAL HARD SPRING WHEAT SHOW

63rd

Feb. 2-4

Grand Williston Hotel
Williston, ND

Keeping the Farm in the Family

Wednesday, February 3 at 6:30 pm
By Sheridan Martin

Edwin Haugen, CLU and FIC at Thrivent Financial in Minot, ND, will be very busy at this year's Wheat Show in Williston, ND. He will be discussing topics such as tax issues, oil and mineral production areas, subsidy issues, partnership and corporation issues, farm and children and tax saving issues. Another topic he is excited to share is charitable options. "This has been an area that is often neglected in the Ag Industry, but is something that can benefit both these charities and the farmer as well," said Haugen.

Edwin Haugen

Haugen is a third generation farmer and rancher and his family owned operation is over 100 years old. He is a registered commercial cattle breeder and ND Organic and traditional farmer.

In 2008, Haugen co-created "Keeping the Farm in the Family" program, which is one of the most requested seminars by Thrivent Financial nation-wide. He has conducted over 150 seminars over the past 25 years and in 2010 he received the Thrivent Financial "Hall of Fame" award. Less than 2% of Thrivent Financial agents achieve this status.

Simple Choices, Big Rewards

Thursday,
February 4 at 10:30 am
By Tie Lemerond

On Thursday, February 4 at 10:30am take the journey from procrastination to destination with professional speaker V.J. Smith.

Published author, V.J. Smith, has been a professional speaker for almost two decades. He has spoken to audiences throughout the United States and Canada.

V.J. Smith

Drawing on teachable moments encountered while working at a Fortune 100 company and a mid-size university, he peppers his speeches with anecdotes and stories to keep audiences fully engaged and motivated. He is genuine, sincere and relates to audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

"We are judged by the choices we make each day. In our personal lives and in our business lives, we are faced with simple choices on how we interact with the people around us. In my talk I share five situations we face each day and how our actions define us. This is a lively talk designed for laughter and self-reflection," states V.J.

Where is Your There?

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10am - 5pm ..... Cropland & Rangeland Seminars

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8am - 4pm ..... Tradeshow
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Nollmeyer Farms Recognized as the Top Grower in the 50-312 Acres Category

By Meagan Dotson

During the top ten beet grower dinner, Nollmeyer Farms was recognized as the top grower in the 50-312 acres category. Del and Kim Nollmeyer, who farm north of Savage, averaged 40.07 ton per acre, 19.25 percent sugar, which resulted in a 35.28 rating on a 263-acre crop.

Del Nollmeyer grew up farming, started out by renting farmland from his father when he was still in high school. In 1989, he began farming on his own, and his wife Kim credits the quality of their crops to her husband's consistent farming methods.

Only slight changes were made this year such as planting a little earlier than usual and irrigating more than other years. Some of the crop's success can be attributed to being in Mother Nature's good graces; Nollmeyer Farms was fortunate not to have crops freeze off in May, when other beet farmers were being hit with hard frost, and they had virtually no hail storms in their area.

Both are honored to have received Top Grower recognition. However, this is not the first time they've made the Top Ten; the last time Nollmeyer Farms was recognized as one of the Top Ten Beet Growers was in 2013.

"Del is a good farmer and he takes pride in his work," said Kim Nollmeyer of her husband. "It isn't easy to make the Top Ten when there are so many good farmers with really successful harvests," said Del Nollmeyer. "We're are very happy to have had such a good year."

Pictured is the same field and location, showing the crop's growth from May 31st to June 11th at Nollmeyer Farms.

Tibbetts Agland Named Top Grower with More Than 313 Acres

By Meagan Dotson

Tibbetts Agland was recognized as the top grower with more than 313 acres during the Top Ten Beet Growers meeting. Their Sugar percentage was 19.27 with 37.34 tons per acre and a 34.21 rating. Brothers Cody, Brock, and Todd Tibbetts grew up farming and ranching and six years ago they began growing sugar beets as Roundup Ready Beets made the crop much less management intensive. This made it possible to grow sugar beets in addition to growing feed crops and raising cattle.

The family farm, located between Terry and Intake and totaling 472 acres, has been in the Top Ten before, but has never been the top grower prior to 2016.

"We are fortunate to have fresh beet ground and our focus is on maintaining soil quality, because that's really the basis of it all," said Cody Tibbetts. "This year we did more foliar feeding of micronutrients throughout the growing season."

Brock (L) and Cody Tibbetts (R) of Tibbetts Agland LLC. (Not pictured: Todd Tibbetts)

Tibbetts Agland is a family operation and they recognize that it takes a team of people to cultivate success. Considering that it has been a very good year for beet growers, the Tibbetts are all the more honored to be named Top Grower.

"Everyone and everything comes together to make it work," said Brock Tibbetts. "We want to thank Sidney Sugars, especially Todd Erickson. They've been great to work with."

2015 Sugar Beet Growers Breakdown

50 - 312 Acres

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar%	Quality Rating
Nollmeyer Farms	263	40.07	19.25	35.28
DKS Farms Inc	78	39.82	19.21	35.14
L. Schmierer Farms Inc	83	39.55	19.15	34.97
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Haidle Farms Inc.	489	31.28	20.08

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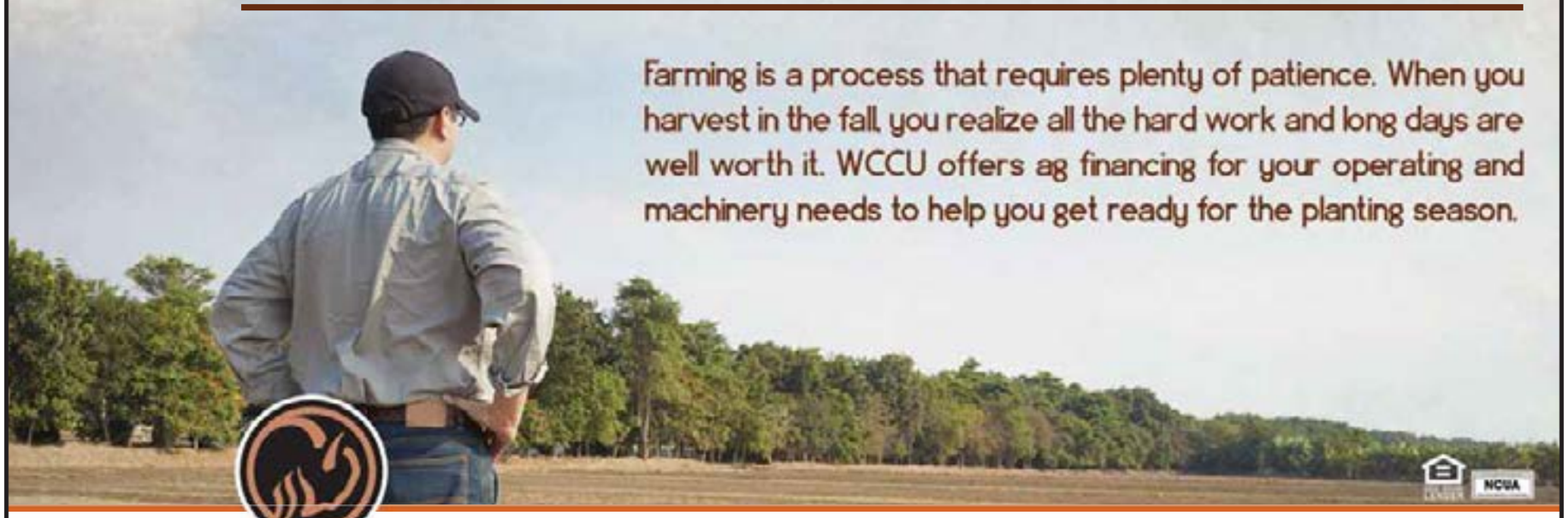

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The Public is Encouraged to Comment on the Intake Diversion Dam Fish Passage Project on or Before Feb. 17

By Meagan Dotson

On Thursday, January 21st, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation held a public scoping meeting at the Dawson County High School in Glendive, MT to gather public opinion and answer questions about the alternatives being studied as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Intake Diversion Dam fish passage project.

The EIS is being developed to better determine how fish passage, especially that of the endangered pallid sturgeon, can be improved with continued viable operation of the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP). The LYIP provides water to over 50,000 acres of land from Intake into western North Dakota and is vital to agriculture in the area, with annual gross crop values currently between $25 million and $30 million.

However, the pallid sturgeon, native to the Yellowstone River, struggle to swim in the turbulent waters created by the dam, causing them to spawn below Intake. Newly hatched pallid sturgeon can't swim for the first 13- 15 days of life and drift downstream; it is believed that they then drift into Lake Sakakawea and die in the lake environment.

Over thirty individuals with the USACE, Department of Omaha, the BOR, and Tetra Tech, a company that has been contracted to develop alternatives and write the EIS, are working on the project. Alternatives include No Action which would mean the continued operation and maintenance of the existing project, permit for rocking, and Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation; the Rock Ramp Alternative which would replace the existing weir with a concrete weir and a shallow-sloped, un-grouted rock ramp. The Bypass Channel Alternative which would construct a bypass channel around the existing weir and divert about 15% of total river flow. The High Flow Channel Alternative which would modify an existing side channel around the current weir to divert river flow. The Pumping Alternative that would include either pumping stations (surface water) or Ranney wells (infiltration galleries) to divert water into the existing irrigation canal and the Non-Weir Alternative which could include pumping, alternative energy sources and conservation. Finally, there will be consideration of other recommended alternatives identified during scoping.

The public is invited and encouraged to comment on the issues and alternatives at hand and may submit comments by mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District: Attention CENWO-PM-AA, 1616 Capitol Ave., Omaha, Nebraska 68102 or email comments to cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil. Comments must be postmarked or received via email by February 17, 2016. A draft of the EIS will be complete in May 2016 at which time the BOR will hold another public scoping meeting with another 45-day comment period. The final EIS will be complete in November of 2016.

For additional information, visit the project website at www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao/loweryellowstone or contact Tiffany Vanosdall at 402-995-2695 or by email, tiffany.k.vanosdall@usace.army.mil.

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Submitted by Brandon Thoeney

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KXGN and Northern AgNetwork will be on hand for live broadcast.

Friday's lineup includes Rangeland & Cropland weed seminars from 10 a.m. to 5p.m. and will qualify for applicator points. A Saturday seminar will feature family financial planning from 1 – 3 p.m.

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Note, that there will not be a dinner with entertainer and dance this year and the focus will be solely on the tradeshow and seminars. Please contact any GATE member or contact 406-987-3777 with any questions or for more information. There are still limited vendor opportunities available so join us as we continue a great tradition of hosting this exceptional agricultural tradeshow.

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Sidney Resident Learns The Importance Of Montana Grain Industry

Class II of REAL Montana toured the Rainbow Dam hydroelectric plant on January 15.
Front (L to R): Megan Hedges, Karli Johnson, Molly Schwend, Nicole Rolf, Lacey Ehlke, Janelle Booth, Maggie Nutter, Katie Cooper, Tracy Mosley. Back (L to R): Jerry Gray (NorthWestern Energy), Tom Hougen, Nick Miller, Brian Marler, LaVon Wagler, Jill Herold, Darcia Patten, Blaine Juedeman, Bryan Lorengo, Paul Babb, Tara Becken, Farrah McGregor, Chaley Harney.

Submitted by Karli Johnson

Sidney resident Karli Johnson just returned from three days in Great Falls as part of REAL Montana (Resource Education and Agriculture Leadership). For Karli and other members of REAL Montana Class II, this was the third seminar in their two-year educational program.

The focus of the seminar Jan. 14-16 was "Crop Production Economy & Issues". Class members heard from experts on Montana's role in domestic and global agricultural markets, rail transport, public policy, the Farm Bill, GMOs, and the H2A visa program. A speaker panel consisting of conventional, organic, and no-till farmers briefed the class on current issues in crop production. Representatives from Senator Tester, Senator Daines and Congressman Zinke outlined legislative issues to prepare the class for their upcoming trip to Washington D.C.

The class took part in a skill building training on fundraising, shared a meal at the Hillcrest Colony near Vaughn, and toured the Rainbow Dam hydroelectric facilities. The seminar included a networking banquet where class members interacted with local program sponsors and industry leaders.

"I am continually amazed at what I learn each session even in industries and areas that I am familiar with. I can't wait to learn more about our area in June."

REAL Montana is a leadership class designed to take emerging leaders in the natural resource industries to the next level. Twenty of Montana's sharpest leaders were competitively selected from a pool of qualified candidates representing a wide variety of agriculture and natural resource industries across the state to take part in Class II of REAL Montana.

The two year program features eight in-state seminars, a four-day national study tour in Washington D.C. and a ten-day international trip.

Seminars include training in natural resource development, agriculture institutions and agencies, public speaking/media, economics, state and federal policy, international trade, urban/rural relationships, water issues, and other current industry topics.

The class will be in Sidney and the surrounding area June 9-11 studying oil and natural gas production.

REAL Montana is funded through a partnership with Montana State University Extension and private industry. Oversight is provided by an advisory board of industry leaders.

The program will start accepting applications for Class III in the spring of 2017.

Complete program information is available at www.realmontana.org or by contacting Janelle Booth, program director, at (406) 994-6480, janelle.booth@montana.edu.

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Gillian Lavik, MD
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Jerrica Maxson, AuD
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Feb. 4th & 15th
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Mark Noel, DO
Ear, Nose and Throat
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For an appointment call (701) 857-5986

Aaron Albers, DPM
Foot & Ankle Specialist
Feb. 8th & 22nd
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Erdal Diri, MD
Rheumatology
Feb. 9th & 23rd
For an appointment call (701) 857-7495

Emad Dodin, MD
Cardiology
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The Top Ten Growers and 20/20 Club Meeting Wrapped Up a Successful Sugar Beet Season

By Meagan Dotson

The Sidney Sugars Top Ten luncheon was held on Wed., Jan. 20, 2016 at the Elks Lodge in Sidney. A year in review, Agriculture Manager Duane Peters congratulated beet growers on their very successful year and discussed some of the challenges growers overcame in different areas.

It was dry in the North, requiring lots of irrigation and hailstorms came through the same area as much as three times. Late May frosts required a few areas to have to replant as did springtail parasites, and damaging winds in July tipped eleven pivots and caused three booms to be replaced.

But, despite all the challenges, by June 30, 2015 there was a 28.3 tons per acre (TPA) prediction and as the season progressed, crops looked good with the beet tops beginning to yellow in mid-August as nitrogen disappeared and sugar set in. It was a dry harvest and the pile grounds were shut down at one point because root temperature was climbing above 55 degrees.

Those who received Top Ten recognition with 50-312 acres are Tveit Land & Cattle Co., Conradsen Brothers Inc., Lee Roy Schmierer Farms Inc., DKS Farms Inc., and Nollmeyer Farms was named number one grower with 263 acres, 40.07 TPA, 19.25% sugar, and a rating of 35.28.

Top Ten Growers with more than 313 acres were McPherson Farms, Triple H Farms, Rice & Sons Inc., Triple C Farms Inc., and Tibbetts Agland which was named number one with 472 acres, 37.34 TPA, 19.27% sugar, and a 34.21 rating.

Savage had 34.4 TPA, 19% sugar, and a 32.77 rating; Pleasantview had 32.9 TPA, 19.24% sugar, and a 32.44 rating; Powder River had 31.5 TPA, 19.06% sugar, and a 31.66 rating; Sugar Valley had 32.2 TPA, 18.58% sugar, and a 31.46 rating; the Factory Yard had 32.2 TPA, 18.32% sugar, and a 31.18 rating; Culbertson had 29.2 TPA, 19.24% sugar, and a 30.92 rating. The biggest beet came from Sugar Valley weighing in at 28.5 lbs.

There were also two new inductees into the 20/20 Growers Club, which hasn't happened since 2005. Norby Inc. with 1,404 acres had 26.29 TPA and 20.05% sugar and Haidle Farms Inc. with 489 acres had 31.28 TPA and 20.08% sugar; both had their names added to the 20/20 Club plaque. Requirements are that a farmer averages or exceeds 20 TPA and averages or exceeds 20% sugar. Including the two new additions, 48 growers have been inducted into the 20/20 Club since it began in 1992.

Overall, it was a very successful year for sugar beets.

Above: Sidney Sugars Top 10 Beet Growers for 2015. Front row (L-R) Del, Nollmeyer, Dennis Schmierer, Lee Roy Schmierer, Harlan Conradsen, Brad Tveit, Larry Tveit Jr. and Nolan Tveit. Back row (L-R) Cody Tibbetts, Brock Tibbetts, Cory Conradsen, Troy Conradsen, Shawn Conradsen, DJ Rice, Brent Hagler, Wade Hagler, Alex McPherson and Craig McPherson.

Right: 2015 20/20 Club inductees (L-R) Matt Stedman and Rocky Norby with Norby Inc. and Ryan Haidle of Haidle Farms Inc.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- Bread Fair for Area 5th Graders

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- How to use unmanned aircraft to enhance crop management practices
- 2016 Grain Markets
- Cash rent farmers
- 13 deadly sins of a farmer–observations of a fool
- Commodity reports
- Off the beaten path
- What does this soil test mean?
- New crop varieties
- How crop scouting can help you
- Water drives everything
- The 7 Rs of successful crops–Think, balance, balance, balance
- Growing ROI crops
- Keeping the farm in the family

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- Daughter-In-Law Effect
- World wheat economics/2016 cropping options
- Simple choices, big rewards
- Where is your "There?"
- El Niño & the price of chicken
- NRCS/SCD update
- H-2A Program overview

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Norby Inc. Joins 20/20 Club

By Dianne Swanson

Norby Inc. was honored to join Sidney Sugar's exclusive 20/20 Club during the annual Top 10 luncheon held last Wednesday.

Rocky Norby started farming with his dad Richard in 1974 and enjoyed that partnership until 1997. Rocky's wife Lori joined the family in 1979. In 1993, Norbys started growing sugar beets along the Missouri River near Culbertson, and rented out their Sidney ground. Matt Stedman started farming with Norby in 2011. "I'm excited for it," he said. "I love what I do."

This year, the Culbertson land produced 26.69 tons per acre and 20.06 sugar on 1404 acres, an amazing accomplishment according to Sidney Sugars agricultural manager Duane Peters.

Norby has no explanation for the excellent crop other than almost perfect weather. "We used the same fertilizer and the same seed as usual," he said. They plant mostly Beta seed along with some Crystal. They were able to plant almost two weeks early and got some frost. "We had five nights under 23, but the beets didn't die," Norby said. There was also no hail damage. "The weather was perfect," he added.

Norby plants for sugar rather than tonnage. Having to haul from the field to the pilers, and then pay freight from Culbertson to the factory in Sidney, it pays to raise sugar, not beets. "It's more money in our pocket," Norby explained.

About the 2015 crop, Norby said, "I'd take this crop any day, over and over."

Matt Stedman,left, and Rocky Norby hold the prestigious 20/20 Club plaque on which Norby Inc. appears for the first time.

Haidle Farms Takes 20/20 To A Whole New Level

Kaitlin and Ryan Haidle

By Sheridan Martin

This year Haidle Farms, owned by Ryan Haidle, received the 20/20 award for Top 10 Beet Growers. The 20/20 reward is given to beet farmers that produce 20 Tons Per Acre(TPA) of beets with a 20+% sugar outage. Haidle Farms managed to produce 31.28 TPA with 20.08% sugar yield on 489 acres. "We were very lucky with nutrient soil and great weather this year," said Ryan, when asked how he achieved this year's harvest.

Haidle Farms is a family run operation which Ryan Haidle manages with his brother and his dad. The farm not only grows beets, but also potatoes, alfalfa seed and more.

Ryan Haidle grew up on a farm where he began his interest in farming. After high school, Haidle went to school in Bozeman, MT, got his agronomy degree, and also met his wife Kaitlin; only to return back home to the farm and get to business.

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Experts From The MSU Extension Service Have Identified Glyphosate-Resistant Conyza Canadensis, Also Known As Marestail Or Horseweed, In Northeast MT

Submitted by Fabian Menalled

Experts from the Montana State University Extension Service have identified glyphosate-resistant Conyza Canadensis, also known as marestail or horseweed, in northeast Montana. The discovery is concerning given how easily this species can disperse in the wind.

According to Timothy Fine, Extension agent in Richland County, and Fabian Menalled, MSU professor and Extension specialist in cropland weeds, marestail with up to a five-fold increase in resistance to glyphosate, the active ingredient of Roundup and other herbicides, has recently been confirmed in Richland County.

Marestail is an annual plant native to North America. As a winter or summer species, marestail emerges in fall or early spring, but it also can germinate in midsummer if growing conditions are adequate. In general, marestail plants start to bolt in April and May, begin to flower in July, set and disperse seed from August to October and then die. Marestail plants can produce up to 200,000 seeds that are transported by wind, providing for effective spread of herbicide-resistant populations. Reports indicate that marestail seeds can easily travel more than 100 miles in a single flight with moderate wind speeds.

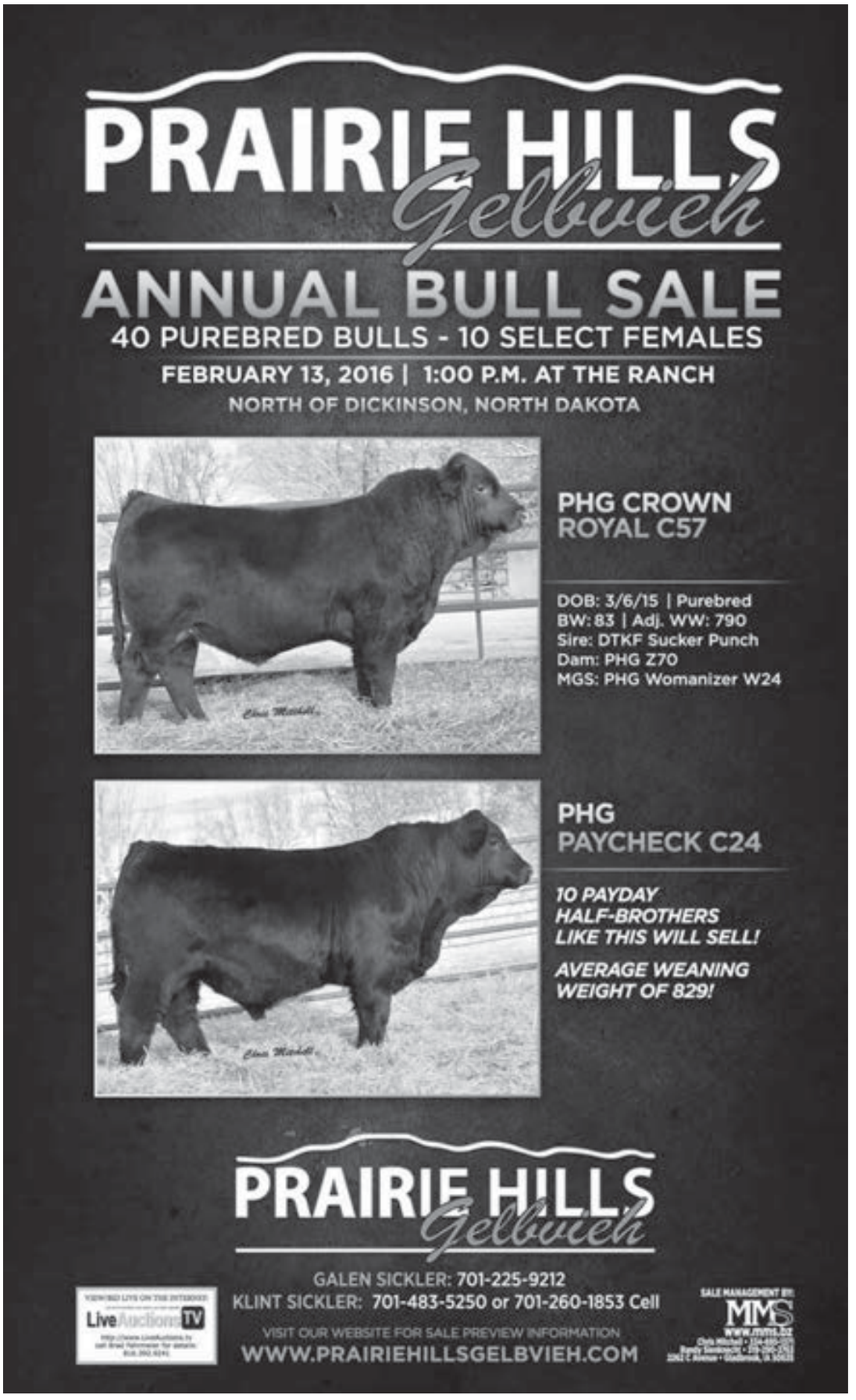
As a native to temperate regions, marestail plants can be found throughout southern Canada, the United States and tropical America. In Montana, marestail have mostly been reported in Richland, Valley and Phillips counties, where it colonizes croplands, disturbed meadows grasslands and roadsides.

In recent years, due to the spread of herbicide resistance, marestail has become a challenging weed to manage in reduced-till and non-till cropping systems. In the U.S., glyphosate resistance in marestail was first confirmed in 2000 in Delaware. Since then glyphosate resistant marestail has been documented in more than one-third of the continental U.S. In all cases, the evolution of glyphosate resistance in marestail occurred in row crop systems, including cases of multiple herbicide resistance. This is, however, the first confirmation of glyphosate resistant marestail in Montana.

Herbicide resistance is defined by the Weed Science Society of America as “the inherited ability of a plant to survive and reproduce following exposure to a dose of herbicide normally lethal to the wild type.” The full distribution of herbicide-resistant marestail genetics in Montana and the mechanisms driving this resistance are still unknown. Whether glyphosate resistance evolved in Montana or it moved from other states, its selection and spread has occurred due to an over-reliance on glyphosate and the failure to develop effective integrated weed management programs.

MSU Extension offers a MontGuide, “Preventing and Managing Herbicide-Resistant Weeds in Montana,” which is available free at county Extension offices or online at http://www.ipm.montana.edu/cropweeds/. The websitewww.weedscience.org, from the International Society of Weed Scientists, is also an excellent resource for information on herbicide-resistant weeds.

Questions on preventing or managing herbicide-resistant weeds may be directed to a local Extension office or Fabian Menalled, the MSU Extension crop weed specialist, at (406) 994-4783, or menalled@montana.edu.



MSU Montana Agricultural Experiment Station Releases Wheat Variety Resistant To Major Pest

Submitted by Jenny Lavey, MSU News Service

Nine years ago, a tiny orange bug quietly entered northwestern Montana and began demolishing spring wheat yields, costing producers millions of dollars. What was once a primary cash crop for Flathead and Lake counties quickly became an economic disaster and a major worry for area farmers.

In 2007, most producers stopped growing spring wheat and turned to agricultural scientists at the Northwestern Agricultural Research Center, part of the Montana State University Montana Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), for help. Nine years later, MAES says that the answer to the major economic threat of the orange blossom wheat midge is a spring wheat variety called Egan. The new variety is resistant to the midge and is now commercially available to producers.

The seed is also the first-ever certified blend released from MAES. "Egan is so effective in destroying the midge that it requires mixing a small percentage of a susceptible variety with it to keep the midge from developing resistance or becoming a superbug", said Bill Grey, manager for the MSU Montana Foundation Seed Program. This combination of seed is also referred to as "refuge in a bag." The refuge refers to the non-Egan seed that will attract the midge.

To bring Egan to commercial viability took a team of wheat breeders, entomologists and agronomists, as well as the only gene in the world known to provide resistance to the orange blossom wheat midge, national and international research connections and colleagues and a statewide network of Montana farmers and certified seed growers. It also took relationships and long meetings between MSU research centers, Extension agents and friends at the Montana Department of Agriculture. Above all, it took an understanding of what weaves much of Montana together: that agriculture's challenges and successes extend far beyond one's own field.

In 2006, the midge was quickly and easily adapting to the Flathead. So, Bob Stougaard, superintendent of the Northwestern Agricultural Research Center, turned over every rock: He consulted with colleagues in Canada and North Dakota, he researched cropping systems, researched when and what insecticides to spray, then introduced a parasitic wasp to prey on the midge. "I never experienced anything like this," Stougaard said. "The capability of the midge to seemingly show up out of nowhere and cause so much devastation to a crop was astounding."

By 2009, evidence was mounting that the midge was starting to spread across the state. Seeing the devastating potential of the midge, Stougaard, NWARC Research Associate Brooke Bohannon, retired Pondera County Extension AgentDan Picard, MSU entomologist David Weaver and a host of Montana farmers and crop consultants who volunteered to put pheromone traps in their fields began monitoring for the midge. MSU software engineer John Sully brought all the data together and created a live-tracking website, Montana Pestweb, that showed the spread of the midge. Six Montana Agricultural Research Centers and 26 MSU Extension offices worked with growers and crop consultants to place hundreds of traps across the state, Stougaard said. Extension agents trained local producers in the biology of the midge, how to track it, what insecticide was effective and, most importantly, when and when not to spray.

"Scouting and spraying were short-term solutions, and we didn't know what the future would look like," Stougaard said.

That's when producers asked MSU spring wheat breeder Luther Talbert if there was anything MSU's wheat breeding program could do. Thanks to colleagues at North Dakota State University, Talbert got ahold of the only gene in the world discovered that's resistant to the midge, called SM1. SM1 produces toxins that kill the midge. When the midge burrows into the developing wheat seed, it dies. Talbert started crossing the resistant line into Montana adapted varieties using traditional breeding techniques. "We crossed this line with the SM1 gene with varieties that were suitable to northwest Montana and let nature derive progeny lines from that," Talbert said. "From there, we planted those lines in the fields and selected the ones with characteristics we like."

Six years later, Egan – named after the Egan slough in the Flathead where the midge was so prevalent – was born. According to Talbert, Egan also has high grain protein, strong yield potential under high-yield conditions and is resistant to stripe-rust, a wheat disease found in Montana that can also limit yields. On the other hand, Egan is a little taller than typical varieties grown under irrigation in the Flathead Valley, so lodging – bending over of the stems -- may occur under very high yield levels, Talbert said.

Because Egan with its SM1 gene is so potent to the midge, Canadian and MSU entomologists suggested it be blended with 10 percent of a non-resistant variety to prevent the midge from developing resistance. "This gene works so well that it kills nearly every single midge," Talbert said. "But those very few that survive may have a resistance to the SM1 gene that they can pass on to their offspring. As their generations progress, you'll end up with significant, resistant populations that won't be stopped by Egan."

The way to mitigate this problem is to allow a small population of "normal" midges to survive and breed with any potential resistant midges. This is accomplished by blending the Egan seed with seed that is susceptible to the midge population – about 10 percent of the susceptible variety. Growers can choose the susceptible variety to blend Egan with. "In a way, producers are sacrificing a small portion of their crop so that the susceptible midges continue to persist and we never allow a significant population of resistant midges to develop," Talbert said. "We're sort of using nature's greatest tools against itself, so it's a natural form of resistance."

MAES has grown and tested Egan at seven research centers across the state. Last spring, MAES gave Egan to the Montana Foundation Seed Program for production and certification. Now, Egan is available to producers and is being sold as a certified blend – the first ever certified blend in the university's history. Purchasing the blend comes with a Certified Seed Only acknowledgement, binding producers to keep buying certified seed year after year, in an effort to ward off a population that is completely resistant.

Grey, who recently retired after 35 years, said the certified seed only and blend idea might take some education on behalf of growers and producers.

"It's important for all to understand how important the blend ratio is and a bit about the background, as the agreement is legally binding," he said. "This was a collective response for public good, and the certified seed only agreement is also dependent on a kind of handshake and agreement between neighbors across the state."

Dan Lake, owner and partner of Lake Seed Inc. in Ronan and certified seed grower, is selling Egan to area growers this spring. "Our growers are really excited about Egan, and we're going to blend it with a hard red spring wheat we have," Lake said. "The entire process to get to this point is an extremely good example of MSU research centers working to identify, find solutions and solve a problem alongside producers. When you have research centers that are fixed, functional and modern, it's an investment statewide, and this is the kind of result you see."

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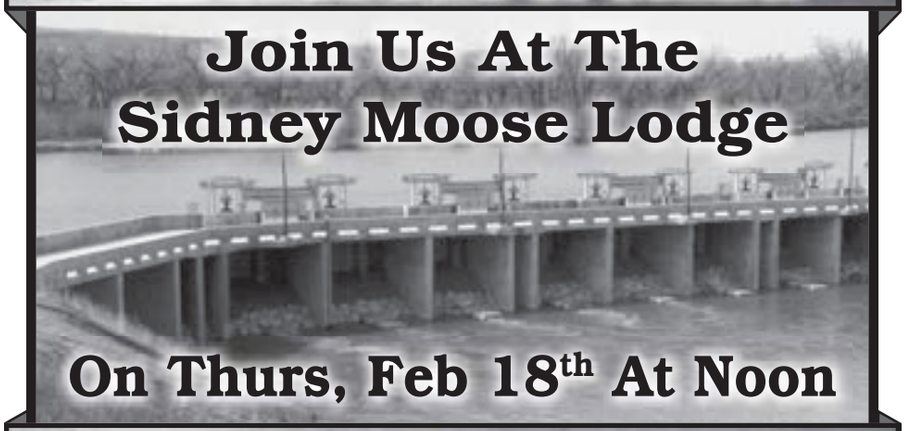

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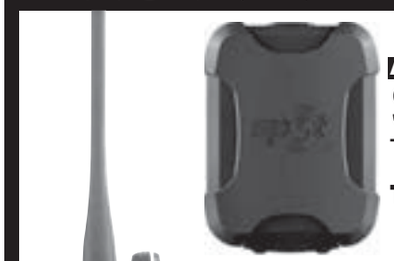

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Dynneson Ranch: Four Generations of Ranching

Above: Special Dynneson cows line up at the feeding trough.

Right: A young calf is shown enjoying his time on ranch.

The Dynneson Clan: Front Row, left to right- Sage (dog), Colter, Millie (dog), Rylan. Back row – Alexis, Katelyn, Lacey, Tammy, Keith, Marlys and Sherman.

Submitted by Katelyn Dynneson

Dynneson Ranch is a 4th generation farm and ranch in Sidney. We operate a custom, backgrounding feedlot along with a cow-calf ranch, and farm both dryland and irrigated cropland.

In 1906, Dennis Dynneson, who was only a teenager at the time, began his own farming and ranching career on the current farmstead in the Brorson community. He raised Hereford cattle along with wheat, flax, barley, oats and other small grains.

In 1961, Sherman Dynneson returned to farm and took over the operation with his wife Marlys. This is when our farm became known as Dynneson Ranch. Sherman continued farming the same crops that his father did, but transitioned the cattle herd to be primarily Charolais. They continued to grow and expand the operation.

Their oldest son, Keith, chose to return to the operation in 1984. He and his wife, Tammy, were married in 1989 and raised three daughters on the ranch, Lacey, Katelyn and Alexis. In 1987, the ranch began raising registered Gelbvieh and continued to offer high quality seedstock until the early 2000s.

In 1990, Sherman and Keith purchased the Peavey feedlot north of Sidney. They have grown the feedlot from a mere 600 head capacity to a now more than 3000 head capacity. The feedlot specializes in backgrounding and heifer development.

Katelyn and Alexis have now both joined the operation after their college careers and help manage the operation alongside their parents. Today, the irrigated cropland is used to raise corn silage, grain corn and hay for the feedlot and the dryland acres are used for hay and small grains. The cattle herd still holds a strong Gelbvieh influence along with Balancer cattle. Family is a very important aspect of their life on the ranch and the 5th generation, Colter and Rylan are growing up with the same passion for agriculture as the rest of the family.

The Dynneson family prides themselves with being strong advocates for the agriculture industry and are active members of The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, The Montana Stockgrowers Association and the North Dakota Stockmen's Association and multiple family members have served on the board of the local MonDak Area Stockgrowers Association. Sherman and Marlys were very active at the state level through MSGA. Keith has organized and implemented a fundraiser for the All-American Beef Batallion along with being active for many years on the Chamber Board and serving as president of the Agriculture Board. Katelyn is currently a participant in the MSGA Leadership Series and serves on various committees and boards. The family has a long tradition of being active in Richland County 4-H. Sherman and Marlys were in the same 4-H club together, their children became 4-H members and their grandchildren became 4-H members. The entire family remains active in the program by serving as volunteer leaders and helping out whenever possible. They were incredibly honored to be recognized as the Friend of 4-H recipients this past fall.

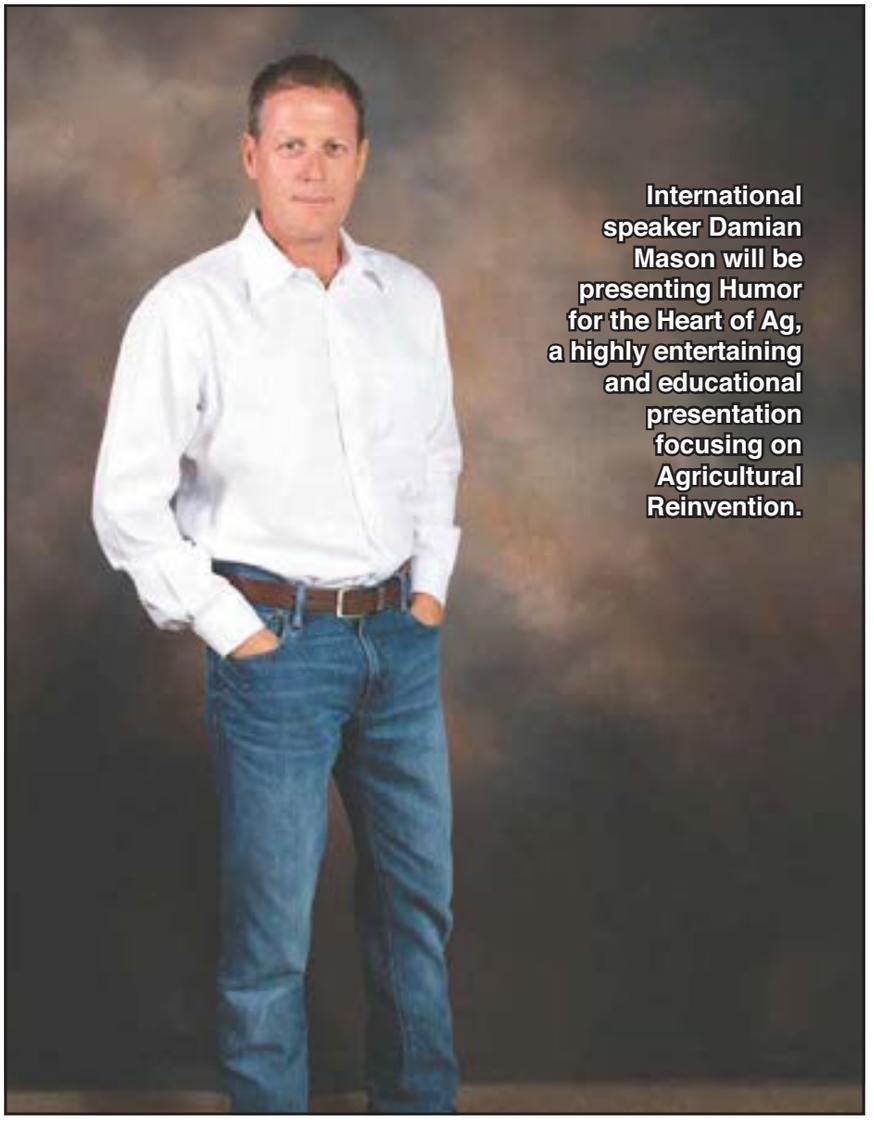
Find us on Facebook! Facebook.com/DynnesonRanchandFeedlot

Combines are shown here loading a truck with feed for the ranch.

Speaker Damian Mason Scheduled to be This Year's Ag Days Entertainment March 3rd

By Meagan Dotson

The MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show, which was formerly held in January, has been moved to March 3rd and 4th in 2016. The two-day trade show will hold educational sessions at the Richland County Event Center featuring the latest and greatest information and developments for Agricultural producers such as GMOs, livestock, and horticulture. It will begin at 9:00am on March 3rd with the Sidney Sugar's Growers Meeting taking place that afternoon; this is the first year that Ag Days and the Growers Meeting will be held in conjunction. The social will begin at 5:00pm with the banquet to follow at 6:00pm. This year's entertainment will be speaker Damian Mason with his presentation of Humor for the Heart of Ag. Mason has been speaking for 21 years with over 1,600 appearances in all fifty states and eight foreign countries delivering his humorous, energetic, and informative presentations about Agricultural and Business Reinvention. Mason grew up on a dairy farm and currently owns and manages a farm in Indiana; he graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Economics, is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, and holds Certified Speaking Professional Designation with the National Speakers Association. On March 4th, the day will start with breakfast at 6:30am and the Trade Show will begin at 8:00am. The reason for the change of timing is largely due to the declining attendance over the last couple years, as January weather doesn't generally cooperate with the event that draws people from multiple counties and while calving could be an issue, the hope is to rejuvenate the annual event. Banquet Tickets will go on sale in mid-January and are available through the Extension Office. For more information, contact Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine at 406-433-1206 or email him at timothy.fine@montana.edu.



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