



Farm & Ranch Monthly Magazine

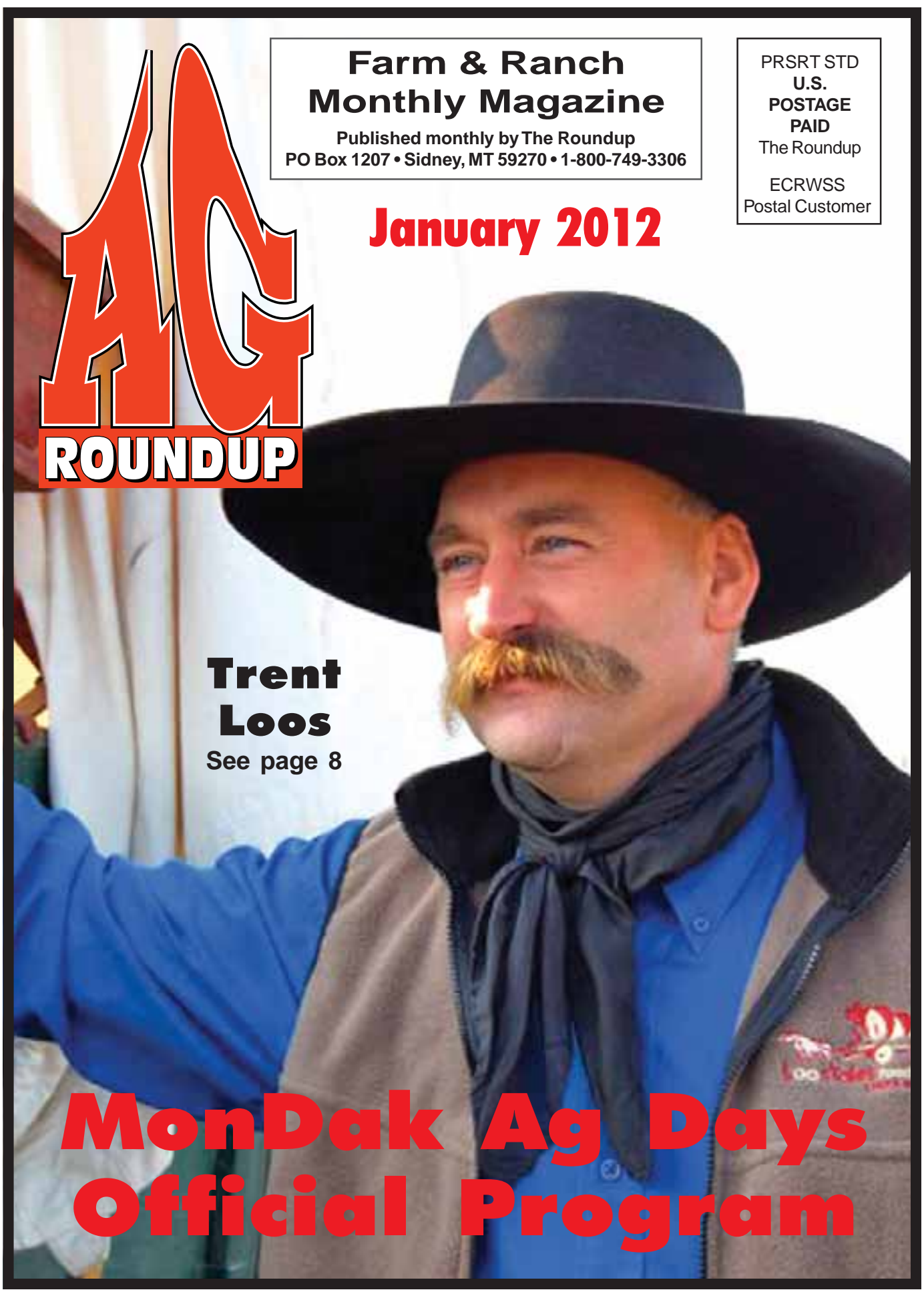
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January 2012

**Trent
Loos**
See page 8

**MonDak Ag Days
Official Program**



MonDak Ag Days Trade Show Highlights Ag Products



Exhibitors chat with customers at the 2010 MonDak Ag Days Trade Show.

By Lois Kerr

This year's MonDak Ag Days Trade Show, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Jan. 12-13 at the Richland County Fair Event Center, has a dynamic line-up of trade show businesses that will showcase new products and provide information about these agricultural innovations and improvements. With over 50 booths filled by area businessmen, attendees will have a marvelous opportunity to see a great mix of products and learn new information about agricultural products including seed products, implements, ranching accessories, communications technologies, and research findings.

"We have a good mix of agricultural vendors," says Wade Whiteman, Stockman Bank ag loan officer. "We've got some new vendors that have never been to Ag Days before, and many of our long-time businesses will return."

He continues, "The trade show is an opportunity for producers to see local and surrounding vendors and their new products that will help capitalize on prof-

its. I encourage people to come and see what the trade show is all about and to take advantage of this opportunity to visit with businesspeople and to see the new products."

The trade show will open at 12 noon on Thursday, Jan. 12 at the Richland County Fair Event Center, and will remain open until the start of the banquet featuring Trent Loos. The social hosted by Prewitt Cattle & Co and 1st Bank, Sidney, will begin at 5 p.m. in the trade show area so people can enjoy the social and at the same time visit with vendors.

The show reopens on Friday morning, Jan. 13 at 9 a.m. and will remain open until 3 p.m.

All trade show businesses will offer a great venue for attendees to explore the new offerings in agriculture. Don't miss this trade show, which will run in conjunction with Ag Days at the Richland County Fair Event Center.

To see a complete listing of vendors and additional information about the trade show visit them online at www.mondakagdays.com.

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MonDak Ag Days Set For Jan. 12-13

By Lois Kerr

This year's MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Jan. 12-13 at the Richland County Fair Event Center, has a good mix of educational sessions and trade show displays, with something to interest everyone. The show will provide agricultural presentations dealing with a wide range of relevant information, and a trade show that highlights new ideas and technology within the field of agriculture.

"I invite people to mark this year's Ag Days on their calendars," says Tim Fine, Richland County Extension agent. "This will be a good show with a lot of information and new ideas for those who attend. Our entertainment for the banquet, Trent Loos, is very interesting and those who hear him will not be disappointed. He is an excellent speaker who gets his message across in an entertaining manner."

The event begins Thursday morning when vendors will have until noon to set up their display booths. The morning also includes four sessions of general interest to the family, with sessions beginning at 8 a.m. Topics include decluttering your home and your life, a session dealing with decluttering your taxes, a talk on the new hoop houses which lengthen the gardening season and therefore increase vegetable production, and a session dealing with probate and other estate questions.

The agricultural presentations begin at 11 a.m. on Thursday, when Jude Capper, assistant professor of dairy science will discuss her research dealing with carbon footprints in cattle, and how U.S. producers can and have reduced the carbon emissions of livestock.

Following a noon lunch, at 1 p.m. Andy Roberts, Fort Keogh, will discuss the factors that affect cow efficiency.

At 2 p.m., Larry Pilster, Alzada sheep producer, will discuss the Two Plus program for increasing flock size. At 3 p.m., Drs. Michelle Mostrom and Jon Ayers will talk about some of the issues concerning cattle and oilfield production.

The afternoon educational sessions wind up at 4 p.m. when Julie Goss, Richland County Conservation District administrator, will discuss the Dry Redwater Rural Water program.

The Thursday portion of Ag Days winds up with a social that begins at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. Trent Loos, agricultural advocate, will serve as the entertainment following the banquet. Loos always provides a good talk and pleases his audience.

The Friday portion of Ag Days begins at 7 a.m. with the Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture breakfast. Ag in the Classroom will be held at the Sidney High School and run all day on Friday. The trade show and presentations open at 9 a.m. Several officials from departments such as the DEQ and the Army Corps of Engineers will discuss permitting, water use and other water issues. At 10:30 a.m., Jeff Nesbit, Precision Ag Partners, will discuss the newest technology, and at 11:30 a.m., Lawrence Papworth, Alberta Agriculture, will talk about equipment efficiency. Papworth will target tractors in particular, as tractors are the heart of the farming operation.

Kelly Sharpe, GK Technology, will wind up the Friday afternoon Ag Days sessions with a discussion and demonstration of the proper setup of a beet harvester.

Plan to attend this year's Ag Days event, visit with friends, and learn a lot of new, valuable information.



Last year the trade show featured many booths with new and innovative agricultural products and information.

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- Grasshopper 721, 775 hrs, 72" deck \$4,500
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- New Holland 116 Mower Conditioner, 16', dual knife, 1000 PTO \$5,500
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- 2005 Frontier 18 wheel high capacity rake \$16,000
- 2003 CaseIH RBX562, MeshWrap, Like New \$24,500
- 2001 JD 4890 w/18' auger head \$39,000
- 1999 CaseIH RS561 \$12,500
- 1995 CaseIH 8465 \$8,995
- 1995 New Holland 660 Round Baler, mesh wrap, bale connard, gathering wheels, good condition \$8,900
- 1994 CaseIH 8480 Softcore \$6,995
- 1990 Hesston 560 Round Baler \$5,500
- John Deere 530 round baler \$5,500
- 2005 CaseIH SCX100 mower conditioner, 16', new style drive, good condition \$22,500
- Haybuster 256+II bale processor \$7,500
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Factors Affecting Field Efficiency

By Lois Kerr

Many factors influence field efficiency: heat of the day, tire pressure, type of fuel, idling the tractor, tire size, ballast, and a host of other possibilities. To discuss these many influences that impact field efficiency, the MonDak Ag Days committee has invited Lawrence Papworth, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Ag Tech Center, to speak at Ag Days. Papworth will discuss field efficiency with an emphasis on tractors at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 13 at the Richland County Fair Event Center.

"The tractor is the heart of field work so the highlight of my presentation will be how to set up a tractor properly," says Papworth. "This includes ballasting, tires and inflation pressure. I will also demonstrate a calculator we developed which will assist producers in setting up their tractors."

He adds, "Proper tire pressure can save producers both money and time. Radial tires are becoming very common on tractors and the biggest mistake producers make is putting too much pressure in their ra-

dial tires."

Papworth points out that new tractors tend to be more efficient but that the increase in efficiency has been small through the years. There are also differences in fuel efficiencies among tractor manufacturers, and Papworth will discuss this as well.

He will also discuss seeding and tillage and little tricks that can increase fuel efficiency. "The general rule is don't till the soil unless there is a need," he remarks. "Some seeders that place nitrogen fertilizer at a shallow depth require less power to pull, resulting in less fuel consumption."

Papworth has plenty of experience in his field. He attended the University of Alberta where he earned a BS degree in mechanical engineering. He has worked for the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Center and the Agricultural Technical Center for the past 23 years with the goal of finding ways for producers to save energy in their operations.

Papworth will present an interesting talk that has the potential to save producers time and money.



Lawrence Papworth

We tip our hat to the Ag Days Committee...



*...and urge everyone to join us in
attending the 2012 MonDak Ag Days
& Trade Show at the Richland Co. Fair
Event Center in Sidney
Thurs. & Fri., Jan. 12 & 13*



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Trent Loos Ag Days Entertainment Tickets on Sale Now

By Lois Kerr

The MonDak Ag Days Committee is pleased to announce that Trent Loos, an extremely entertaining man who always give his audience their money's worth, will serve as the Thursday night, Jan. 12 Ag Days after dinner speaker at their banquet to be held at the Richland County Fair Event Center. Tickets are now on sale at Stockman Bank and the Richland County Extension office for \$30 each.

Loos, a 6th generation rancher who cares about agriculture and passes this message along in an interesting manner, began speaking out on behalf of agriculture in 2000 and uses radio, publications, the Internet and public speaking engagements as tools to get the positive message and the truth out about agriculture and food production today. For his topic of discussion at the MonDak Ag Days, Loos will focus on food production issues and will speak following the Ag Days banquet. "There are so many misconceptions that exist about food production," he remarks. "I will lay out a clear path on how to overcome this."

He continues, "There is a disconnect between food production and consumers and this is how myths begin. People no longer know where their food comes from and what goes on in food production, so they can't separate fact from fiction."

Although agriculture represents such a tiny portion of the population, we in agriculture still can have a voice and get our message out to the public. Loos believes all of us can make a huge difference in our own individual ways when it comes to promoting agriculture. "We are a small percentage of the population but we can do something," he admonishes. "Each person one day at a time can tell the real story,

and we can make a difference as individuals. Only a third of the population of the original 13 colonies was in favor of the revolution, but look what happened there."

Loos began his quest over a decade ago to set the record straight about agriculture. The catalyst for his decision to promote agriculture arrived in the form of an animal rights activist. Loos attended a talk given by this man, a talk riddled with untruths and inaccuracies, and he realized that people needed to counter these myths with the truth. "I used to complain like everyone else that the boy in the grocery store had no idea where his milk came from, but that's all I did, complain," Loos says. "I then went to a talk given by an animal rights person and it dawned on me that this guy was telling lies and that people believed him. I took it upon myself to tell the truth about agriculture and to make a difference."

Loos initially began his quest to educate the public by walking into a radio station in South Dakota and telling the manager he was a 6th generation rancher and he wanted his own radio show to talk about agriculture. That simple step launched his agricultural advocacy and mushroomed into over one hundred radio stations airing his shows, Loos writing newspaper articles, using the Internet to get his message out, and accepting speaking engagements. "I walked into the radio station at Spearfish, SD, and told Jim Thompson I wanted my own radio show. He initially laughed at me but he became my mentor and taught me the ropes," Loos comments. "I first aired on KMZU Radio in Carrolton, MO, in January 2001. I now do five radio shows every day with over 100 stations across the nation carrying the shows. I write a column for the High Plains Journal and I travel to over 35 states each year to speak."

Loos also travels internationally as he has given talks in Canada and Australia. "This is a global phenomenon," he comments about the disconnect regarding agriculture. "I try to educate and motivate my audience on issues related to animal agriculture and food production."

Loos feels the biggest issue facing agriculture today is complacency, an issue we can and must address. "There is a disconnect and we have to do more than just complain about it," he says. "My uncle used to tell me to stay home, work hard, and things would take care of themselves. That just isn't true, that's not the way it is."

He concludes, "Food production is a means of national security. A country that can't feed itself is vulnerable, and I intend to see that this doesn't happen to us."

Loos will give a very interesting, intriguing talk. Plan to attend the Ag Days banquet and listen to Loos present his ideas for educating the public about agriculture today.



Trent Loos



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Two Plus Flock Increase Discussion Slated For MonDak Ag Days

By Lois Kerr

Lamb prices have reached a historic high, so now may be the time to increase sheep numbers. To explore increasing sheep production and to explain the Two Plus growth program advocated by the American Sheep Industry Association, the Ag Days committee has invited Larry Pilster, a second generation sheep producer from Alzada to speak at Ag Days. Pilster will discuss the Two Plus flock increase program in detail at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12 at the Richland County Fair Event Center.

"Sheep numbers are down all over the world, especially in the U.S., mainly due to predators and other problems," remarks Pilster. "Our goal with the Two Plus program is to increase flock numbers. We'd like to see producers keep two extra ewes per hundred each year and to increase the number of lambs that ewes have. This is an effort to increase numbers. I will discuss this Two Plus program in detail during my presentation."

Sheep used to roam Montana in great numbers, but the state has seen a large decline in the sheep population for all sorts of reasons. Pilster believes now is the time to reverse this trend and to begin rebuilding flocks. "The biggest

reason for the decline in flock numbers was predators," Pilster comments. "Predators are still out there but there is an increased effort to control them. Grizzlies are currently the largest predator problem because they are way past their target numbers."

"However," Pilster continues, "The market is at historic highs, higher than it has ever been in history. This is a good time to start the Two Plus program. The lamb checkoff has really helped with promotion, and demand exceeds supply. Sheep are more profitable now than ever, and the ethnic market has increased and is now 35% of demand. I believe in the sheep industry. I've been in it all my life. If a person has the opportunity to enter the sheep business, he should do so."

Pilster adds, "Another benefit sheep provide is weed control. Sheep are all natural and they provide an earth-friendly way to control weeds and to supply food and fiber as well."

Pilster owns both sheep and cattle. He lambs approximately 1700 head of Targhee/Columbia cross ewes. A second generation sheep man, Pilster retains 350-400 replacement ewe lambs for his flock each year. He uses Suffolk

rams to breed the two year olds and his coarser woolled ewes, and utilizes white faced rams for the finer-wooled ewes. This helps him maintain wool quality.

Pilster also has 240 head of cattle.

Pilster earned a degree from Montana State University in agriculture production with an emphasis on ag economics and a minor in ranch management. He has served on the Montana Wool Growers Association Board of Directors and also served as president. He has also served on the American Sheep Industry Resource Management Council, he is a member of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and has served on national and state public lands councils.

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**Thursday thru
Saturday
Jan. 12-14**

**Richland County Fair
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Thursday, Jan. 12 • Break Sponsor: Farm Bureau Federation

- 8:00 a.m.**..... **De-Clutter and De-Stress - Ways to get organized and stay that way**
Judy Johnson, Richland County Extension Agent
- 8:45 a.m.**..... **Tidying up your tax drawers**
Margaret Bradley, H&R Block
- 9:15 a.m.**..... **Hoophouses and High Tunnels: Extending the Season of Plenty**
Bruce Smith, Dawson County Extension Agent
- 10:00 a.m.**..... **Planning - The "P" Word Can Be Simple and Easy**
Edwin Haugen, Financial Associate, Thrivent Financial
- 11:00 a.m.**..... **The true carbon footprint of beef production**
Dr. Judith Capper, Asst. Prof. of Dairy Science, Washington State University
- Noon** **Lunch Break / Trade Show Opens**
- 1:00 p.m.** **Factors Affecting Cow Herd Efficiency**
Dr. Andy Roberts, USDA-ARS, Ft. Keogh
- 2:00 p.m.** **Increasing sheep production**
Larry Pilster, American Sheep Industry

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- 3:00 p.m. **Impact of oil wells on livestock production in the MonDak region**
Dr. Michelle Mostrom and Dr. Jon Ayers, North Dakota State University
- 4:00 p.m. **Dry Redwater Rural Water Authority update**
- 5:00 p.m. **Social (sponsored by Prewitt & Company and First Bank)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Beef dinner followed by Trent Loos**

Friday, Jan. 13 • Break Sponsor: Crop Production Services

- 7:00 - 9:00 **Chamber Breakfast**
- 8:00 - 3:00 **Ag in the Classroom (Sidney High School)**
- 9:00 - 10:30 **WATER ISSUES: What happened at the Ft. Peck Dam in 2011?**
Darrin McMurray, Army Corps of Engineers **Permits needed to work on or near perennial streams.**
Cathy Jueaus or Shannon Johnson, DEQ permitting office, Billings **The 310 permitting process.**
Laurie Zeller, MT Dept. of Natural Resources
- 10:30 **Precision agriculture practices that you should be using on your farm.**
Jeff Nesbit, Precision Ag Partners
- 11:30 **Making equipment more efficient.**
Lawrence Papworth, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Ag Tech
- 12:30 **Lunch Break**
- 2:00 **Properly setting up your beet harvester.**
Sidney Sugars

Saturday, Jan. 14

**Keith Steinbeisser Memorial
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Awards Ceremony..1 p.m.
Jr & Sr 4-H, FFA & Adult Groups**

Ag Days Banquet

**6:30 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 12
Richland County Fair Event Center
Speaker: Trent Loos**



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MonDak Ag Days Offers Family Program

By Lois Kerr

This year, to kick off the MonDak Ag Days presentations, organizers have set aside Thursday morning, Jan. 12 to present four sessions of general interest to everyone. These four family-oriented morning sessions begin at 8 a.m. and run until 11 a.m., with topics including decluttering the house and office, managing tax records, the use of hoop houses and high tunnels to extend the gardening season, and a session dealing with probate and other property transfer issues.

"Although this is billed as a women's program it should actually be of interest to everyone," says Beth Redlin, Ag Days committee member who organized these sessions. "We have a home section, a tax records portion, information on hoop houses and a session

focusing on what people need to know about probate and taking care of property transfer issues."

The first of these Thursday morning sessions begins at 8 a.m. when Judy Johnson, Richland County Home Economist Extension agent, will discuss how to get rid of the clutter that seems to accumulate in many homes. "Does your home or office seem to be shrinking?" she asks. "Clutter can slowly build up until it is out of control and we have no idea where to start to clean it up. Discover how clutter affects you and learn some fun and doable techniques that help tackle clutter and that will return your space and give you piece of mind."

The second session begins at 8:45 a.m. when Margaret Bradley, H&R Block, will take the decluttering issue and apply it to tax records. Bradley will discuss what records should be kept and what records a person can safely discard.

The third family-oriented session begins at 9:15 a.m. and deals with gardening. Bruce Smith, Dawson County Extension agent, will discuss hoop houses and high tunnels and how these houses and tunnels extend the gardening season. "High tunnel production systems add the possibility of extending our current growing season by two-four months," he comments. "This would add to the food and farm security of the northern Great Plains by diversifying food production and increasing the amount and types of agricultural products."

The last of the family-oriented sessions begins at 10 a.m., when Ed Haugen, Thrivent Financial financial associate, will discuss estate issues, including probate and what to do after the loss of a spouse, as well as other topics relating to passing the farm along in a well-thought out and planned manner.

The Thursday morning family sessions promise to provide a lot of excellent information.



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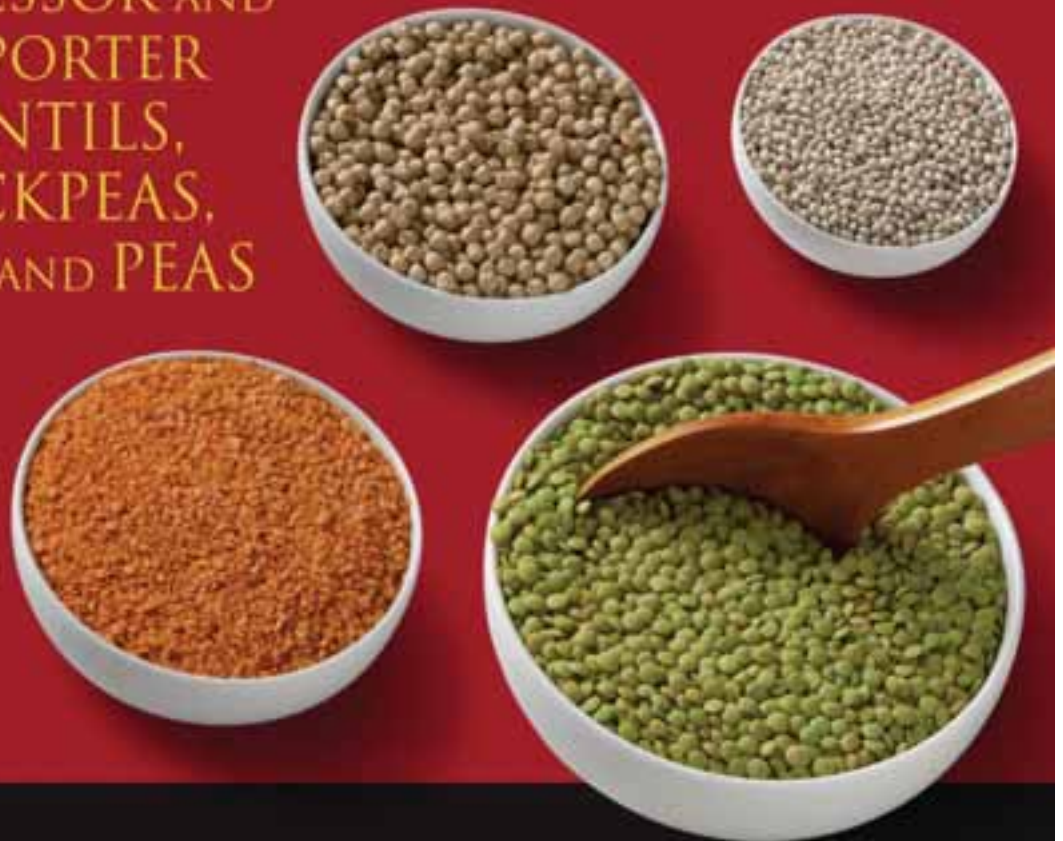
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Beet Harvester Setup Demo Scheduled For MonDak Ag Days

By Lois Kerr

Improper settings on a harvester can negatively impact harvest results. With this in mind, the Ag Days committee has asked Kelly Sharpe, GK Technologies, to demonstrate the proper settings and setup of a beet harvester. Sharpe will work on an actual harvester and will give his demonstration at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13 at the Richland County Public Works Shop, 2140 W. Holly St., just west of the Richland County Fairgrounds.

"I will walk people through the process of how to set up a harvester for a successful beet harvest," says Sharpe. "This entails a lot, as I will talk about appropriate settings for every area."

Sharpe points out that settings can make or break



Kelly Sharpe

a harvest, and he will discuss the ramifications of using a poorly setup harvester. "Proper settings do make a huge difference," he comments. "I'll talk about the research that's been done and show the numbers on the kind of money that is made or lost because of settings. The research was done in the Red River Valley but the findings are applicable everywhere."

Sharpe, born and raised on a sugarbeet farm in Minnesota, has a BS degree in agronomy. He owns and operates GK Technologies, a software business that specializes in agricultural geographic information systems (GIS) sales and mapping. "We sell software that utilizes satellite imagery and we teach people how to use it, or we can do the mapping for the farmer that provides him with variable rate maps along with the correct settings for their equipment," Sharpe comments.

Sharpe also has worked for the past eight years for American Crystal as an agronomist.

For those who want to get the most out of their harvester and who want to enjoy a successful beet harvest, plan to attend this demonstration.

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Carbon Footprints: Are Cattle The Culprits?

By Lois Kerr

Most of us are all too familiar with the infamous 2006 study that declared domesticated livestock produces 18% of the world's anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. The report also fingered runoff from pastures for creating dead zones in the ocean, where aquatic life can't survive because unicellular organisms proliferate from the extra nutrients, die, and decompose.

The big problem with all this, of course, is that the report is not accurate, but the livestock industry has been dealing with the fallout ever since. In efforts to counteract the misleading information, several researchers have conducted numerous studies to prove that industrialized nations, including the U.S., manage livestock very efficiently. One of these researchers, Jude Capper, Dairy Science at Washington State University assistant professor, has conducted research calculating how scientific advances have reduced emissions per unit of production. Capper will share her findings during MonDak Ag Days, when she will discuss carbon footprints and if cattle really are the culprits. Capper will speak at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12 at the Richland County Fair Event Center.

"Improved productivity has helped the cattle industry to reduce resource use, including water, land and energy, and carbon emissions over time," Capper remarks. "If we improve productivity, we cut our total carbon footprint."

Carbon footprints with its environmental impact continue to increase in importance for many people, so Capper believes this issue is vital to livestock owners. "Environmental impact is rising to the top of all food stakeholders' agendas, and livestock tends to be highlighted as a major player in greenhouse gas emissions," says Capper. "This is a seriously important topic that everybody in the industry needs to be aware of. It is a subject that's not going to go away."

She adds, "I'm demonstrating through research that by doing exactly what ranchers do best, improving nutrition, management and genetics, that the environmental impact of cattle is reduced. Every system does have the opportunity to reduce its environmental impact through improved productivity."

Researchers everywhere have listed the year 2050 as a defining year for population versus food production, and Capper agrees. She says that by 2050, world



Jude Capper

demand for meat will double. "By 2050, we're anticipated to have a global population of over nine billion people, which is a 50% increase," she remarks. "To feed these people, we'll need 100% more food. To improve the environmental impact of that increased food need, we're absolutely going to have to improve productivity."

Capper, born in the UK, serves as an assistant professor of dairy science in the Department of Animal Sciences at Washington State University. She splits her time between teaching, extension and research. Her current research focuses on modeling the environmental impact of livestock production systems. Her work includes the comparison of historical and modern production practices in the dairy and beef industries, and how the use of technology and management practices reduce environmental impacts.



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MT Dept. of Labor & Industry

THURSDAY, JAN. 12 (Break Sponsor: Farm Bureau Federation)

8:00 - 11:00: HOME, GARDEN, FAMILY PROGRAM

- 8:00 De-Clutter and De-Stress - Ways to get organized and stay that way
Judy Johnson, Richland County Extension Agent
- 8:45 Tidying up your tax drawers. *Margaret Bradley, H&R Block*
- 9:15 Hoophouses and High Tunnels: Extending the Season of Plenty.
Bruce Smith, Dawson County Extension Agent
- 10:00 Planning - The "P" Word Can Be Simple and Easy
Erwin Haugen, Financial Associate, Thrivent Financial
- 11:00 The true carbon footprint of beef production.
Dr. Judith Capper, Asst. Prof. of Dairy Science, Washington State University
- Noon Lunch Break / Trade Show Opens
- 1:00 Factors Affecting Cow Herd Efficiency. *Dr. Andy Roberts, USDA-ARS, Ft. Keogh*
- 2:00 Increasing sheep production. *Larry Pfister, American Sheep Industry*
- 3:00 Impact of oil wells on livestock production in the MonDak region.
Dr. Michelle Mostrom and Dr. Jon Ayers, North Dakota State University
- 4:00 Dry Redwater Rural Water Authority update
- 5:00 Social (sponsored by Prewitt & Company and First Bank)
- 6:00 Banquet at Event Center: Beef dinner followed by Trent Loos

FRIDAY, JAN. 13 (Break Sponsor: Crop Production Services)

- 7:00 - 9:00 Chamber Breakfast
- 8:00 - 3:00 Ag in the Classroom (at Sidney High School - Sponsored by Tri-County Implement)
- 9:00 - 10:30 WATER ISSUES: What happened at the Ft. Peck Dam in 2011?
Darin McMurray, Army Corps of Engineers
Permits needed to work on or near perennial streams.
Cathy Julius or Shannon Johnson, Army Corps of Engineers
The 310 permitting process. *Laurie Zeller, MT DWRG, Conservation Districts Bureau*
- 10:30 Precision agriculture practices that you should be using on your farm.
Jeff Nesbit, Precision Ag Partners
- 11:30 Making equipment more efficient. *Lawrence Papworth, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Ag Tech*
- 12:30 Lunch Break
- 2:00 Properly setting up your beet harvester. *Sidney Sugars*

SATURDAY, JAN. 14

Keith Steinbeisser Memorial Livestock Judging Contest

- 8:00 Registration at Gartner Denowh Ranch
- 9:00 Contest (Jr and Sr 4-H, FFA and Adult groups)
- 1:00 Awards Ceremony



Trent is a 6th generation farmer and passionate advocate for agriculture on the radio, the Internet, in print and as a public speaker. He will discuss food production issues at this year's Ag Days Banquet.

banquet speaker

TRENT LOOS

Advocate for Agriculture

Thursday, Jan. 12
Event Center

Banquet at 6:00 pm
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Oil Field Impacts On Cattle Part Of MonDak Ag Days Presentation

By Lois Kerr

Until very recently, we've considered the MonDak a pastoral area, with agriculture playing the major role in the economics of the region. That has all changed in the blink of an eye, as oil continues to make larger and larger inroads in this formerly rural culture. With two very different industries, oil and agriculture, both using the land, problems can arise. Oil and agriculture don't always cohabitate peacefully; misunderstandings arise, spills and accidents may happen that contaminate water or grazing land, and other incidents can occur that have landowners and oil companies at odds with each other.

To address the impacts of oil production on pasture land and to inform landowners of their rights as well as discuss the rules and regulations already in effect, the Ag Days committee has invited Dr. Michelle Mostrom, NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab veterinary toxicologist, and Dr. Jon Ayers, NDSU veterinary pathologist, to discuss oilfield issues and livestock. Mostrom and Ayers will speak at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12 at the Richland County Fair Event Center.

"People are concerned about potential accidents, the impact of different contaminants, water contamination, and accidental releases and spills that affect water and grazing

land," Mostrom remarks. "These can be serious concerns, and depending where an incident happens, it can be a problem. The seriousness depends on the attitude of a particular oil company and its cooperation with ranchers and farmers. Spills in waterways are serious issues for multiple people, not just ranchers."



Dr. Jon Ayers

She adds, "My focus at this presentation will be on agriculture and the cattle issues that occur with oilfield activity. I will give observations on my experiences in Alberta and in North Dakota. Dr. Ayers will discuss dust issues and associated pathology in domestic animals."

Mostrom has seen serious problems, including spills and blowouts, and understands what can occur as a result. She has experience working in both Alberta, Canada, and in North Dakota, and says the two places

are poles apart in how they tackle problems. "In Alberta, the province owns the mineral rights and makes the rules and regulations, so there is no individual input," she remarks. "In North Dakota, individuals can have mineral rights, there are regulations in place, and individuals do have a say. Oil is well regulated in North Dakota, while in Alberta it is regulated to some extent. A cooperative attitude is everything, and a little cooperation goes a long way."

She continues, "The biggest issues are accidents and spills. Individuals need to know the rules and regulations and they need to stand up for themselves. If legislation is in place, the process works well. North Dakota is very good about follow up and in its efforts to help ranchers. Ranchers know the legislation and they know what has to be done. People need to have knowledge of the rules to prepare themselves and to know what may happen."

Everyone wants to minimize impacts on the environment and on the farms, but that desire sometimes becomes lost during boom times. "When we have an industry exploding so rapidly, along with the movement of the product increasing, people do get impacted," Mostrom notes. "There is a definite change in culture with people moving in. We've lost our pastoral background and we may never get it back. Those with mineral rights may be compensated, but those without mineral rights lose."

Mostrom and Ayers will give a pertinent, interesting talk regarding oilfield issues on cattle. This will be a presentation well worth attending.



Dr. Michelle Mostrom

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This is a tentative exhibitor list collected at press time. More exhibitors may be added before the actual event.

Miss Rodeo Montana Pageant Field Set

The 2012 Miss Rodeo Montana Pageant will get underway on Jan. 11 in Great Falls.. Currently held in conjunction with the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals, the pageant has a 50+ year history in the state, of selecting a young woman to represent the sport of professional rodeo and the State of Montana.

Three contestants will be competing for the Miss Rodeo Montana 2012 title, and another two contestants will vie for Miss Teen Rodeo Montana 2012. The competition consists of three full days of competition including horsemanship ability, personal interviews with the judges, a written test covering horsemanship and rodeo knowledge, a public speech and media interview, impromptu questions, and modeling. Three judges will judge all areas of the competition and the winners will be announced on Sunday morning, Jan. 15, at the



Lorissa Harris, Miss Rodeo Montana 2011.

Miss Rodeo Montana Coronation at the Hampton Inn.

Miss Rodeo Montana serves as a public spokesperson and ambassador for the Sport of Professional Rodeo in Montana. She attends parades, fairs and rodeos as well as civic and community events, working with rodeo committees, corporate sponsors, and talking to school children about the values and traditions of the western lifestyle and the opportunities that the sport of rodeo has to offer. While spreading good will for her community and her state, Miss Rodeo Montana is garnering the richest experience of her life and laying a solid foundation for her future. She receives gifts and awards valued at more than \$5,000 in addition to scholarship monies to help further her education. The majority of her transportation, meals and lodging are paid for as she travels and promotes the great sport of professional rodeo. Miss Rodeo Montana also goes on to compete for the title of Miss Rodeo America, next December in Las Vegas, NV.

The outgoing Miss Rodeo Montana is 22-year-old Lorissa Harris, Shepherd. Upon completion of her reign she will finish her studies at Montana State University-Billings where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. In the future she plans to work with cancer patients as an oncology psychologist. The outgoing Miss Teen Rodeo Montana is Amy Hager, Bozeman. She is a senior at Shields Valley High School and is involved with both Montana FFA and the National FFA. Both Harris and Hager will be on hand throughout the Pageant and Rodeo.

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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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In 1985 Bill was forced out of Pacific, due to his hearing. He and his son Bret both left and started Border Steel in Glendive. Bret's son Brady has worked full time since 2004 and is a partner in the business. Other shares are owned by Bret's sister Cindy Eleson, and his brother Todd's survivors. In the spring of '06, Border Steel opened its

facility in Plentywood, expanded to Williston in '07 and came home to Sidney in December 2011.

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Safflower Technologies International Grower Meeting Set For Jan. 19

Safflower Technologies International (STI) continues to expand its alternative cropping programs for growers in the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming. Growers interested in learning about STI's contract production programs and extensive seed lineup are invited to Safflower Tech's 2012 Grower Meeting on Jan. 19 at the new Eastern Ag Research Center's meeting room, Sidney. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. (MST) with the program beginning at 9 a.m. Pesticide points will be available and a free lunch provided (Please RSVP to Ben at 701-844-4797).



Lee Tjelde's buckwheat production.



Mr. Yusuke Ohsawa of Marubeni Corporation of Tokyo, Japan inspects the buckwheat. Marubeni Corporation purchased the buckwheat this year.

University researchers including staff from Eastern Ag Research Center and Williston Research and Extension Center will discuss recent research results on irrigated and dryland crops. Representatives from private industry including Pulse USA and BASF will present information about their product lines including new varieties of pulse crops and crop protection tools including the Clearfield Lentil system. The Busch Ag seed program will be discussed with updates of seed availability for 2012.

STI staff will review the 2011 crop year and present their crop lineup for 2012, including available contracts and diverse seed offerings including safflower, sunflower, corn, soybeans, peas, lentils, marrowfat peas, covercrop mixes, etc. Special seed pricing and door prizes will be available to those who attend the meeting. Mike Bergman, STI president, will discuss the many marketing opportunities available through STI to local growers seeking alternative crops. STI has marketed safflower, sunflowers, buckwheat, peas, lentils, edible beans, soybeans and millet with opportunities in other crops as well.

Safflower, sunflowers and pulse crops will remain the core contract programs in 2012 with the potential addition of a buckwheat program. STI launched a buckwheat contracting program this past year with good profit results for the growers involved. The program may be a bigger part of STI's activities in 2012.

STI has signed on with Batco Manufacturing to offer Batco's full lineup of belt conveyors. Belt conveyors give growers the ability to handle grain very gently and completely clean out the conveyor between operations to greatly reduce grain contamination. The company has not only increased its crop contracting, marketing and processing activities but has hired new personnel to meet the new work load and added over a 100,000 bushels of bin storage. John Brown continues to manage STI's Fairview Ag Processing facilities. New employees for 2011 include Ole Ruud, Peter Rhodes, Matt Webb and Sidney native, Bob Harris. For more information about Safflower Technologies International and the available production contracts, seed lineup and marketing opportunities, call the Fairview office at 701-844-4797 and attend the Jan. 19 Grower Meeting at the Eastern Ag Research Center's meeting room in Sidney.

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By Lois Kerr

LOOP-A-WORD Building Construction

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

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

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| angle | electricity | level | roofing | tools |
| bench | floor | materials | sawhorse | trowel |
| broom | form | measurements | | walls |
| calculation | foundation | mesh | screen | windows |
| caulk | framing | miter | screws | wiring |
| chopsaw | glass | nails | shovel | |
| concrete | hammer | outlet | steel | |
| crew | hard work | pencil | stool | |
| doors | help | plaster | string | |
| eaves | insulation | plumb | studs | |
| effort | ladder | rebar | tile | |

KEYWORD: To find the keyword, fill in the blanks 1 to 10 with the correct missing letter. Transfer these letters to the correspondingly numbered squares in the diagram. Be careful. More than one letter will complete each word.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. __ AMPS | 6. __ UNCH |
| 2. __ ITCH | 7. S__ AKE |
| 3. DR__ VE | 8. __ OUND |
| 4. TR__ ST | 9. H__ TCH |
| 5. __ UEST | 10. C__ AMP |

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.

Worn on the head

ex: *hat*

A X B L N P N X

T P N Z D C P J

F H N L I V

U P N L Q

L X V V P F

J P U X N I

A F P F A X V

Z N X K V

D P Y B P F

See answers on page 40.

About The Ag Roundup



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Mailing Address:

The Roundup
P.O.Box 1207
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Telephone:

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Fax:

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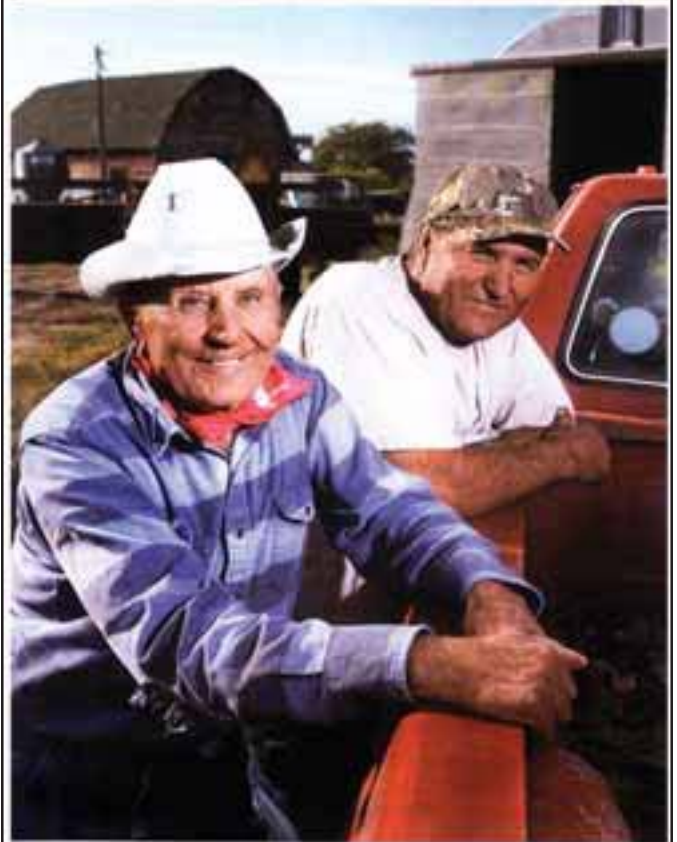
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Phase II of Learning To Serve Grant Underway at SHS

By Lois Kerr

The Sidney High School FFA and AgEd students have begun Phase II of the Learning to Serve Grant, obtained through the USDA Rural Youth Development Program. This grant focuses on developing and applying leadership and classroom skills in youth who then use these newly learned skills to improve their own lives and the health of their rural communities. The grant partners the students with the county, the city, and ROI (Richland Opportunities, Inc.) to

improve and enhance recycling efforts within Richland County.

Last year during Phase I of the grant,

Sidney High School FFA and AgEd students designed and constructed metal paper bins and then located these bins at individual homes, businesses, schools, and organizations for the purpose of collecting papers and magazines for recycling. This year during Phase II of the grant, students will construct a total of ten recycling sheds which will be placed around the county for residents to drop off newspapers, magazines, and aluminum cans.

"We have received a total of \$3000 in grant money for this project," says FFA advisor and AgEd teacher Gary Schaff. "Last year, students made metal paper bins and this year they are constructing recycle sheds. The upperclassmen did the construction, the 10th grade did the finishing work, including the hardware and doors, and the 8th grade students did the painting."

He adds, "We have yet to determine where the sheds will be placed. There will be ten sheds across the county to improve recycling efficiency."

Schaff believes the grant benefits both the community

AgEd and FFA students will construct a total of ten recycle sheds this year for use in selected locations around the county.



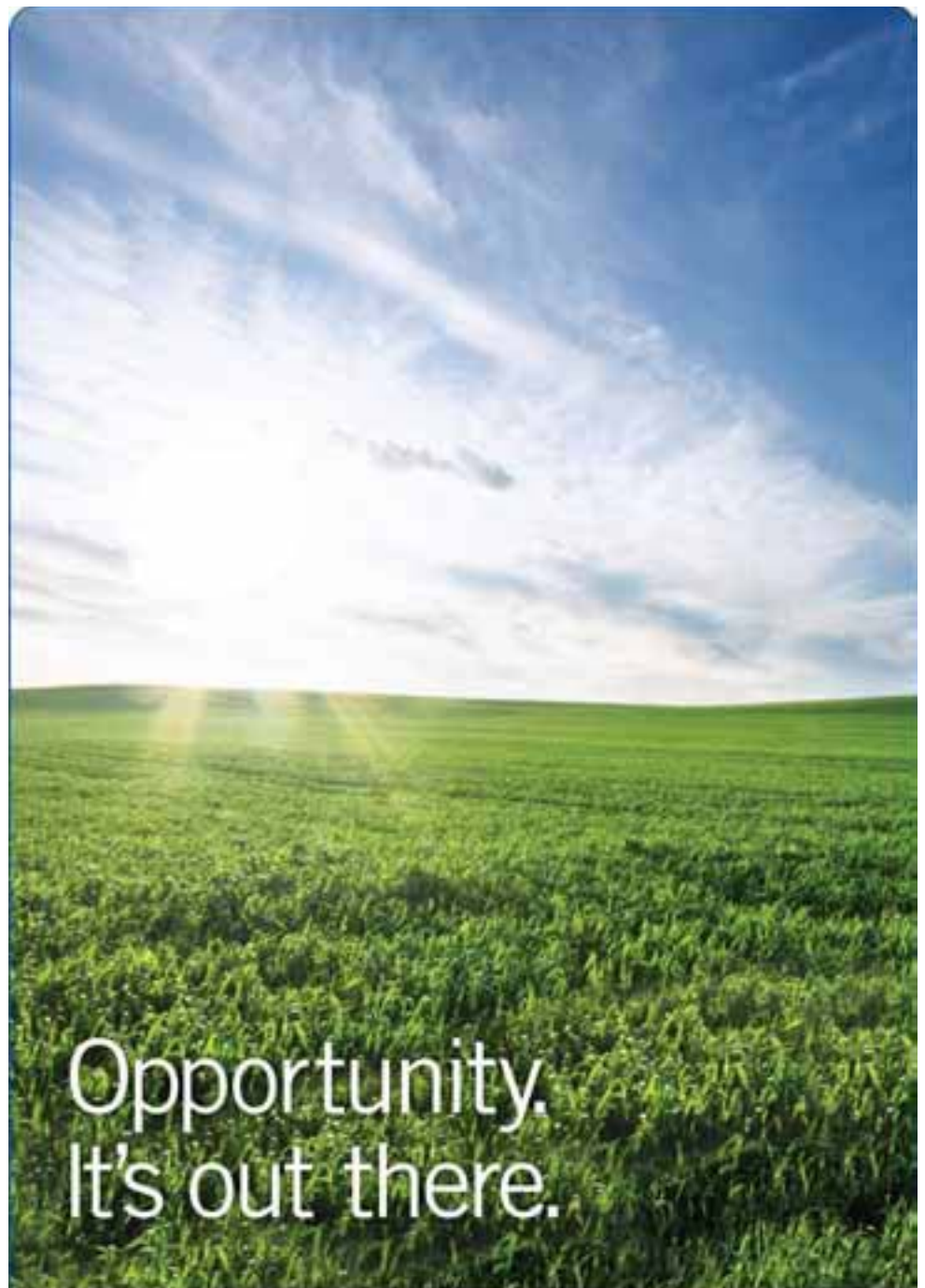
and the students. "Community needs for recycling have increased," Schaff observes. "ROI has led the charge in recycling, and AgEd and FFA have teamed up with this established group to motivate people to increase their recycling. This grant assists in these recycling efforts."

He continues, "The grant is also curriculum driven and benefits the students. Last year, students learned welding and metals by constructing the bins. This year, they learn carpentry skills by building the sheds. We expect to incorporate these various skills with community service. Through the Learning to Serve grant, students do something for the community and they provide by example to other youth. Students can be a major factor and contribute to their community while learning life skills at the same time."

ROI also will receive some of the grant money to use for fuel to operate the new recycle truck. "\$600 will go to ROI for mileage," Schaff notes. "ROI is the leader in the community for recycling, so this is a way we can help them and contribute to their efforts."

Schaff advises that some of the metal recycle bins produced last year are still available, so if anyone wants to use one of these bins for the recycling of papers and magazines, he or she may call Schaff at the Sidney High School. "We are continuing to distribute the paper bins," Schaff remarks. "A limited number of them are available for those who want them. They are to be used for the recycling of individual papers and magazines, and when they are full, call us and we will come collect the papers."

Anyone interested in joining this recycling effort by utilizing one of the metal collection bins may call Schaff at the Sidney High School or email him at gschaff@sidney.k12.mt.us



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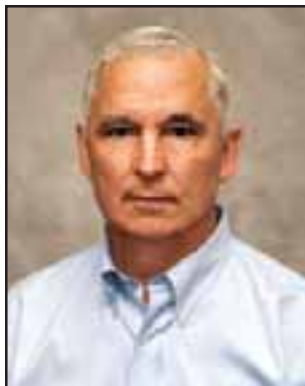
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Klinefelter One of Three Keynote Speakers for 59th Annual Hard Spring Wheat Show

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 discussions 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 year as he is well-known for his understanding of Ag economics."



Danny Klinefelter

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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A Little Bit Country

Wintering of Beef Cows

By Warren Froelich
NDSU Extension Agent
Williams County

The cost of feed is the highest line item of all costs incurred to produce a beef calf. Some say it is around 50% of the total cost while others report it can get as high as 70%. We do not know what next spring will be like but the weather so far this winter sure points to lower feed dollars which will be applied to the 2012 calf crop.

Although daily temperatures and lack of snow, so far, can be described as “beautiful” by North Dakota standards, cattle managers realize these conditions can change to a big-time blizzard and a prolonged cold spell in just a few hours. When this happens the nutrient needs can change just as drastically. Our modern day cattle can still deal with the cold itself, but the additive effects of cold, wind, and moisture can be devastating. Producers who don’t mitigate these conditions with some form of windbreak, increasing the amount of feed or providing higher quality feed simply will experience lower productivity some time in the future.

Cattle do adjust or acclimate to colder weather by growing a longer, thicker hair coat. This provides additional insulation against cold weather. The coat must be clean and dry to provide maximum protection to the cow. Dust or moisture on the coat reduces its insulation value dramatically. I remember the times our family showed cattle in the fall season. Soon after wetting them down they would begin to shiver. This would stop just as soon as they were dried. The young calves would react more violently than the cattle that were one year older.

Part of a cow’s ability to adjust to cold weather is the capacity to increase her metabolic rate which increases heat production enabling the maintenance of body temperature. As the metabolic rate increases so does the need for dietary energy and her appetite.

If a survey of cattlemen was conducted regarding when they feed cows, I suspect a majority would tell us they feed in the morning. However, some believe late afternoon-early evening feeding promotes more births during daylight hours. There is another advantage for late afternoon feeding. Research shows the cow producing the greatest amount of heat about

four to six hours after feeding while digesting her early evening supper. This added heat is well-timed for the cooler night time temperatures.

So, how much more feed should a cow receive during cold weather? Years ago Mel Kirkeide, a long-time and respected animal husbandman with the North Dakota State University Extension Service, shared his rule-of-thumb. That was to increase the amount of feed by 1% for each degree drop in atmospheric temperature.

There is a limit to feed intake which is usually measured in pounds of dry matter. If the cow is not fed additional feed or the quality does not allow them to eat enough to meet their additional energy requirements, body mass will be ‘burned’ to produce metabolic heat. The cow then loses weight as both energy and stored fat are diverted to maintain body temperatures and vital functions. Cows in this situation soon enter a downward spiral. The more weight (body fat) she loses means less insulation and greater susceptibility to further cold stresses and increasing weight loss which leads into another energy demanding period-lactation.

If you are one of those fortunate cattlemen whose cows are still in the pasture with plenty of grass to eat, give them a Christmas gift-that being a close inspection. I am sure you will find some of them, particularly the younger ones and maybe exceptional producers, starting to show some weight loss. Even though the market is at record levels, this is not the time to drop the level of good management. These are the days when good management receives its best rewards.

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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.

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."



James Hoorman

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.

January Puzzle Answers

Keyword: thoughtful

Crypto-list: sombrero, kerchief, turban, derby, bonnet, fedora, Stetson, crown, helmet

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Ag In The Classroom Returns To SHS

By Lois Kerr

Ag in the Classroom, traditionally a part of the Ag Days event, will once again be part of this year's MonDak Ag Days. However, this year Ag in the Classroom will hold its educational sessions at the Sidney High School, not at the Richland County Fair Event Center as it did last year. Organizers decided to return the classroom Ag activities to the Sidney High School and hold it on Friday, Jan. 13 during regular school hours.

"We've made the decision to return Ag in the Classroom to the Sidney High School," says AgEd teacher and FFA advisor Gary Schaff. "The high school has more room to accommodate students. We can also expand to the commons area and we have an extra hall. Also, last year we could only host the fourth grade, but this year we can return to the format that allows second, third and fourth grades from around the area to attend this event."

Because the Sidney High School AgEd and FFA have received Phase II of the Learning to Serve grant that focuses on recycling efforts, this year Ag in the Classroom also will highlight recycling as part of the planned mini sessions. "We'll concentrate on the three Rs: recycle, reuse and reduce," says Schaff. "We'll have our recycle sheds on display as well as the paper bins the students made last year, and we'll demonstrate how to use them."

Although plans for Ag in the Classroom were not finalized by press time, Schaff expects that the event will offer six-seven different mini sessions, with students rotating among these sessions during the day.

Savage FFA and the 4-H junior leaders will assist the Sidney FFA and Ag Ed students in hosting this year's event. Schaff expects 400-500 elementary students from schools around the area will attend.

Schaff thanks the Richland County Extension office and the Sidney High School with making Ag in the Classroom possible. "The Extension office is a big part of this,"



Above: Jeremy Johnson (left) and Emily Schaff work closely with students. **Right:** Travis Obergfell gives a lecture to the class.



Schaff notes. "Also, the high school provides the facility."

He concludes, "We're hoping for good weather this year. We also would like to invite the public to stop in during the day and see the Ag in the Classroom activities."

Ag in the Classroom helps students learn interesting facts and information through displays, discussions and hands-on-activities. Ag in the Classroom also provides an opportunity for FFA members to teach their peers and for elementary students to broaden their knowledge of agriculture.

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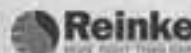


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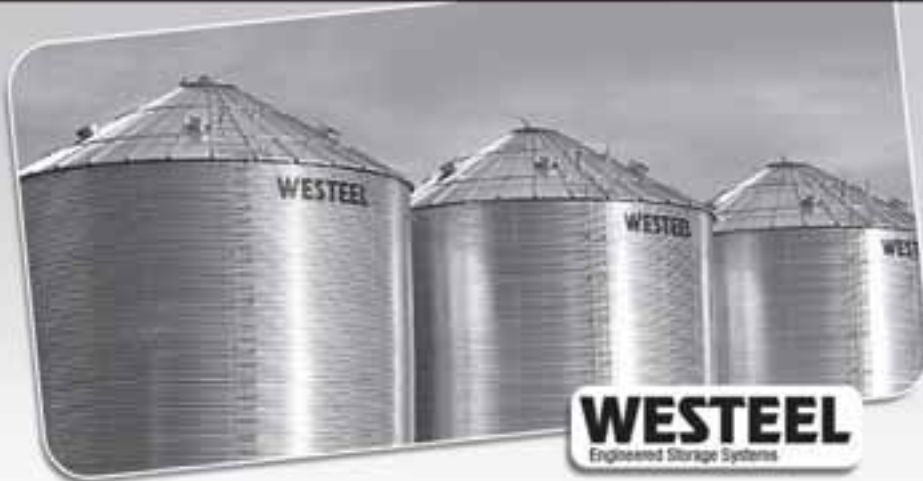


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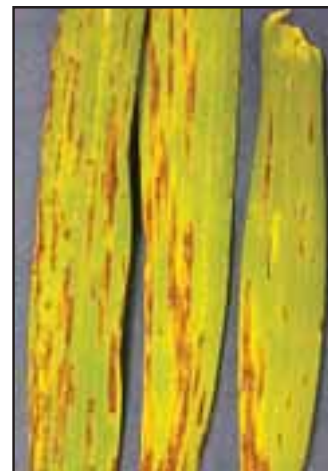
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New "Spot-Form" Of Net Blotch Confirmed In MonDak Barley



Above: Black spores from the spot-form fungus growing in petri dishes. Right: Leaves develop consistent brown spots, each surrounded by a yellow zone. Far right: Leaves develop brown spots which elongate into a net-like pattern then join together into dark brown stripes.



Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Sidney, have recently confirmed the arrival of a new, troublesome form of net blotch in barley in the MonDak region. Sidney ARS Plant Pathologist Robert Lartey identified the new form recently at the Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory from samples collected near Sidney and at Nesson Valley in Williston. Dr. Lartey used a new DNA technique which he developed that can accurately identify the presence of the disease in just two days versus several weeks for the standard method.

The arrival of "spot-form" net blotch in the region caught many by surprise. It's been present in the Red River Valley, Fargo, ND, only since 2010, and while it has been reported in parts of western Montana as early as the 1990s (at Fairfield), it wasn't expected to move into this area for another three or four years. However, when North Dakota State University scientists from Fargo attending the Williston Extension and Research Center Field Day in July, reported seeing symptoms of suspected spot-form in Dickinson, local scientists worried that it could also be in northeastern Montana and northwestern North Dakota and began collecting samples from MonDak area barley fields for testing. Their concern was further justified this past fall when a number of MonDak producers harvesting their barley reported seeing clouds of what looked like black smoke coming from the rear of their combines. The "smoke" was made up billions of dried black spores, released in plentiful supply by the new spot-form version of the disease.

"Spot-form" net blotch, like "net-form" net blotch, is caused by the *Pyrenophora teres* fungus, although by genetically different forms: *P. teres* f. *maculate* versus *P. teres* f. *teres*. Like its counterpart, "spot-form" net blotch is a foliar disease of barley that can survive over winter on barley residue, on volunteer barley plants (and some grasses) and on seeds from the previous season, all lying in wait to infect the next year's crop. Spores are produced and spread by wind and rain during the growing season, accounting for the bulk of the spread of the disease within the crop. Infected seeds are the more common source for geographic spread over longer distances, according to Lartey, and may have been the original source for our new local infections. In addition, over the past two years, conditions have been ideal for the spread of a number of fungal diseases, including net blotch. Cool, wet springs are favored by the fungi, Lartey said, aiding expansion in dryland barley, as well as irrigated.

The two forms of net blotch display slightly different symptoms. Net-form net blotch is evident from brown spots on the barley leaves that elongate into a net-like pattern and then join

together into dark brown strips as the disease progresses. In contrast, spot-form net blotch exhibits elongated brown spots on its leaves surrounded by yellow zones throughout the disease's progression.

Both forms of net blotch lower barley grain yield and brewing quality by reducing the carbohydrate content of kernels. The spot form of the disease can cause grain and yield losses from 10 to 40% to as high as 100% for some growers depending on how much of the leaf area of the plant's upper two leaves is destroyed. Local producers finding evidence of the new spot-form of the disease in their barley fields this fall estimated their losses at between 50% and 75%. Spraying fungicides at the right time and avoiding continuous barley rotations are probably the best ways to minimize effects of this disease, in both its forms.

But while spot-form net blotch will respond to several of the same management options used for net-form net blotch, there is one big difference, Lartey said. Resistant varieties developed to help manage net-form net blotch are unlikely to be effective against spot-form. "Resistance to the two forms of net blotch is inherited separately," he noted, "which means barley resistant to net-form is generally not adequately resistant to spot-form." That's due in part because good resistance against spot-form net blotch appears to require the presence of two or more genes to be effective, according to studies by the Australian Government Grain Research and Development Corporation. The multiple genes requirement significantly complicates development of resistant varieties and researchers in Australia have had only limited success to date in developing new varieties for their region. In part, the lack of effective resistant varieties may account for the rise of spot-form net blotch in Australia, as well as in other countries around the world, including South Africa, Canada and the United States.

Back in the MonDak, resistance in current varieties is limited to net-form net blotch and is largely ineffective against spot-form, although work on new spot-form resistant varieties is continuing. However, there are also other new alternative management strategies under study at the Sidney ARS lab. Lartey is currently studying three promising new fungal biocontrol agents for *Cercospora* leaf spot in sugarbeets, which have also been shown to inhibit net-form net blotch in barley. He plans to test these new agents against spot-form net blotch in upcoming lab and greenhouse trials. Ultimately, successful agents could provide the basis for a new "living" fungicide for MonDak growers to use in battling both forms of net blotch, as well as *Cercospora*.

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Message From Montana Wool Growers President

Charles Bair was a famous member of the Montana Wool Growers Association. Around 1910, Bair's ranch was estimated to have roughly 300,000 head of sheep and produce nearly 1.5 million pounds of wool a year. Bair's accomplishments as a sheep producer are almost unrivaled; and his production numbers are made even more impressive when one compares his ranch's production to total sheep production in Montana in 2010.

According to the United States National Agriculture Statistics Service, Montana's total sheep and lamb inventory in 2010 was 230,000 head and wool production was roughly 2 million pounds. These numbers were down from 2009 production by 6% and 7% respectively. Looking at these numbers, it is clear that Montana's sheep and wool industry has shrunk since Charles Bair ranched in the Treasure State. Yet, despite the drop over the years in overall production by our sheep producers, the membership of the Wool Growers Association finds themselves in an encouraging position. Lamb prices are presently at an all-time high, the wool market is booming, and the cull ewe and pelt markets are very profitable. Further, Montana's sheep producers are tapping into the growing ethnic purchasing and nontraditional markets, such as local food markets. Further, sheep producers are experiencing an unprecedented demand for wool products. The increased demand for wool is coming, in part, from our nation's military, which many readers may not realize is the largest domestic consumer of U.S. produced wool. In fact, most readers probably don't know that Montana's sheep industry is on the forefront of producing advanced next-to-skin wool and washable products for use by our soldiers and sailors.

To meet this increased demand for our industry's products, and to increase sheep numbers and wool production, the Association has joined with the American Sheep Industry to promote the build up of Montana's and America's sheep inventory. This effort, which has been entitled "Let's Grow with TwoPLUS", calls on sheep producers to enlarge their flocks by two ewes per operation or by two ewes per 100 by the year 2014, to increase the average birthrate per ewe to two lambs per year, and to increase the harvested lamb crop from 108-110%.

While the TwoPLUS effort won't turn any Montana sheep producer into the new Charles Bair, if successfully implemented, this initiative is expected to result nationwide in the production of 315,000 more lambs and 2 million more pounds of wool for the industry to



Dave Hinnaland, Montana Wool Growers Association president

meet the growing demands being placed upon it. To learn more about this campaign, to increase the size of the national sheep flock I encourage the reader to visit www.growourflock.org, which is the website created by ASI to promote the Let's Grow effort. The webpage has excel-

lent, informative content on how to incorporate the twoPlus goals into existing sheep operations and how to make existing sheep operations more efficient.

In addition to benefiting the financial health of Montana's sheep industry, this 'grow the flock' effort will have several other positive impacts. It is estimated that half a billion dollars in lamb, wool, sheep milk and breed stock sales at the ranch level supports an additional \$1.3 billion in other forms of business activity, thereby providing a net contribution to America's economy of \$1.8 billion and providing the income source for many associated rural business to survive and thrive. Also, by working to increase the nation's sheep inventory, our membership will continue to meet their obligation to feed and clothe the world. A recent study estimates that the expected increase in world population during the next 50 years will require the world's farmers and ranchers to produce 100% more food than they produce today. The reality is that if the number of agriculture producers and/or their level of productivity stays constant or decreases over the next half century, hundreds of millions of people will suffer starvation.

The Wool Growers Association is Montana's oldest agriculture organization. We are proud to follow in the footsteps of great sheep men like Charles Bair. And we are hopeful that our efforts to build up Montana's sheep inventory will prove successful on a number of levels, including helping our industry replace retiring sheep producers, attracting new producers, and maintaining the health of our industry that for nearly 120 years has put food on your table and clothes on your backs.

Dave Hinnaland, Montana Wool Growers Association president, operates a family-owned sheep ranch in McCone County.

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"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. 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.

A Little Bit Country

Bigger Cars Still Cost More To Operate

By Warren Froelich

NDSU Extension Agent, Williams County

Except for housing, most families spend more on transportation than on any other expense category. Consumers prefer the latest technologies and multi-year warranties of new cars, but the vast majority does not buy new cars. The reason is simple. Used cars are considerably cheaper to own and operate than new cars.

According to a new publication of the North Dakota State University, the cost of owning and operating a new medium sized car such as Chevrolet Impala, Ford Fusion, Honda Accord, Nissan Altima and Toyota Camry is \$.57.3. Costs for smaller vehicles such as the Cobalt, Focus, Civic, Sentra and Corolla are listed at \$.45.1 per mile.

The NDSU publication states that about one in five new car transactions is a lease arrangement rather than a purchase. Many consumers lease in order to drive a more expensive car than they could afford to buy or because they qualify to deduct all or part of the lease payments as a business expense. To make an accurate comparison between leasing and financing the purchase of a new vehicle, you must know the underlying price of the car if you were buying it. When looking for a lease the publication urges consumers to comparison shop with several dealers. Under federal law, consumers have the right to information about the costs and terms of vehicle leases. For more information see Keys to Vehicle Leasing, a consumer guide published by the Federal Reserve Board, available at

www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/leasing.

The cost of owning a car can be reduced by paying cash or saving for a larger down payment thus reducing the amount borrowed. Saving is a lot easier said than done. Probably the easiest way to save is to have funds automatically taken from your paycheck and deposited monthly into your special savings account. For example, if you save \$150 a month for five years, you will save a total of \$9,000.

Think about the cost of insurance before buying a vehicle. Premiums will be much lower on an older, four-door sedan compared with a new, expensive sports car. If you are on a tight budget, visit with your insurance agent regarding savings by raising the deductibles and lowering or dropping the collision coverage. You will want to maintain some collision insurance on newer vehicles. Liability insurance is a must by North Dakota law.

The best advice for insurance coverage is to shop around. There are cost differences among insurance carriers, but there also is a difference in service and dependability. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) has created the Insure U-Get Smart About Insurance program to help consumers make educated decisions. For more information about auto insurance, see its Consumer Guide to Auto Insurance, available at www.insureuonline.org/Consumer_Guide_Auto.pdf.

The NDSU publication lists several sources of information available to auto buyers. For a free copy of this publication call 701-577-4595.



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