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**October 2011 Edition**

**Farm & Ranch  
Monthly Magazine**

Published monthly by The Roundup  
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**AROUNDUP**

# Beet Harvest Begins

**See page 6**



# Women in Agriculture

## The Unsung Heroes of the Farm



The Roundup is holding a photo contest to celebrate Harvest Festival 2011. Whether it's in the field or in the kitchen, women play an essential role in agriculture. Send in photos of your great grandmother homesteading or pictures from this year's harvest. We want to see them all!

Top prize is two 2012 Richland County Fair packages including fair buttons, tickets to the rodeo and concert.

Send your photos to PO Box 1207, Sidney, MT 59270 or drop them off at our office at 111 West Main. To be eligible the photos must be emailed or printed on photo quality paper, at least 4" x 6" in size at 300 dpi, fit the theme and include name, contact info and a description of the photo. Email photos and other required information to [photos@esidney.com](mailto:photos@esidney.com). Entries must be received by Oct. 14, 2011.

Pictured is Jessica Kostelecky and her daughter Tana getting ready to compete in the orphan animal dress up contest at the 2011 Richland Co. Fair.

## Farm Service Agency Encourages Growth Of Camelina

If you farm or own land in these three states – California, Washington and Montana – the USDA Farm Service Agency has an important message that you'll want to hear.

They are encouraging the growth of camelina through FSA's Biomass Crop Assistance Program. BCAP for short.

Camelina is a seasonal grass that is highly sought-after for biofuel, especially by the air transportation industry and the military.

Specific counties in California, Washington, and the entire state of Montana are eligible to participate in the program.

The deal is this: the Project Area is seeking several thousand acres of land to be converted to camelina production. The Project Sponsor and you must come to an agreement to participate in the program for five years. It's a contract.

For more information, contact your local FSA office, or go online to [fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://fsa.usda.gov/mt) and click on the link to State Offices.

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1993 VERMEER 605K	\$7,500
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JOHN DEERE 3960 FORAGE HARVESTER	\$2,500
JD 3 ROW ROW CROP HD YELLOW	\$5,500
JOHN DEERE 2 ROW ROW CROP 30"	\$2,250
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VICON 722 WINDROWER	\$11,500

## BEET EQUIPMENT

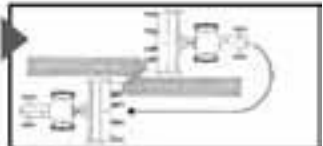
ARTSWAY 9420 BEET HARVESTER, 6ROW, 24" ROWFINDER, STEERABLE	\$17,500
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# Big Year For Grasshoppers

By Lois Kerr

It turned out to be the year of the grasshopper in many areas of eastern Montana. Many regions did not notice these voracious pests early in the spring, but by summer's end, hoppers had appeared in droves throughout eastern Montana. Dave Branson, USDA/ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Lab ecologist, Sidney, notes that grasshopper populations were particularly high in certain regions, with highest populations largely south and west of Richland County.

"We saw areas in eastern Montana with extremely high grasshopper populations, particularly in Garfield County, which had 80 grasshoppers per square yard in some areas," Branson comments. "Other areas had 20-30 grasshoppers per square yard, which is a high number."

Branson points out that grasshoppers seemingly appeared out of nowhere because of a very late hatch this spring. "People thought there were no grasshoppers, but there were," Branson comments. "The hatch was very late this year because of the cold spring and late arrival of summer. The hatch depends on degree days, and this year was way behind the long term average."

He adds, "In the late '80s when we had 100° days in May, some species were already adults by early June, but this year, those same species didn't even hatch until late June."

Branson cannot recall such a late hatch in all the time he's spent working on grasshopper research in eastern Montana. "This year was definitely close to the extreme as far as late hatch goes," he remarks. "This year was the latest hatch I've seen."

A few early hatching species did arrive on the scene in time to devour garden plots in certain areas, but most rangeland hopper species made a late arrival, fooling some people into believing the grasshopper populations would be small.

"Early on, there were no grasshoppers on rangeland," Branson says. "Ranchers looked for hoppers when they normally do and nothing was out there. They often didn't pay much more attention to grasshoppers until all of a sudden they had a problem."

He continues, "We were lucky this was a green, wet year because although grasshoppers did decimate some areas, in most cases there was enough vegetation out

there to go around. In a drought year, in many places the grasshoppers would have wiped out what's there. Although a major grasshopper year, it would have been much more severe in a drought year."

Branson cannot yet accurately predict what to expect for grasshopper populations next year. Weather factors and available food, as well as disease and reproduction will all impact the grasshopper population next year. "We'll take a close look this winter and dissect some female grasshoppers to determine the number of eggs laid," Branson says. "Because of the late hatch, there is a narrower window for grasshoppers to lay eggs. We've also seen a lot of parasitoids on grasshoppers at one location, which helps to knock the grasshopper population down, but we don't know if the parasitoids are widespread."

"However," he continues, "Late August and early September were warm, and grasshoppers like heat. The vegetation also stayed green in many areas so the protein content was higher than normal for August and September, so the food was there for grasshoppers to develop and lay eggs."

Branson points out that these varied conditions leave a lot of unknowns for next year. "We'll look at all the factors," he comments. "Given the warm fall and good food supply, the risk looks high for large grasshopper populations next year, but we'll get a better idea this winter when we finish our lab work."

He concludes, "The day length is short now, so even if temperatures reach 80° during the mid afternoons, grasshoppers can't do a lot. It's cold at night, so the window for reproduction and significant vegetation damage is largely over for this year."



**Grasshopper populations exploded this summer.**

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John Deere 530 round baler ..... \$5,500

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# TRI-COUNTY IMPLEMENT





# Beet Harvest Signals Summer's End

By Lois Kerr

With the start of sugarbeet harvest, we all realize summer has truly come to an end. Area growers began the 2011 fall beet harvest last week, and Russ Fullmer, Sidney Sugar Agriculture Manager, expects harvest will take between two to three weeks to complete, depending on weather.

"The Eastern Ag Research Center harvested their plots in late September, and the neighbors harvested Nathan Langwald's beets on Sept. 28," says Fullmer. "Sugar Valley and Sidney started on Sept. 30 with some quotas due to heat. Culbertson and Savage were scheduled to start on Oct. 1, and Powder River and Pleasant View were to start on Oct. 2, but startup was delayed for these four stations due to hot weather."

He continues, "We did stagger the startup of harvest because of labor constraints. There are only so many people in the Ag department so we staggered startup in order to get the crews at the pile grounds started up properly."

Fullmer expects tonnage will remain near the Ag department's estimate, but he has no idea what to expect as far as sugar content goes. "We're still sticking with our estimate of 23.4 tons per acre," Fullmer says, "but I don't have a clue about sugar content. That's anyone's guess, but it sure doesn't look like a barn burner. We're hoping that sugar content will rise as harvest progresses, but we'll have to wait and see. At this point we expect sugar in the mid 17% range but I guess what we get is what we get."

Fullmer notes that Express Employment has secured

enough labor to supply the employment needs for all six beet dumps. "Express did a good job," he remarks. "We expect to have enough labor at every pile ground."

Like last year, most workers at the pile grounds will stay in designated RV areas, with space paid for by Sidney Sugars. "People will be staying in RVs and tents," Fullmer comments. "Those people working at Fairview, Savage, and Sidney pile grounds will stay at the Richland County fairgrounds. Those people working in the south will stay at Terry, and those people in Culbertson will stay at the Roosevelt County fairgrounds in Culbertson."

He continues, "With the oil boom, we can't get enough local labor to run the pile grounds so we are forced into having these man camp style places. We are responsible for paying for this, but we are happy to do it because we need the space for people to stay and we need the workers."

Because of heavy oil traffic, people need to keep safety in mind at all times. Fullmer advises people to take care and caution during this busy harvest season. "Traffic is heavy already, especially in the north," he says. "Trucks can't stop on a dime, it takes time for them to get up to speed, and add this to all the oil trucks and it is scary."

He concludes, "I urge people to take their time. It gets worse the further north you go, so remember that. Be careful, be cautious, and be courteous at all times. It isn't worth it to rush and take chances, so plan to take a little extra time to reach your destination and stay alert at all times."

2011 Beet Harvest Underway





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# Drying 2011 Corn Crop A Challenge

This year's early frost could make drying corn more difficult.

The corn's moisture content likely will vary greatly, according to Ken Hellevang, North Dakota State University Extension Service grain drying expert.

"The first step is to determine the corn's maturity and expected harvest condition," he advises.

For example, corn just in the dough stage contains about 70% moisture, moisture content is about 52% in corn at the 75% milk stage, 40% at the 50% milk stage, 37% at the 25 milk stage and 32% if the corn is mature.

As of Sept. 18, three days after the first major frost in North Dakota this year, 83% of the state's corn crop was dented, and 20% of that was mature, the National Agricultural Statistics Service's North Dakota field office reports. That means 17% of the crop did not reach the dent stage before frost ended the corn growing season.

The amount of drying in the field will depend on parameters such as corn maturity, hybrid, moisture content, air temperature, relative humidity, solar radiation and wind speed. The moisture content to which corn will dry is determined by the corn's equilibrium moisture content, which is based on air temperature and relative humidity.

Potential evapotranspiration (PET) is one predictor of corn's drying rate. Evapotranspiration is the transfer of water from the Earth's land surface and plants to the atmosphere. PET is based on parameters similar to those that affect drying.

Standing corn in a field may dry about 0.5 to 0.7 percentage point per day during September, 0.3 to 0.5 percentage point per day during October and 0.15 to 0.2 percentage point or less per day in November under normal weather conditions.

This means corn at 40% moisture content on Sept. 15 could be expected to dry to about 31% by Oct. 1 and 20% by Nov. 1. However, corn at 60% moisture content on Sept. 15 might dry to only about 50 percent by Oct. 1, 40% by Nov. 1 and 35% by Dec. 1.

Immature corn may dry more slowly in the field than mature corn, and frosted high-moisture corn can mold on the stalk.

"Therefore, field drying normally is more economical until mid to late October, and mechanical high-temperature drying normally is more economical after that,"

Hellevang says.

Some producers leave corn on the field through winter to reduce the drying cost, particularly light test weight corn having moisture contents exceeding 30% in the fall. However, field drying is extremely slow during the winter, with corn drying to only about 20% moisture content by late February or early March.

Corn that isn't harvested until late spring can be expected to dry to 14-16% moisture content.

Hellevang recommends producers examine and push on the corn stalks to determine their condition before deciding to leave corn standing in the field through winter. Corn losses generally have been small if the corn stalks were strong in November. However, frosted corn typically has weaker stalks, so field losses could be greater this year than in previous years.

Other disadvantages of leaving corn standing in fields during the winter include wildlife feeding on the corn, which can result in large losses, and accumulated snow and the cover the corn provides can result in wet fields in the spring.

For more information about corn drying, visit NDSU's grain drying website at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension-aben/post-harvest>.







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# Growers Help Out Neighbor

Sugarbeet harvest  
underway near Fairview.



By Lois Kerr

Once again area rural folks demonstrated to the rest of us what it means to be good friends and good neighbors. A band of over ten Fairview area growers got together on Sept. 28 to harvest 120 acres of beets planted by Nathan Langwald. Langwald suffered an injury this summer and could not harvest his crops, so neighbors took it upon themselves to complete the harvest.

"Nathan had an accident," says Laurie Hurley, who along with Ross Buxbaum organized the beet dig. "Sidney Sugars opened the Fairview pile grounds just for Nathan's beets. We got started early on the 28<sup>th</sup> to get the job done."

She adds, "We had over 20 trucks donated by growers, we had six diggers and growers brought their own defoliators to get the beets harvested."

Three seed company representatives, Jeff Bieber, Crystal, Terry Cayko, Beta Seed, and Phil Hurley, Holly Hybrids, arranged for the respective seed companies to supply lunch for growers who helped harvest the beets. "Debbie Dahl ran her snack shack at the Fairview pile grounds," Hurley remarks. "The three seed companies paid her to cook the meal and supply lunch for the volunteers."

Hurley credits Ross Buxbaum with spearheading the drive to organize the beet dig for the Langwalds. Buxbaum believes neighbors helping neighbors is the only way to live a life. "Nathan and I have been best friends our whole lives," Buxbaum comments. "We look out for each other, and I've helped him do some farming. When something like this hap-



## Bringing In The Beets

2011 started with the harvesting of Nathan Langwald's beets in Fairview.

pens, we have to buck up and do what we have to do to get things done. Laurie offered to help me get this organized, she took charge and started calling people about the beet

**Continued on next page**



harvest. She organized it.”

He concludes, “Neighbors and friends all helped. Kerry Rasmussen helped us by opening the beet pile grounds

early so we could get the job done. I’m glad everyone could get together and help out a neighbor in need.”

With the exception of sunflowers, friends have already harvested Langwald’s other crops.



Sidney Sugars opened Sugar Valley pile grounds on Sept. 28 so neighbors could harvest Nathan Langwald’s beets.

## DEQ Extends Public Comment Period On New Method For Assessing Water Quality

In response to a request from the public, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has extended the public comment on Montana’s Water Quality Assessment Method until Oct. 7.

The DEQ uses available data to assess water quality based on established standards and reports its findings on the status of water quality in Montana’s biennial Integrated Report. The method document describes how the Department will make assessment decisions about water quality (i.e. whether surface water quality standards are being met).

A significant change from the previous Water Quality Assessment Method includes the incorporation of pollutant-specific methods to assess water quality. The DEQ has developed individual assessment methods for nutrients, sediment, metals and temperature pollutant groups, which are the most common pollutants impairing state surface waters. Each individual pollutant method provides for sound and consistent water quality assessments, which will allow the Department to make reproducible and defensible decisions about beneficial-use support.

With the exception of temperature, which is currently being finalized, the white papers for the pollutant methods are included with the Water Quality Assessment Method for public review. The DEQ will use the collected comments to prepare a final Assessment Method that will be used to make decisions about the water quality status of state waters.

The documents are available for public review on the DEQ’s Water Quality Information website at: [www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo](http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo). Public comments will be accepted until 5 p.m., Oct. 7, 2011. Comments may be submitted electronically at: <http://comment.cwaic.mt.gov/> by clicking on the link that is associated with the methodology that you wish comment on. Comments may also be mailed to Mindy McCarthy, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901.

The DEQ cannot guarantee that comments received after the closing date will be considered in developing the final methodology. For more information contact Mindy at 406-444-6754.



# Bovine Connection Set For Dec 1-2

By Lois Kerr

This year's Bovine Connection, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Dec. 1-2 in Sidney, promises to provide an interesting program, complete with a variety of pertinent information for cattlemen and agribusiness people. Although the agenda was not quite finalized by press time, Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine points out that people will certainly benefit by attending this year's event.

"We will offer a diverse program that includes everything from genetics and nutrition to people management," Fine remarks. "For instance, one of the speakers will talk about the generation gap and another will discuss the promotion of free market principles."

He adds, "We will cover a lot of topics during the two-day event."

Confirmed speakers include Steve Dittmer who will talk about free trade and why it is imperative to keep options open to cattlemen, and John Paterson, MSU beef specialist. Topics include global trade, nutrition, cattle handling, marketing, generational issues, the power of persuasion,

implants and A.I. updates.

"We have an excellent program lined up," Fine comments. "I invite all cattle people, cattle industry people, and those interested in the cattle business to attend this two-day event."

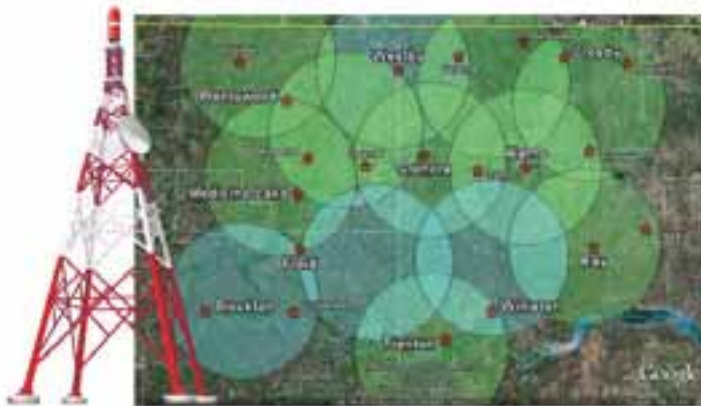


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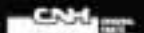
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Reliability	93% of the time	90% of the time
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# Dittmer To Speak At Bovine Connection

By Lois Kerr

Bovine Connection organizers have invited Steve Dittmer, Agribusiness Freedom Foundation, to speak at the Thursday, Dec. 1 session of the Bovine Connection. Dittmer will discuss free marketing and the preservation of free market options. "We promote free market principles throughout the food chain," Dittmer comments. "We aren't just promoting cow calf production or packers, but rather the entire chain all the way through to the plate. The more free market options and the less government involvement we have, the better it will be for everyone."

He continues, "We want to preserve as many options as possible for cattlemen, whether they sell calves every Tuesday at the auction barn or whether they want to participate in an alliance. Cattlemen should be able to choose from many options."

Dittmer points out that many proposals that will affect cattlemen sit on the table in Congress, many of which would remove innovations and options for the cattle industry. "People claim to be victims of free enterprise, but they aren't," Dittmer says. "We need to be armed with the correct facts. A lot of folks who are basic free market people know what others say isn't true, but they need more information to refute the false information already out there."

He continues, "A USDA proposal would change a lot of the branded beef programs and make it more difficult for cattlemen and prohibit them from selling contracts. These are options that cattlemen need to retain."

Dittmer urges people to become more involved, to learn the facts, spread the word, and be part of the solution. "Politics and economics are not always of interest to many folks, but economics is the study of human behavior, so people need facts," Dittmer comments.

He continues, "Many people are not happy with the direction government is going. We can't sit back and say 'Let George do it' because that is the reason we have problems today. People are busy, they have a business and a family and they feel they don't have time to mess with politics, but that's how we ended up with what we have today, a government that oversees and manages. The Tea Party people may not be perfect, but they did prove that individuals can have an impact and it proves that the power of the vote has not gone away."

Dittmer believes that rural folks need to educate their neighbors about what they do on the farm and ranch, and why they do it. This will help preserve the free market principles with many viable options. "The free market has been good to agriculture over the long run, but when government gets involved, it alters pricing and messes up the system," Dittmer comments.



**Steve Dittmer, Agribusiness Freedom Foundation**

Dittmer, who has been with the Agribusiness Freedom Foundation since 2004, serves as the executive vice president of the foundation. He delivers facts, analyses and opinions on beef industry economics and politics. Dittmer provides this information through the e-mail newsletter AFF Sentinel. "AFF's mission is to be blunt about ignored facts, distortions, emotion-driven illogic, and the real agendas of demagogues attempting to 'reform' the beef industry," Dittmer notes. "AFF favors free market solutions, preserving all possible options, innovations and coordination among industry sectors."

He adds, "I serve as the public face for cattlemen and other segments of the beef industry."

Dittmer grew up on a cattle operation in Ohio, so he has involved himself with the beef industry his entire life. He has worked with voluntary and mandatory check-offs, coordinated a successful Nebraska national beef referendum campaign, and has served on national committees that developed the Beef Industry Council's first national television advertising campaign.

Dittmer has visited hundreds of ranches and feed yards around the country.

Dittmer will present an interesting informative talk at the Bovine Connection. He is scheduled to speak at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1.

The location will be announced in next month's Ag Roundup and in the Roundup.

## A Little Bit Country

# Soil Health

# Information Ranks High

**By Warren Froelich  
NDSU Extension Service  
Williams County**

This past week I participated in two meetings scheduled to plan the educational programs for next year's Wheat Show and Pulse Day. These meetings involved farm producers, agribusiness folks and county agents. Both groups are at the initial stages of identifying issues that have positive impact on farm profits and what producers want to learn more about. Both committees sited 'soil health' as a broad area for which there is opportunity to improve productivity of cropland acres.

Researchers across the nation are beginning to convince us that plants and soils are entwined in shared life. The health of one depends upon the health of the other. Many years ago I attended an in-service training during which Dr. Lee Manske, Dickinson Research Center range scientist, explained how soil organisms have a significant role in maintaining prairie ecosystems which have survived the passage of time and ravages of weather. At the time I thought this message was a little deep for me. Then a few years later I attended a national county agent meeting and heard an Ohio researcher describe how they were able to eliminate water erosion in cropland having 6% slopes by increasing soil organic matter and soil organism population.

Since these early contacts, other researchers such as Martin Entz, University of Manitoba plant scientist; Jill Clapperton, a rizosphere ecologist with past ties to Agriculture Food Canada; and Don Tanaka, North Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, have affected my thinking regarding the importance soil organisms play in producing plant life and visa-versa.

In the new publication "The Zero Till Evolution" published by the Manitoba-North Dakota Low Tillage Farmers Association, Entz quotes, "It's essential for plants to be a part of any process intended to improve soil health. Healthy soils lead to healthy plants and, in turn, healthy people."

Entz emphasizes that maintaining sufficient moisture is critical to produce plant soil synergy. In the Northern Plains more moisture usually produces more biomass from plants. The volume of biomass is important because from that storehouse of material comes the soils potential to make organic matter. The carbon in the biomass is the carbon source for the soil and the

amount of root material contributes to this carbon.

Without question no-till farming practices have been a major contributor to the soil health in the Northern Plains. It has reduced the loss of soil moisture through evaporation thus making more moisture available for plant growth and more biomass for soil organisms to feed on to increase organic matter levels. As organic matter of the soil increases so does water infiltration and water holding capacity.

Tanaka tells us that keeping soil alive is a catalyst for the ongoing breakdown of decomposing plant residue from previous years' crops. In long-term and stabilized no-till systems this breakdown of residue by microorganisms recycles nutrients making them available for subsequent years' crops. Tanaka's research has shown that growing diverse plant communities aid residue decomposition because plant diversity above ground stimulates diversity of life below ground. In other words, the more diverse a population of soil microorganisms, the more diversified and efficient will be their cycling of residue.

Tanaka says, "Every crop has a unique set of organisms associated with it, and the organisms gravitate to that crop. The best way to develop a diversity of organisms in the soil is to grow a diversity of crops."

Although detailed agendas for the Wheat Show and Pulse Day are yet to be determined I am sure we can look forward to hearing speakers discuss ways we can profitably incorporate diverse cropping systems which also will aid in improving soil health at a faster rate.

The Wheat Show is scheduled Feb. 6-8 in Williston while the day and place of Pulse Day is pending.

A complimentary copy of the above referenced publication can be obtained by calling this office 701-577-4595.

## October Puzzle Answers

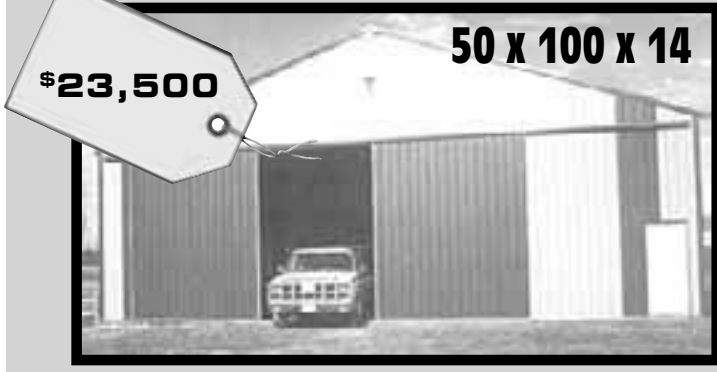
Keyword: projection

Crypto-list: trousers, slacks, pullover, blazer, shirt, cardigan, blouse, jacket, vest



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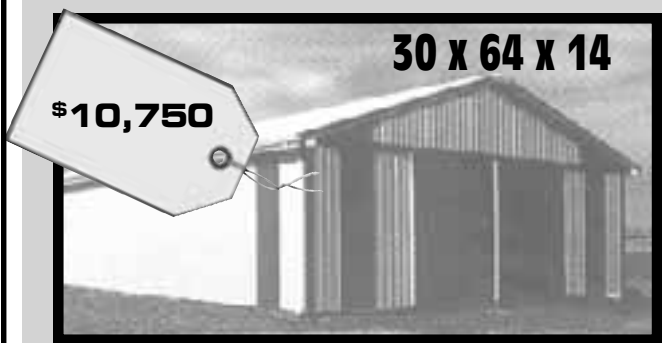
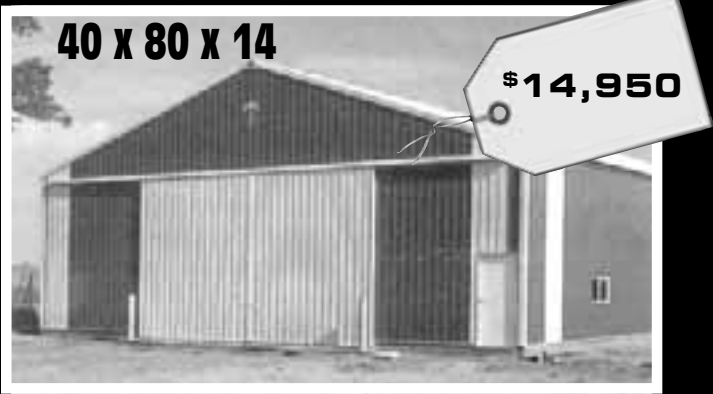
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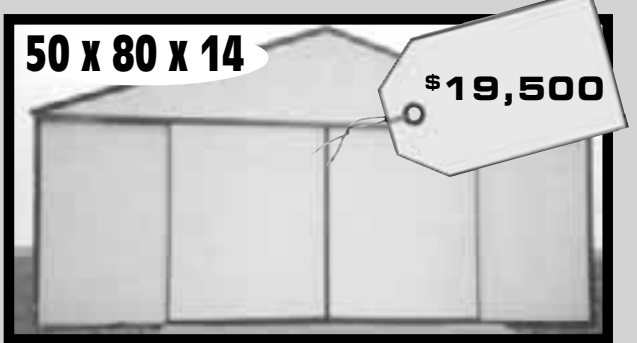
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# Dry Redwater Project Seeks County Funding

By Lois Kerr

The Dry Redwater Regional Authority (DRWA) has asked the Richland County Commissioners to fund a portion of the DRWA rural water system. Without this funding, the project will go on hold for several years due to new government regulations and required paperwork. Brian Milne, Interstate Engineering president, Sidney, the consulting firm assisting DRWA in its efforts to provide water for rural residents, explains that if the county provides funding, the project can begin construction as early as next spring.

"The DRWA regional authority wants the Richland County Commissioners to commit \$450,000 at this time to do a design of one segment of the project, a line from Sidney to Lambert," Milne says. "We chose the Sidney-Lambert segment to start with because Lambert has a high energy cost treatment plant for its water, plus we have lots of users between Sidney and Lambert signed up to use the system."

He continues, "Sidney has the capability and the water rights to serve as the temporary source until the big plant can be built at Fort Peck. The county will have no involvement or liability in the operation once it grants the money, as the DRWA will be responsible for building, operating and maintaining the system."

Milne points out that in his opinion, Richland County will benefit by the construction of this and future segments of the rural water system. "If the commissioners granted the money for this portion of the project, it would be self sustaining and benefit the entire county," Milne says. "In most projects of this sort, part of the monthly water bill goes to debt retirement and part of it goes towards operating, maintenance, and replacement costs. If the commissioners grant the funding, the folks in Richland County would not have to pay back any debt."

He continues, "Another benefit is that this would allow people to put in small ranchettes or acreages which would change the land designation from agricultural to residential which increases the tax base. As well, a rural water system can locate water stations for oil companies, which would control the roads the trucks use. We could locate a fill station closer to the wells which would cut down on wear and tear on the roads."

The request to the county commissioners for funding has come about as a result of changes in federal government regulations. When the DRWA steering committee first began working on this project in 2002, the committee targeted McCone, Garfield counties and western Richland County as locations for rural water. From 2002-2006, the committee completed all the requirements for the project, including conducting a feasibility study and signing up potential customers. The project attracted more potential users than expected, and shifted the direction of the project.

"The project grew in scope during that time period, and by 2006, the majority of potential users were located from Circle and eastward," Milne remarks. "The committee completed the study and went to Congress for authorization. Once authorized, the committee then planned to seek appropriations, but the Bureau of Reclamation, the federal entity that provides appropriations for projects of this sort, introduced its Rural Water Act of 2006, which formalizes what the Bureau does."

Because of the 2006 Act, DRWA came to a halt. People had to wait and see what the 2006 Act meant and how it would be applied. "It wasn't until 2009 that the rules for the new Act came into effect," Milne comments. "So the DRWA was in limbo for three years. The new rules basically took all the work done on the project from '02-'06 and required that we redo it in a new format. To go through the process again means it would be at least 2016 before we can get authorization and appropriations."

DRWA can speed up this additional paperwork if they can find a funding source and begin work on the project. "Government funding of rural water projects allows that once a project is under construction, it opens up additional loan/grant programs to help with the building," Milne says. "DRWA is not yet under construction, but once we get started on construction we can get loan/ grants to continue construction of other segments."

The total cost for completing a rural water system in Richland County would cost between \$30 and \$35 million. The DRWA would like the commissioners to fund a total of \$35 million over a ten-year period to complete a rural water system for interested households within Richland County, with the caveat that if the oil boom disappears, the county's obligation to the system becomes null and void.

Milne would like to see the Richland County Commissioners take on this funding. "If we can get Richland County to commit \$30 million over the next ten years for rural water in Richland County, we can have the project under construction next year and eventually have all of Richland, Garfield and McCone counties included in the system, but we need a commitment before we can start."

He concludes, "The project can be built one segment at a time. When building a water system, there is no deadline like there is if someone is building a house or a new facility. The water project is like a tree. It can be built one line at a time, starting in areas where there are the most users. We only build to areas where people want the system and have signed up for it."

**Editor's Note:** The Girard Homemakers Club will host an informational meeting at Girard Hall on Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. for anyone interested in learning more about this project. The Homemakers will be serving homemade pie & coffee.

# Real Estate & Moving AUCTION

Saturday, October 22, 2011 • 10:00 am



Your bid is considered acceptance of the terms of this auction. If you, the Buyer fail to close, the down payment is non-refundable. If the Seller fails to close, 100% of the down payment will be returned. At this time, there is no known reason that the Seller would not be able to close. All funds are held in the escrow account of Scott Henning, Attorney at Law, 255 S Kanabick, Glendive, MT 59330 406-377-5273

All information is from sources deemed reliable, but is not guaranteed by the Seller or the Auctioneers. Offering is subject to error, omission, and approval of purchase by owner. We urge independent verification of each and every item submitted to the satisfaction of any prospective buyer. It is every potential bidder/purchaser's sole responsibility to accomplish his or her due diligence in whatever manner he or she deems advisable. Announcements made sale day take precedence over any printed materials. The property will "As-Is-Where-Is" & K Statewide Auction Service and its auctioneers are acting solely as auctioneers for the seller.

## REAL ESTATE

### REAL ESTATE WILL SELL @ 1:00 PM.

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lot 015, Block 001 Section 29, Township 22N, Range 12E, Subdivision R001

**HOUSE & BUILDINGS:** 12x30 House w/12 Entry, 2-bedroom, full bath, natural gas heat, 2x6 1/2 unattached Garage, small Shed

A title commitment has been ordered and will be available, at their request, to prospective buyers for inspection prior to sale day. The above may or may not be the proper legal description, it was taken from the Dawson County Tax Receipts.

**TAXES:** Taxes will be pro-rated from the day of closing.

**TITLE INSURANCE:** Standard owner's title insurance will be provided by the seller through First American Title Holding Company, 304 N Kanabick Ave, Glendive, MT (406)363-5482

**TERMS:** Cash. 25% down sale day, The balance due at closing approximately 30 days from sale date at the office of First American Title Holding Company, 304 N Kanabick Ave, Glendive, MT (406)363-5482

**LOCATION:** RICHEY, MT- Royal Ave (1-block from Main Street) - Roads will be marked.

**OWNER:** George Strobel. **FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Rick Kniepkamp 406-485-2548. Lunch will be available.

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- Dress Bed Frame
- Dress Bed Frame
- 05 M3 Case Army Knife (steel case)
- 05 M3 Case Army Knife (steel case)
- 22 Single Shot Rifle
- Winger Washer
- Model A Fan
- Bliss Tire Pump
- Lead Irons
- Large Neck Crick, 1-gallon
- General M&R Pear Drill (used in army unit)
- Tank
- (2) Arch Bows (1-w/thermal)
- Prince Albert Tobacco Cans
- Wood Clamps
- Soldering Iron
- Oxeye Knife
- Flathead Ford Keepers Wrench
- Antique Dishers
- Caps & Sockets
- Blue Jar & Glass Lid
- Misc Jewelry

### HOUSEHOLD

- 4 piece Bedroom Set, vanity w/mirror, double bed, night stand, 4 drawer dresser
- Wife-a-bed Couch
- Glider Rocker
- Rocker/Recliner
- (2) End Tables
- (2) Painted Brass Lamps
- Floor Lamp
- Small China Hutch
- Cherrycraft Table w/ (2) leaves & 3 chairs on casters
- Small Kitchen Table & (2) Chairs
- Magnavox 12" Flat Screen TV (new)
- Magnavox 20" Color TV
- DVD & Video Player (like new)
- Carolee Stereo w/phonograph
- Radio CD Boom Box
- Small Chest Freezer
- Window Air Conditioner
- Card Table & Chairs
- Miscellaneous
- Secretary w/3-drawers
- Set of 100 China Dishes
- Set of 12 Silverware
- Pots & Pans
- Dishes, Cups, Glasses, Bowls
- Tupperware
- Alarm Clockset
- Canning Jar
- Dish Towels
- Misc Books
- Hand Quilted Bedspread
- Cotters, Tablecloth
- Lot of Embroidery

### VEHICLES

- 1966 2-door Mustang, 289 engine, automatic, (runs good)
- 2001 Grand Marquis LS Loaded, 68,800 miles
- 1994 Ford Ranger XLT Pickup, 2x4, automatic, 67,340 miles
- 1967 Ford F100 Pickup, 2x4, 300-cylinder engine, 4-speed

### LAWN & SHOP

- 4872 18" Riding Lawn Mower
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- Push Mower
- 10 Garden Tiller
- Wood Eater
- Wheel Barrel
- Garden Hoist
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- Galvanneal 5000 Generator
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# Enter The **Harvest Days Photo Contest**

**The Roundup is holding a photo contest to celebrate Harvest Days 2011. The theme is Women in Agriculture: The Unsung Heroes of the Farm.**

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***Top prize is two 2012 Richland County Fair packages including fair buttons, tickets to the rodeo and concert.***

**Pictured is Kim Nollmeyer of Savage getting ready to irrigate.**

**Email entries to [photos@esidney.com](mailto:photos@esidney.com)**

**Send your photos to PO Box 1207, Sidney, MT 59270 or drop them off at our office at 111 West Main. To be eligible the photos must be emailed or printed on photo quality paper, at least 4" x 6" in size at 300 dpi, fit the theme and include name, contact info and a description of the photo. Email photos and other required information to [photos@esidney.com](mailto:photos@esidney.com). Call The Roundup office at 406-433-3306 for more information. Images may be used in future Ag Roundup & Roundup publications. Entries must be received by Oct. 14, 2011.**



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# Montana Water Issues Increasingly Important

By Lois Kerr

Most of us have heard the 'first in time, first in right' slogan when someone refers to water rights and water usage in Montana. With the increasing demand for water for both business and domestic purposes, now may be a good time to review water rights and what it all means to rural folks who depend on well water.

"The system of water rights goes way back," says Denise Biggar, unit manager at the DNRC Glasgow unit office. "Montana is a Prior Appropriation state, as are most of the western states. Under this doctrine, a person must have a water right to appropriate water from a stream or other source. This doctrine originated to accommodate the irrigation and mining needs, and people with the earliest seniority get the first use of water. This protects water users and ensures that people or entities are not illegally taking water."

Those with water rights must use water in a beneficial manner, which includes such usage as irrigation, stock wa-

tering, and domestic use. "Each right carries a priority date based on first use," Biggar comments. "Beneficial use and priority of the right are two key attributes of a water right acquired under the Prior Appropriation Doctrine. A water right is the right to use the water; it is not an ownership in the water itself. Water rights in Montana are property rights and water users cannot be deprived of their property."

She continues, "Under the Prior Appropriation Doctrine, water can be appropriated for nearly any beneficial use, which would include irrigation, yard and garden use, recreation, and many others. A water right can also be appropriated from almost any source of water, including surface water flowing in streams, ground water, seepage, drainage, and floodwater. If someone cannot use the water beneficially, one cannot exercise his or her water rights."

Water rights have limitations, depending on what type of use a person makes of the water and is limited to the amount of water reasonably needed for that particular use. For example, if a well is registered for yard and garden use, a person can only use a specified amount of water and can only use it from May through October. A well registered for domestic use, however, can be used year round, but cannot exceed the amount of water allowed. "Water rights have specific limits," Biggar comments. "These limits include volume and purpose. Look at your registration, and if you are using water outside the limits, or using the water for a different purpose, you need to file for a change or file for new water rights."

She adds, "If we receive a written complaint that there is a suspected use of water that is not recorded, we will investigate."

People with wells or who drill new wells need to record these wells with the Glasgow DNRC office in order to obtain and protect water rights. This process ensures that no one can drill a well any place they choose, suck out the water, and walk away. Water rights prevents this scenario from occurring. If someone or some entity uses more acre feet than allowed and drains the surrounding wells, water rights users can take action. "People have to record their wells with the DNRC in order to obtain their rights," Biggar comments. "Make sure you have your water rights in place to protect yourself. If you don't have water rights recorded at the DNRC office, you have no rights, and you have no recourse should something or someone adversely affect your well."

Water will increasingly become an important issue in years to come. People can check with the DNRC to make sure their individual water wells are recorded.

People with water rights questions can contact their local Conservation District or the DNRC for further information.



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# Study Shows Heifers Don't Have To Be Pigs At The Feed Bunk

By Evelyn Boswell, MSU News Service

Heifers being prepared for breeding don't have to eat like pigs, stuffing themselves at all-you-can-eat feed bunks with unlimited refills, according to scientists at a Montana State University experiment station.

Researchers at the Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory, Miles City, conducted a two-year study that showed that heifers can safely eat 20% less during the seven months between weaning and breeding. They won't suffer from reduced rations, and producers save \$21 per animal. Industry-wide savings would be significant—especially in drought areas—if producers adopted the practice.

“With the cost of fuel and the cost of production increasing, more and more people are open to more ideas. This is one tool producers can put in their toolbox,” said Richard Waterman, research animal scientist who headed the study.

Waterman and five Fort Keogh colleagues recently published their findings in the *British Journal of Nutrition*, one of the premier journals devoted to animal nutrition. The researchers conducted their study with 32 heifers born to mothers that were fed harvested feed from the middle to end of their pregnancies. Each heifer was half Red Angus, a quarter Charolais and a quarter Tarentais. All the animals belonged to the Fort Keogh beef herd.

The scientists divided the heifers into two groups and fed them in confinement during the development period between weaning and breeding, Waterman said. Young cows, commonly called heifers, are weaned at seven months and bred for the first time when they're 14-16 months old. Animals in one group for the study ate all they wanted. Their feed bunks were never empty. Animals in the other group ate 80% as much feed as heifers of a common weight.

The researchers found that heifers with unlimited feed

grew faster than the calves on reduced rations, but the heifers that ate less used their feed more efficiently. It took less feed for them to gain a pound, Waterman said.

MSU Extension Beef Specialist John Paterson, MSU's Department of Animal and Range Sciences professor, said producers have traditionally thought that heifers needed to reach 65% of their full body size by the time they were bred for the first time, but the study disputes that. It shaved the percentage to about 55%, meaning that heifers could be lighter at breeding.

The study showed strong evidence to support its findings about reducing feeding, Paterson said.

“If you are in Texas and you are paying \$300 a ton for hay, a 20% savings in forage is huge,” he commented. “That's a huge savings especially in a drought environment where you are trying to save feed, or hay is really expensive.”

Neither Waterman nor Paterson said they could predict if producers will decide to reduce the amount of feed delivered to heifers based on this study. Paterson said Montana beef producers treat their animals very well, so, if they have plenty of rain and hay, they may decide to continue feeding their animals all they want.

But producers who live in Texas, New Mexico and other states currently hit by drought may be relieved to learn they won't hurt their heifers by feeding them less during the development stage, Paterson said.

Researchers in the Fort Keogh study came to their findings, in part, by administering two tests that measure how efficiently a heifer turns feed into energy. One test was a glucose tolerance test, and the other was an acetate irreversible loss test. Acetate—a secondary energy source for cows—is produced by fermentation in the rumen. One goal of the study was to see how fast the acetate disappeared from the blood stream and was used for energy.

The scientists administered the two tests at the end of the 140-day development period and again when the heifers were pregnant with their second calves. During the second test, the heifers were no longer in confinement, but they were grazing dormant forage on rangeland. A previous Fort Keogh study found that animals use nutrients differently depending on the time of year, Waterman said. The worst time is fall and winter, when range forage is dormant. Nutrients at that time can't enter the heifers' cells as efficiently as at other times.

Waterman said the heifer study was unique and valuable to producers for a couple of reasons. For one, it was part of a long-term beef productivity study that Fort Keogh scientists started in 2002. For another, the study included the treatment of the heifers when they were fetuses.

Members of the Fort Keogh team that conducted the heifer nutrition study, in addition to Waterman, were Andrew Roberts, Thomas Geary, Elaine Grings (now at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nigeria), Leeson Alexander and Michael MacNeil.

Fort Keogh is a USDA-Agriculture Research Service rangeland beef cattle research facility. It is run in cooperation with the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, an agriculture research component of MSU.



**Thirty-two heifers at the Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory, Miles City, participated in a study that focused on nutrition between weaning and breeding. The heifers, part of this herd, were each half Red Angus, a quarter Charolais and a quarter Tarentais. (Photo courtesy of Richard Waterman).**

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 Feature Shots & All Natural 10 a.m.  
**Sheep Sale following the Cattle Sale**  
 Fri., Oct. 21 ..... **Horse Sale 3 p.m.**  
 Wed., Oct. 26 ..... **Feeder Calf Special** 9 a.m.  
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# Vehicles Aid In Weed Seed Dispersal

## MSU News Service

Noxious weeds are often found growing along roads and trails and vehicles have long been suspected of picking up weed seeds and dispersing them to new locations. A new Montana State University Extension publication describes field studies conducted by the university's weed ecology and management group that showed the extent to which vehicles pick up and disperse seeds.

Three separate field studies quantified the number of seeds gained and lost by vehicles over varying distances. The first study determined how many seeds all-terrain vehicles pick up driving on and off-trail in Montana. The sec-

ond study examined the number of seeds gained by military vehicles (Humvees, trucks, ATVs and tanks) in military training areas in Montana and Idaho. The final study determined how long seeds stay attached to a truck before they are dispersed when driven along paved and unpaved roads under both wet and dry conditions.

In the first study, ATVs collected a large number of seeds in both spring and fall when driven on and off-trail. Not surprisingly, ATVs picked up more seeds when driven off-trail than on-trail. In the fall, up to 5,500 seeds per mile were picked up off-trail compared to about 400 seeds per mile on-trail. The number of seeds picked up in spring was


much lower. The study at the military sites determined that many times more seeds were collected by vehicles driven under wet conditions than under dry conditions and tracked vehicles picked up more seeds than wheeled vehicles. The final study found that up to 99% of seeds stayed attached to a truck after traveling 160 miles under dry conditions, but seed retention was much lower under wet conditions, where seed retention varied from zero to 60%, depending on where the seed was attached to the vehicle and whether the road was paved or unpaved.

This research showed that vehicles can pick up large numbers of seeds, especially when driven off-trail and under wet conditions. If seeds are picked up in mud, which then dries on the vehicle, they can travel almost indefinitely until it rains or the road surface is wet, allowing for extremely long distance transport of seeds.

Outdoor recreationists who drive on remote roads to trailheads or who ride ATVs off-road or on designated trails may unknowingly spread weeds with their vehicles. Preventing the spread of weeds into non-infested areas is the most effective and efficient way to manage weeds over the long term. To help prevent the spread of weeds, washing vehicles frequently is beneficial with particular concentration on wheel wells. Washing vehicles is especially important before and after driving on roads with high densities of weeds along the edges or after driving off-road or trail.

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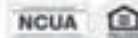
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# River Council Adopts Plan For Irrigation Ditches

At the August meeting held in Forsyth, the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council issued a Position Statement for modernizing age old irrigation ditches. Chairman of the Resource Advisory Committee John Moorhouse said "Most irrigation ditches in Montana can lose up to 50% of the water they diverted from their source."

The YR CDC is chaired by Don Youngbauer, Forsyth, and is made up of the 11 Conservation Districts along the Yellowstone River. For over 10 years the YR CDC has been studying the river and its cumulative affects on its surrounds.

RAC Chair John Moorhouse said seepage from ditches is not only wasteful of our precious water, but it also affects the stability of the ditch structure itself and can cause ditchbank failure that can result in flooding and extensive repairs.

"The perfect solution," Moorhouse continued, "is an irrigation pipeline, either buried or on the surface. This prevents water loss from leakage and evaporation as well. The cost for this cure is often too prohibitive. Therefore lining ditches with impervious material that prevents or greatly reduces water loss is recommended as a less expensive alternative," Moorhouse concluded.

The Position Statement issued by the Council is shown below:

Adopted 9/1/2011

Position Statement: The Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YR CDC) encourages the construction or modification of irrigation distribution ditches in a manner that prevents the loss of water through leakage.

Introduction:

Depending upon ditch length and the substrate under the ditch, irrigation water loss can easily amount to more than half of the water diverted. This unnecessarily increases the amount of source water diverted and results in negative effects on natural stream function including water quality, fisheries, aquatic species, water temperature, etc.

Loss of water from irrigation ditches through the ditch material often reappears in the surface soils down slope. This artificial increase in available water often causes conversion of the affected down slope vegetation from native plant communities to a hydric community that is often a monoculture of sedges or cattails. Also, over time the continual wetting and evaporation in some areas results in the deposition of salts on the soil surface and can eventually result in a saline seep that is nearly sterile in terms of plant communities. It should be noted that this leakage can sometimes also result in a more positive effect such as the creation of high-value wildlife habitat or recharge of an aquifer that is being used to supply wells.

Seepage also affects the stability of the ditch structure

itself and can cause ditch bank failure that can result in flooding and extensive repairs. Leakage can also cause softening of ditch side fields, roadbeds or even railroads. This results in continual high infrastructure maintenance costs and can even be dangerous to road and railroad users.

Where ditches are close to river or creek banks, the softening of the stream bank by leakage water results in accelerated erosion and siltation in the stream. Softening can also cause accelerated movement of the stream towards the ditch, often requiring repeated relocation and reconstruction of the ditch or extensive and costly stream bank armoring.



**John Moorhouse, RAC Chairman**

Proposed Solutions:

-Water distribution can be done most efficiently with irrigation pipelines, either buried or on the surface. This not only prevents loss of water through leakage but also through evaporation loss. Surface disturbance and use is also reduced. However the initial cost for these structures is high and may be prohibitive in some situations.

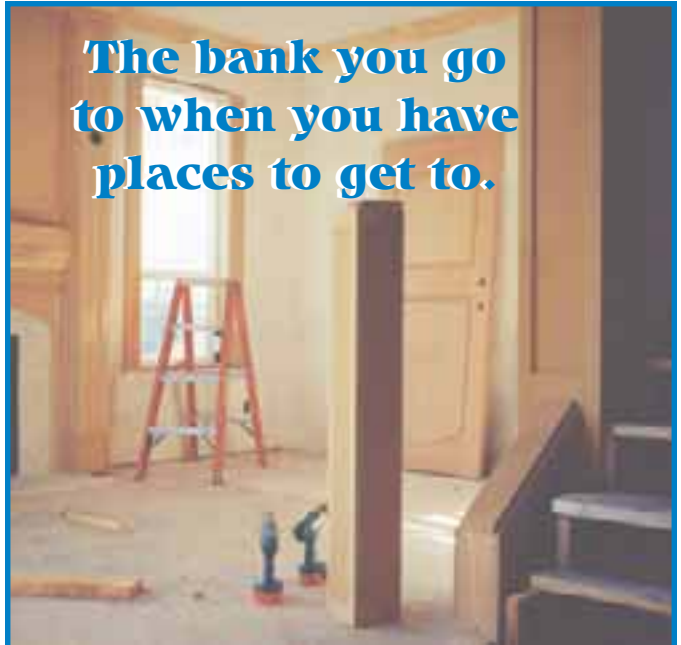
-Ditches can be lined with impervious material that prevents or greatly reduces water loss from seepage. A wide variety of materials, including reinforced concrete, vinyl membranes, heavy clay, etc. are available and can be prescribed to fit the physical and economic criteria of a particular situation.

**STAMPEDE**

By Jerry Palen



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# EARC Finally Makes The Move

By Lois Kerr

The Eastern Agricultural Research Center (EARC) has completed its move to the new facility. The staff moved on Wednesday, Sept. 21 following the arrival of furniture and the installation of telephone and computer services. Along with the Richland County Extension staff, which made the move to the new facility in June, the EARC staff now will conduct its work from the new building.

"It's nice to finally move in," says Jerry Bergman, EARC director. "It's a thrill to be here, to have computers and telephones working, and to now have the ability to conduct business and research from the new facility. It was a 30-year wait, but at last we have this new building."

He adds, "The lab equipment and instruments are in place, the secretary has moved over, and we are off and running."

The 12,000 square foot facility has three offices and a meeting room as part of the Extension facility, and the

EARC portion contains five offices, two large labs, two smaller labs, two greenhouses, a head house and several maintenance rooms to house heating equipment and internet hookup cables and equipment.

Fisher Construction, Billings, built the facility in ten months.

Bergman invites the public to come in to visit both Extension staff and research staff to ask questions or for information. He emphasizes that the facility welcomes visitors and that doors are not locked so people can walk in at any time during normal working hours.

"We have an open door policy," Bergman says. "The EARC staff works from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the Extension staff works from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, so people are welcome to stop in at any time during those hours."

For those who do not know the location of the new facility, you can find the EARC staff and the Extension staff at 1499 N. Central Ave., on the east side of the highway (across the highway from the USDA/ARS complex) in the large green building.

**EARC staff members Cherie Gatzke and Renee Sundheim unload equipment and furniture at the new facility.**



**The completion of telephone and Internet hookups enabled the EARC staff to move to the new facility on Sept. 21.**



Shown is one of the new labs at the EARC facility.

## Get Ready For Heating Season

This year's early frost is a reminder that North Dakota is a cold-climate state.

People have a few simple ways to reduce their energy bills and make their homes more comfortable, according to Carl Pedersen, North Dakota State University Extension Service energy educator.

The warm summers and cold winters have a tendency to wreak havoc on buildings in North Dakota. Building materials can expand and contract with temperature swings. This movement easily can break seals that are meant to keep the conditioned air inside a home. By allowing air leaks to go unsealed, homeowners are letting money escape from their homes.

"Running a fresh bead of caulk around window and door frames can be an inexpensive way to reduce air leaks," Pedersen says. "Caulk only costs a few dollars, and a tube will go a long way."

If your windows are old and replacing them is not in your budget, window films might be a good option. A wide variety of heat-shrink window films that will reduce heat leaks and convection air currents around windows are available.

Convection currents are caused as warm air from a home comes in contact with the cold air next to a window. The air drops and more warm air from the home replaces it. This continuous cycle is what causes the cold, drafty feel-

ing next to a window even though no air may be leaking through the window. Window films create an air pocket between the window and the film, helping keep the cold outside air away from the warm air in a home.

"Insulated window treatments are another great way to save a few dollars on heating bills," Pedersen says.

Installed properly, quilted or pleated window coverings will create air pockets that can reduce heat loss significantly. The advantage of the window treatments is that they can be opened on the sunny side of the house to allow the sun to add free heat to the home. In the evening when the sun goes down, simply shutting the blinds retains the heat.

The NDSU Extension Service has a program for homeowners to borrow an infrared thermometer to check a home for air leaks and cold spots.

"Using the thermometer, a homeowner can quickly scan a room and determine if there are cold spots around windows and doors, as well getting an idea of the amount of insulation in walls," Pedersen says.

Homeowners can borrow the infrared thermometers free of charge and pick up a checklist and information on home energy use and savings from county Extension offices. These resources also are available online at <http://www.ndsu.edu/energy>.

For more information, contact your local county Extension office or Pedersen at 701-231-5833 or [carl.pedersen@ndsu.edu](mailto:carl.pedersen@ndsu.edu).

# Landowners Testify Keystone XL Pipeline Not In The National Interest

About 40 members of Northern Plains Resource Council, including landowners affected by the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, attended a national hearing last week at the Dawson Community College, Glendive.

“The pipeline is for the purpose of generating profit for a

private company – it’s for a private use,” said Terry Blevins, a Wolf Point-area landowner crossed by the proposed Keystone XL pipeline and member of the Northern Plains Pipeline Landowners Group. “It will generate few, if any, local jobs, and the oil is likely to be destined for export markets.

This is not in the national interest.”

Hundreds of people attended the hearing that was intended to advise President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the National Interest Determination for the Keystone XL pipeline. Many landowners and concerned citizens testified that the pipeline is not in the national interest.

Many landowners along the proposed route of the pipeline and other speakers expressed similar concerns to Blevins’ about TransCanada’s pipeline spill record, the lack of an Emergency Response Plan for the pipeline, thinner pipe slated to be used in rural areas, and the recent Washington Post article (Sept. 22, 2011) which revealed TransCanada’s close relationship with the State Department through personnel who formerly worked for Hillary Clinton and other relationships.

“The Keystone I pipeline, the precursor to the Keystone XL pipeline, has had 14 spills since operations began in June 2010 including a 21,000 gallon spill in North Dakota, and the Enbridge pipeline carrying tar sands in Michigan spilled 843,000 gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River. An expert safety review by the U.S Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is needed,” said Blevins.

The Northern Plains Pipeline Landowners Group, a committee of Northern Plains Resource Council, is a group of landowners who have organized to negotiate with the company an equitable agreement which protects landowners and public safety.

For more information on the Keystone XL pipeline, see <http://www.northernplains.org/the-issues/tar-sands-pipeline/>.



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# Reminder: Montana Cowboy Hall Of Fame Seeks Nominations For Class Of 2012

The Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center (MCHF & WHC) is seeking nominations for the 2012 Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame induction round. In 2012, the MCHF & WHC will honor inductees who made their mark in Montana between 1880 and 1980, no matter the year of death or closure. Nominees can be men, women, ranches, stagecoach lines, animals, hotels, etc.—anyone or anything that has made an impact on Montana's western heritage.

Past inductees have included historical figures such as Sitting Bull, Evelyn Cameron, N Bar N Ranch, Charles M. Russell, Plenty Coups, Granville Stuart, Nelson Story, Grant-Kohrs Ranch, Alice Greenough, Montana Stockgrowers Association, Fannie Sperry Steele, Frank Bird Linderman and Vigilantes of Montana. Full biographies of all inductees from 2008-2010 are available online at <http://www.montanacowboyfame.com> (2011 inductee bios coming soon).

An unlimited number of nominations may be submitted from each of the MCHF & WHC's 12 state-wide districts of which one living inductee and two legacy (non-living) inductees will be chosen from votes cast by the MCHF & WHC Trustees. (Visit the MCHF & WHC website for a list of the Trustees and a map of the twelve districts of the MCHF & WHC.) This is the second year the MCHF & WHC will

induct living historical figures and the fifth year of honoring legacy inductees.

Anyone with an interest in Montana's history and Western heritage is invited to submit a nomination. Requirements include a cover letter with details about the nominee, the submitter, and a contact person or next of kin for the nominee; a two-page-or-less computer generated document detailing the nominee's background and contributions to Montana's western heritage (in hard copy and CD copy); and a copy-ready photo if available. Please contact the MCHF & WHC at 406-653-3800 for full details about submission requirements. All nomination documents must be postmarked by Dec. 15, 2011.

The 2012 Class of the MCHF & WHC will be announced by press release in June 2012. Next of kin or an establishment representing the award recipient will receive a MCHF & WHC certificate and will be invited to be recognized at the 2013 Annual "Circle the Wagons" Gathering.

For more information on the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center or the 2011 inductions, please contact Christy Stensland, MCHF&WHC executive director, by calling 406-653-3800 or logging on at <http://www.montanacowboyfame.com>.

# MSU Conference To Focus On Montana Agriculture In Volatile Times

## MSU News Service

"Montana Agriculture in Volatile Times" will be the focus of a conference hosted by Montana State University Extension and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics on Oct. 28 in Bozeman.

The conference will feature experts on agricultural policy, livestock and grain markets, and the Montana economy, addressing current issues facing Montana agricultural producers. The conference will run from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Procrastinator Theatre in MSU's Strand Union Building.

Following the conference, at 3:30 p.m. in the Procrastinator Theatre, the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics will present the 2011 M.L. Wilson Lecturer, Michael Gerber. Gerber is president and CEO of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, better known as Farmer Mac. Farmer Mac provides secondary lending markets for loans to agricultural producers and rural utilities. His lecture will address uncertainty in agriculture from a lender's perspective.

The conference on agriculture volatility is designed to provide agricultural business leaders, agricultural bankers, producers, and others in agriculture with quality unbiased information about the issues facing Montana agriculture.

Conference speakers from MSU's Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics will include Myles Watts,

a professor who serves on the board of Farmer Mac. He will comment on the status of U.S. and world agriculture in light of the financial turbulence of the past few years. George Haynes, agriculture policy specialist, will address the status of Montana agriculture. Professor Emeritus Doug Young will provide an update on government debts and deficits. Professor Vince Smith will examine the implications of the debt crisis on the next farm bill. Farm Management Specialist Duane Griffith and assistant professors Anton Bekkerman and Eric Belasco will explore the implications for Montana producers of volatility in livestock, grain and input prices.

Pat Barkey, Bureau of Business and Economic Research director, will share an update on the state of the Montana economy. The conference will conclude with an update on the Montana Department of Agriculture by director Ron de Yong.

Early registration (ends Oct. 15) is \$20 and includes a parking pass for Oct. 28. For more information and to register, visit [www.ampc.montana.edu/fallconference.html](http://www.ampc.montana.edu/fallconference.html) or contact Keri Hayes at 406-994-3511 or [khayes@montana.edu](mailto:khayes@montana.edu).

This event is part of MSU's Agriculture Appreciation Weekend. A full schedule of events for the weekend is available at: <http://ag.montana.edu/excellence/agappreciation.htm>.

# Get Your Vehicle & Survival Kit Ready Now

By Tanja Fransen  
Warning Coordination  
Meteorologist NOAA/NWS  
Glasgow

No one “plans” to get stuck in the winter when traveling, but I’m willing to bet you either have, or know someone who has gotten stuck in a drift for a few hours, maybe even overnight! It takes just a few minutes to put together a winter survival kit to carry in your vehicle, and you’ll never regret having it if you do become stuck, or just can’t drive any farther because of blizzard conditions. Here are a few ideas, and in the end, we know you will put together what works best for your car size, and the materials you have on hand.

One of the first things to do is make sure your vehicle is winterized. Know where your block heater cord is, get your extension cord ready for the block heater, have the heating and cooling systems checked out, replace bad windshield wipers, have filters replaced, make sure your lights work, have the exhaust system checked for CO2 leaks, make sure you have good tread on your tires (or have winter tires put on), and consider carrying a sandbag or two in the back of a rear wheel drive vehicle for better traction.

The photos show the two winter survival kits that we carry in our government vehicles. I personally feel that our huge plastic tote is too big. Most people don’t want something that takes up the entire back end of the SUV or trunk of the car. The smaller backpack is much more manageable, and it’s already put together for you. We found ours online by searching “survival kits” and the costs were generally in the \$25 to \$75 range.

The gear we have in our large tote includes: a NOAA Weather Radio with hand crank power option, a tire repair kit, a safety triangle and flares, first aid kit, power bars, paper towels, flashlights and batteries, a cord,



The giant plastic tote holding all our winter survival gear.



A ready-made kit we purchased.

small thermal blankets in a package, a sleeping bag and many other smaller items in the backpack.

Portable Survival Kits: I came across the portable survival kits at an ag show in Sidney this past winter. The Richland County 4-H kids put them together as a project.

A vehicle preparedness kit at a minimum should include the following items:

Cell phone and charger; Water bottles or container;

First-aid kit; High-calorie, non-perishable foods; Extra clothing (hats, gloves, snow pants); Moist Towelettes/Paper Towels; Ice Scraper; Flares/Whistle to signal for help; Spare Tire; Tool kit – Leatherman.

Additional items you may want to consider including are: Blankets/sleeping bags; Battery booster cables or a battery booster; Flashlights with extra batteries; Compass/Road Maps; Extra clothing; Small can and waterproof matches to melt snow; Shovel – portable ones; Small garbage bags and ties; Tow Rope (chains are dangerous); Small bag of cat litter or sand.

When traveling the northern plains or northern Rockies in wintertime, run through this checklist:

Fuel up and stay above a half tank.

Check the road conditions: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/> or call 511.

Check the Travel Forecast Page. Sometimes the roads are good in the location you are leaving from, but conditions may worsen as you get closer to your destination. <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/byz/state/transportation/index.php?wfo=ggw>.

Tell someone where you are going, what time you leave, and the route you take to get there. Use the better traveled roads. Then call them when you arrive safely. Otherwise, they can alert officials that you are late and perhaps there is a problem.

Don't use cruise control on icy roads!

If you run into problems, keep the following items in mind:

- . Use a tow rope, not a chain to pull a vehicle that is stuck. Make sure it is no longer than six feet. Chains can backlash, and cause serious injuries or death.

- . If a chain is the only available item, throw a heavy jacket or blanket over it before attempting to tow a vehicle out.

- . If you do get stuck, and it looks like you may be in the vehicle for a while: Stay with the vehicle, unless you can clearly see sturdier/warmer shelter.

Run the engine 10 minutes each hour for heat, and crack the window just a bit.

Keep the tailpipe clear.

A hubcap or visor can be used as a shovel.

Burning oil in a hubcap may allow rescuers to find you if conditions have improved.

Distress Signal is: Honk your horn for three long blasts, 10 seconds apart. Repeat every 30 seconds.

For further information on being prepared for winter in Montana, download the Montana Survival Guide from the Montana Department of Transportation and Disaster and Emergency Services, or contact your local Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator to receive a copy of it. [http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/brochures/winter\\_maint/winter\\_survival.pdf](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/brochures/winter_maint/winter_survival.pdf).



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# High Grasshopper Populations Require Precautions For Fall & Winter Crops

By Kevin Wanner, MSU Extension specialist  
MSU News Service

Grasshopper populations increased dramatically in Montana from 2007 to 2010, from one million acres with more than 15 grasshoppers per square yard in 2007, to 17 million acres with more than 15 grasshoppers per square yard in 2010. However, crop and rangeland damage has been somewhat moderated by the cool and wet spring weather of 2010 and 2011.

The recent warm dry weather has favored grasshopper development and based on the August 2011 adult grasshopper rangeland survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS, Helena), grasshopper populations remain high across the state. Continuing warm weather will favor egg-laying behavior by female grasshoppers and the rangeland hazard will remain high in 2012. Winter wheat will be at risk of attack this fall season.

Planting winter wheat later in the season is one strategy to mitigate damage caused by grasshoppers. Adult grasshoppers will remain active during the fall season as long as daytime temperatures remain warm. Later planting dates reduce the window of time that the crop is exposed to grasshopper activity. Later planting also reduces the risk of damage by aphids and the wheat curl mite, both of which can vector viral diseases.

Vigilant scouting is recommended. Adult grasshoppers can fly and are very mobile, so localized densities can change quickly. The migratory and two-striped grasshoppers are prevalent species in the current outbreak. Damage thresholds for emerging winter wheat are 3-7 per square yard within the field, or 11-20 per square yard around the field margin. Typically grasshoppers move into crops from surrounding grassland. In some cases, weeds may attract grasshoppers into fallow fields. Treatment strategies are

based on protecting crop edges from invading grasshoppers.

Border treatments applied as insecticidal sprays or seed treatments are the main recommendation for protecting emerging winter wheat. Typically, spraying insecticide 150 feet beyond the edge of the crop is a sufficient border. If grasshopper populations are very high they are difficult to control, and continued scouting is required as they can invade the protected border. At very high densities, borders up to 0.25 mile beyond the crop and repeated applications may need to be considered. One or two passes with insecticide treated seed (active ingredients imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) around the perimeter of the field is also typically effective. Adult grasshoppers are more difficult to control, and the higher end of the label rate is recommended.

When applying border sprays, timing is important. Border sprays beyond the edge of the crop need to be applied just before the wheat emerges; if it is applied too early there may not be enough residual, if it is applied too late, the damage may have already occurred. Systemic seed treatments eliminate the timing concern. Systemic insecticides require feeding to be active, but crop damage should be slowed considerably.

The High Plains IPM Guide, [http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Main\\_Page](http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Main_Page), provides information on sampling, thresholds and treatment options for rangeland and small grain crops. Additional information can be found on the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Sidney grasshopper website, <http://www.sidney.ars.usda.gov/grasshopper/>.

\*Discrimination or endorsement is not intended with the listing of commercial products by Montana State University Extension. Due to labels and registrations that are constantly changing, applicators must always read and follow the product label.

# Food Processors Focus On Dry Peas At NCI Marketing Short Course

Twelve food processors and importers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam were at Northern Crops Institute (NCI) to learn more about the use and marketing of dry pea-based ingredients in food products. The course is co-sponsored by USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council.

"USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council (USADPLC) is pleased to once again team up with Northern Crops Institute in order to educate food processors and distributors on the uses of pea flour and pea fractionates in processed foods," says Pete Klaiber, USADPLC Director of Marketing. "By bringing Southeast Asian industry members to NCI, we have been able to introduce them to experts in the field. Courses like this one will help us achieve our goal of increasing consumption of U.S. produced peas, lentils and chickpeas worldwide," he concludes.

Eighty-eight percent of the 2010 U.S. dry pea crop was produced in the four-state region of North Dakota, Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota. The cool, dry growing season of the U.S. northern tier is especially well suited for

growing pulse crops. U.S. production of dry peas, lentils and chickpeas has more than doubled in the past decade.

Course topics included dry pea breeding, quality evaluation, nutrition and milling applications; contracting specialty crops; functionality of dry pea flour, protein, starch and fiber; Asian and vermicelli noodle processing; baking and pasta processing with pea flour; use of dry peas in food products; and sensory evaluation of pea-fortified products.

Speakers for the course were Clifford Hall, Ph.D., NDSU Dept. of Cereal and Food Sciences; Thunyaporn Jeradechachai, NCI Crop Quality Specialist; Kevin McPhee, Ph.D., NDSU Pulse Breeder; Frayne Olson, Ph.D., NDSU Extension Service; Dilrukshi Thavarajah, Ph.D., NDSU School of Food Systems; and Mehmet Tulbek, Ph.D., NCI Technical Director.

Lectures are supplemented by hands-on experiences in NCI's analytical, milling, baking, pasta and extrusion processing laboratories. The participants also toured SK Food International's processing facility in Moorhead, MN, and their head office in Fargo.

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# "Take A Break"

By Lois Kerr

## LOOP-A-WORD It Hangs on a Wall

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

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

artwork	emblem	license	plate	tapestry
banner	engraving	lockers	portrait	trophy
board	etching	meter	poster	wreath
bucket	fish	mirror	rack	
cabinet	frame	motto	regulations	
calendar	graph	mural	rope	
cape	grille	painting	safety procedures	
certificate	hook	pegs	sconce	
clock	keys	phone	shelf	
decoration	lamp	photo	sign	
diploma	lantern	plaque	switch	

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

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

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. __UMPS | 6. __IDER  |
| 2. C__EST | 7. __OURS  |
| 3. DR__VE | 8. __RATE  |
| 4. MA__OR | 9. SHO__T  |
| 5. BRIN__ | 10. BAR__S |

## CRYPTO-LIST

Crypto list is a list of related words in code. The same code is used throughout. When you have identified a word, use the known letters to decode the other words in the list.

Clothing

*ex: jeans*

W L S P X R L X

X V I K Z X

N P V V S O R L

J V I E R L

X B A L W

K I L Q A C I T

J V S P X R

Y I K Z R W

O R X W

See answers on page 14.



# About The Ag Roundup



The Ag Roundup is a monthly Farm & Ranch Magazine. It is delivered to over 10,000 farm & ranch families in Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana. The advertising and news deadline for the November 2011 issue is October 25. Subscription Rate: \$15 per year.

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