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AG
ROUNDUP
January
2013

MonDak Ag Days
Official Program

Landblom to Present Using Corn Residue for Grazing

By Ashley Harris

"Corn breeders have bred vastly different corn varieties for two specific purposes, namely grain and forage," stated Dr. Doug Landblom, a research scientist at NDSU's Dickinson Research Extension Center. He will be speaking at Ag Days on how to properly graze cattle with corn residue. He has BS and MS degrees in animal science from Montana State University. Originally a Montana native, he knows how drought can affect cattle and grazing. Dr. Landblom stated, "I am interested in ways to integrate beef in farming systems, crop rotations and the paralleling opportunities to invoke low-input ways to manage beef cattle, and corn is a very versatile plant."

Dr. Landblom will be discussing a few key points in-

cluding; how to properly use corn residue in a low-input, low-cost environment, using corn residue during winter and following a drought, proper protein supplementation, economic considerations while grazing corn residue, and the limitation of grazing corn residue.

Dr. Landblom concluded, "Due to corn's versatility, I have been conducting research with forage corn to find various ways to utilize the plant for early weaning calves, growing yearling steers to heavy weight (1,100 to 1,250 lbs) before feedlot entry, heifer development, and for cows as a hay replacement."

Dr. Landblom will be speaking from 11:30am until 12:30pm Friday afternoon at the Richland County Fair Event Center for MonDak Ag Days.



Dr. Doug Landblom

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MonDak Ag Days Planned Events

By Ashley Harris

The annual MonDak Ag Days are coming up next week, January 10-12 at the Richland County Fair Event Center. Ag Days will offer educational sessions, trade show displays, and entertainment, with something to interest everyone.

Starting out on Thursday, there will be a family program from 8:30am until noon providing different gardening topics including square-foot gardening and raised beds, rainwater capture strategies, garden insects, bucket composting, and gardening in schools.

From 12:45 until 1:45 pm, Jon Reiten with MT Bureau of Mines and Geology, as well as Denise Biggar with MT Water Resources, will speak on water rights and provide information on water depots.

From 2:15 to 3:15, Jeremy Norby, an agent from Seitz Insurance, will be speaking about insurance for the farm. Thursday evening beginning at 5pm, there will be a social prior to the banquet being held at 6pm. This year's banquet is catered by Leroy Strasheim and will feature entertainer, Ken Overcast.

Starting out on Friday from 7am until 9am, enjoy a free breakfast, sponsored by Advanced Communications and

served by the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Following the breakfast, from 9am until 10am, Vicki Olson with the Phillips County Livestock Association will discuss the potential impacts with bison, while Jim Posewitz will give his side of the grazing buffalo issue.

From 10:30am to 11:30am, there will be a virtual tour of the Pust feedlot presented by Doug Pust.

Starting at 11:30 until 12:30, Dr. Doug Landblom will speak on grazing cornstalks as a means of feed.

From 1:15pm to 2:15pm, Jim Miller, the new local Game Warden, will speak on Dealing with Predators. He will speak on the issues seen with them and the legalities of how to deal with them.

From 2:30pm to 3:30pm, Bill Pelton will speak on Beef Quality Assurance. Bill will speak on how to get certified, stay certified and provide other information regarding being certified.

All events will be held at the Richland County Fair Event Center. For further information please see additional articles in this edition of the Ag Roundup or call the MSU- Extension Office at 406-433-1206.



Larry Denowh, Advanced Communications, chats with a customer at the MonDak Ag Days Trade Show.

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Ken Overcast Entertainer for 2013 MonDak Ag Days

By Ashley Harris

Ken Overcast, singing and writing Montana cowboy, is this year's entertainer at MonDak Ag Days. He will be performing the evening of January 10th, 2013. Tickets are available for \$25 at the Richland County Extension Office, Stockman Bank, and Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

When talking with Overcast about his upcoming performance he stated, "We try to have a variety. We try to keep things rolling. I'll tell stories, play music, a lot of music, and read some poetry. It doesn't matter what you do, if it's the same the whole time people are going to start yawning and fall asleep."

Overcast mentioned he has a few fiddle-playing granddaughters that he occasionally brings along. Sometimes just one comes with, but no matter how many, they steal the show. "One of them was a state champion when she was 8 or 9," he said about his granddaughters. "It's a lot of fun traveling with the kids." Overcast said their mom used to travel with him, until he offered her up on stage and some big tall Norwegian guy took him up on it. Since talking with Overcast, they have welcomed the 8th grandbaby to the family, a little baby boy. Luckily for him, all of them are musicians. Overcast is really hoping he can bring a few of them, but will not know until much closer to the event.

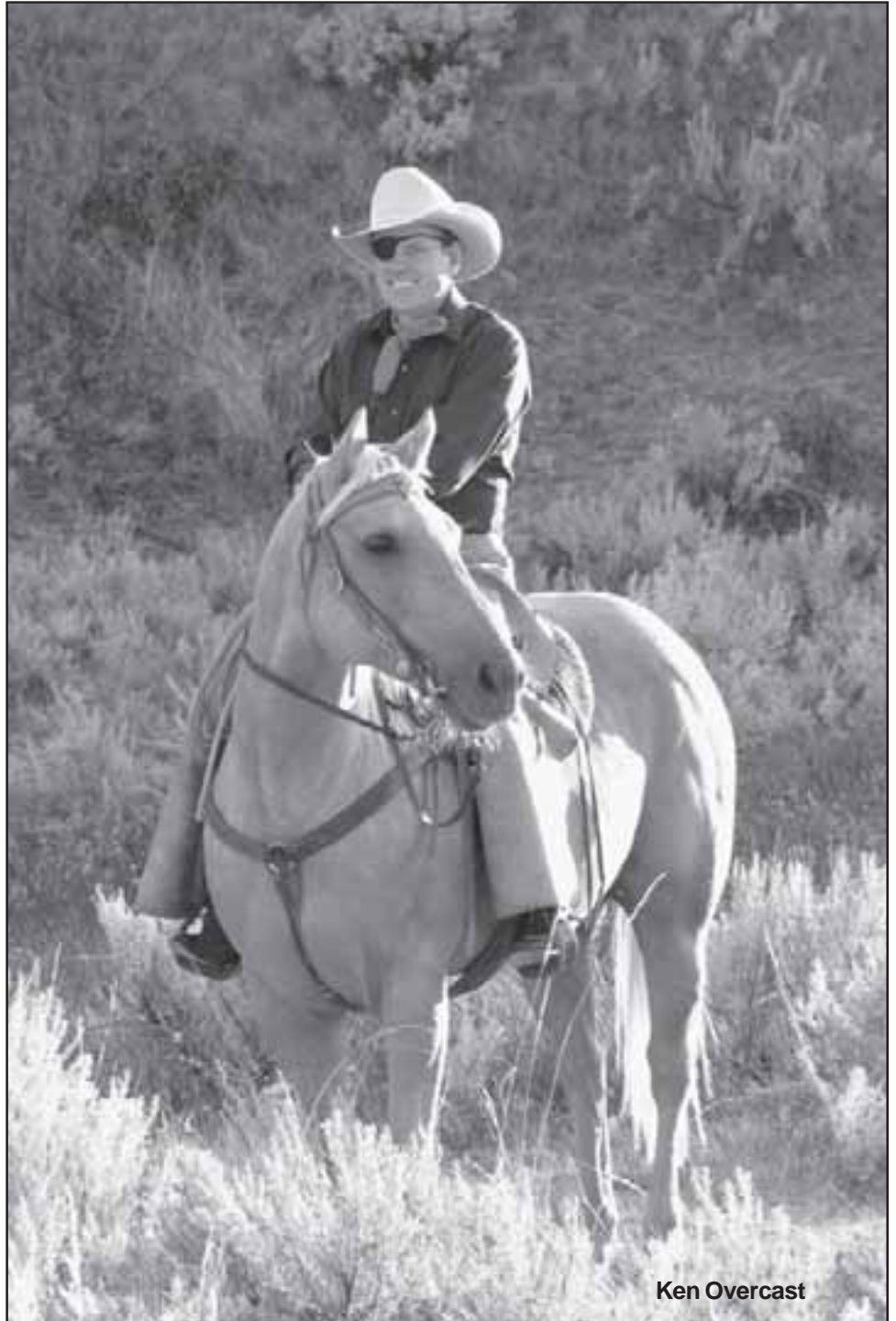
Overcast is excited to be coming to Sidney. He stated, "I've been blessed to play in a lot of places in the Midwest, but small communities are the best. I can relate to the small, rural audiences."

Overcast has released 8 CDs and 5 books to date, with his 6th book coming out the end of January.

Overcast has had appearances in the area with perfor-

mances in Lambert for their 4th of July celebration in 2007, The Roosevelt County Fair in 2007, and The MonDak Ag Days back in 2002.

He stated, "I'm really looking forward to it. It's always better to leave them wanting more."



Ken Overcast

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



*...and urge everyone to join us in attending the 2013 MonDak Ag Days & Trade Show at the Richland Co. Fair Event Center in Sidney
Thurs. & Fri., Jan. 10 & 11*



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Dealing with Predators Will be Discussed by Sidney Game Warden at Ag Days

By Ashley Harris

Jim Miller, Sidney's game warden, will be speaking on how to deal with predators. He will discuss how Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks can help with predator issues on the farm and ranch. There are not many regulations on dealing with predators, but Miller will provide information as to what is or isn't regulated. He hasn't received many reports on nuisance predators such as coyotes, foxes, badger, etc.

Miller, who is a native of Sidney, has been with Fish, Wildlife & Parks for 24 years and in July transferred back to the region. He will end his presentation by introducing himself to attendees and discuss some general Fish, Wildlife & Parks information.

Miller can be reached at 406-853-7272 or if you have a violation to report call 1-800-TIP-MONT.



Game Warden Jim Miller

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Montana Beef Quality Assurance Coordinator will Speak at MonDak Ag Days

By Ashley Harris

Bill Pelton, who serves as Montana Beef Quality Assurance coordinator, will be speaking at MonDak Ag Days. With over 40 year's experience in agricultural marketing and consulting, Pelton has some valuable information for all beef industry stakeholders.

Pelton will introduce attendees to the website for Beef Quality Assurance (www.bqa.org) and encour-

age all to become "BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) Certified. Beef Quality Assurance is a national organization that is represented in state programs. BQA provides efficient information to beef producers and consumers so they can take pride in what they sell and purchase. BQA states on their website, 'When better quality cows leave the farm and reach the market place, the producer, packer, and consumer all benefit. When better quality beef reaches the supermarket, consumers are more confident in the beef they are buying, and this increases beef consumption.' BQA helps producers recognize the values of quality production at all levels and within every segment of the cattle industry.

Pelton will also introduce www.animalcaretraining.org, which is a resource for providing veterinary staff training. The website provides online video and testing programs to help practices succeed. Vet clinics can recruit qualified people, train current staff, educate clients, and measure results.

Closing up his presentation, Pelton is going to have a panel discussion regarding 'Why Should I Certify?'

Pelton is the owner of Bill Pelton Livestock, LLC, out of Billings, MT. The company specializes in livestock sales including e-cattle ads, country classifieds, video production sales, conference calls, and is a licensed & bonded livestock dealer through the State of Montana Brands Enforcement Division. They also provide livestock insurance through American Live Stock. To check out or use their services, go to www.billpelton.com.



Bill Pelton

A Little Bit Country

Wheat Show

Speakers Announced

Warren Froelich

NDSU Extension Agent, Williams County

The 60th National Hard Spring Wheat Show scheduled to be held in Williston, February 4, 5, 6 will feature several exciting topics and well known experts.

One of the featured speakers will be Jolene Brown. Ms. Brown is a farmer, author and an award winning communicator from West Branch, Iowa who has made numerous appearances on television and radio broadcasts. Her work has been featured in several major agricultural publications. As a founder of the Business-First Family Institute, she knows the unique challenges facing parents, siblings, and in-laws who work together.

During the Wheat Show, Ms. Brown will make two presentations. The first, "The Top Ten Mistakes That Break up a Family Business", will focus on many daily aggravations and family business catastrophes which can be avoided. In addition, she will explore questions that must be answered before someone is allowed to join or work for a business; identify the hidden areas of business arguments which often start as a conversation but must end in written documentation; discuss the egos, emotions, and decisions involved in estate and management transfer planning; recognize the value and impact of in-laws, off site family, and employees and understand the need for courtesy and celebration.

Ms. Brown's second presentation, "It's a Jungle Out There! Blazing New Trails for Agriculture", will revolve around learning the value of what we do is in the eye of the purchaser, not the producer. She believes the pace, the people, the process and the products for agriculture have all changed and urges food producers to do the same.

Ms. Brown has had the luxury of sitting at lots of kitchen tables and family business meeting rooms. She has learned what works and what doesn't. Whether you are a beginning farmer or nearing retirement her presentations are packed with ideas which will help make any farm business more successful.

Another featured speaker will be Jeffrey Tranel, Agricultural and Business Management Economist at Colorado State University. He will discuss how the

North Dakota farm businesses can take advantage of whatever the future may bring. One of his assumptions considered the current and relative high prices of ag commodities with expectations that profitability will shrink as prices and costs converge. He also addresses the issue of good farm succession plans. He acknowledges that many farm businesses in this area are blessed with the infusion of energy monies. He recognized this new revenue often makes the lack of agreement within the family more tragic.

Several crop production and marketing issues are also included in the education program. One of the speakers, Rick Bieber, a farmer near Pierre, S.D. will share how he has substantially improved crop yields and profitability on his farm through farming practices which have been directed toward improving soil health. Through cooperative research projects with South Dakota State University, Mr. Bieber has many years of data showing the impact of promoting plant root growth beyond that of annual crops grown in the western Dakotas and eastern Montana.

In addition to the above, the Wheat Show will include activity reports from several commodity groups, discussions relating to the impact of the reorganized Canadian Wheat Board and expected competition of railroad service.

The Wheat Show also includes a Bread Fair when area 5th grade students learn how to make bread, a Photo Contest organized by ag students of Williston State College and a trade show featuring ag businesses who assist area farm producers who produce food not only for U.S. consumers but for people around the world.

For more information about the Wheat Show, contact the NDSU Extension Service – Williams County (701-577-4595) or any area county extension office.

Roundup
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Richland County Fair Event Center Sidney, MT

Thursday, Jan. 10 • Break Sponsor: Farm Bureau Federation

- 8:30 **TRADE SHOW OPENS**
- 8:30-12:00 **FAMILY PROGRAM**
- "How Does Your Garden Grow? Strategies and Tips**
- (8:30am) **"Square-foot Gardening and Raised Beds"** George Biebl
- (9:00am) **"Rainwater Capture Strategies"** Bill Iversen
- (9:30am) **"Garden Insects, the Bad and the Ugly"** Deb Waters
- (10:00am) **"Bucket Composting"** Mike Dalton
- (11:00am) **"Gardening in Schools"** Anne McHale
- 12:45-1:45 **WATER CONSIDERATIONS**
(drilling wells, water depots, etc.) John Reitens, Denise Biggar
- 2:15-3:15 **INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS for the farm**
Jeremy Norby
- 3:45-4:45 **CHS GAS fertilizer plant in N.D.**



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5:00-6:00 **SOCIAL**
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6:00 **BANQUET** featuring Ken Overcast

Friday, Jan. 11 • Break Sponsor: Crop Production Services


7:00-9:00 **CHAMBER BREAKFAST**
 (Sponsored by Advanced Communications)
9:00 **TRADE SHOW OPENS**
9:00-10:00 **BISON PANEL**
 "What Impacts Might We See in the Mon-Dak Region"
10:30-11:30 **VIRTUAL TOUR**
 Doug and Steve Pust Feedlot
11:30-12:30 **GRAZING CORNSTALKS**
 Dr. Doug Landblom
1:15-2:15 **DEALING WITH PREDATORS**
 Jim Miller
2:30-3:30 **BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE**
 Bill Pelton
3:00 **TRADE SHOW CLOSSES**

Saturday, Jan. 12

**Keith Steinbeisser Memorial
 Livestock Judging Contest**
Gartner Denowh Angus Ranch
 Registration..8 a.m. • Contest..9 a.m.
 Awards Ceremony..1 p.m.
 Jr & Sr 4-H, FFA & Adult Groups

Ag Days Banquet

6:00 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 10
Richland County Fair Event Center
Speaker: Ken Overcast



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DNRC Regional Manager to Discuss Water Resources in Eastern Montana

By Ashley Harris

Denise Biggar, with the MT Water Resources, will provide an update on the various water related issues affecting northeast Montana. Biggar is the Regional Manager for the Water Resources Division of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). She serves ten counties in northeastern Montana. She has worked for the DNRC in Glasgow for the past 14 years. The DNRC-Glasgow Water Resource office provides local support for a number of water resource programs, including water right adjudication, processing new water right applications, state water projects, water management, dam safety and floodplain management. She is going to focus on the adjudication process and explain it. She will also discuss the status of the process for the lower Yellowstone River. She will cover the water needs as a result of the oil well development, including water for drilling, hydraulic fracturing, trailer parks,

man camps, gravel washing and testing pipelines. Following her presentation she will answer any questions.

For more information on the water issues affecting our region, come listen to her speak at MonDak Ag Days January 10th - 11th.



Denise Biggar

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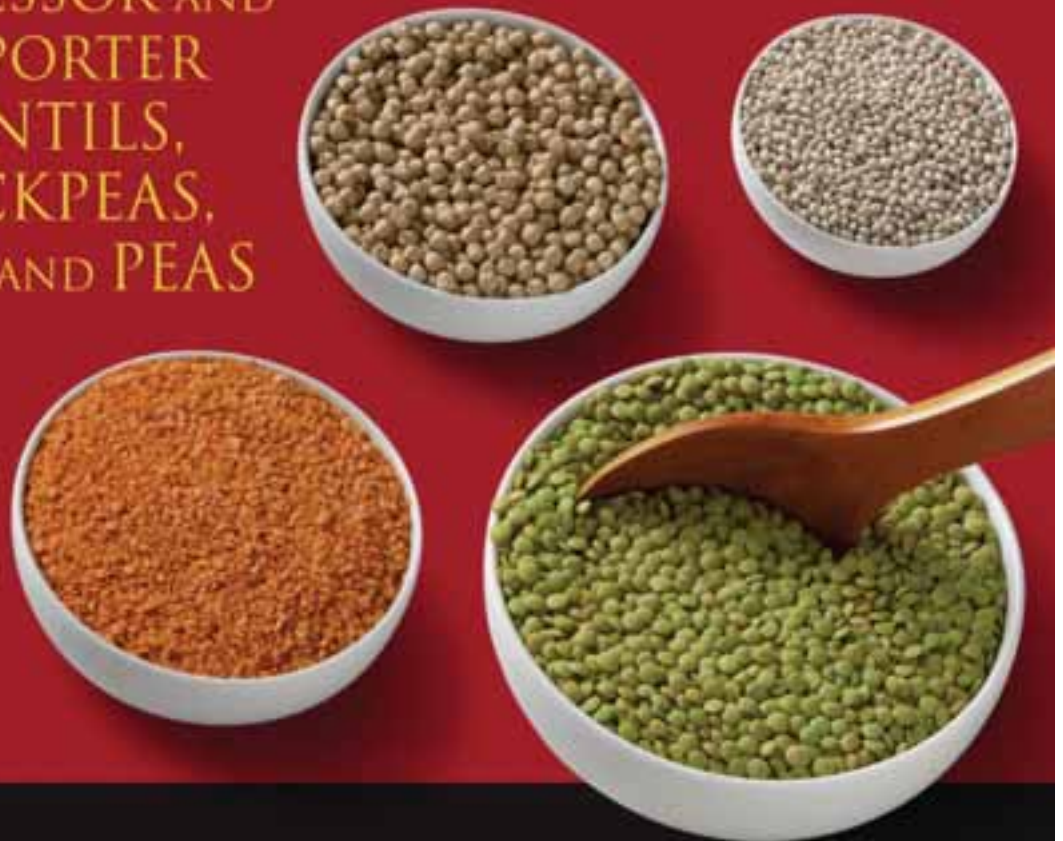
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Olson to Speak on Roaming Bison at Ag Days

By Ashley Harris

Vicki Olson, member of the Phillips County Livestock Association, will be speaking on the roaming bison and the effect it would have on our area.

She will touch on Land Uses and their value, Current Ag Impacts, Future Foods Needs for the US, and Economic Outlook related to Ag. She feels Ag is so vital to the economy and plays an important role in our future.

Olson has been a spokeswoman for land use and ag in general for many years as her family has been ranching on the same land for almost 100 years. Her family is vital to their local economy and should be important to anyone in the USA that eats.

She feels that being part of the discussion is so important to our area. She stated, "We are being invaded by non profits and the federal government is trying to take over the area."

Olson stated, "I am opposed to free roaming bison because of all the problems we would have with private property rights and also disease problems. Management or lack of is the real problem." She believes the current land owners are the original environmentalists and take care of the land and wildlife while producing a wonderful protein to feed the world. Locking up their land and taking it out of production for ag is not the answer, especially when it comes to feeding the increase in future populations. Ag producers both

improve wildlife and feed people. Land does not have to be reserved for just wildlife.

Olson feels that ranchers and producers in Phillips County aren't getting a choice in the roaming bison. In the area, a non-profit has purchased several ranches close or connected to the C.M. Russell Wildlife Refuge. Their goal is to get the government to make a monument of the whole area. Olson stated, "The American Prairie Reserve is working very closely with the federal government to get the area protected and bison to roam and it is not fair for the local ranchers because we cannot compete with the non-profits and the government to keep it in ag production." The Phillips County Livestock Association feels that keeping ag production, as well as conserving wildlife, is a better use of the land instead of locking it up. It is one thing to raise bison as a managed livestock, but for the government to tell people they have to put up with them is not reasonable.

Montana also passed a bill in the last legislature that states that free roaming bison cannot be run on private or federal land unless there is permission given.

Olson concluded, "As you can see we have a multitude of issues all centering around the bison and whether they should be free roaming. We feel we have been there for many, many years and have taken very good care of the land and paid taxes and contributed to the community and should not be forced to put up with a wild bison."

Olson is active in a number of groups including: Public Land Council, local, state and national Stockgrowers, local, state and national Cattlewomen, Rancher Stewardship Alliance, Montana Community Preservation Alliance, as well as being an active member of a long time working family ranch. Olson also gives back to her community by being a 4-H leader and an EMT.





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COMMON GROUND



Greytak Calendars for Sale

Don Greytak calendars have been on sale since December 1. Don Greytak, a pencil artist from Havre, Montana showcases his work in these great calendars. Greytaks portraits illustrate rural life and a down home way of living. The profits from these calendars will benefit the Montana 4-H Foundation. The Montana 4-H Foundation serves as a non-profit corporation that continually supports the state wide 4-H program, which allows youth and leaders to participate in many life changing experiences through the 4-H program. The calendars can be purchased at your Sidney financial Institutions.

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Ag Days & Trade Show

JANUARY 10-11 2013

Richland County Fairgrounds Event Center Sidney, Montana

THURSDAY, JAN. 10

8:30---TRADE SHOW OPENS

8:30-12:00---FAMILY PROGRAM: "How Does Your Garden Grow? Strategies and Tips

(8:30am): "Square-foot Gardening and Raised Beds"....George Biebl

(9:00am): "Rainwater Capture Strategies"....Bill Iversen

(9:30am): "Garden Insects, the Bad and the Ugly"....Deb Waters

(10:00am): "Bucket Composting"....Mike Dalton

(11:00am): "Gardening in Schools"....Anne McHale

12:45-1:45---WATER CONSIDERATIONS: (drilling wells, water depots, etc.)...John Reitens, Denise Biggar

2:15-3:15---INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS for the farm....Jeremy Norby

3:45-4:45---CHS GAS fertilizer plant in N.D.

5:00-6:00---SOCIAL: (sponsored by...Prewitt & Company and 1st Bank)

6:00---DINNER and BANQUET featuring Ken Overcast



FRIDAY, JAN. 11

7:00-9:00---CHAMBER BREAKFAST

9:00---TRADE SHOW OPENS

9:00-10:00---BISON PANEL: "What Impacts Might We See in the Mon-Dak Region"

10:30-11:30---VIRTUAL TOUR: Doug and Steve Pust Feedlot

11:30-12:30---GRAZING CORNSTALKS....Dr. Doug Landblom

1:15-2:15---DEALING WITH PREDATORS....Jim Miller

2:30-3:30---BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE....Bill Pelton

3:00---TRADE SHOW CLOSES



SATURDAY, JAN. 12

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8:00....Registration at Gartner Denowh Ranch

9:00....Contest (Jr and Sr 4-H, FFA and Adult Groups)

1:00....Awards Ceremony

Banquet speaker... Ken Overcast



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Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet

By Ashley Harris

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture will hold their annual banquet January 21st at the Sidney Country Club. Annual awards will be presented. There will be a social beginning at 6pm, with the dinner following at 6:30pm. This year's speaker is Holly Hoffman, who appeared on the show "Survivor".

Holly (Wanner) Hoffman was born and raised in Eureka, a small town with about 850 residents, in north central South Dakota. Being the youngest of three children and the only girl in the family, Holly definitely considers herself a tomboy at heart.



Hoffman finished fourth on "Survivor Nicaragua."

Growing up, life wasn't always easy for Holly. Her father was an abusive alcoholic who went in and out of treatment many times and started gambling. Holly's parents divorced when she was in the sixth grade and her father basically disappeared, coming in and out of their lives. However, Holly stayed as strong as possible to have a regular life growing up.

Her senior year of high school, she was voted the Female High School Athlete of the Year for the entire state of South Dakota. At that moment, she realized hard work pays off. Holly started dating Charlie Hoffman her senior year of high school and their courtship continued while she attended college. Charlie and Holly married in 1985 and started their new home on a cattle ranch in rural Eureka.

Starting their family early in the marriage, they welcomed son Austin in 1985, daughter Alexandra in 1987, and daughter Elizabeth in 1990. Sadly, her father passed away the same year in August. He was only 46 years of age and had paid the ultimate price for a life-long addiction to alcohol.

After starting up a swim team, coaching for 17 years, raising her children, and sending them off to college, Holly decided she wanted a challenge and an

adventure in her own life. She wanted to step out of her comfort zone, and that is when she decided to apply to be on the CBS reality show, "Survivor". After sending in one application, one audition DVD, and having one casting call, Holly made the show for season 21, "Survivor Nicaragua". Little did she know, this was only the beginning of her journey. Holly feels that what she learned from being on the reality show, she has been able to apply to the real world of survival. Holly finished fourth at the end of the season and was the last woman standing as well as the last member of her tribe.

Soon after coming home from Nicaragua, Holly became an inspirational and motivational speaker. Holly encourages others to take opportunities and also focus on attitude, confidence, determination, desire, and faith, which is what her new book, 'The Winner Within', explains in detail.

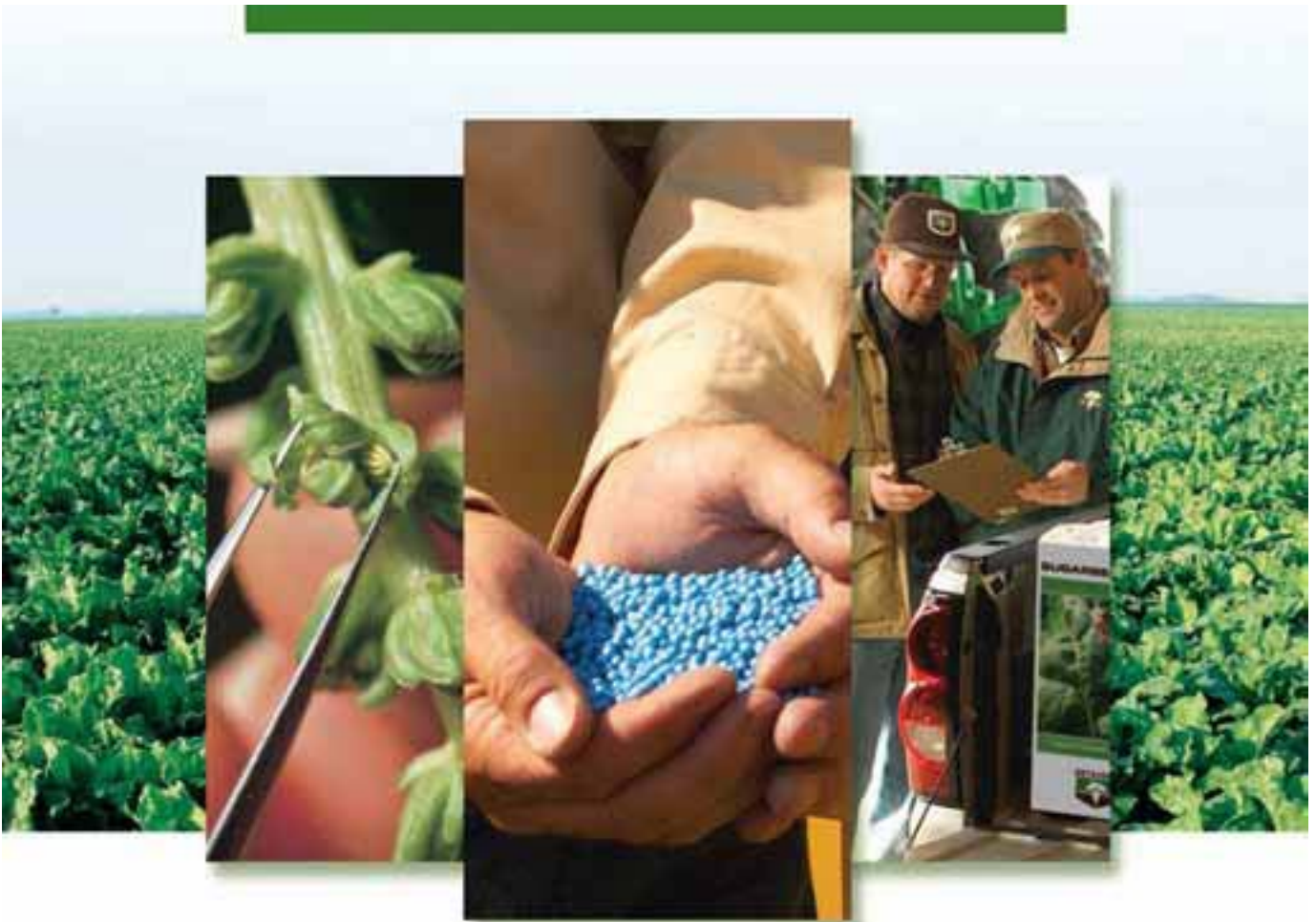
She believes her childhood experiences grounded her to become the determined person she is today. Not realizing it at the time, but now looking back, Holly feels you sometimes must go through hardships in your life to become a more determined person. Her mom was a true example of how to never give up in life.

When asked about what she hopes people come away with after listening to her speech, "I hope you will walk out of the room realizing you can do anything in life you set your mind to. When you face your fears, you gain strength and courage. Don't let your past mistakes define your future," Holly stated, "nobody can go back and make a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new end."



Hoffman's book "Your Winner Within."

For more information go to www.hollyhoffman.org.



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A Little Bit Country

Will the Beef Herd Rebuild?

By Warren Froelich, NDSU Extension Agent

Up until the break of the new century the U.S. beef industry could set its watch on a 10 year market cycle. In other words, producers could expect market lows to be 10 years following the previous market highs. Such things as the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), major drought throughout large sections of the Midwest, competition from rising crop values and an aging group of ranchers have all contributed to a major reduction in the number of mama cows across our nation.

USDA data from 2011 indicates that among the 654,000 cattle farms in the country, 37 percent are operated by producers 65 years of age or older and another 29 percent are operated by producers between the ages of 55-64. Together, these two age groups operate 64 percent of land used for cattle production. This includes 118.4 million acres by the 65+ producers, 66 percent of which are the full owners of their farms. In many cases, there are not family heirs interested or able to take over the operation, according to Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist.

As characteristic in agriculture, ranchers just don't suddenly retire. They tend to leave the industry over a period; sometimes it takes many years to exit. During these "decision" years they tend to cut back on the intensity of their ranch operation. This might mean reducing cattle numbers or changing the ranch to one requiring less labor. A friend of mine in South Dakota tells me of ranchers affected by the severe drought of 2012 who have liquidated their cow herd with intentions of going to a summer yearling grazing period. The latest USDA data confirms that cattle producers over 65 years of age have a per farm value of production that is 43 percent less compared to the average value of production on all cattle farms.

Yes, there are some well-educated young people aspir-

ing to make cattle production a career but they face the daunting task of making a down payment in an industry which has always required a lot of capital. Currently asset value, land-cows-equipment, are at record highs. For these young enthusiasts, asset ownership may have to give way to asset control. However, for this to occur, those who control the assets will have to consider leasing or other business arrangements if a new generation is to enter the industry.

While the aged cattlemen are slowly exiting and the eager youth are trying to find an opening into the industry, many in the middle age group are trying to survive the widespread drought by down-sizing with intention of off-setting high feed and input cost of the past two years. For some, re-building the cow herd will be difficult because of high cow and heifer values.

The widespread national drought will ease and eventually yield to plentiful plant production. As this occurs, there will be a gradual increase in the U.S. cow numbers. But with increased domestic and international demand for quality beef, rebuilding the nation's cow herd may be at the pace of a slow walk. For the long term health of the industry, I hope it can find ways for the new generation to enter. These are the folks who can make U.S. beef production highly efficient.

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A Little Bit Country

Soil Health Topic Offered For Wheat Show

By Warren Froelich

NDSU Extension Agent, Williams County

During last year's Wheat Show, many crop producers came just to learn more about soil health and how it can impact productivity of the land and profits on the farm. Since then many of the attendees urged members of the Wheat Show planning committee to include more information on soil health during the February, 2013 event.

So this year's Wheat Show will feature two speakers who will address the components of soil quality and how certain farming practices specific to western and eastern Montana can make soils in these areas more productive and profitable. In addition, one of the speakers, Chris Augustin, area NDSU Extension Soil Health Specialist, is offering to test producer's soil for salinity during the Wheat Show. To accomplish this, Augustin suggests sampling the soil from a handful of spots in a field, mix the soil and place it in a small dish on a sunny windowsill for a few days to allow the sample

to melt and dry. Then place the sample in a zip-lock plastic bag and bring it to the Wheat Show. The test will only take a few minutes. There will be no charge for the test.

Salts are native to North Dakota's glaciated mineology. They affect soil health and this quick test gives farmers an idea of how bad it is and what can be done to fix the problem.

Rick Bieber, a Trail City, SD farmer, has offered to share how he has improved soil health and productivity of his farm located north of Pierre, SD. Rick works closely with the researchers of South Dakota State University. He believes yields of annual crops can be substantially increased through the implementation of farming practices that mimic Mother Nature. He tries to accomplish this through specific crop rotations and the maintenance of live root systems.

Rick brings with him a long time experience with no-till farming practices, speaking engagements around the world and as a consultant to farmers in the Dakotas and Montana.

USDA Announces Disaster Assistance Sign-up for 2011 Crop Losses

**Submitted by Dan Janes Communications
Coordinator USDA Farm Service Agency**

North Dakota USDA Farm Service Agency State Executive Director Aaron Krauter recently announced that producers can enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for 2011 crop year losses beginning Oct. 22, 2012. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

"Eligible producers who experienced a 2011 crop loss can contact their local county FSA office to learn more about the SURE program," said Krauter. "All eligible farmers and ranchers must sign up for 2011 SURE benefits before the June 7, 2013 deadline," he said.

To qualify for a SURE payment, the producer's operation must be located in a county that was declared a disaster for 2011 and have at least a 10 percent production loss that affects one crop of economic significance. Producers with agricultural operations located

outside a disaster county are eligible for SURE benefits if they had a production loss greater or equal to 50 percent of the normal production on the farm. All counties in North Dakota either received a primary Secretarial Disaster Designation or were contiguous to a designated county.

To meet program eligibility requirements, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all insurable crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on non-insurable crops, if available, from FSA. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this requirement. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact your local FSA office or visit the SURE website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

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Each year Sidney Sugars contracts sugarbeet acres with area growers. Not only does this allow producers to grow a high value crop but it also provides employment at the factory and at the six beet receiving stations located from Powder River to Culbertson. The company generally employs approximately 60 seasonal workers for the beet receiving stations dur-

ing harvest each year and hires approximately 120 seasonal employees to work at the factory during the winter months where they produce white sugar for sale around the country. Winter campaigns generally last about four months.

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Norby to Talk Insurance at MonDak Ag Days

By Ashley Harris

Ranchers and farmers have unique insurance issues, some of which never come up until the need arises. Jeremy Norby, an agent with Seitz Insurance in Sidney, will be speaking at MonDak Ag Days Thursday, January 10th 2:15 until 3:15. He will cover insurance considerations for the ranch and farm. He will discuss various products and services to consider as well as provide information concerning exclusions, which are provisions that exclude coverage for expenses incurred by a specific event. Information will also be given to make sure the farm or ranch is covered to the closest value and getting the proper exposure, which is the vulnerability to loss. With the Bakken oil boom in our area, farmers and ranchers may also face additional issues re-

lated to the oil industry. Norby will cover what issues may come up and how to protect assets. Issues would include such side jobs as scorio and hot oil hauling.

Norby has been an insurance agent for 5 years, but was raised on a valley farm and still farms with his father Rocky as needed. With being a 4th generation Richland County farmer and an experienced insurance agent, Norby has seen both sides of what coverage is needed on the farm or ranch.

To obtain some valuable information on insurance consideration for your farm and ranch operation, plan on attending Norby's presentation during MonDak Ag Days at the Richland County Fair Event Center.



Norby (right) poses with \$1 Million hole in one shot winner Tim Cayko (middle) and John Seitz (left) of Seitz Insurance during the 2011 Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament.

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2011 GMC Sierra 1500

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2005 Ford Escape AWD

48,143 miles, gray, #7315

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2003 Dodge 2500 QC

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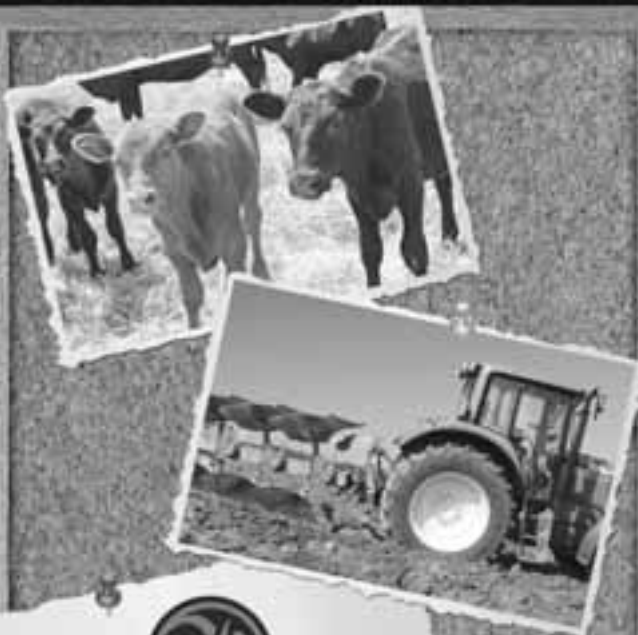
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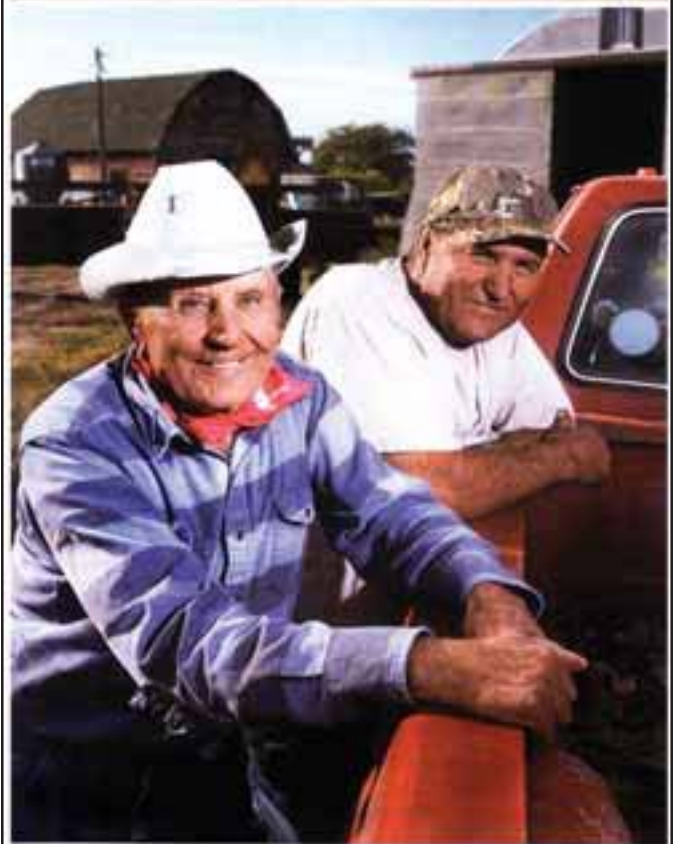
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Ag Days Program Features Strategies and Tips for Home, School Gardens

By Beth Redlin

Are you an avid gardener, already planning your seed beds for spring, but always interested in new ideas? Or are you a “newbie,” excited about the thought of growing your own fresh fruits and vegetables but unsure where to start? Then this year’s MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show is the place to be!

The 2013 event on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 10-11, at the Richland County Fairgrounds Event Center includes a series of gardening talks to kick off of this year’s programming schedule. From 8:30 am through noon on Thursday, you can learn how to use raised beds and limited space to increase your gardening productivity, how to capture rainwater and identify good and bad insects; how to do easy bucket composting, and how to kick off a gardening project at your school. Presenters include local master gardeners and insect experts, well-versed in gardening in this region, along with a Montana Food Corps volunteer helping to connect schools and institutions with freshly grown local foods, whether by scaling up their own gardens or working with area farmers. And finally, “Captain Compost,” aka Mike Dalton, founder of Gardens from Garbage, will also be on hand to discuss composting techniques for both big and small gardens.

Raising More With Less

The gardening session begins with a presentation entitled “Square Foot Gardening and Raised Beds” by Master Gardener George Biebl of Sidney. “Square foot gardening” techniques call for the use of raised beds and soil mixes for your garden which is laid out in a grid in which only the seeds you need are sown. The system allows you to grow much more in a smaller space and is easier for youngsters and adults with limited mobility to manage. According to practitioners, the method uses fewer resources, requires less work, yet still produces a crop equal to a single row garden five times its size. Biebl has used the techniques, particularly the raised beds, in his garden for ten years now and will share his successful experiences and tips during his presentation.

At 9 am, another local Master Gardener Bill Iversen will discuss his own innovative watering techniques in a presentation entitled “Rainwater Capture Strategies.” Iversen harnesses Mother Nature to handle much of the watering chores needed for his large garden, and will share how he does it during his Thursday morning presentation.

Iversen will be followed by Deb Waters, a biological science technician with the USDA Agricultural Research



Service in Sidney, insect expert and fellow gardener. Waters will discuss many of the problem insects local gardeners can expect to encounter and ways to manage them, along with highlighting the beneficial insects also present in their gardens and ways to preserve them. Her presentation, scheduled for 9:30 am on Thursday, is entitled “Garden Insects: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly.”

“A New Era of Composting”

“Captain Compost” Mike Dalton of Great Falls takes over at 10 am with a wide-ranging discussion of “a new era of composting” and how it can not only aid backyard gardeners, but also schools and institutions looking to improve their meal offerings by establishing their own gardens for raising fresh fruits and vegetables and to dispose of their

food wastes in a productive manner. Dalton's talk entitled "Bucket Composting" will demonstrate how to use a natural "live" compost accelerant called Bokashi in an easy cold composting process with "no turning and no stink." According to Dalton, the process, which uses essential microbes in an air tight environment (the bucket) to break down organic matter, is ten times faster than regular composting and works with dairy, fats and meat organic waste as well

as plant materials.

Dalton has taught the process to fourth graders and other students at several Montana schools that have established their own gardens for fresh produce. He's also been exploring options for using the process to aid disposal and composting of institutional and municipal food waste that currently is dumped in local landfills. Find out more from "Captain Compost" during his MonDak Ag Days presentation Thursday, Jan. 10 beginning at 10 am.

Gardening in Schools

The Ag Days gardening program concludes with a presentation by AmeriCorps VISTA Anne McHale, who is serving with the FoodCorps team in Glendive, MT. Montana's FoodCorps aims to improve access to healthy, locally-grown food for kids, and provide new markets for local farmers and ranchers. As full-time, year-round VISTA volunteers, the FoodCorps team builds and tends school gardens, helps cafeterias serve locally-grown meals, and educates students about how and why to eat healthy, locally-grown food.

McHale will discuss her work in Glendive and with area schools in establishing their own gardens. Her talk is entitled "Gardening in Schools" and is set to begin at 11 am Jan. 10 at the Event Center. We hope you can join us for this interesting series of speakers.



"Captain Compost"
Mike Dalton

Symposium for Montana/Wyoming Barley and Sugarbeet Growers Set for Jan. 9 & 10

By MSU News Service

The 2013 Montana/Wyoming Sugar Beet Symposium will be held in Billings at the Big Horn Resort on Wednesday and Thursday, January 9-10, 2013.

The symposium will feature top experts from Montana State University, University of Wyoming, North Dakota State University and Kansas State University, the federal Agricultural Research Service (from Sidney and Kimberly, Idaho stations), as well as from private industry. There will also be a trade show with exhibits by many agricultural input suppliers.

Wednesday's program will focus on malt barley production, irrigation, grain storage, and corn genetics for dry-land and irrigated growers, pulse crops and crop protection (including managing weed, disease and insect pests of corn, dry beans, and wheat grown in rotation with sugarbeets and barley).

There will be presentations by faculty from Montana State University, University of Wyoming, Pioneer Hi-Bred, North Dakota State University and Kansas State University. Meteorologist John Pulaski will present a 2013 weather outlook.

On Wednesday there will be a sponsored soup and sandwich lunch at noon.

On Thursday, following a 6:30 a.m. breakfast sponsored by the Billings Chamber of Commerce, presentations will focus on sugarbeet production, including fertility, irrigation, new genetics, new equipment, plus insect, weed and disease management.

Ruthann Geib, vice president of the American Sugarbeet Growers Association will present a Washington update, as well as updates on the use of Roundup-ready sugarbeets and other issues affecting the future of the sugarbeet industry.

There will be a forum on control of rhizoctonia crown and root rot and a presentation by Carl Strausbaugh on effects of virus diseases on sugarbeet storage.

The full agenda and registration information are available at <http://ipm.montana.edu>. Pre-registration is \$20 per day. Registration at the door is \$25 per day. The 2013 symposium was developed by representatives from Sidney Sugars, Western Sugar, Wyoming Sugar, as well as MSU and others.

Program to Empower Farm/Ranch Women Starts January 22

By Marcia Hellandsaas

Annie's Project, a workshop for women on managing and decision-making in agriculture, will be held in Watford City beginning Tuesday, January 22 and continuing for six Tuesday evenings. Each session will start with 5 pm supper and conclude by 8 pm. Cost to attend is \$100 (which includes all software, books, materials and meals) if registration is postmarked by January 7, 2013 and \$135 thereafter.

Session topics will combine lecture, discussion, individual and small group activities and computer training. One session will be conducted in a computer lab. Topics include: farm financial management (business plans, farm loans, tracking expenses and income, retirement, estate planning and more), marketing grain and livestock, insurance (crop, life, long-term care, health, disability and more) and human

resource management (personality analysis, personnel management).

This workshop strives to help farm/ranch women gain the understanding and knowledge necessary to be active and involved farm partners. Annie's Project will also help women find new ways to balance the demands of family, community and professionalism within the agriculture community.

The program is in honor of Annie Fleck, a woman who lived in a small town in Illinois. She spent her lifetime learning how to become a better business partner with her husband.

For more information please contact the McKenzie County Extension Office at 701-444-3451 or to register online go to: www.ag.ndsu.edu/anniesproject.

USCA Statement on USDA Release of Animal Disease Traceability Rule

Submitted by Jess Peterson

The United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) has released the following statement regarding the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) release of the National Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) final rule today. USCA applauds the agency for the release of this long-awaited policy and the open and transparent process by which USDA promulgated the rule.

Dr. Dick Bowman, USCA Animal ID Chairman and veterinarian who participated in the public rule-making process through the Cattle ID Group said, "This administration has invested considerable time and effort in this process. USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Under Secretary Edward Avalos, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Deputy Administrator Dr. John Clifford and APHIS staff have worked diligently to engage industry stakeholders and a plan has emerged from these discussions that is responsive to the livestock industry's needs while providing efficient and effective methods for disease traceability. We appreciate the agency's work on this controversial but much-needed program, which will enhance animal disease traceability."

USCA Animal Health Committee Chairman, Chuck Kiker, Beaumont, TX said he is pleased that the plan accepts the use of brands, tattoos and brand registration as official identification when accepted by shipping and receiving states or tribes. "This rule provides individual states and tribes

with a remarkable amount of flexibility. While the final rule addresses significant gaps in the nation's overall disease response efforts, under this plan states and tribes will be able to design systems for tracing animals that best fits their needs. Back tags will be permanently maintained as an alternative to official ear tags, which is something many producers made reference to in the public comment period. Certain classes of cattle are exempt under this final rule, including cattle under 18 months of age. The agency has indicated that it will address these classes of cattle under a separate rule-making due to the sheer volume of animals affected. We congratulate USDA-APHIS for its work," added Kiker. "This is a prime example of what can happen when industry groups come together to work in a positive manner with a regulating agency like USDA."

USCA President Jon Wooster said the final ADT rule is the result of a collaborative process that establishes a national system of tools and safeguards for effective disease response. "We expect this rule to be published in the December 28 Federal Register, and it will become effective on February 26 in terms of implementation and compliance education. The enforcement phase will likely not be implemented for six to twelve months after the rule is implemented, which gives USDA time to work with states and tribes to develop their own policies and systems. We applaud USDA for its work on this rule and we look forward to working with the agency and with the Cattle ID Group as we move ahead."

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Olivia Kober takes aim at the target with the air rifle.



Alex Young works on his archery.



Rae Hintz loads another pellet into the air rifle.

Richland County 4H Clubs gathered together Saturday December 8th, for their monthly Shooting Sports event. During this event, 4H kids are shown how to safely and properly shoot air rifles and bows. The kids attend this every month and their scores are kept to track their progress throughout the year. Also held on Saturday was their Craft Day. The kids got together and made some crafts to take home.



Left: Brielle Gorder works on her decorated can.

Above: Trey Schepens shows off his cupcake turkey made with candy corn.



Left: Holly Bouchard displays her Harvest decoration.

Jim Steinbeisser of Sidney Elected to Montana Stockgrowers Association Board of Directors

By Ariel Overstreet

Jim Steinbeisser of VS Inc. in Sidney was elected to the Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) Board of Directors during MSGA's 128th Annual Convention and Trade Show, held Dec. 13-15 in Billings, MT. Steinbeisser was elected by his peers to represent the Northeastern District on the 13-member board.

"I met Jim a number of years ago at a national convention," said Tucker Hughes, MSGA president. "Jim has done a superb job serving Montana as a Montana Beef Council member and on the national Cattlemen's Beef Board. I look forward to working with Jim on the issues that come before the Montana Stockgrowers Association."

Steinbeisser, along with his two brothers and two cousins, owns and operates VS Inc., a diversified farm raising several cash crops, feed for their feedlot, and wintering their cows. His father and uncle still participate in this family operation. The ranch where Steinbeisser lives is west of Sidney, while the farm and feedlot are located south of Sidney. Steinbeisser has been involved with the family operation full-time for 30 years. Steinbeisser and his wife, May Ann, have three children: Corbin (6), Liam (5), and Claire (3).

Steinbeisser is currently the vice-chair of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA)/Cattlemen's Beef Board Joint Public Opinion & Issues Management Group and also currently serves on the Joint Evaluation Advisory Committee. He previously chaired NCBA's Information Committee and Issues Management Subcommittee. Steinbeisser served as president of the Montana Beef Council in 2010 and 2011. He was a director of the Montana Farm Bureau from 1990 to 1996, president of



Jim Steinbeisser

MonDak Stockgrowers from 2007 to 2010, past president of Richland County Farm Bureau, and president of Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture in 2002 and 2003. Steinbeisser is also the past president of Sidney FFA Alumni, past member of St. Matthew's Finance Council, and current director of the Foundation for Community Care.



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Meadow Muffins . . . Ol' Fishhook

By Ken Overcast

Dick and Billy had rattled their old pickup over west of the big mountains to a bull sale last spring, and were pointed back towards home.

"Dang it, but it's nice out," Billy burped, his bleary eyes taking in the beautiful pine covered slopes. "Whadaya say we lay over a day 'er two and do a little fishin'." Dick was all for it, but they didn't have anything along for a fishin' trip. They'd just figured on running over to the bull sale and right back home.

"Ahh, what the heck, we just put the cows in a fresh field, an' I s'pose the rest of the stuff 'll prob'ly wait." The boys finally came to the conclusion that if they'd just stop by one of those dude ranch kind of places, that maybe they could get a little fishin' gear and some advice on the where the best spot might be to throw a line in the water.

"Welcome to the Triangle X" was the sign out by the highway, "Guided and Unguided Fishing Trips, Horses, Canoes and Hiking."

"Why not?" Dick asked himself as he pulled into the lane that led to some fancy looking log buildings down by a roaring little stream, "Looks like we oughta find out somethin' here."

They were met by a fancy-pants lookin' guy with a rhinestone shirt and his pants stuck in his boots. He said his name was Tumbleweed Tex, "...but most folks in these parts just call me Tex." He assured the boys that they were in the right place all right, and he could fix 'em right up.

After Tex gave his little sales pitch on the many varied and exciting activities available, the decision was made to rent a couple of horses and some fishin' gear and head up the creek into the National Forest that was butted right up against

the Triangle X.

"The fishin' is good right here," Tex assured them, "but if you go four or five miles up the creek it's even better. That's what I'd do if I was you."

The fancy-pants wrangler motioned over to a couple of sorry lookin' cayuses tied to the pole fence. "You can just take Champion and King. Don't worry, they're nice and gentle, and there are a couple of poles and some fishing tackle right in the first door there in the barn. Good Luck!" he yelled over his shoulder as he put on his best bowlegged cowboy impression and strode over to another car that had recently driven in.

"Gentle ain't the word fer these sorry &%\$#," Billy complained as they coaxed and prodded the two old plugs up the trail. "This sucker acts like he's been dead fer quite a while already, and the rigger-mortis has set in."

"Didn't think t' bring any spurs," Dick moaned in agreement. "Didn't figure a fella'd need spurs at a bull sale, but I shore wish I had some now. I think ol' Tumbleweed was right, though. Don't believe there's much buck in 'em."

The two ol' boys finally kicked and prodded and whipped the two old nags up the trail until they got to the spot that had been described to them, and lo and behold, but ol' Tex sure hadn't steered 'em wrong. They caught a nice Rainbow trout with almost every cast. It was the best fishin' they'd ever been in. In fact, they got to where they were just saving the big ones and throwing the little ones back. Both of 'em had their limit in nothin' flat.

The sun was starting to burn red in the western sky, and even with as much fun as they were

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

havin', it was time to head back down the creek. They gathered their gear, tied the fish on, and started back down the narrow trail towards the dude ranch.

"Me 'n ol' Sparkplug ... I mean Champion, will take the lead," Billy grinned sloppily as he opened another can of his favorite brand of liquid refreshment. "You an' ol' King can try to keep up if ya can."

Neither one of those plugs amounted to anything, but the one Billy was ridin' was by far the worst. He was so dude proof that he did what he wanted when he wanted, and there wasn't a whole lot a fella could do about it. His tail was stickin' about half way out all the time and about ever third or fourth step he'd stop right in the middle of the trail and simultaneously reach down for a mouth full of grass and break wind.

A nag like that would be a frustrating thing for a decent hand to try and ride, but both of the boys were feeling the effects of the hot sun, the lazy afternoon, and the two six packs of dinner they'd consumed, so they were just lazin' along. Billy's eyes were almost as shut as ol' Champion's, and he'd completely given up on getting him to do anything. He just let the sorry old horse plod along and graze and break wind as he pleased.

About half way home, there was a sudden turn of events. Dick is bringing up the rear on the trail with his reins and the fishin' pole in one hand, and a beer can in the other one, when suddenly ol' Champion takes a notion to stop, graze, and break wind as was his custom. Neither Dick nor ol' King noticed, and they ran right smack into the back of the outfit in front of them.

Dick's fishin' pole was sticking out in the front, and it slid in perfectly under that half raised tail, with the hook implanting itself firmly in a very tender portion of Champion's anatomy. That old plug took off like he was shot out of a rocket, with the reel on Dick's pole making a little whirring sound as it vainly attempted to supply the sudden demand for more line.

Champion and Billy were now both very awake and in a dead run down the trail, but the real action took place when they hit the end of the fishin' line, and the hook did what hooks are

supposed to do. The line broke, and that old nag came uncorked.

Billy's a pretty good skinner, but he didn't quite get ol' Champion covered.

"That must be why they call 'im Champion," Dick mused as he rode up, eyein' his pardner sprawled out on his back, moanin' in the middle of the trail. "Dang shore got the best o' you. I think that durn Tex lied to us. I'd a swore he said that horse was broke."

For some reason, from Billy's crumpled position on the ground with a fresh horseshoe print on his chest, the humor in the situation was a little more difficult to see.

It took them a couple of hours to catch the horse, and another one to tie him down to get the hook out, but all was not in vain. Here's what Tumbleweed Tex wrote in a card he sent the boys last fall:

"Thanks for fixin' Champion. When he gets to stallin' on the trail now, all we have to do is pull a little line out of a fishin' reel. That little whirrin' sound is all it takes to perk him right up. Oh ... one more thing ... we never tell the guests why, but we changed his name to Ol' Fishhook."

Keep Smilin'.... and don't forget to check yer cinch.

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Pust Feedlot at MonDak Ag Days



Cattle at the Pust Feedlot enjoy an early morning meal.



The new "silencer" shoot at the Pust Feedlot.

By Ashley Harris

Doug Pust, of Savage, will be giving a presentation on his new feedlot. The Pust family has been farming and operating their feed lot since Doug was just a kid. Over the last 2 years, Doug has completely rebuilt the feedlot from the ground up. It takes up approximately 7 acres and is all brand new. Doug stated, "There's a lot of improvements from the old one. The cattle handling facilities are new and a lot easier." The old feedlot was primarily wood, while the new feedlot is mostly steel. The feedlot provides for about 600-700 head of cattle. Doug has about 120 cow/calf pairs, with the rest of the herd being feeder cattle. He primarily raises Black Angus, with 10% of them being crosses. When asked if there's any specific feed he uses Doug stated, "I'm kinda old fashioned, I get what ever's cheapest." He uses a balance of hay and silage. He prefers using corn for grains, but if the price is up he will use barley, peas, or pea wholes.

For more information on the new feedlot, come see Doug at MonDak Ag Days, January 10th-11th.



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Montana 4-H Celebrated 100 Years in 2012

By Ashley Harris

Since its beginning over 100 years ago, 4-H has grown to become the nation's largest youth development organization. 4-H revolutionized how youth connected to practical, hands-on learning experiences outside of the classroom.

Back in 1914, Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act and created the Cooperative Extension System at USDA, which included boys' and girls' clubs. The first 4-H camp was held in Blaine County followed by Prairie County camp in 1919. Shortly after, National 4-H week became a nationwide observation. By the 1930s, numerous County 4-H Councils had been formed.

In the 1990s, the Montana 4-H Builders led to the creation of Junior Leader and Teen Leader programs. Camps, designed for this age group, served as training opportunities. Also during this time, non-traditional projects like skateboarding, shooting sports and other special interest programs gained popularity.

Starting in 2000, Montana 4-H expanded delivery methods and offered new project areas such as outdoor adventure, robotics and videography while strong interest remained in projects like livestock, horse, shooting sports, food and nutrition, clothing, photography and dog.

Just recently, Montana PBS filmed a documentary highlighting the 4-H experience and recognizing the 4-H Centennial.

Today, 4-H has an expansive reach, serving youth in rural, urban, and suburban communities in every state across the nation. 4-H offers a wide variety of science, engineering, technology and applied math educational opportunities – from agricultural and animal sciences to rocketry, robotics, environmental protection and computer science.

Locally, in Richland County, we currently have 11 4-H Clubs in operation including: Badlands Brushpoppers, Brorson Farmhands, Missouri River Ranchers, Forever Buds, Lambert Hi-Liters, Richland Rockets, Three Buttes, Richland Aces, Yellowstone Valley, F-V (Fairview), and the Richland Rascals. Last year, there were 178 4-H members recorded in the county. Also this past September, the county welcomed new extension agent Josie Evenson to Sidney as the 4-H/Youth Development Agent. Between a new creative mind in Evenson and the expanding community, 4-H in the area has been expanding. Evenson stated, "Every club has a new family that joined this year, while the Forever Buds club has doubled in size." It is great to see the numbers going up, as the clubs do a lot of projects that benefit the community. A few of their projects include gathering personal items to send off to the military, mowing the grass at cemeteries, doing clean-up on roadsides and parks, mak-

ing blankets and donating them, donating a tree to the Parade of Trees auction, and even "adopting" a family to buy items for at Christmas time.

As stated above, 4-H has opened the door for young people to learn leadership skills and explore ways to give back.

For a more in-depth look into the history of 4-H in Montana, check out the new book out that celebrates the centennial. The book, 'past, present and possibilities' highlights the heritage and strengths of the Montana 4-H program and looks forward to a successful future. The book was compiled by Betty McCoy, who was 4-H member from 1954-1964 and a State 4-H Leader from 1988-2004. You can purchase the book for \$15.95 at www.msuxextension.org/store.

If you are interested in getting involved in 4-H, feel free to contact Josie Evenson at the MSU-Extension Office at 406-433-1206 or email her at jevenson@montana.edu.



The Richland Co. 4-H tapestry is a regular fixture at the Richland Co. Fair.



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The Roundup Harvest Festival Winners



Bailee Schlothauer, a 4th grader at East Fairview School, was the grand prize winner in the Roundup's Harvest Festival poster contest. She received her artwork and a certificate, nicely framed by Ribbon and Rail, and an art kit for her outstanding effort.

The Roundup would like to thank all the businesses that contributed to another successful Harvest Festival:

Sidney Sugars for supplying sugar and experienced judges for our Make It With Sugar contest,

Finnicum's Furniture and Appliances, Juli-Ana's Gifts, Planet Hair, Cooks On Main, Johnson Hardware and Furniture and Farm & Home Supply for providing prizes for our outstanding bakers,

Reynolds Market for being a gracious host for the Make It With Sugar contest,

Fairview Super Valu and the Powder Keg for providing prizes for the Beet Decorating contest, McDonalds of Sidney for providing gift cards for the artwork contest.



Mark Papka, Sidney, was the lucky winner of The Roundup's Harvest Festival grand prize of a \$500 Johnson Hardware gift card. He registered at Pacific Steel and Recycling in Sidney.

Best Wishes To All Ag Producers In 2013!



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