



Farm & Ranch Monthly Magazine

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See page 4

May
2014
Edition



What's Next for LYIP?

Rocking permit needed immediately.



**Chris Fassaro, Project Manager,
US Army Corps of Engineers**

By Dianne Swanson

Record crowds of supporters of the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP) attended the public meetings in Glendive and Sidney hosted by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) two weeks ago. Both venues were changed from cafeterias to gymnasiums to accommodate the 500 plus people in Glendive and 400 plus in Sidney. In conversations after the meetings, LYIP manager James Brower was told they were the largest endangered species public meetings ever seen by USACE or BOR. He expressed his deepest gratitude to everyone who worked so hard to disseminate information, secure bus transportation, provide food, and especially for attending the meetings. He also stated Monday that the record crowds have already resulted in federal and state agency leaders calling with positive support of the project and the permit.

The meetings started with presentations by the Bureau and Corps explaining the proposed project at Intake, the process that led to their recommendations, and the biology of the pallid sturgeon.

The proposed project involves constructing a 6' concrete weir, with a gentle rock slope downstream and a steeper rock slope upstream, using existing rock. The concrete weir would stop the need for rocking which LYIP has reliably done for over 100 years to protect the wooden diversion and to ensure reliable irrigation water during low flows. A fish bypass is also proposed on Joe's Island to provide passage for the pallid sturgeon which is on the endangered species list.

As biologists explained it, the pallid sturgeon requires more river miles than it currently has to allow effective spawning and drifting of the larval so it can mature enough to survive when it reaches the silty waters at the head of Lake Sakakawea. The proposed fish bypass would provide calmer waters for the pallid sturgeon to go upstream past Intake and give the larval an additional 165 miles of open river to float back down.

At the Glendive meeting, it was revealed by a shocked James Brower that funding for the project was no longer available for fiscal 2014 as he had been told previously. At the Sidney public meeting, USACE further explained the funding process. According to project manager Chris Fassaro, the dollars which had been allocated were returned to the Corps when the committee realized that the deadlines for project



**Gerry Benock, Project Manager,
Bureau of Reclamation**

development could not be met. By returning the funding to the Corps headquarters, they are very confident it will be returned to finance the Intake project. Otherwise, the money would have gone to the Treasury Department and been lost.

The needed funds are in the Presidential budget but will need to be appropriated by Congress. If project approval is given and if funding is approved, construction would start in 2015. Continued pressure on state and national politicians, as well as the Corps, US Fish & Wildlife, and the Bureau of Reclamation is needed to ensure the project and its funding.

The USACE outlined their time line for the project with the study completed in October 2014, contract award in March 2015 and project completion in December 2016.

After the formal presentation, countless individuals and entities expressed their support of the proposed concrete weir and fish bypass. Perhaps the shortest presentation came from state representative Scott Staffanson who echoed the sentiments of the vast majority when he said, "We're feeding PEOPLE for God's sake. Get it done!"

After the meeting, Bureau of Reclamation and USACE personnel were on hand to answer any individual questions.

In the meantime, LYIP is not allowed to rock the diversion dam as it has for over 100 years. Although it had never been necessary previously, LYIP was told it needed a permit. The permit was applied for last July but has still not been received. The flooding and ice jams this past March pushed the existing rock off the dam, leaving the wooden structure subject to damage. The rocking is essential to protect the structure and provide reliable irrigation water during the hot months of summer.

Cathy Juhas is processing the permit application for the Corps Regulatory division, which has the authority to issue the rocking permit. Contact her at 406-657-5910 or email her at Catherine.d.juhas@usace.army.mil. to make your concerns known about reliable irrigation water and the potential effects on the economy if that permit is not approved immediately, and for the period until the new diversion is completed. Traditionally, the rocking is done in July. LYIP needs about a month to mine the needed rock and place it on the dam. According to Mike Backes with MTFWP in Miles City, a MT DEQ permit is also needed.

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Superior Livestock 2014 Summer Sale Schedule

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JUNE 10-12	COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA	THUR, MAY 22
JUNE 27	FORT WORTH, TX	MON, JUNE 16
JULY 7-11	STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO	TUE, JUNE 17
JULY 28 - AUGUST 1	WINNEMUCCA, NV	SAT, JULY 12
AUGUST 18-22	SHERIDAN, WY	SAT, AUGUST 2
SEPTEMBER 10-12	DENVER, CO	MON, AUGUST 25



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Sidney FFA Banquet

The Sidney FFA Club held their annual banquet on May 1 at the Sidney High School. Pictured above Sidney FFA members proudly display the cake commemorating the 75th birthday of the Sidney Chapter. Members shown are front (L-R) Emily Schaff, Rian Cobb and Daria Anderson. Middle (L-R) Ryan Steinbeisser, Casey Christensen and Marianne Gartner. Back row (L-R) Garret Leland, Chris Gartner, Ethan Chamberlain and Jeremy Rhines.

Club advisor Ted Fulgham recognized each FFA member to congratulate them on their work throughout the year. Fulgham also expressed a special thanks to the Sidney High School Cafeteria/Janitorial staff, the Sidney FFA Alumni, Vanessa Pooch, Colin Gartner, James Brower, Tractor Supply Company and Border Steel for their contributions to the club throughout the year.

Left: The banquet also featured James Brower, General Manager of the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, as guest speaker.





SUNRISE EQUIPMENT

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USED 4WD DRIVE TRACTORS

1995 JD 8970 (400 eng HP), powershift tranny, 4 hyds, 520/ 85R42 duals.....\$69,500

USED MFWD & 2WD TRACTORS

2007 JD 8430, Powershift, MFWD, 3pt hitch w/ quick hitch, 5 hyd's, PTO, 380/96R50 duals, front duals\$185,000
2000 JD 5510 (75 PTO HP) sync shuttle tranny, MFWD, 3pt hitch, 18.4x30 singles\$21,500

USED LOADER TRACTORS

2012 JD 7130 (110 HP), 16 speed powerquad tranny, MFWD, 3pt hitch, 3 hyds, dual PTO, 18.4x38 singles, factory warranty, low hours. NEW JD H360 loader, 8' bucket, grapple, mech joystick\$118,900
2003 JD 7320 (105 PTO HP), 3pt hitch, 3 hyd's, dual PTO, 18.4 x 38 singles, 741 loader, 8' bucket, grapple and joystick\$69,500
2008 JD 7330 (125 PTO HP) IVT tranny, MFWD, 3 pt hitch, 3 hydraulics, dual PTO, 18.4X38 singles, JD 741 SL loader, 8' bucket, grapple, joystick.....\$109,500

USED COMBINES

(1) 2012 JD S660 combines, 520/85r38 duals, Contour master, low low hours CALL
2006 JD 9660STS, 520/85r38 duals CALL
2000 JD 9750 STS, 30.5x32 duals, chopper CALL
2002 JD 9650 STS, 800/65X32 Singles, Chopper, Grain Tank Ext CALL
1990 JD 9600, 30.5x32 singles, chopper, chaff

spreader CALL
1989 JD 9600 with chopper, 30.5x32 duals, 960 McDon draper header CALL
2013 JD 635FD, draper platform with HHS in rigid ... CALL
2013 640 FD, draper platform, no HHS in rigid..... CALL
2012 635 FD draper platform, no HHS CALL
2010 JD 630R platform, pickup reel..... CALL
(2) 2004 JD 635F Flex platform, 35' CALL
1998 JD 930 platform with pickup reel..... CALL
2009 Case IH 2010 Rigid Platform, Bat Reel, Less than 100 Hours\$20,000
1997 Macdon 960D platform..... CALL

USED SEEDING EQUIPMENT

Flexicoil 5000/2320 Air Hoe Drill, 57', 7.2" Spacing (lot F625).....\$42,500
JD 787/730 Air Disk Drill, 36', 6" spacing, 170 bushel tank.....\$16,500
(2) JD 9350 disk drills, 8' units, fertilizer, hitch\$4,750
(3) JD 9350 disc drills, 10' units, 6" spacing, fertilizer, JD transport hitch.....\$11,500

USED MISCELLANEOUS

746 loader mounts for 77-7920.....\$500
(2) 740 Loader mounts for 7000 series\$300 ea
840 Loader mounts for 8000 series.....\$500
840 Loader mounts for 55-60 series\$500
JD480B forklift, gas, 28' mast, side shift, fresh overhaul\$8,950
2009 Brandt 10x60 Swing away auger.....\$11,500
Diamond 72" & 62" mowers.....\$2,500

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USDA Increases Specialty Block Grant Funds for Montana \$986,229 Now Available for Producers

Submitted by Jayson O'Neill

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that Montana will receive more than \$986,000 from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBG). Montana's increase in funding is largely due to the additional acres of dry peas and lentils planted. The previous award amount was \$305,000. The application deadline remains 5 p.m. on May 21, 2014.

Specialty crops are fruits and vegetables, culinary and medicinal herbs, horticultural, and nursery crops, including floriculture. Eligible plants must be intensively cultivated and used by people for food, medicinal purposes and/or aesthetic gratification. A list of specialty crops is available, along with a companion list of ineligible commodities, on the department's website.

Letter to the Editor

I attended the meeting regarding Intake Dam and the fish bypass last Thursday evening at the Sidney High School, and I left that meeting shaking my head in disgust. The pallid sturgeon mess is just one more project in a long series of events that seem designed to ensure the extinction of one more species in our country: the American farmer.

The American farmer is supposed to step aside for everything and anything: the farmer is to take a back seat for the pallid sturgeon, the American farmer is expected to step aside while Mt Fish and Game prepare to dump buffalo in our back yards, the American farmer is to cease and desist using any sort of farming method or seed or implement that offends the sensibilities of those who know nothing about agriculture, the American farmer is to sit back and allow city folks to have first access to water so these wannabees can jet ski up and down the river, the American farmer is expected to quit farming if it is found that some species or another on his land may be endangered for one reason or another, the American farmer is to quietly allow his grazing land to disappear in favor of whatever hair brained scheme some environmentalist group, government agency, or pseudo scientist has dreamed up.

In short, this overfed nation has no clue about agriculture and has no recognition of the fact that our American farmers provide them with the food on their tables. This nation of fatties has never lacked for food, and as a result, has no appreciation for what the farmer does for this country. This overfed nation is hell bent and determined to destroy the base (agriculture) that keeps this country strong and free.

I have no idea what to do about this. We as agricultural people have tried to get our story out, have tried to educate our urban neighbors about the production of food, but it seems like this information falls on deaf ears. Until we can curb some overzealous environmentalist groups and rein in some bull headed government agencies that care more about buffalo and fish than they do about feeding our grandchildren, we face a world of hurt.

The pallid sturgeon WILL trump agriculture if we do not get this fish passage into place. Please bombard your congressional people to fund this project. Do not limit your remarks to Montana only. North Dakota. Idaho, Arizona, and Wyoming, to name a few, are still states that have irrigation. Write also to the appropriations committees of both the House and the Senate, and do not forget to tell Mt Fish and Game, US Fish and Game, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Army Corps of Engineers your views on the matter.

Thank you.

Lois Kerr Stephens

"These additional resources are good news for farmers who have been increasing dry pea and lentil acres the last few years. They and other producers with eligible projects related to specialty crops can apply for this additional funding," said Department of Agriculture Director Ron de Yong.

Areas of particular interest to the department include nutritional improvements, especially for children, improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems, development of good agricultural practices, pest and disease control, and development of organic and sustainable production practices. See a complete description of eligible and previously-funded projects at agr.mt.gov/agr/Producer/GrantsLoans/SCBG/Eligibility.html.

Interested state and/or local organizations, academia, producer associations, community based organizations, specialty crop stakeholders, and local, state, and federal government entities are eligible to apply. Projects will be evaluated by the department and a technical review committee. Approved proposals will be forwarded to the USDA. Successful applicants will be notified in October 2014.

For more information, eligibility guidelines, and resources, visit agr.mt.gov/agr/Producer/GrantsLoans/SCBG or contact Angelyn DeYoung, Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Manager, at (406) 444-5424.

The Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the Montana Department of Agriculture, visit www.agr.mt.gov.

Nortana Grain Company Names New General Manager

Nortana Grain Company's Board of Directors is pleased to announce Shane Keller has accepted the position of General Manager. Shane is replacing Rondel Beery, who is retiring.

Shane has been with Nortana for about seven years, most recently in charge of the fuel department. Shane brings a broad understanding of all areas of Nortana's business enterprises and was instrumental in Nortana's purchase of Sweley Oil Company. The board is confident that Nortana will continue to grow under Shane's leadership as it has under the leadership of Rondel Beery for the past seven years.

Shane has shared his desire to further grow the co-op by continuing to serve the needs of our patrons. Please join us in congratulating Shane on his new position.



Shane Keller

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USED TRACTORS

1979 JD 4840, 3 pt, PTO	\$22,500
2008 CaseIH 435 Steiger, 710 duals, full auto guidance, HID lights, luxury cab, 1987hrs	\$210,000
1982 JD 4440, 3pt, 3 remote, quad range, new paint, duals, 11631hrs.....	\$25,000
2005 CaseIH MX255, MFD, 3pt, 3638hrs, 480/80R42 Duals w/CaseIH LX780 loader & grapple.....	\$108,000
Bobcat T190 track loader, cab, auxiliary hydraulics, 2002hrs.....	\$22,000
IH Hydro 70, gas engine, new tires, dual loader, grapple	\$10,000

1994 Case IH 7140 MFD, 3 remotes, 20.8 x 42 Duals, 7800 Hrs	\$49,000
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USED MISCELLANEOUS

Farmhand 25' mulcher	\$11,500
(2) John Deere 2700 disc grippers, 7 shank.....	\$22,000 each
Artsway Belly Mower 6', mounts for a Farmall C	\$1,500
2005 Parma 30' mulcher	\$25,000

USED SEEDING & SPRAYING

Concord 4710 Drill, 3000 tow behind cart, hydraulic drive.....	\$30,000
2005 Brandt 2SB4000, suspended boom, 90', 1500 gal. tank	\$25,000

2005 CaseIH SPX 4410 self propelled sprayer, 1200 gal., 90' booms, Raven Auto Trac, 5700 Hrs, consigned	\$95,000
Summers 2pt sprayer, 88' booms, 500 gal tank, Dickey John monitor	\$6,500
Monosem 6 row, 24" planter	CALL

USED HARVEST EQUIPMENT

2005 CaseIH 2388, 1267R/1506E hrs., chopper, yield & moisture monitor, very good cond.....	CALL
w/ 2005 2042 35' draper head	CALL

USED HAYING EQUIPMENT

2007 Case IH WDX 1203 Windrower w/18' header, 600hrs	\$75,000
2008 CaseIH RB564 round baler, 8700 bales,	

mesh wrap, wide pickup, endless belts, hydraulic pickup lift, central lube ...	\$29,900
2006 RBX563 Round Baler, wide pickup, mesh wrap, endless belts, 8,000 bales, good cond.....	\$26,000
CIH RBX 563 baler, mesh, wide pickup...	\$25,000
1990 Hesston 560 Round Baler	\$5,500
2011 Haybuster 2650, hydraulic chute lift, big tires, very good condition.....	\$16,000
1999 CaseIH RS561	\$12,500
1995 CaseIH 8465	\$8,995
1994 CaseIH 8480 Softcore	\$6,995
2008 Vermeer Processor, BP8000 ...	\$10,500
2003 CaseIH RBX562, MeshWrap, Like New	\$24,500

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Crops From No-Till Fields May Need Spring Nitrogen Boost

Submitted by Clain Jones

No-till crop production provides benefits through reduced soil erosion and soil moisture loss, which potentially increases yield. However, no-till fields with wheat stubble may need a nitrogen boost in the spring above that required under conventional or minimum tillage.

Tillage breaks up plant residue and increases the rate of residue decomposition, which increases the rate at which nitrogen becomes available. A study by Chengli Chen, research scientist at the Central Agricultural Research Station in Moccasin, Montana, found soil nitrate increased more in sweep-till treatments from late summer to mid-spring than in no-till fields.

As tillage decreases, the build-up of plant residue increases. This helps improve soil conditions that may improve yield. However, the soil microbes that break down residue require nitrogen to do their work. According to Clain Jones, Extension soil fertility specialist in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences (LRES) at Montana State University, it takes about 1,000 pounds nitrogen per acre to gain one percent soil organic matter in the soil's top 6 inches, meaning to raise soil organic matter from say 2.5 to 3.5 percent.

"Clearly this can't happen in one season, but rather over many years," said Jones.

A Canadian government study by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada scientist Brian McConkey and associates in the semi-arid region of Saskatchewan found even after adding 5 pounds nitrogen more to no-till fields for 8-12 years after conversion from conventional till, no-till still had lower soil nitrogen availability than conventional till. These researchers concluded more nitrogen needs to be applied to no-till for up to 15 years after conversion from conventional till to get similar grain yields and protein.

Jones cautioned there is no one-size-fits-all recommendation for how much more nitrogen a no-till or minimal till system requires. It varies with soil texture, climate, degree of tillage, prior crop and time since conversion from conventional till.

As a general rule of thumb, no-till requires 10 pounds nitrogen per acre more per 1,000 pounds stubble, than conventional till, up to a total of 40 pounds of nitrogen per acre annually for at least a few years. Each 10 bushels of winter wheat, 12 bushels of spring wheat and 20 bushels of barley leaves about 1,000 pounds stubble. Fine- to medium-textured soils are more likely to need a boost of nitrogen under no-till than coarse-textured soils.

Growing legumes in place of fallow can help offset this increased nitrogen demand.

In Chen's study, there was no change in soil nitrate from late summer to the following spring after spring wheat, while nitrate increased by about 15 pounds nitrogen per acre after spring pea or winter pea grown for forage and fallow. Pea crops provided more nitrogen than needed by the microbes to break down the pea residue. Winter wheat grain yield after winter pea was equal to that following fallow.

Weather influences spring soil nitrogen availability. In the year with the wettest fall in the Moccasin study, there was little nitrate gain over winter and some treatments lost nitrate. It is best to test soil nitrate levels in the spring.

Ideally nitrogen fertilizer is placed at least two inches below the surface; however, Jones acknowledged that spring applications on no-till are generally broadcast applications. If possible, incorporate fertilizer with at least a half-inch of water or time the application before a substantial rainfall event. If nitrogen is limiting, application by mid- to late-tillering is most likely to improve yield. Later applications will likely mainly increase protein.

The MSU Extension bulletin, "Nutrient Management in No-till and Minimum-Till Systems," provides more information about nutrient adjustments to consider when opting for no-till. This and other related bulletins are available as printed copy from MSU Extension Publications (www.msuextension.org/store; 406-994-3273) and on-

line at Jones' webpage at <http://landresources.montana.edu/soilfertility/publications.html>. "Soil Nitrogen Cycling Affected by Tillage and Crop Rotations" (Fertilizer Fact No. 67) presents details on Chen's study and is available at <http://landresources.montana.edu/fertilizerfacts/>.

A Steak in Ag

Submitted by Laurel Masterson

R-CALF USA may be defined as a non-profit producer organization, but our work benefits anyone who eats meat and lives in an economy that includes agriculture. We're more than a producer organization, we're your organization!

Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL): The fight's not over.

The decision we wrote about last month by the D.C. Court of Appeals has been vacated. Now, an En Banc hearing – a hearing with all 11 judges seated at the D.C. appellate court instead of the 3 at the initial hearing – has been scheduled for mid-May. This hearing will decide what standard must be used to determine if country-of-origin labeling violates the meatpackers' free speech.

CEO Bill Bullard featured speaker at TPP event.

On April 17, R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard spoke during a Transpacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement forum in Washington, D.C. This event was hosted by The American Bar Association.

We Urged Secretary Jewell to Cease Armed Confrontation with Nevada Rancher.

In a recent letter, we urged U.S. Department of the Interior, Sally Jewell, to cease her ongoing efforts to confiscate cattle owned by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and his family.

We made no judgment regarding the non-payment of grazing fees by the Bundys, but we did express our concern for the aggressive actions of the Department of the Interior.

We submitted comments in opposition to USDA's plan to import fresh beef from FMD-affected Brazil.

We criticized the plan by the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to relax United States' border protections to allow the importation of fresh beef from 14 Brazilian states, even though Brazil is not a country free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

We also included numerous arguments to refute APHIS' claim that the risk of introducing FMD would be adequately mitigated under the proposed rule.

Additionally, we submitted comments urging the U.S. Air Force should utilize less populated areas for training.

In these comments we urged the Federal Aviation Administration to seek other options rather than to expand the Powder River Training Complex in Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota.

We also argue that the U.S. Air Force should utilize less populated areas for military flight training rather than the proposed location that will affect about 11,000 ranching operations that generate approximately \$886 million in annual revenues.

All letters, comments and presentations mentioned above are available at www.r-calfusa.com.

The Meat Racket is still for sale through R-CALF USA. We're able to offer it at the discounted price of \$25 (retail \$28). To order: Send \$25 to R-CALF USA Box 30715, Billings, MT 59107 with The Meat Racket in the memo line or call 406-252-2516 and order with a credit card.

R-CALF USA is solely funded by donations and member dues. Please consider becoming a member. For more info or to join, go to www.r-calfusa.com, 406-252-2516.

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Auctioneer's Note: Mike has decided to retire and has sold the Ranch. Nice selection of Farm and Ranch Equipment!

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2004 CATERPILLAR D6N XL - CAH, ROPS, Lites, Diff. Steer, 6-way 10-Ft. Blade, 3-Spd. Automatic, 22-in. Track, 3-Shank Rear Hyd. Ripper, 3314 Hrs. - SN AKM953
GARFIELD MODEL 1150 SCRAPER - All Hyd. Pushoff, 12-Yd.

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DEGELMAN 16-IH/A DOZER - 16-Ft, 4-Way Hyd. - SN 19545

MFWD TRACTOR & LOADER

1983 JOHN DEERE 4450 MFWD TRACTOR - CAH, 140 PTO HP Diesel, Quad 16 Trans- mission, 3 Hyd. Spools, 3-Pt., Dual PTO, 420x85R30 Front Tires, 520x85R42 Rear Tires, Rear Wheel Weights, 9462 Hrs. - SN RW4550H00513
JOHN DEERE 740 CLASSIC LOADER - 8-Ft. Bucket, 4-Tine Grapple - SN 740FLBW4116

WINDMILL TOOLS

3 - ROPE SNATCH BLOCKS
3 - CABLE SNATCH BLOCKS
SUCKER ROD WRENCHES
PULLER TOOLS
ELEVATORS
CHAIN TONGS
TAIL CUTOFF
PACKING TOOL

HAY TOOLS

1981 JOHN DEERE 2280 SELF-PROPELLED WINDROWER - Cab, Diesel, Hydrostatic Drive - SN 560518E, 14-Ft. Auger Platform - SN 562780E, Pickup Reel, Steel Crimper, Diamond Tread Driver Tires, Hrs. Unknown
1997 JOHN DEERE 566 ROUND BALER - 62-In. Bale Width, 72-In. Bale Diameter, 8 Belts, 61.5-In. Pickup Width, Bale Push Bar, Hyd. Pickup Lift, R&L Pickup Gauge Wheels, Twin Tie, Monitor, 1000 PTO, 31.5x13.5 Tires, 14073 Bales - SN E00566X117117
JOHN DEERE 346 TWINE SMALL SQUARE BALER - VH4 D Gas Engine, 14"x18" Bales
SITREX 10-WHEEL FINGER V RAKE - 2-Wheel Frame, 3-Pt., Gooseneck Mounted

TILLAGE / DRILL

LAWSON 11-Ft. TWIN 42-In. DRUM PASTURE AERATOR - 4 Wheels
JOHN DEERE 670 OFFSET DISK - 15-Ft., Notched Front 25.0-In. Blades, Solid Rear 23.5-In. Blades, 11-In. Spacing, Scrapers, 4 Wheels, Mounted 2-Bar Rear Harrows
13-Ft. HYD. LIFT 5-BAR HARROW - Steel Teeth, 2 Wheel
14-Ft. V RIPPER SUBSOILER 9 SHANK CHISEL - 3-Pt., 4 Wheels, Hard Surfaced Shanks
JOHN DEERE 14-Ft. SINGLE DISK 8300 GRAIN DRILL - 16x10, Hyd. Lift

LIVESTOCK FEEDING TOOLS

HIGHLINE 6800 BALE PROCESSOR - 1000 PTO - SN 6BP983292 - ROUND BALE FEEDERS
3 - BEHLEN COUNTRY 28-In. x 11-Ft. PLASTIC ROUND BOTTOM FEED BUNKS on Steel Frame
2 - PLASTIC FEED BUNKS

SADDLES & TACK

2 ADULT SADDLES
BRASS HORN CHILDREN'S SADDLE
WOODEN PACK SADDLE
CANVAS

PANNIER BRIDLES, HALTERS & MISC.

PICKUPS

2003 FORD F-250 XLT SUPER DUTY EXTENDED CAB - Power Stroke Diesel, 6-Speed, 4-Wheel-Drive, 8.5-Ft. Flatbed, Fifth Wheel Ball, Headache Rack, Dual Wheel Attachment, 145,000 Miles
1999 FORD F-350 XLT SUPER DUTY EXTENDED CAB - V-10 Triton Gas, Auto- matic, 4-Wheel Drive, 9-Ft. Flatbed, Fifth Wheel Ball, Headache Rack, Trip Hopper, 2500-Lb. Cake Feeder, 148,000 Miles
1988 FORD F-350 CREW CAB - Diesel, 6-Speed, 4-Wheel-Drive, Running Boards, Rawson Koenig Service Body, Winch, 110-Gal. Fuel Service Tank, Tuthill 12-Volt Pump, 5.5 Honda Gas Engine Air Compressor, Miles Unknown

TRAILERS

2007 L&L GOOSENECK FLATBED - with Rear Ramps, 8-Ft. x 40-Ft., Tandem Dual 235x85R16, Wood Floor, Dual Landing Gear, Spare - SN 1L9BF40217A2473331
1995 S&H GOOSENECK STOCK TRAILER - 6-Ft. x 20-Ft., Dual Compartment, Side Gate, Saddle Compartment, Tandem 235x85R16, Spare, Steel with Wood Floor - SN 14006022FZTA031257
1992 D&D GOOSENECK HALF OPEN TOP STOCK TRAILER - 5-Ft. x 16-Ft., Single Compartment, Saddle Compartment, Single Axle, Spare, Steel with Wood Floor
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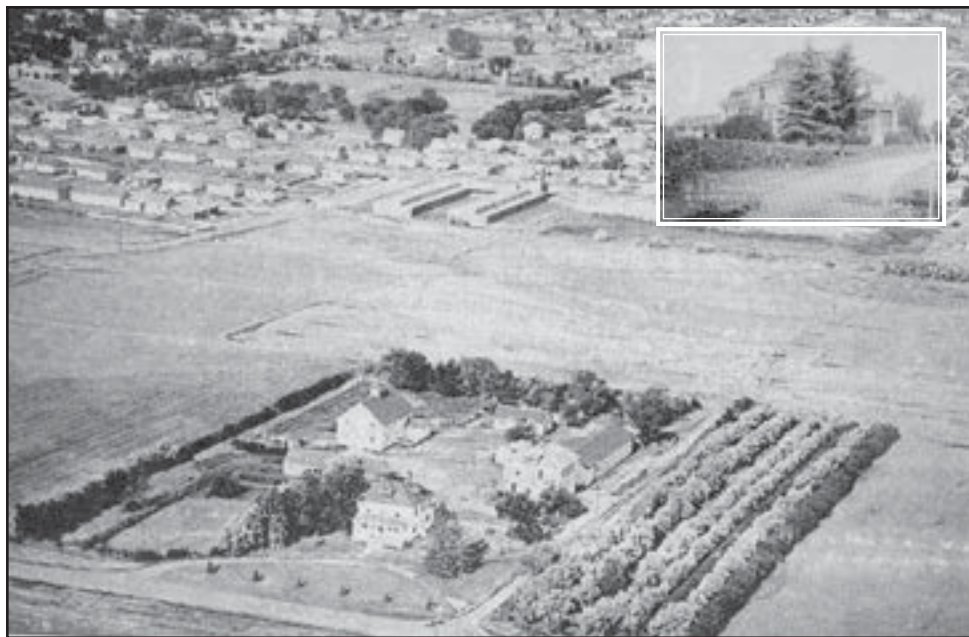
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History of the Williston Research Extension Center



The first aerial photo of WREC. Inset: The first farm house built in 1907-1908

By Tie Shank

Owned by North Dakota State University, the Williston Experiment Station, now known as the Williston Research Extension Center, was established by House Bill 240 on March 13, 1907.

It originally sat on 160 acres north-east of Williston along the Little Muddy Creek. In 1953 the legislature permitted relocation of the Station and the sale of 80 acres of the original 160 acres. The 80 acres retained by the State of North Dakota is now the site of Williston State College.

Money from the sale of the 80 acres was used to purchase 640 acres of land, build two dwellings, a machine shed, a seed house, a shop and a garage along with site improvements, such as roads and a water system. All of this was done in 1953 and 1954 for only \$175,000!

In 1985 the legislature permitted purchase of an additional 160 acres of land.

In 1989 the name changed from Williston Experiment Station to Williston Research Center, which was later amended to Williston Research Extension Center (WREC). The WREC sits at 14120 Hwy 2 West in Williston.

In 2001, an additional 160 acres were purchased in the Nesson Valley and an irrigated research and development project was established. WREC research studies are conducted on crop variety evaluation, herbicide performance and other cultural management research, cropping systems and soil and water conservation practices. The main dryland crops are spring wheat and durum. Barley, oats, safflower, pea, lentil, chickpea, canola, flax, alfalfa and other alternative crops are also grown as cash crops or for livestock feed. The acreage is currently farmed by NDSU – WREC staff.

WREC research is intended to increase the producer's net profit, support crop diversification, and encourage more intensive cropping and irrigation development. Research on soil and crop management systems for sprinkler irrigation, on alternative irrigated high value and value-added crops and on western malting barley programs are conducted for the region. WREC also conducts variety development research on safflower, winter wheat, and durum and variety evaluations in cooperation with NDSU Main Station scientists. WREC produces and supplies foundation seed to area farmers of new and old varieties adapted to the region.

Mission - The Williston Research Extension Center conducts research to increase agricultural productivity in the semi-arid region for northwestern North



WREC today.

Dakota while achieving a necessary balance between profitability and conservation of natural resources.

Research on soil and crop management systems for sprinkler irrigation and alternative irrigated high-value/value-added crop production at the Nesson Valley site are conducted in cooperation with the Montana State University Eastern Agricultural Research Center, USDA-ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory in Sidney, Montana, and NDSU and other university scientists.

MSU Research On Nitrogen Fertilizer Links Broadcast Application With Losses

Submitted by Sepp Jannotta

With nitrogen fertilizer prices somewhat unsettled, Montana State University scientists caution dollars may be blowing away with the spring wind due to the phenomenon of volatilization loss. Recent research has shown some surprising results on how much nitrogen from broadcast urea is going into the air rather than to the crop.

In an effort to better serve its constituents, MSU would like to know if growers have been staying informed of the latest research. Clain Jones, Extension soil fertility specialist, and Rick Engel, associate professor, both in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences are asking those in the agriculture community to take a brief survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7FNTZKL>.

If you would like to participate in this project but prefer a written copy survey, please contact Clain Jones at 406-994-6076 or clainj@montana.edu.

People completing the survey will be given an article about the findings on nitrogen fertilizer volatilization losses and management options.



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WIFE "Art of Farming" Winners Announced

Montana WIFE (Women Involved in Farm Economics) announced the winners of their twenty-eight "The Art of Farming", calendar art contest. WIFE received 445 student entries and we thank the students and their teachers for sending some excellent art that made judging them a challenge. Cash prizes and certificates have been awarded to first, second and third place winners, and certificates for the honorable mention places, in kindergarten through eighth grades. Only 25 drawings can be used on the 2015 calendar that will be ready for distribution in October. This contest is held in conjunction with National Ag Week and students draw about their interests in farm life. Local winners are first grader, Leah Knudsen, Culbertson took 3rd place. Sixth grader, Amariah Hier, Lambert, 1st place for April.

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Growth Through Agriculture Awards \$330,000

Projects range from ice cream to irrigation

Submitted by Jayson O'Neill

Today, Governor Bullock, the Montana Department of Agriculture and the Agriculture Development Council announced the recipients of \$333,404 in funding for agricultural related projects.

"We are pleased to announce the Growth Through Agriculture award recipients. These 17 projects aim to enhance agriculture, grow our rural economy and create jobs. When we add value to our agricultural products in Montana, more money stays in the local community and on Main Street," said Governor Steve Bullock.

The Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program provides grants and loans to strengthen and diversify Montana's agricultural industry through development of new agricultural products and processes.

"We had over one million dollars worth of projects submitted to the council this round, which wasn't easy to whittle down to just over \$330,000," said Chairman David Tyler. "We think our selections have promise, and will have a positive impact on agriculture and the state's economy."

One awardee was Sweet Peaks Ice Cream, a Whitefish based company that uses local products and flavoring in their ice cream. They received \$15,200 to help purchase equipment to assist in transporting ice cream, some of which will be traveling to their new, expanded location in Missoula.

"Part of the Governor's Main Street Montana Project is to promote Montana agricultural products by adding value to what we grow and produce in Montana. This program is where the rubber hits the road; we fund agricultural projects that add value and diversify agriculture," said Ron de Yong, department of agriculture director.

Located on Main Street in Terry, Mont., the Powder River Meat Company has been serving the region's processing needs for the last 16 years. The company was recently purchased by new owners, who have been busy remodeling and looking for expansion opportunities. Their \$24,500 award will allow them to purchase meat processing equipment and assist with construction costs associated with the expansion.

The council identified several areas of focus this year, including irrigation, malt production, and businesses transitioning beyond direct sales. The next application deadline is September 15, 2014. More information and a list of previously funded projects are available on the Growth Through Agriculture website at agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Development/GrantsLoans/GTA/.

Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the Montana Department of Agriculture, visit agr.mt.gov.

Spring 2014 GTA Funded Projects:

Montana Horizons Food Co. - \$16,800 grant for the purchase of a vertical form fill packaging machine for an organic Kamut® snack, similar to corn nuts, grown and made in Big Sandy, Mont. <http://www.kamut.com/>

Anderson Orchards - \$7,744 grant for the purchase of countertops and a three-compartment sink to assist the expansion of value-added fruit processing project in Rudyard, Mont.

Sweet Peaks Ice Cream - \$15,200 grant for the purchase of a refrigerated trailer to transport Montana made ice cream using milk and other locally grown ingredients. <http://www.sweetpeaksicecream.com/>

Britz Ranch - \$42,000 grant for the purchase of a commercial hops harvester to assist with the second phase of the Montana hops research project near Kalispell, Mont.

Root Cellar Foods - \$38,550 grant for the purchase of a commercial food washer to assist produce processing in Bozeman, Mont.

Powder River Meat Co. - \$24,500 grant for the purchase of meat processing

equipment and construction costs to assist the expansion of the company in Terry, Mont. <http://powderrivermeatcompany.com/>

Fort Peck Water Users Association - \$32,982 grant for irrigation turnouts and installations as proposed to assist the agricultural producers of the Fort Peck Irrigation Project in Fork Peck, Mont.

Billingsley Cider - \$10,000 grant for a walk-in cooler to assist with the expansion of an apple orchard to supply cider producers in Stevensville, Mont.

Cream of the West - \$13,500 loan for co-packing equipment to assist in the expansion of the company's operations in Harlowton, Mont. <http://www.creamofthwest.com>

Chalet Market - \$33,600 grant for the purchase of a sausage stuffer and other meat processing equipment costs in Belgrade, Mont. <http://www.chaletmarket.com/>

Montana Meat Company - \$10,748 grant for the purchase of a meat processing product dicer in Bozeman, Mont. <http://montanameat.com>

406 Brewing Company - \$12,500 grant for the purchase of lab analysis equipment to assist with the development of the Montana Fermentation Research Center project in Bozeman, Mont. <http://www.406brewingcompany.com/>

One Montana - \$12,500 grant to expand and detail sales and marketing analysis information to be included in a Montana meat processing feasibility study. <http://onemontana.org/>

Mr. McGregor's Garden - \$6,000 grant for food processing equipment, including a steam kettle for canning and a convection steamer, to assist in the expansion of a food company in Bozeman, Mont.

Western Feedstock Technologies - \$14,350 loan for malt barley analysis equipment in Belgrade, Mont.

Ranchland Packing Co. - \$35,000 grant for equipment, construction and installation of a rendering pit to assist with the expansion of the meat processing company in Butte, Mont. <http://ranchlandpacking.com>

Great Harvest Franchising, Inc. - \$7,430 grant to fund the development of a film that would promote Montana grown wheat and the company's products in Dillon, Mont. <http://www.greatharvest.com/>

Sidney Sugars Status Report

Despite concerns about the future of reliable irrigation, Sidney Sugars agricultural manager Russ Fullmer reports a little over 29,000 acres have been contracted for this season, down only about 1000 acres. "The water concerns haven't altered plans," he said. Approximately 20,000 of those acres had been planted before the rain and snow hit on April 27. "The farmers saw the forecast and pushed hard to plant," Fullmer said. "We're ahead of last year and should see beets popping up this week."

Sidney Sugars is into normal springtime activities, with staff training and factory maintenance. In addition to in-house training, some of the Sidney Sugars staff will attend schools again this summer.

The waste water projects will continue with staff looking at a few different methods. The money has been allocated. However, Fullmer explained that with sugar prices down, the factory will operate like the farmers – looking to cut costs without hurting the crop.

The American Crystal board of directors will visit the area in July, touring crops and meeting with the local grower board, something they do every few years.

Like many other businesses in the area, Sidney Sugars is fighting labor shortages with electricians, boiler operators and mechanics in particular demand. Contact Sidney Sugars or Sidney Job Service if you are interested in applying for a position.

Buy Local Products & Services In The MonDak Area

Badlands Steel



Ryan Luebke gets ready to shape a piece of steel at Badlands Steel in Williston. Inset is an example of their work.

Badlands Steel, Williston, serves area farmers and ranchers as well as the oil field, working with new steel which they bend, shear and fabricate. The three owners Stewart Vachal (general manager), Rory Anderson and Dean Klein are all longtime Williston residents who joined together in April 2007 to open Badlands Steel. Manager Dennis Stevens has lots of experience having worked with steel for 15 years.

The company has a plasma cutter which can do specialized industrial applications. The cutter will cut through 2" thick material allowing them to build such things as specialty tools and pipe stands. The cutter takes away a lot of the labor for welders and other fabricators. They bring in the specifications, have

the pieces cut, and the welders can finish the jobs.

Badlands Steel has other specialty equipment, such as the "piranha" which allows them to produce recision holes of varying sizes, or their band saw which cuts strip after strip of identical steel. "We do the prep work. They (welders and others) do the rest," Vachal comments. He says the hardest part of the business is the fluctuating price of steel, which is based on global markets.

Badlands Steel invites you to stop by for all your steel needs, and to check out the plasma cutouts for yourself or as a gift. The business is located at 4324 4th Ave. W., Williston. The phone number is 701-774-2231.

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Fulgham Serves as Sidney FFA Chapter Advisor



By Jaimee Green

Sidney High School's FFA Chapter is now being run with a new advisor. Ted Fulgham of Libby accepted the position in January and has been busy ramping up the program and implementing some new ideas.

"My short term goal is to get the students really active in the community and my long term goal is to have a balanced and successful chapter that is strong in all aspects of the program," Fulgham said. Some of the categories the students participate in include speaking, horticulture, mechanics, and livestock judging. "While the Chapter is exceptionally strong in some areas, there are others that need some work," he said.

He would like to see the students participate in community service projects such as helping put together commodity boxes for the food bank, assisting with Purina Days in collaboration with Tractor Supply and working with other local businesses for the good of the community. Further out, he would also like to locate an area where the students can keep their livestock. Currently, each child keeps their animal at home.

Fulgham received his Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education from MSU-Bozeman and has worked as a teacher for 12 years in Hardin and Lodge Grass. He came to the area in January of 2012 to work as a gauger in the oil patch for the Highland Crude Oil Company. "When the advisor position became available I knew I was ready to go back into the field I was passionate about. It's rewarding to work with the students and make a change for the future," he added.

His wife, Evonne (Brown), is originally from Sidney and teaches first grade at Westside School. Together they have four children; Trey, 20, Rafe, 8, Thor, 6, and Cooper, 4.

Community members will have an opportunity to attend an open-house event on May 8-9 in the high school commons area. There, FFA students will showcase some of their projects which will include agriculture, metal works, woodworking and skills. Attendees will be able to visit some of the classrooms where the work takes place as well.

In late March students participated in the state's FFA convention, held in Great Falls. There, Emily Schaff, a senior, received her state degree. Also, Rian Cobb, a sophomore, was elected to the nominating committee to assist with selecting state officers.

Last January the Chapter celebrated its 75th year and received recognition during the MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show banquet.

The mantra of the Chapter is "Learning to do. Doing to learn. Earning to live. Living to serve," promoting hard work and dedication to community.

In the last 20 years the local organization has been involved with many activities. They have been avid fundraisers and have participated in MonDak Ag Days and Ag in the Classroom with local students. They have organized an annual Marion Kay Spice fundraiser and hosted the Donkey Basketball Tournaments.

The organization provides area youth with scholarships and takes part in community service activities. They also host career development events and attend local, state and national conventions.

The local Chapter also partners with Richland Opportunities Incorporated and their recycling program by assisting with the recycling of pop cans, newspapers and other goods through drop-boxes they have built and placed in the community.

Throughout the years, many students have achieved awards and accolades through the program. One of the highest honors to receive is the American FFA Degree. To date, six Sidney Chapter participants have received this award including; Albert H. Groskinsky in 1953, Chester Hill in 1988, James Hill in 1989, Ethan Schaff in 2010, and Ben Johnson and Megan Greenwood in 2011.

Students involved in FFA have to be enrolled in at least one agriculture class during one semester, each year.

Nationally, the organization was established in 1928. In 1988, people began referring to it by its' acronym.

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Top Youth Honors Announced for Light, Heavyweight Hog Projects in Montana

Submitted by Anne L. Miller

As the 2014 fair season begins, Montana Pork Producers Council is pleased to announce the top honors for light and heavyweight youth carcass hog projects in Montana in 2013. Kyleigh Salois of Conrad had the top heavyweight hog and Kyle Hamm of East Helena received top honors in the lightweight category. Recipients all were honored with plaques at the annual meeting of MPPC in Great Falls in January. Montana State University Extension Service and MPPC were sponsors of the 31st annual Symbol of Excellence (SOE) program.

To earn top lightweight ranking, Hamm entered his 4-H market hog in the Lewis and Clark County Fair where his 243 pound live hog posted a 167.48 pound hot carcass weight, .55 inches of adjusted backfat, a 9.85 square inch loin eye and 62.11% lean. For the top heavyweight market category, Salois entered her 4-H hog in the Marias County Fair where her 260 pound live hog posted a 187.62 pound hot carcass weight, .50 inches of adjusted backfat, a 10.00 square inch loin eye and 61.26% lean. Curt Dallas of East Helena supplied the pig Hamm raised and Jordan Stoltz of Valier supplied Kyleigh's hog. Dallas has repeatedly provided top hogs within the SOE program. Meanwhile Stoltz is a sophomore high school student in Valier and garnered 2 of the top 4 hogs in the heavy-weight category. She is the daughter of Trent and Holly Stoltz and belongs to the Wingina 4H Club in Valier.

Kyleigh Salois is a sophomore at Conrad High School and belongs to Conrad's Sandrockets 4H Club. She is the daughter of Tim and Amy Salois. Kyle Hamm is a junior at Helena High School. He is the son of Eric and Patti Hamm. Kyle is a member of the Farm Kids 4H Club in Lewis & Clark County.

Salois says her favorite parts of her project were, "Watching my pig grow, seeing my accomplishments with the work that I put into it and the lasting friendships you form with other people at the fair." With seven years under her belt with pig projects, her advice to a young Cloverbud includes, "By raising pigs, you take on some responsibilities such as having a good environment for them to live in, checking on them daily to make sure they have enough food and water and working with them from Day One."

The 2013 Symbol of Excellence competition measured 1,722 market hogs in youth carcass contests representing 46 counties and 234 individual breeders. County agents and other youth contest officials submitted carcass data to MSU Extension Educator Travis Standley, who calculated individual indexes and ranked all the hogs entered. To qualify as a Symbol of Excellence market hog, the animal must meet standards set for carcass weight, muscle quality, backfat thickness, loin eye size and percent lean muscle. Of the 1,722 entries, 313 market hogs met Symbol of Excellence quality standards. All qualifying youngsters along with the producers who provided the project hogs received certificates of merit.

The top four Symbol of Excellence hogs in the heavy-weight category in Montana in 2013 were:

Youth County Percent Lean Producer

Kyleigh Salois Marias Fair 61.26% lean Jordan Stoltz, Valier

Jeffery Colesworthy Marias Fair 60.80% lean Midway Colony, Conrad

Mariah Stoltz Marias Fair 60.54% lean Jordan Stoltz, Valier

Gryphon Lombardi Madison-Jefferson 60.25% lean John Smith, Whitehall

The top four Symbol of Excellence hogs in the light-weight category in

Montana in 2013 were:

Youth County Percent Lean Producer

Kyle Hamm Lewis & Clark 62.11% lean Curt Dallas, East Helena

Ty Running Fisher Marias Fair 61.91% lean Seville Colony, Cut Bank

Kelty Raciborski Dawson 61.62% lean Julie Lander (4 Kids Farm), Sidney

MaKenzie Williams Custer 61.59% lean Pembroke Colony, South Dakota



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Richland County is Accepting ECP Applications for Flood Damage

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Application Deadline is May 30, 2014

Submitted by Tammy Lake

Richland County has been approved to implement the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) due to floods. Producers need to file an ECP application with the FSA before starting work on land damaged by flood water. Emergency Conservation Program is a cost share program which assists producers with damage caused by excessive rain and the floods that have occurred. Signup for the program begins on May 1, 2014 and ends May 30, 2014.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75% of the eligible cost of restoration measures. The Richland County Committee has been approved for the following conservation practices to correct damage due to the flood:

EC1 - Removing Debris from Farmland: Practice is used for removing debris from farmland. A typical example of this is taking debris off cropland and fences.

EC2- Grading, Shaping, Releveling, or Similar Measures: Practice is used for grading, shaping and leveling land that has been damaged by the flood and is returned to agricultural use. Example - Land has erosion caused by flood and leveling of the land is needed to restore it.

EC3- Restoring Permanent Fences: Practice corrects damage to fences caused by the flood. Example - Fences in water gaps which have been washed out due

to the high water.

Cost-share is calculated up to 75% of the actual costs, after they are adjusted based on the age of the fence.

Age of fence: Allowable actual cost factor

0-5 years old 100% of computed cost-share

6-10 years old 75% of computed cost-share

11-30 years old 60% of computed cost-share

Over 30 years old 0% of computed cost-share

EC4 - Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations: Practice restores conservation structures and installations damaged by the flood. Example - Restoration of ditches and other permanently installed systems destroyed by the flood.

Eligibility for cost share assistance is based on a minimum of \$1,000 of eligible damage. All requests for cost share are subject to the availability of funds. Producers are encouraged to provide the FSA office with the following data at the time of application: Location of the damage and extent of the damage, such as length of fence, time needed to remove debris, damage to land or conservation structures with estimates of costs to repair. Please call the office at (406) 433-2103 to schedule an appointment.

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Equine Owners Encouraged to Consult with Vets on West Nile Virus Vaccination

Submitted by Steve Merritt

Montana's animal health officials are encouraging equine owners to consult with their veterinarians about vaccination for West Nile virus after a spike in the number of cases last year.

"We had 32 cases last year, the most since 2007, and the third highest total in the nation," said assistant state veterinarian Dr. Tahnee Szymanski. "That's concerning because the disease is highly preventable."

Based on MDOL data, no equines that were current on vaccinations have ever contracted the disease in Montana. In contrast, one-third of the non-vaccinated equines that contracted the disease either died or had to be euthanized (161 of 492 since 2002).

Dr. Greg Johnson, professor of veterinary entomology at Montana State University's Department of Animal & Range Sciences, says vaccination – which is recommended as a core vaccine by the American Association of Equine Practitioners – is prudent given WNV's unpredictability.

"It's kind of like the flu season," Johnson said. "We can look at the existing data and forecasts and make some guesses, but we can't really predict what West Nile is going to do or how bad it's going to be."

However, with snowpack running at 150 percent of normal throughout much of the state, environmental conditions could be right for WNV activity later this year.

"With all of that snowpack, it looks like we'll have lots of water, and that can mean more mosquitos," he said.

A mosquito-borne disease, WNV was first found on the east coast of the U.S. in 1999. Since then, the disease has spread westward, arriving in Montana in 2002. The disease knows no climactic or geographic boundaries in Montana, and has been found statewide.

Stressing the importance of vaccination, Szymanski said, is that there is no treatment for horses that contract the disease.

WNV is a reportable disease in Montana. Any confirmed or suspected case should be immediately reported to the Montana state veterinarian's office at 406/444-2043.

For additional information, see:

2013 West Nile virus map (shows positive cases and known mosquito reservoirs from 2013)

Centers for Disease Control, West Nile Virus and Horses

American Association of Equine Practitioners, West Nile Virus

Pesticide Applicators Can Save Money By Following Three Spring Tips

Submitted by MSU News Service

Pesticide applicators can save money by inspecting their spray equipment, calibrating their sprayers and testing the quality of their water before spraying, said Montana State University Extension Pesticide Education Specialist Cecil Tharp.

"It's easy for applicators to focus on purchasing pesticide products while neglecting to calibrate the output of their spray equipment or test the quality of their water being used for spray applications," Tharp said.

Offering three tips for spring spraying, Tharp recommended first that applicators inspect their spray equipment by checking spray pumps, lines, hose clamps and fittings for leaks and assessing the entire sprayer for rust, wear and breakage. Applicators should also inspect nozzles to see if the screens are free of debris and each nozzle spray pattern is uniform.

"A finely tuned ground sprayer in the fall may deliver a vastly different spray output in the spring," Tharp said. "Rusted nozzles, ruptured seals or rust in the lines may eventually lead to uneven spray patterns or a significant departure from desired target flow rates."

To check the spray pattern, Tharp suggested that applicators spray water over gravel or concrete. If the spray pattern seems uneven, they should replace or clean the nozzles. They should select a nozzle tip that's rated for the width they want to spray.

In his second tip – calibrating sprayers – Tharp said the goal is to make sure that the output of their sprayer falls within the range required on many pesticide

product labels. Once applicators determine the output of their sprayers, they can determine how much pesticide product to add to a tank. For more information on calibrating sprayers, Tharp suggested applicators go to www.pesticides.montana.edu and select "Reference material" at the lower right side of the web page. He recommended applicators either download and print the MontGuide titled "Calibrating Ground Sprayers Using Shortcut Methods" or refer to the calibration PocketGuides.

In his third tip – checking water quality before mixing solutions – Tharp said many applicators don't realize that water quality affects pesticide effectiveness. A pH over 8, for example, may lead to a 50 percent loss of 2,4-D amine efficacy within a few hours. In addition, glyphosate (Roundup, for example) formulations lose efficacy if hardness exceeds 150 parts per million.

"Water quality can significantly lower pesticide performance of many pesticide products," Tharp said. "Vast areas of Montana harbor ground water with less than ideal pH and/or hardness for spraying common pesticides."

Applicators can test their water with a pH meter or pH litmus strips, Tharp said. If pH is a problem, applicators should consider using alternative sources of water or adding a buffering agent to adjust the pH. For more information on water quality, a new MontGuide titled "Pesticide Performance and Water Quality" is available by going to www.pesticides.montana.edu and selecting "Reference material."

For more information, contact Tharp at (406) 994-5067 or ctharp@montana.edu

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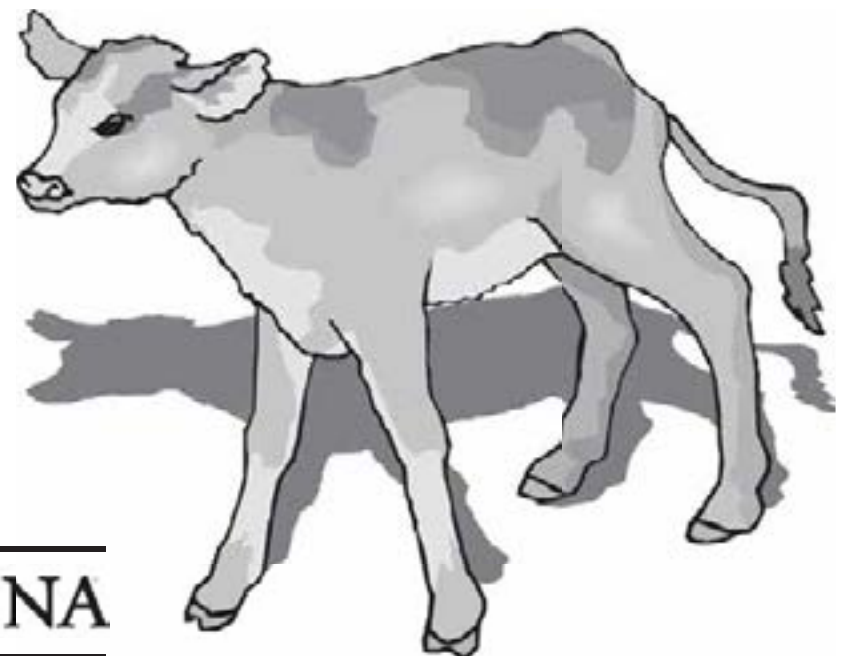


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Grants Awarded to Curb Noxious Weeds, Over \$1.4 million to Educate, Research, and Control Noxious Weeds

Submitted by Jayson O'Neill

The Montana Department of Agriculture announced the award of over \$1.4 million in grant funds for the development and implementation of noxious weed management programs.

"We all have a stake in combating the spread of noxious weeds at a statewide level. The Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council has a unique opportunity to look holistically at the state's noxious weeds and fund areas that are going to be the most effective. This year the council reviewed over \$2 million in proposals and awarded more than \$1.4 million in funds for education, research, and cooperative projects," said Ron de Yong, director of the department of agriculture and council chair.

The advisory council meets annually in March to diligently review applications and make selections to assist counties, local communities, tribes, researchers and educators in efforts to combat the most serious noxious weed problems in Montana. In total, 74 grant proposals were awarded funding, including 51 local cooperative projects, 12 research projects, and 11 education projects. In addition to the \$1.4 million awarded, each of the 56 counties and 7 reservations in the state are eligible to receive \$7,500 per year and a fund is maintained for noxious weed emergencies.

"We look for projects that can help solve a variety of the noxious weed problems facing our state. Just last year a new noxious weed, medusahead or medusahead wildrye, was discovered in the western part of the state, with more knocking on our border every year. Noxious weeds impair agricultural crops, diminish biodiversity, reduce property values, impact wildlife forage and degrade fisheries," said Dave Burch, weed program manager.

The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant program was established by the Montana Legislature in 1985. The advisory council reviews applications, hears applicant testimony, and provides funding recommendations to the director for final approval. Funding is typically passed through a governmental organization, local weed district, conservation district, extension office, or university. View a complete list of Montana State Listed Noxious Weeds at <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Weeds/PDF/2013WeedList.pdf>.

A compiled list of award recipients will be available at agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Weeds/TrustFund/ after the award process has been completed.

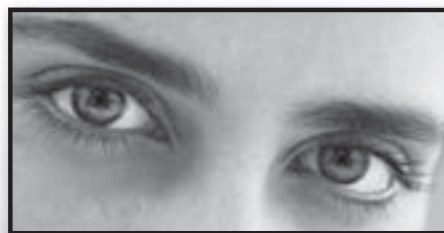
Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the Montana Department of Agriculture, visit agr.mt.gov.

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Montana Landowners Would Bear Brunt Of Free Roaming Bison

By Senator Rick Ripley

A Montana district court recently ruled that Montana laws dealing with the wild or domestic status of bison are “ambiguous.” Those laws certainly are complicated, and for good reason.

The Montana legislature has purposely given joint jurisdiction over bison to

our state’s livestock and wildlife agencies because bison pose a unique management situation. They pose a dire threat to Montana’s livestock industry because much of the Yellowstone bison herd carries the dangerous disease brucellosis. But more than that, bison have the capacity to do a great deal of damage to private property.

That’s why we’ve made a deliberate choice not to treat bison the way we treat wildlife like deer or elk.

But that district court ruling—which stated that bison that had been taken out of the wild and placed in captivity still be classified as wild, not domestic—weakens the balance we’ve had for years in bison management.

Some very well funded environmental groups from Washington, DC and New York City would prefer to eliminate the livestock protections completely from our bison management.

They’re pushing to relocate bison from Yellowstone National Park onto public land in Eastern Montana, and they’ve been adamant those bison shouldn’t be confined in any way, shape or form. That means that these bison won’t just be relocated to public land, but that adjacent private landowners will be forced to host those bison as well.

That’s the key implication of this recent district court ruling. If those bison are considered to be wildlife—the same as deer or elk—landowners have no recourse to recover the damages those bison would cause.

Disappointingly, Governor Bullock’s Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has seemed more than willing to go along with this radical plan to force private landowners to bear the brunt of bison relocation.

Amazingly, there seems to be nothing to gain from their radical plan. Bison restoration is already happening in Montana. Thousands of bison have been restored on private and tribal ground in various parts of the state. That model of restoration is working—the animals are on property where they’re wanted, and adjacent landowners have recourse should they stray to someplace they’re not supposed to be.

It’s romantic to think about a Montana landscape from hundreds of years ago, with no fences, no highways, and no people. But it’s not practical. Thousands of Montanans make their living from the land, and agriculture remains our state’s most important industry. Those livelihoods and that agriculture economy are imperiled by this radical notion that we should have free-roaming bison herds rumbling across the prairie.

Montana FWP is moving full steam ahead with a plan to force bison on private property. They’re meeting in Lewistown on April 15 and 16 to discuss not if we should relocate bison, but how many. So far they’ve ignored the overwhelming public opposition, but they need to keep hearing it. I hope you’ll add your voice to the debate.

State Senator Rick Ripley, from Wolf Creek, is the Vice Chairman of the Senate Fish and Game Committee. He was a petitioner in the recent lawsuit challenging FWP’s exclusive jurisdiction over translocated Yellowstone Park bison.

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New Study Seeks Cost-Effective Estimate of Montana Wolves

Researchers from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the University of Montana released preliminary results today of a new technique for estimating wolf numbers in Montana.

The study was developed to produce a less expensive and more accurate population assessment that accounts for wolves not actually verified in the state's annual wolf count.

Statewide wolf population estimates were derived for the years 2007 through 2012 via a mix of rigorous statistical evaluations; wolf observations reported by recreational hunters during the annual hunter-harvest surveys; and Montana's annual wolf counts.

Results generally estimate a Montana wolf population 25-35 percent higher than the verified minimum counts submitted over the six-year period.

The study's results are contained in FWP's federally required annual wolf report available online at fwp.mt.gov. That report shows Montana's 2013 minimum wolf count at 627, essentially the same as the past two years. The minimum wolf count is the number of wolves actually verified by FWP wolf specialists.

"The study's primary objective was to find a less expensive approach to wolf monitoring that would yield statistically reliable estimates of the number of wolves and packs in Montana," said Justin Gude, FWP's chief of research for the wildlife division in Helena.

The typical method used to document the state's wolf population focuses on ground and aerial track counts, visual observations, den and rendezvous confirmation and radio collaring to count individual wolves as required by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The verified count is used to fulfill Montana's obligation to submit an annual wolf population report to federal authorities to ensure wolves are being properly managed above standards that could trigger relisting as an endangered

species. Those counts must continue through Dec. 31, 2016.

"This new approach is not only good science," Gude said, "it's a practical way for Montana to obtain a more accurate range of wolf numbers that likely inhabit the state."

From 2007 through 2012, FWP and UM's Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit directed a team of 11 researchers to determine the number of gray wolves in Montana by estimating the: (1) areas occupied by wolves in packs; (2) number of wolf packs by dividing the occupied area by average territory size; and (3) numbers of wolves by multiplying the number of estimated packs by average annual pack size.

For instance, population modeling for Montana's wolves in 2012—where actual counts verified a minimum of 625 wolves and 147 packs—predicted that 804 wolves and 165 packs inhabited the state. Similar estimates are not yet available for 2013.

Gude cautions, however, that future statistically accurate estimates will need to incorporate wolf harvest locations and how the harvest of wolves by hunters and trappers influences where wolves choose to live, their territories, and pack sizes.

"Data on each of these aspects of wolf population size will give us a very solid assessment of the effects of harvest on wolf populations in Montana," Gude said.

By adding additional harvest information, Gude said specific predictions of the effects of different seasons or harvest quotas on wolf populations could provide information vital to establishing successful wolf hunting and trapping seasons in coming years.

"Perhaps the best future use of these statistical methods won't necessarily only be for monitoring and keeping tabs on wolf population numbers, but to better inform the complicated decisions that accompany the public harvest and management of wolves," Gude said.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, visit FWP online at fwp.mt.gov. Click Montana Wolves.

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