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October 2012 Edition



Sugarbeet Harvest Heats Up

See page 2

Beet Harvest Begins Despite Higher Temperatures



Sidney beet farmer Ryan Bell harvesting on Sept. 28.

Beet harvest 2012 began last week, starting with Culbertson on Thursday, followed by Sugar Valley and the factory on Friday. South station openings were delayed due to excessive heat. Plans are to have those open by mid week. All stations were closed over the weekend. Staggering the start dates gives Sidney Sugars' staff the opportunity to make sure each station is running properly especially with all the new workers each year. The factory needs a couple of stations open in order to start processing, plus the re-haul trucks start with Culbertson, hence the "first start" date there. After this initial delay, growers and the factory are hoping for a better harvest than last year when high temperatures forced many delays. "We'll be watching the beet temperatures," Fullmer stated. "This fall has been a lot cooler, so we should have more full days and keep going."

Fullmer is comfortable with their earlier tonnage prediction of 26.6. He isn't predicting a sugar content however, saying only that he believes it will be better than last year. "These cool nights and sunny days are perfect for the beets to store sugar," he said.

Net acres are up substantially this year, at 33,200, compared to last year when a lot of acres were lost to flooding.

"Every year, we lose some acres, but gain some in other areas," Fullmer said.

Sidney Sugars is still looking for campaign help, but Express Employment has filled the harvest positions, once again relying on many RVers who like to travel and work the harvests. Those RVers are set up at the Richland County Fairgrounds compliments of Sidney Sugars. Anyone living in tents is required to find their own space.

Sidney Sugars will have its regular harvest report on 660 KEYZ, and will also mass text the growers with shut-downs or any other important issues. Improvements in technology will also help growers get their sugar content quicker and easier, with reports being sent automatically from the quality lab each night. Also, the accounting department will verify the data from the previous day and send it to the scale houses, so the sugar tickets are right there for the growers.

As always, safety is of primary concern. Traffic is already heavy on local roads, even Hwy 16 S, plus with the dry conditions, dust will be a huge issue. Beet trucks enter the highways slowly and need time to get up to speed. Fullmer urges everyone to pay attention, drive carefully and make this a safe harvest.

HARVEST SAVINGS!

4WD TRACTORS

2001 CASE IH STX325, 325 ENGINE HP, 4WD, POWERSHIFT, 4 HYDRAULICS, PTO, 20.8X42 PTO, DUALS	\$95,000
1994 JOHN DEERE 8570, (250 ENG HP), 4WD, 12 SPD TRANS, 4 HYDS, 20.8X38 DUALS	\$55,000
1979 JD 8640 (229 PTO HP) 16 SPEED TRANY, 3 HYDRAULICS, PTO, 20.8X38 DUALS, JD 12' DOZER	\$24,500
1975 JD 8430 (175 PTO HP) 4WD, 16 SPEED TRANY, 3 HYDRAULICS, DUAL PTO, 18.4X34 DUALS	\$15,000

USED MFWD & 2WD TRACTORS

2011 JD 7230 (110 PTO HP), 16 SPEED, POWERQUAD TRANS, MFWD, 3 HYD, 3PT HITCH, DUAL PTO, 480/80R38, FACTORY WARRANTY, LOW HOURS	\$95,000
2004 JD 7920, (170 HP), IVT TRANS., MFWD, 3 PT W/ QUIK HITCH, 3 HYDS, PTO, 480/80R46 DUALS	\$99,500
2004 JOHN DEERE 7920 (170 PTO HP), IVT TRANS, MFWD, 3-PT HITCH WITH QUICK HITCH, 4 HYDS, 380/90R50 DUALS	\$97,500
1994 JD 7800 (145 PTO HP) 16 SPEED, POWERQUAD, MFWD, 3PT HITCH, 3 HYD, DUAL PTO, 420/80R46 DUALS	\$49,500
1983 JD 4850 (192 PTO HP) 15 SPEED, POWERSHIFT, MFWD, 3 PT HITCH, 3 HYDRAULICS, PTO 20.8X38 DUALS	\$45,500
1976 JD 4630, (150 PTO HP), QUADRANGE, 20.8X38, PTO, JD DOZER	\$16,500
1973 JOHN DEERE 4430, (125 PTO HP), QUAD RANGE TRANS., DUAL PTO, 2 HYDS, 20.8X34 DUALS	\$12,500
IH 766, (85 HP), CAB, 2 HYDS, 18.4X34 DUALS, 5' SIDE MOUNT MOWER ...	\$7,450

LOADER TRACTORS

2011 JD 7130 (100PTO HP) 20 SPEED POWERQUAD TRANY, MFWD, 3 HYDRAULICS, 3PT HITCH, DUAL PTO, 18.4X42 DUALS, FACTORY WARRANTY, JD 740 LOADER WITH 8' BUCKET, GRAPPLE, & JOYSTICK	\$109,500
2010 JD 7130 (100PTO HP) 16 SPEED POWERQUAD TRANY, MFWD, 3 HYDRAULICS, 3PT HITCH, DUAL PTO, 18.4X38 DUALS, NEW JD H360 LOADER WITH 8' BUCKET, GRAPPLE & JOYSTICK	\$92,750
2010 JD 7130 (100 PTO HP) 16 SPEED POWERQUAD TRANY, MFWD, 3PT HITCH, 3 HYDRAULICS, DUAL PTO, 18.4/38 DUALS, NEW JD H360 LOADER WITH 8' BUCKET, GRAPPLE & JOYSTICK	\$74,500
2000 JD 7810 (150 PTO HP) 20SPEED POWERQUAD TRANY, MFWD, 3 HYDRAULICS, 3PT HITCH, DUAL PTO, 320/90R50 DUALS, JD 740 LOADER, 8' BUCKET, GRAPPLE & JOYSTICK	\$69,500
1998 JD 7810 (150 PTO HP) 16 SPEED POWERQUAD TRANY, MFWD, 3 HYDRAULICS, 3PT HITCH, DUAL PTO, 14.9R46 DUALS, NEW JD 740 LOADER WITH 8' BUCKET, GRAPPLE & JOYSTICK	\$54,500
1994 JD 6200 (66PTO HP) 12 SPEED TRANY, 2WD, 3PT HITCH, PTO, 16.9X30 DUALS, JD 620 LOADER WITH 7' BUCKET, GRAPPLE & JOYSTICK	\$27,500
JD 5055E (55 ENG HP) 9 SPEED TRANY, MFWD, 3PT HITCH, JD 553 LOADER, 6' BUCKET. ONLY 30 HRS!	\$30,000

USED COMBINES

2008 JD 9770 STS, 520/85R38 DUALS, CONTOUR MASTER, CHOPPER, LOW HOURS	CALL
2008 JOHN DEERE 9670 STS W/ 520/80R38 DUALS, CHOPPER, LOW HOURS	CALL
2002 JD 9650 STS, 800/65X32 SINGLES, CHOPPER, GRAIN TANK EXT	CALL
2000 JD 9750 STS, 30.5X32 DUALS, CHOPPER	CALL
1983 JD 7720, 24.5X32, STRAW AND CHAFF SPREADER, 224 PLATFORM	CALL
2010 JD 630R PLATFORM (LOT F730)	CALL
2009 JD 635D HEADER (LOT # H042)	CALL
2008 JD 630 R HEADER	CALL
2008 JD 936D PLATFORM	CALL
2004 JD 893 CORNHED	CALL

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2004 JD 635F	CALL
JD 930 PLATFORM (LOT F739)	CALL
1997 MACDON 962D PLATFORM (LOT F987)	CALL
2006 MACDON 973 D PLATFORM (LOT # H056)	CALL
2005 JD 630F (LOT F873)	CALL
JD 635F HYDRA-FLEX	CALL
2009 CASE IH 2010 RIGID PLATFORM, BAT REEL, LESS THAN 100 HOURS	CALL
ELMER 30' HEADER TRLR	\$1950

ROUND BALERS

2010 JD 568 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICKUP, NET WRAP	\$41,500
2008 JD 568 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICK-UP, BIG TIRES, NET WRAP	\$31,500
2005 JD 567 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICKUP, NET WRAP	\$23,500
2005 JD 567 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICKUP, NET WRAP	\$22,500
2005 JD 567 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICKUP, NET WRAP	\$16,500
2005 JD 567 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICKUP, NET WRAP	\$21,900
2003 JD 567 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICKUP, NET WRAP	\$24,500
2003 JD 567 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICKUP, NET WRAP	\$21,500
2002 JD 567 ROUND BALER, WIDE PICKUP, NET WRAP	\$18,500
1991 JD 535 ROUND BALER	\$6,500
1989 JD 535 ROUND BALER	\$8500
1979 JD 510 ROUND BALER	\$1500
2006 VERMEER 605M ROUND BALER, LOADED	\$21,500
2006 NH BR780 ROUND BALER (LOT F985)	\$16,500
2002 CASE RBX562 ROUND BALER (LOT H049)	\$12,500
2002 CASE IH RBX 561 ROUND BALER	\$9,500
1998 VERMEER 605L, NET WRAP	\$11,500
1997 CIH 8480 ROUND BALER (LOT F934)	\$5,500
1993 VERMEER 605K ROUND BALER (LOT F843)	\$7,950
1992 CIH 8460 ROUND BALER (LOT H031)	\$3,500

TILLAGE

2010 JD R450 WINDROWER WITH 995 ROTARY PLATFORM (LOT H039)	\$119,500
1988 HESSTON 8100 WINDROWER, 16' AUGER PLATFORM, 21' DRAPER PLATFORM (LOT F929)	\$16,500
CIH 8830 DRAPER PLATFORM 25' CENTER	\$3,500
VERSATILE 195 D PLATFORM (LOT E327)	\$750
1995 MACDON 6000 HYDRO (LOT H008)	\$5,500
JD 3960 CHOPPER W/ 2RN HEAD (LOT F750)	\$4,500
JOHN DEERE 3960 FORAGE HARVESTER W/3 ROW ROW CROP 30" (LOT F546)	\$11,500
JOHN DEERE 3960 FORAGE HARVESTER WITH 2 ROW, 30" HEAD ...	\$2,500
JD 3 ROW ROW CROP HD YELLOW	\$5,500

MISCELLANEOUS

REMAN 2600 GS2 DISPLAY (LOT F948)	\$1,650
2009 ARTIC CAT TX PROWLER W/ FRONT BLADE (LOT F924)	\$8750
2008 YAMAHA RHINO 700EL (LOT F957)	\$8950
HAYBUSTER H-1100 TUB GRINDER	\$12,500
JD 740 LOADER, 7000 SERIES MOUNTS, 8' BUCKET, GRAPPLE, JOYSTICK ..	\$8,500
2007 BRANDT 13X70 AUGER (LOT H047)	\$17,500
1993 REM 552 GRAIN VAC (LOT F998)	\$5,500
WESTFIELD AUGER (LOT H052)	\$2,000
WOODS S106 DB MOWER (LOT H003)	\$1,750
DIAMOND 72" & 62" MOWERS (LOT F620)	\$2,500
WOODS 3240 BATWING	\$9950

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Montana Farm Bureau: Estate Tax Hurts Farmers and Ranchers

The Montana Farm Bureau has expressed strong dismay that S. 3412, the Middle Class Tax Cut Act, passed recently in a 51-48 vote. The state's largest agricultural organization noted that if anything, the legislation isn't going to help, but harm, family business and especially family farms and ranches. The bill did not include any extension for the estate tax rate, meaning in 2013, the death tax will increase from 35 percent to 55 percent, and the estate tax deduction will decrease from \$5 million to \$1 million with no spousal transfer.

"Montana Farm Bureau was extremely dismayed at this vote, especially when both of our senators, who come from farm families, voted yea," said MFBF President Bob Hanson. "We've been saying over and over again that raising the rate of the death tax and decreasing the deduction could be the death knell for transferring family farms, ranchers or other businesses to the next generation."

Hanson explains that non-liquid assets, such as machinery, buildings and land, are continually increasing in value. "According to the report 'Costs and Consequences of the Federal Estate Tax' just released by the bi-partisan Joint Economic Committee, the estate tax is a significant hindrance to entrepreneurial activity since many family businesses lack sufficient liquid assets to pay estate tax liabilities. In 2010, liquid assets in agriculture comprised only 12 percent of total assets whereas hard assets (including land and buildings) comprised 88 percent of total assets. Alone, real estate accounted for approximately 85 percent of farm assets in 2010."

He says farmers or ranchers who have to sell land and equipment to generate enough cash to pay a hefty federal estate tax often don't have enough money left to keep their business viable. "If you sell most of your grazing land, or several expensive pieces of farm equipment to pay the death tax, you won't have what you need to keep producing food," Hanson said. "It's a real travesty."

According to the report, there are extensive costs associated with the estate tax in terms of the dissolution of family businesses, slower growth of capital stock and a loss of output and income over time. This can be particularly hard on farm families, who own 98 percent of the nation's 2.2 million farms.

The report found that estate tax impedes economic growth because it discourages savings and capital accumulation. Gaining access to capital is vital to farms and rural economies. Currently, in some parts of the country

including Montana, land values have increased over \$10,000 per acre. Further, land values from 2010 to 2011 increased on average 25 percent and have greatly expanded the number of farms and ranches that now top the estate tax \$5 million exemption which is easily reached when the bulk of your asset value is the land you farm.

"The estate tax creates a steep barrier for young people trying to get into farming and ranching," notes Hanson. "With 58 being the average age of a farmer, we should be trying to make things easier for young people instead of making it almost impossible to get into ag because of these outrageous tax laws. If a farmer's or rancher's heirs have to pay the rate of 55 percent of the estate with an exemption of \$1 million, it will put Montana agriculture out of business in one generation."

Montana Make It With Wool!

The Montana Make It With Wool contest is coming up soon! The contest's objectives are: to promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabric and yarns, encourage personal creativity, recognize creative skills and develop life skills. Make plans now to enter this exciting contest. The District 5 contest will be held in Sidney, MT on Thursday, October 18. The contest is open to everyone living in District 5 and includes the categories: Pre-Teen – 12 and under, Juniors – 17-24, Adults age 25 and older, Made for Others (any age), Wearable Accessories- district & state level only (any age). The garments for Juniors, Seniors, Adults and Made for Others may enter in these categories: One-piece garment, Two-piece garment, and Ensemble. Pre-Teens may enter a dress, jumper, skirt, pants, shorts, vest, sweater, shirt/blouse, jacket or a combination. First place winners in the Junior, Senior, Adult and Made for Others category advance to the state competition held during the Montana Wool Growers convention on November 30 & December 1, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Grand in Billings MT. The Junior and Senior winners are eligible to attend the National Finals January 23 – 26, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. Entry forms and fees are due by October 1. For an entry form or questions please contact Leslie McMillen at 406-569-2020.

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1999 Case IH RS561 \$12,500
1995 Case IH 8465 \$8,995
1994 Case IH 8480 Softcore \$6,995
1990 Hesston 560 Round Baler \$5,500
John Deere 530 round baler \$5,500
CIH RBX 563 baler, mesh, wide pickup Just Traded
2008 Case IH RB564 round baler, 8700 bales, mesh wrap, wide pickup,
endless belts, hydraulic pickup lift, central lube \$29,900
2005 Frontier 18 wheel high capacity rake \$16,000
2003 Case IH RBX562, MeshWrap, Like New \$24,500
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USDA Designates 4 Additional Counties in North Dakota as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

By Dan Janes
Communications Coordinator
USDA Farm Service Agency
North Dakota State Office

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has designated an additional four counties in North Dakota as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by the recent drought. Benson, Billings, Eddy and Ramsey Counties were added to the list of disaster designated counties. The complete list of primary natural disaster areas includes Barnes, Benson, Billings, Bowman, Cass, Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, Griggs, Logan, Lamoure, McIntosh, Nelson, Ransom, Ramsey, Slope, Steele, Stutsman, and Traill.

In addition, farmers and ranchers in Adams, Cavalier, Dunn, Emmons, Hettinger, Kidder, McKenzie, Pembina, Pierce, Richland, Sargent, Sioux, Stark, Towner, Walsh and Wells Counties also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous to the primary natural disaster areas.

Secretary Vilsack's announcement comes as a result of a new streamlined disaster designation pro-

cess unveiled this year. "The automatic designation process based on drought puts us several months ahead of where we would normally be in the disaster assistance process," said Aaron Krauter, State Executive Director of Farm Service Agency in North Dakota. "This allows us to be much more timely in making emergency loans available for those producers who are already looking at plans for next year."

FSA's emergency loans are specifically targeted towards established farm operators who have suffered significant losses due to a disaster and are unable to receive credit from commercial lenders. In addition to providing low interest loans, FSA works with producers to develop a farm plan and get connected to a financial management training program. Farmers or ranchers who suffer at least a 30% loss to production or had a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, or other farm property may be eligible for emergency loans. Loan funds through FSA may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay production costs for the disaster year, reorganize the farming operation or refinance certain debts.

MSU to Hold Agriculture Conference Oct. 26

MSU News Service

MSU Extension and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics will offer a conference entitled "Agriculture 2012: A Changing Landscape" from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 26 in Bozeman.

The conference will provide agricultural business leaders, bankers, producers, and others in agriculture with information from experts on agricultural policy, livestock and grain markets, and the Montana economy, addressing current issues facing Montana agricultural producers.

The speakers are: George Haynes on the status of Montana and U.S. agriculture; Gary Brester and Eric Belasco with an update on the role of cattle cycles and drought on the U.S. beef industry; Vince Smith with insights on the implications of the Canadian Wheat Board reform; Anton Bekkerman on changes in the elevator

industry in Montana; Tim Fitzgerald on landowners and oil leasing; Myles Watts on banking reform and small ag lenders; and Steve Anderson on the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

The conference will conclude with lunch and a keynote speech from John Anderson on agricultural policy in a volatile environment. Anderson is the deputy chief economist for the American Farm Bureau.

The cost of the conference is \$20 and includes a free parking pass. Early registration goes through October 13.

For more information and to register, visit www.ampc.montana.edu/fallconference.html or contact Keri Hayes at (406) 994-3511 or khayes@montana.edu. This event is part of MSU's Celebrate Agriculture. A full schedule of events for the weekend is available at: <http://ag.montana.edu/excellence/agappreciation.htm>.

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Prairie Fare: Vision and Nutrition Sometimes Are Connected

**By Julie Garden-Robinson, Food and Nutrition Specialist
NDSU Extension Service**

If you or someone you know is experiencing issues with low vision, consider some ways to help yourself or that person with food preparation.

"Mom, I can read the sign across the street!" my 9-year-old daughter exclaimed as she stepped outside wearing her purple-framed glasses for the first time.

A few weeks prior to that day, she came home from school with a note after a vision screening. We needed to make an appointment with an optometrist. She wasn't able to see 20/20 and was having trouble reading the whiteboard at school.

Both my husband and I needed glasses at her age, so genetics weren't working in her favor.

Vision acuity is measured on a 20/X basis, where the first number is the standard distance of 20 feet between the eye being tested and the eye chart. A person with 20/40 vision can see clearly at 20 feet what a person with normal vision would see at 40 feet.

I watched as my daughter noted the sharp outlines on things in her environment. Although she wasn't thrilled to need glasses, I think she appreciates the clarity.

She also likes purple, so choosing a pair of glasses wasn't so difficult.

Eye glasses and contact lenses can correct many types of vision issues, including nearsightedness and farsightedness. However, "low vision" cannot be corrected with glasses. About 3.5 million Americans have low vision.

Some of the main contributors to low vision include a poor diet, smoking, aging and uncontrolled diabetes. For example, low vision can result from macular degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma or diabetic retinopathy.

Those with low vision may lose the ability to see colors, adjust to glare and see in dark areas. If you or someone you know is experiencing issues with low vision, consider some ways to help yourself or that person with food preparation.

To decrease glare, install blinds over windows in the kitchen. Gooseneck lamps allow you to have light on your preparation area without as much glare as overhead lights.

Use measuring cups that contrast in color with the item being measured. For example, use brown or black measuring cups to measure sugar or flour. To avoid cuts, use cutting boards that contrast in color with the food being chopped.

To help prevent burns for someone with low vision, obtain oven mitts that cover to the elbow. If you have an oven with a dial, consider marking the common oven temperatures with a large dot of craft paint near the most common

baking temperature. Some ovens will "say" the temperature.

Be sure to talk to your eye care professional if you notice any changes in your vision. Have regular eye check-ups.

Nutrition plays a key role in helping prevent macular degeneration, which is a leading cause of vision loss. Scientists have reported that lutein and zeaxanthin (natural colorants in food, especially fruits and vegetables) can help "feed your eyes."

Follow Popeye's philosophy: Eat dark, leafy greens, such as spinach, Swiss chard and kale. They are the best sources of lutein.

If you don't like spinach, try these good sources of lutein: corn, egg yolk, romaine, lettuce, zucchini, broccoli, brussels sprouts, peas, yellow/orange vegetables (not carrots because they have beta-carotene and are good for night vision) and kiwi.

Enjoy these foods high in zeaxanthin: corn, orange bell peppers, kale, collard greens, Swiss chard, spinach, oranges and mango.

Try cooking vegetables to increase the absorption of lutein and zeaxanthin.

Choose healthful fats. Fat allows better absorption of lutein and zeaxanthin. Choose "oil and vinegar" type salad dressing using olive or canola oil instead of the fat-free types.

Enjoy some eggs. Eggs are a highly absorbable source of lutein and zeaxanthin.

Try this colorful salad with many eye-healthy pigments and a creamy calcium-rich dressing or substitute your favorite dressing.

Fruit and Veggie Salad

8 c. fresh spinach, rinsed
1 1/2 c. red and/or green grapes, halved
1 c. cucumber, sliced
1 large pear, sliced
2 Tbsp. green onion, chopped
1/2 c. walnuts, chopped
Honey Lime Yogurt Dressing
1/2 c. plain yogurt
2 Tbsp. honey
1 Tbsp. lime juice
1/8 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. ground mustard
Pepper to taste

Toss all salad ingredients in a large bowl. In separate bowl, mix dressing ingredients. Pour dressing over mixture and toss again.

Makes eight servings. Each serving has 110 calories, 5 grams (g) of fat, 3 g of protein, 15 g of carbohydrate, 2 g of fiber and 70 milligrams of sodium.

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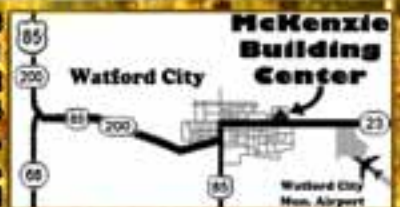
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Watford City, ND 58854
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www.McKenzieBuildingCenter.com

Evenson Hired as Richland Co. 4-H Extension Agent

Josie Evenson started her duties as Richland County Extension agent in charge of 4-H on Wednesday, September 5. Although this is her first professional position, she brings extensive experience with 4-H having interned at both the State and Lake County 4-H offices the past five years. Evenson received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education with an emphasis on extension from MSU.

Evenson is excited to be in Sidney and is looking forward to meeting everyone involved with 4-H. She will start out by getting to know the kids, their parents and volunteer community members. She wants to discover what the wants and needs are and also get to know what is, or is not, available in the area. "It becomes just giving it your all, to make those wants and needs come true. It's just hard to know what those needs are yet," she said. "I'm just excited about the opportunity. I want to get to work, to jump in head first, and meet everyone. I know there is a great program here, with great parents and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work with every one."



Register Now to Attend the Young Ag Leadership Conference

Registration is now open for the Young Ag Leadership Conference (YALC), set to take place October 5-7 at the Holiday Inn & Convention center in Great Falls, MT. The YALC is a collaborative effort between eight of Montana's agricultural organizations, offering attendees a chance to discuss current ag issues, take part in various workshops, meet with industry leaders and network with fellow young people who live Montana agriculture.

Anyone ages 18-40 and interested or involved in any facet of agriculture is encouraged to attend. The conference is put together by a committee of representatives from each of the following: Montana Cattlemen's Association, Montana 4-H Foundation, Montana FFA Foundation, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Montana Farmers Union, Montana Grain Growers Association, Montana State University College of Agriculture, and the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

Registration will open at 4 p.m. Friday, October 5. The weekend's festivities will kick off with dinner and national funny-man Damian Mason. Saturday's schedule is full of workshops, discussion groups and networking opportunities. Participants can choose between six workshop topics and two discussion group themes. Topics ranging from forage crops to improving genetics in your beef herd, how to communicate effectively with other genders and genera-

tions to getting started with ag land leasing will all be covered during this year's workshop sequence. The U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance will talk about conversations between producers and consumers and will speak during a keynote address during Saturday's breakfast. Senator Jon Tester and Rep. Denny Rehberg have been invited to take part in a forum over the Saturday lunch hour. Discussion group topics will include "You Want Us To Get Involved... But How Do We Do That?", a civics discussion and "Ag Issues in Montana", which will include a panel of organization experts as they discuss issues in the upcoming legislative session. Then get ready to kick up your heels Saturday evening when we head to the Peaks to Prairie Event Center for a dinner and dance to the "Hard Arnold Palmers." The weekend will wrap up with an invigorating talk "Wanted: Beef Industry Leaders" by Bill Donald, past NCBA President. Register now you don't want to miss this exciting weekend.

Cost of registration for the YALC is \$25, with all meals provided. After the pre-registration date of September 28, fees increase to \$35. To register for YALC go to the Montana Farm Bureau Federation website at www.mfbf.org or for more information contact Mariah Baumann Shammel at (406) 462-5639 or paisleyprairies@gmail.com to receive a registration form.



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9 a.m. daily

Got deer? Freeze Them Out This Winter

(ARA) - Deer are beautiful, graceful animals, we cannot deny it. But when it comes to where deer decide to dine, most of us just don't want them outside our windows foraging through our foliage. Their beauty and grace comes with the destruction - even devastation - of our well-cared-for and often expensive landscaped yards and gardens. If you think your yard is out of the woods since summer's over, think again. Deer damage can actually get worse in fall and winter.

We know deer can do extensive damage to landscapes in any season, but during winter, when their food sources are scarce, they can be more aggressive and bold, wreaking havoc on trees and shrubs they never touched in warmer weather. A single deer eats about 12 pounds of foliage a day, and in winter they'll turn to any source of vegetation to satisfy their appetites.

Bucks can travel 100 miles or more, but does don't migrate. They usually stay within the same three to four square miles for their entire lives. That means once a doe finds an easy food source in your yard, she'll be back again and again, season to season, and you can bet she'll bring her friends and babies with her.

During winter months, a deer's diet changes. Instead of the grass and leaves they favor during summer, deer turn to woody plants in winter. That means your evergreens are at risk. Although a deer's mouth is usually about 28 inches above the ground, when one stands on its back legs, it can reach as high as 6 feet off the ground. That reach allows them to create a broad swath of damage to even tall trees.

Even before the weather turns really cold, deer can cause damage to trees. Fall is mating season. Bucks become aggressive and the new antlers they've grown over the summer itch. They scratch by rubbing their antlers on tree trunks - even those they don't like to eat - and can cause serious damage to trees.

The best approach to preventing deer damage is a proactive one. Don't wait until you see deer or deer damage in your yard to deal with the problem. So what do you do to keep the deer out? There are loads of "home remedies" that have been tried with varying results: human hair, soap, pepper spray, even coyote urine. These remedies might work sporadically, but they are not reliable deterrents for deer.

Then there's fencing. Properly built and maintained fencing can be an effective method for preventing deer damage. But, deer can jump up to and clear an 8-foot fence on level ground, and they can easily push and remove plastic netting. Installing a 6- to 8-foot fence can be an effective



solution to some extent, but fencing is costly and can be quite unsightly.

One of the most effective and easiest methods to deter deer is repellents. Repellents rely on deer's strong sense of smell. Many are available in the marketplace, but few have credible third-party testing for efficacy, and some rely on chemicals that are unfriendly to the environment, and can be injurious to certain trees, shrubs, and especially to new growth.

Bobbex Deer Repellent is a topical, natural, proven effective foliar spray used to deter and prevent deer, moose and elk from browsing and causing other damage to ornamental plantings, shrubs and forest trees. Bobbex's blend of ingredients deters deer with taste and smell, and is actually beneficial to plant development. The active ingredients are a series of proteins, making the product extremely safe for use on the most sensitive plantings. Tested by the Connecticut Department of Forestry against 10 known top competitors (Liquid Fence, Deer Off and Plantskydd among them), Bobbex was found to be 93 percent effective, second only to a physical barrier for efficacy. Good in any climate, the repellent will not wash off after heavy rain. For more info on Bobbex visit www.bobbex.com.

Repellents should be used in fall and winter months even though plants are no longer at their peak. If applications of repellents are interrupted, deer may lose their conditioning to avoid previously treated plants. Regular spraying trains deer to seek nourishment elsewhere.

This winter, protect your plants and shrubs proactively and the only guests in your yard will be the ones you invited.

Clean, Affordable Electric Heat!

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got you worried?

See us for *low, low rates &
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Those Truly In Need Don't Have to Go Cold

Lower Yellowstone REA has provided funds to Energy Share. Energy Share is therefore able to help Lower Yellowstone REA households who are having trouble paying their bill.

Call Action for Eastern Montana

406-377-3564



1-800-227-0703

Energy Share of Montana

Coat & Food Drive On Now!

October is Co-op Month

Part of being a co-op is giving back to the community. Please bring in non-perishable food items for the food bank and clean winter coats, hats, scarves & mittens to be given to those in need.



Lower Yellowstone REA

3200 W. Holly Sidney

406-488-1602









www.lyrec.com

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Help Wanted

Sidney Sugars Incorporated is accepting applications for sugarbeet processing factory positions. The jobs begin in late September and are available until all beets and juice are processed, about mid-February.

-  **\$14.80/hour**  **Wage Increase!!**  **Wage Increase!!**
-  **Bid jobs up to \$16.22/hour**
-  **Opportunity for advancement to full time positions**
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Apply in person or request an application from:

Sidney Sugars Incorporated

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Apply at Job Service Work Force Center

211 N Central Ave – Sidney, MT

www.sidneysugars.com



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Walk-ins are welcome!

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Montanas Join National Effort to Protect America's Renewable Fuel Standard

Agriculture Sector would suffer if RFS is waived

John Firehammer
Consultant

M+R Strategic Services

Montana's growing biofuels industry is vital to our state economy, our energy independence and our nation's security. But the growth of this industry is threatened by efforts to undermine or eliminate the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

"We've seen Montana-grown and Montana-produced biofuels power commercial and military jets, trains and commuter buses," said Chris Christiaens, legislative and project specialist for the Montana Farmers Union. "We are just at the beginning stages of exploring Montana's potential in this area, which is enormous. But, without the RFS, we are in danger of losing momentum. The biofuels industry feeds our state economy, helps rural Montana, and provides the U.S. with energy security."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is currently considering a request to "waive" the RFS, which would have serious consequences for America's rural communities. Montana biofuels stakeholders are joining in an effort launched by a new coalition, Fuels America, to defend the RFS and the economic, clean energy and national security benefits it provides.

As a retired U.S. Army Lt. Colonel and a Montana rancher, Richard D. Liebert also strongly supports the Renewable Fuel Standard.

"Our country, and our troops, benefit from energy independence. By reducing our dependence on foreign oil, we help keep our nation strong and safe," Liebert said. "Biofuels would allow the Department of Defense to run on homeland fuel and provide the public with cleaner energy, while also helping to revitalize our struggling ranches and farms."

"We need to keep moving forward and not let up. This isn't the time to slow down. America should be a leader in this field," Liebert said.

Biofuels in Montana

Montana farmers harvest about 9.5 million pounds of camelina each year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The U.S. Air Force and Navy are investing a combined total of \$16 million in Montana for 140,000 galls

of camelina-based biofuels for aviation testing and certification.

Seven proposed new biodiesel plants and two proposed ethanol plants are in the works in Billings, Big Horn County, Butte, Chester, Livingston, Miles City, Glendive, Polson and Wolf Creek. Biodiesel production is ongoing in Florence, Great Falls, Helena, Livingston and Simms, according to the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

Montana residents also travel on biofuels: In our state, we blend 17.5 million gallons of ethanol into our gasoline each year, according to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

In January, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced a \$647,748 grant to Montana State University-Northern to expand its biodiesel program and the North Central Montana Renewable Industry Initiative. The project is intended to commercialize new technology, create new high-skill, living-wage jobs and is expected to generate \$90 million in private investment, reports the National Center for Appropriate Technology.

About Fuels America

"Fuels America is built around one core idea: renewable fuel is essential to the U.S. economy, our nation's energy security, our rural communities and the environment," said former Congressman Jim Greenwood, President and CEO, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). "More than 400,000 American jobs are supported by renewable fuel, and America leads the world in renewable fuel innovation. That is why Fuels America's diverse membership has come together to reset the national conversation on renewable fuel, protect the progress that has been made and ensure that America's Renewable Fuel Standard continues its success."

About Fuels America: Fuels America is a coalition of organizations committed to protecting America's Renewable Fuel Standard and promoting the benefits of all types of renewable fuel already growing in America. Fuels America is founded on a simple core principle: renewable fuel is good for the U.S. economy, for our nation's energy security and for the environment. Learn more at FuelsAmerica.org and follow on Twitter @FuelsAmerica.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012 10:00 A.M. M.S.T.

HOUSE • LARGE BUILDING • REAL ESTATE ANTIQUES • GUNS • HOUSEHOLD • MOVING

AUCTION

REAL ESTATE WILL SELL @ 12:00 NOON

LOCATION: SIDNEY, MT-Turn West @
Pine Lumber Yard on 14th Street SW for
2 blocks (14th 14th Street SW)



OWNERS:
RON & JANET AMUNDUD 406-480-2182
Lunch will be available.

OWNERS: Ron and Janet Amundrud whose address is 1131 14th Street SW, Sidney, MT will offer the following property to the public at auction. The first bid will be subject to their approval. The Owners reserve the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LAND WILL BE SOLD IN (2) PARCELS:
• Parcel of land SW1/4 of SEC 32, T23N, R9E. (LEGAL DESCRIPTION IS TOO LONG TO PRINT)

• PARCEL (1) IS THE HOUSE & (TRUCKERS DELIGHT) BUILDING ON 2 LOTS

• PARCEL (2) IS A VACANT LOT (TERRACE) NEXT TO PARCEL (1)

HOUSE DESCRIPTION: 2175 sq ft house w/1000 sq ft basement, 2 bedrooms upstairs & 2 bedrooms downstairs, 1 1/2 baths, natural gas forced air, central air, fridge, stove & dishwasher stay w/house. Also, insulated building w/basement floor & 12x18 overhead door.

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 Richland County Tax Records.

TAXES: Taxes will be provided from the day of closing.

TITLE INSURANCE: Standard owner's title insurance will be provided by the seller through Security Abstract Title Company, 106 2nd Street SE, Sidney, MT 58701 (406) 433-1210.

TERMS: Cash, 10% down sale day, the balance due at closing approximately 30 days from sale date at the office of Security Abstract Title Company, 106 2nd Street SE, Sidney, MT 58701 (406) 433-1210.

BUYER'S PREMIUM: A 1% Buyer's Premium will be added to the winning bid price to arrive at the total contract price paid by the purchaser.

Your bid is considered acceptance of the terms of this auction. If you, the Buyer fails to close, the down payment is non-refundable. If the Sellers fail to close, 100% of the down payment will be returned. At this time, there is no known reason that the Sellers would not be able to close. All funds are held in the escrow account of Security Abstract Title Company, 106 2nd Street SE, Sidney, MT 58701 (406) 433-1210.

All information is from sources deemed reliable, but is not guaranteed by the Sellers 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 sells "As is-Where is."

R-K Statewide Auction Service and its auctioneers are acting solely as auctioneers for the Sellers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
R-K Auction Company www.r-kauction.com
Rick Kniepkamp (406) 485-2548 or (406) 939-1632

ANTIQUES

- 1947 Miles City Cogwheel Saddle
- 1930 5-window Coupe, model A (nearly complete few pieces missing)
- 1951 Starlight Champion Sledstaker (complete motor truck)
- Admiral Ivorylax #9 Stove w/ water reservoir
- Small Oven
- Pack #19 pot belly Stove (rechromed)
- Hoosier Cabinet
- Wood Buffet
- Brass Bed
- 10th Century Sewing Machine
- Portable Singer Sewing Machine
- Pfaff Sewing Machine Console
- Cash Register
- Kids Riding Toy Truck
- Galvanized Wash Tub
- Bread Boxes, metal
- Rubber Churn, 4 gallon (no lid)
- Crocks, Bowls, Jugs
- 5-gallon Cream Can
- Cast Iron Skillet
- Blue Jar
- Maytag Winger/Washer
- Wood Chairs
- 3-piece Bedroom Set (chest of drawers, vanity w/mirror, headboard)
- (3) Train Sets (1-Mark in original box)
- Chiffonade
- Vintage Stoves
- Truck
- Oil Records
- Gas Mantel Lamps
- Tractor Seats
- Buggy Foot Warmer
- Old Harness
- Tools
- Hood Liners
- Sheep Sells
- Bad Irons

CAR, BOAT & 3-WHEELER

- 2006 Lincoln Town Car Signature Limited, loaded, less than 15,000 actual miles
- 1985 Bayliner Fiberglass 18' Boat, 90 hp
- Force Motor w/1100, under 30 total hours (like new) & trailer
- 1985 Honda 300 Big Red 3-Wheeler

GUNS

(consigned Ed 406-377-9630 evenings)

- Ruger Blackhawk .357
- Colt .32 ACP
- German made .22 & shot revolver
- Smith and Wesson .28 Special
- Ruger Vaquero .44-40 & shot revolver
- Remington Express bolt action 30-06 w/ scope
- Model 54 Winchester 30-06 bolt action
- Pre-1964 Winchester .30-30 model 94 lever action
- Post 1964 Winchester .30-30 model 94 lever action
- Remington Model 514 bolt action .22 rifle w/ scope
- Savage Springfield Model 120 bolt action .22 rifle w/ scope
- MK1 Longbranch No. 4 1944 British .303 bolt action rifle
- Sturm Ruger M77 30-06 Springfield rifle bolt action w/ 3x9 Weaver scope
- Winchester Model 57 bolt action rifle .22 LR w/ scope
- Ray State 20 gauge shotgun
- Winchester Model 12, 12-gauge shotgun
- Old Knight of Columbus sword w/ scabbard
- Old Military(?) sword w/ scabbard

HOUSEHOLD & MISC

- Kitchen Buffet (solid oak)
- Montana Made 3-piece Entertainment Center
- Lane 4-piece Corner Couch
- (3) Small Color TVs
- Radio Furniture
- Post Lantern (new)
- Ceiling Fan (new)
- Sewing Machine
- Tricycle
- Misc Bikes
- Tire Tools
- Radial Arm Saw
- Mirrors
- 2 & 3-piece Samsonite Luggage
- Christmas Decorations

AUCTIONEERS NOTE:

Ron and Janet are in the process of moving to Billings, MT. There son, Tyler has taken over their Amundrud RV business. This home is in a great location with a huge out building which could be a "Truckers Delight" or a shop. There are very few bare lots in Sidney, so don't miss this opportunity! They have a nice collection of items and the Lincoln Town Car looks brand new. We hope to see you on October 13th! Rick



RK
Rick Kniepkamp



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Wise Marketing of Cows and Bulls is Critical

By Kris Ringwall, Beef Specialist

As cows and bulls are rounded up for fall sorting, some are sorted for sale, so it is very important to remember that cull cows and bulls are market beef and should be treated as such. Market groups need to be sorted and appropriately presented to the market.

This summer, the "Executive Summary: The 2011 National Beef Quality Audit" was released by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. This audit provides a cross-sectional review of the entire beef business. It confirms that the beef industry has been responsive to previous audits and has made product improvements.

In addition to product improvements, current management and handling of cattle reflect positive changes throughout the beef production cycle. As the industry moves forward, the audit noted the need to continue to provide consumers with a positive story about beef.

As the story unfolds, highlighted should be how the marvelous production of beef builds trust and integrity between the industry and the consumers. The story of raising beef and providing excellent nutritional products to the consumer is a good story. As producers now get set to cull the less productive portion of the herd, it is very important that these principles be applied.

An excellent document to review current management and handling of cull cows and bulls is the "Executive Summary of the 2007 National Market Cow and Bull Beef Quality Audit." It also was published by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

The publication recognizes and highlights the need for producers to "recognize and optimize cattle value, monitor health, market cattle in a timely and appropriate manner, prevent quality defects and be proactive to ensure beef safety and integrity."

As a producer, the process of marketing cows and bulls may seem fairly simple and may come as a quick trip to the local auction barn. However, the 2007 audit

does point out several ways producers can improve the marketing of cows and bulls.

Producers need to keep nine points in mind. First, do not use electric prods and other aggressive driving aids when moving cattle. Allow the cattle to move quietly and naturally as they move from pasture to the working facilities.

Second, cattle working facilities must have solid footing, so cattle don't slip and injure themselves. A quick review and update of the facility prior to the cattle coming home is well worth the time. Fix those items that have a history of concern before the cattle arrive.

Third, producers should obtain and read material that highlights proper animal care and handling. The Internet and your local NDSU Extension Service agent are excellent sources for animal care and handling information. Fourth, as cows and bulls come home, it is very important to promptly market your cattle before they become too thin or lame for transport. Penning cattle for later marketing means the operation is adding a confinement feeding enterprise and that means brushing up on feedlot management.

Fifth, maintain recordkeeping systems to verify your best management practices and reduce or eliminate the potential for liability surrounding food safety issues. Even the 2011 audit identified recordkeeping and more in-depth documentation of management practices that is needed throughout the industry.

Sixth, recognize and optimize the value of your market cows and bulls. Cows and bulls comprise a significant portion of your farm or ranch income, so they need to be managed and marketed in ways that add value, not subtract from it.

Seventh, ensure the safety of your product. Cows and bulls must be free of chemical, pathogenic and physical hazards when you ship them for harvest. Double- and triple-check all product withdrawal times and document all product administration. Eighth, continuously monitor herd health. It's in your best interest to observe the health of your cow herd and to ensure your market cows and bulls are marketed in a timely and appropriate manner. Cattle that are showing signs of illness or discomfort need to be moved to an area dedicated to the handling of infirmed cattle.

Lastly, prevent quality defects. Any cattle that do not support the story of beef that we want to tell should not enter the market process as market cows or bulls.

In closing, market wisely and be smart for the benefit of the entire beef industry.

May you find all your ear tags.

Wise Marketing of Cows and Bulls is Critical

When culling cows and bulls remember:

- ◆ Market wisely and be smart for the benefit of the entire beef industry!
- ◆ If the cattle do not support a positive story about beef, they should not enter the market!

Harvest Days 2012

Attention Area Cooks...

Pull Out Your Tastiest Recipes & Enter Our **"Make It With Sugar" Contest**

Friday, October 26 • Reynold's Grocery, Sidney
Entries accepted from 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

ENTER IN ANY OR ALL CATEGORIES!

Cake • Cookies • Pies • Candy • Breads • Rolls • Other



**Prizes will be given away for first place in all categories
Plus a People's Choice Award!
All entries receive a FREE Bag of Sugar**

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In prizes!**

"Make it With Sugar" Registration Blank

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Categories: (Check all that apply)

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Mail to: P.O. Box 1207, Sidney, MT 59270

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- Recipes must contain at least 1/2 cup granulated, brown or powdered sugar.
- Must be servable in tasting portions.
- Recipe must be included. Winning recipes will be published.
- Entries must be in disposable containers. Containers will not be returned.

A Bird In Hand

By Jake Cummins
Executive Vice President
Montana Farm Bureau Federation

My old friend CJ Hadley, long-time publisher of Range Magazine has done another great service to our industry by publishing her newest Special Report, this one on sage grouse. It's an insert in her Summer edition of Range Magazine and highlights the most recent attempt by environmental extremists to use the Endangered Species Act as a club to whack Westerners over the head and steal their land.

According to Carolyn Dufurrena, the lead author of CJ's Special Report, "FWS says that to protect the sage grouse from extinction, the minimum effective population range-wide is 5,000 mature birds, with 500 breeding adults per region. The current estimated population for Greater Sage Grouse (spread over several western states) is between 350,000 and 535,000 birds, which is 70 to 107 times greater than the 'minimum effective population.' At the current rate of decline of 1.4 percent per year, it would take 300 years for the population to dwindle to the minimum effective population of 5,000 birds. Is that endangered? It doesn't sound like it."

In the face of numbers like that, it is hard for us in the ag community not to speculate that something else besides "saving" the specie is afoot in the endless string of lawsuits being filed by the legal behemoths of the environmental community. According to the Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee, "The Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are actively involved in more than 200 lawsuits and legal actions concerning the ESA." Two things are in fact afoot. First, groups from the Defenders of Wildlife for the wolves to the Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Guardians and the Center for Biological Diversity for the spotted owl to the sage grouse, are, excuse the pun, feathering their own nest. They raise money by suing the government in order to save something from extinction, whether or not it's true, then get the government to pay them back for their attorney fees. Crazy, especially when folks like MFBF join lawsuits to defend against this silliness but get nothing for our efforts. Only plaintiffs can claim attorney fees under federal law.

The second, yet most important thing, I believe motivates leaders of the environmental movement to file so many lawsuits in the West is their desire to control our land and water. Many believe the real purpose behind the sage grouse suit is to stop oil and gas development. I've met and visited with many leaders in the environmental community over the last 20 years and few give a fig about whatever critter of the day they are seeking to save. If they did, there are better, more efficient and cost effective ways to protect a species. If your goal is to gain power and influence over the rest of us and get paid to do it, they may be smarter than

they seem.

Any bird that looks and tastes like chicken and builds its nest on the ground is easy pickings and a pretty popular menu item for most predators. You'd think then that the feds would target predators like coyotes, ravens, and magpies, to protect sage grouse but if you did, you'd be wrong. The villain, just like always in the endless western drama written by the environmental movement, produced and directed by the federal government, and underwritten with our own tax dollars is of course us. The theory is that less human activity will result in more sage grouse.

Like most of what passes for government environmental policy in the West, the whole thing is upside down.

Sage grouse populations were pretty sparse going into the 1900s, then along came the settlements in Montana, Wyoming and the other western states. When you're raising domestic animals like cattle and sheep, predators can be a problem, so farmers and ranchers tried to control them, at least around the ranch and farm. Little surprise that sage grouse populations increased dramatically around farms and ranches where there were more people and fewer predators. But when has the federal government and their pals in the environmental community ever let facts get in the way of spending your tax dollars in the dumbest way possible?

The good news is we've held our own pretty good over the years in spite of the deep pockets of the people who routinely challenge our way of life and we have an opportunity to do so again. Go to www.mfbf.org to find out how.

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By Jerry Palen



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Sidney Ranchers Featured in Photography Book by Montana Stockgrowers Association

On Oct. 1, the Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) will release *Big Sky Boots: Working Seasons of a Montana Cowboy*, a coffee table photography book featuring the work of MSGA's multimedia outreach specialist, Lauren Chase. Chase has spent the past year and a half gathering photographs for the book, traveling in sunshine and snow to ranches across Montana. The book takes the reader on a journey through a year in the life of Montana's cowboys-through calving, branding, and shipping, and everything in between.

Six ranchers and cowboys from Sidney are featured in the book: Bill Davis of Rollin' Rock Angus, Mick and Chad Denowh of Denowh Angus, Tim Larson of Prewitt & Company, Dr. Gary Schieber of High Plains Veterinary Clinic, and Jim Steinbeisser of VS Livestock, Inc.

"There seems to be a growing disconnect as people, even here in Montana, are losing touch with what goes on at ranches and farms, and where our food comes from," said Chad Denowh. "This book is meant to help ranchers like me tell my story, so I was really happy to be involved."

Big Sky Boots is part of a larger project to bring beef eaters closer to the people who raise and care for cattle. The project uses social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to tell the stories of Montana's ranching families through photo albums, audio slide shows, and videos.

The book connects the social media platforms to the printed page. "Something really unique to our book is that we have

included QR codes that people can scan with their smartphones," Lauren Chase, creator of the book, said. "They can go to MSGA's YouTube channel to watch a video of the rancher featured in the book and hear directly from him about his life. In that way we've really tried to marry the traditional print media with the social media that seems to be central in so many people's lives today."

One hallmark of *Big Sky Boots* is that the photos are largely untouched or enhanced by photo editing software. "A lot of books that are out there right now depict a romanticized view of the West and of the cowboy lifestyle," Chase said. "We wanted to make sure to show life as it really is on Montana's ranches. I think there is a tremendous amount of natural beauty in the pictures and it gives the reader a glimpse into the life of a real cowboy in Montana."

Big Sky Boots is the first book in a series of five books that MSGA will develop over the next five years. The next book, already in production, will feature the women that are an essential part of today's ranching families.

To learn more about this project or to order a copy of the book, visit www.mtbeef.org. The books are \$75, which includes shipping and handling. The profits from the book will help support the continuation of MSGA's "Telling the Story of Montana's Family Ranchers" project into the future. To see Chase's photography and other multimedia work, be sure to visit MSGA's Facebook page or YouTube channel.



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Fall is the Time to Protect Winter Wheat from Losses Caused by Downy Brome

While much of the plains wheat was spared from the extreme heat and drought plaguing the late-season crops, the winter wheat area of South Dakota is quite dry going into seeding, and other areas also are short on moisture. Protecting winter wheat from competition for scarce moisture, and using tools that can save time, will be essential this fall.

The winter wheat planted on so many of the prevent-plant acres after the floods of 2011 beat the heat of 2012 and yielded well, says Chad Effertz, herbicide development manager for Arysta LifeScience. "You can't count on always getting all the acres seeded in the spring, so winter wheat in the crop rotation makes good sense to spread the workload and diversify crop income potential."

Costly Competition from Downy Brome

As growers begin planting winter wheat across the region, weed scientists remind growers about potential yield losses due to increasing competition from downy brome. This weed, also referred to as cheatgrass, is already well established in Montana's winter wheat territories and spreading in South Dakota and North Dakota. Downy brome, like Japanese brome, emerges in early fall and spring.

One reason why downy brome is so difficult to control is that it has roughly the same life cycle as winter wheat. It develops and matures more rapidly than winter wheat, and it continues to grow and develop at low temperatures even after the winter wheat crop goes dormant. This gives it a competitive edge when it comes out of dormancy the following spring, and the wheat crop can't catch up before harvest.

Independent research demonstrates the importance of timely control of downy brome in the fall, Effertz says. "If downy brome emerges with wheat; it is three to six times more yield-reducing and it can produce four times more seed, than if it emerges later," he says. "You cannot let brome get established in the fall; it will be harder to control and will severely impact yields."

Urgent to Control Early On

Early weed removal is critical for achieving the highest-yielding crop. If brome grasses emerge within 14 days of a winter wheat crop, they can reduce yield by 15 percent to 22 percent depending on weed density, according to independent research. At 50 bushels per acre and \$6 per bushel, that's equivalent to a loss of

up to \$65 per acre.

Fall and pre-plant glyphosate applications help suppress downy brome populations. "To be effective, glyphosate applications should be made when the plants are small," says Kirk Howatt, Ph.D., assistant professor of weed science at North Dakota State University. "My advice to growers is - don't wait too long. If you don't get complete control, the plant can still produce enough seed to perpetuate the problem. The brome lifecycle makes it tough to deal with."

Many growers tank-mix glyphosate with PRE-PARE® Burndown Herbicide to apply in one pass from 10 days before or just after planting, looking to add some residual activity.

"There's nothing worse than spraying your glyphosate and getting a flush the next day," Effertz says. By recommending the PRE-PARE/glyphosate tank-mix, "We're trying to prevent that."

STAMPEDE

By Jerry Palen



"I know the drought shut everything down, but I just miss you."

A Little Bit Country

Fungi Are Beneficial to Soil Quality

Warren Froelich
NDSU Extension Agent
Williams County

Over the past year or two I have given considerable attention to the importance of soil quality as it relates to crop production. A quick definition of soil quality is the maintenance or improvement of soil organic matter (SOM). For our area, most cropland is in need of SOM improvement.

Improving SOM in this semi-arid of northwest North Dakota should become an important goal of crop producers simply because of its ability to hold more water with higher levels. More water almost always results in higher yields and greater profitability.

Healthy soils mean there is a broad range of macro- and microorganisms present to play a critical role in breaking down old organic plant material into mineral nutrients which can be used by growing plants.

Fungi and bacteria have a symbiotic relationship which recycle all the carbon, nitrogen, phosphorous, sulfur, and other nutrients in SOM into mineral forms.

There are certain fungi in the soil which facilitate the process getting phosphorous, calcium, zinc and copper into plant available forms. They work with bacteria and other organisms in the soil to change the chemical configuration of the nutrients.

These specific fungi known as vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal (VAM) simply take the sugar from the roots of the plant and feed it to the bacteria and other microorganisms in the soil. These organ-

isms then help convert the nutrients in the soil into plant available forms.

When VAM fungi are not active in the soil the important nutrient phosphorous is not available to plants. When this process is absent crop growers must then add synthetic phosphorous fertilizer. Jill Clapperton, a renowned soil scientist who has done extensive research in Canada and Montana, tells us many no-till farmers are able to reduce costly applications of phosphorous fertilizers because of the mycorrhizal fungi activity.

In general, Clapperton says that when VAM colonize roots, the plants have higher rates of photosynthesis, improved water-use efficiency and are able to move more and different kinds of carbon compounds to their roots. She also states that plants vary in their dependence on VAM fungi as a means of accessing nutrients. Highly dependent crops such as peas, beans and other legumes are characterized with limited root systems whereas wheat and other cereals have a lower dependency because of their larger and fibrous root system.

It seems to me that every 3-5 years the agricultural production community experiences a new concept which has potential to significantly improve crop yields. I think today's big opportunity is the improvement of soil organic matter. For the astute producer, land with high levels of SOM will mean the land will have greater value.

Fall Care of Home Yards

As summer winds down, this is a good time to give trees, shrubs, and lawns a deep watering. The lengthy dry summer has put a lot of stress on plants making a heavy watering even more important. Conifers as well as all newly planted trees and shrubs should have adequate water until the ground freezes. Roots of these plants grow vigorously in fall and will continue to grow until soil temperatures dip below 40 degrees.

Now is also a good time to give the lawn a final cut. Many homeowners prefer to mow their lawns a little lower than usual at the last cutting to prevent problems with snow mold and voles. A tall lawn promotes vole activity creating bare pathways in the grass. More importantly, the voles will gnaw on the bark at the base of trees and shrubs, sometimes killing them.

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Meadow Muffins . . . Paintin' the Biffy *By Ken Overcast*

There's not anyone that likes being embarrassed. As I stop and think a minute on a couple of the more uncomfortable things I've been through, my face gets red just thinkin' about them. But then on the other hand, a person with a depraved criminal mind such as I have been blessed with, can somehow find glee and immense satisfaction in trapping some poor innocent soul in an embarrassing situation ... IF (and only if) it can be justified in my own twisted thought patterns that they somehow have it coming.

Miss Blackstone was just such a person, bless her cold old heart. Every time I think of embarrassment, and someone who must have deserved it, she's one of the first ones that comes to mind. I didn't personally have anything to do with setting up her confrontation with humiliation, but it's only because I didn't think of it. A couple of other guys beat me to it.

Miss Blackstone was an old maid school teacher with the disposition of a cornered badger and a vile hatred for disruptive male children. In most schools I'm aware of, that constitutes approximately half of the entire student body. Her extreme detestation for the boys didn't seem to translate into favorable treatment for the girls, either. She was just plain mean. I guess I'd have to say she was just about the perfect target.

Why in the dickens she would volunteer to help out at a church youth camp defies all logic. Although it was obvious to everyone she absolutely hated kids ... there she was. To give her the benefit of the doubt (in retrospect) she probably thought she might actually have a hand in reforming some of the little monsters.

Unfortunately, even church camps seem to have their fair share of adolescent hoodlums. Usually Mom and Dad think, and probably rightfully so, that it would be a great environment and a good influence on their precious little Johnny, who at the moment seems destined to be in prison by the time he's old enough to shave.

It was two just such inmates ... oops, I mean campers ... that devised the perfect plan to dethrone and totally humiliate the ornery and sanctimonious Miss Blackstone. Boy, I wish I could have been in on this one.

This happened several years ago at a rather primitive camp back in the woods. The two boys "borrowed" the sound amplifier and a microphone from the hall where the evening meetings took place, and fastened the speaker down under the old wooden seat in the outdoor biffy. They cleverly concealed the wire from the speaker in the grass and waited in some nearby bushes for their victim to approach.

When nature calls even kings and Miss Blackstone must answer eventually, and it wasn't long until the prim and proper lady with the snarl on her lips and a heart chiseled out of pure ice came down the faithful little path to the outdoor facility. After waiting just the proper amount of time for the lady to be about her personal business, the boys sprang into action. One of them flipped the little switch and with the deepest voice he could muster, growled into the microphone.

"Hey, lady! Do you mind movin'? We're tryin' to paint down here, and you're shuttin' off all the light!"

Miss Blackstone was immediately dethroned in more ways than one. She burst out of that biffy door on a dead run, with her disheveled wardrobe only partially intact. The normally pickle faced old prude was suddenly distraught, screaming hysterically, and was quite surprised to be greeted with the cheers and applause of a large audience of degenerate adolescent church campers gathered specifically to witness her disgraceful demise.

It couldn't have happened to a nicer lady. I wish I'd o' thought of that.

Keep Smilin'....

and don't forget to check yer cinch.

Ken Overcast is a recording cowboy singer that ranches on Lodge Creek in North Central Montana where he raises and dispenses B.S.
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Arctic Oscillations Will Determine Winter Weather

By Jaimee Green

After a year of unprecedented warmth this summer, coupled by last winter's milder temperatures, the debate over whether Old Man Winter will make an appearance this year is the topic of discussion for many.

"It is difficult to predict exactly what will happen this winter in our area. I do not think it will be a particularly bad winter and may be milder than normal, but again, at this point it is really all speculative. The Climate Prediction Center in Washington DC is predicting warmer, and milder temperatures for most of the country," said Ted Jemba, meteorologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Glasgow.

In fact, the only area predicted to experience cooler and wetter than normal temperatures is the west coast.

If a weak to moderate El Nino pattern develops, as expected, in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, this would create warmer temperatures across Montana beginning in October and potentially lasting through February.

However, much of our areas weather is influenced by air mass pushes coming in from Canada and the Arctic. This Arctic Oscillation is the most influential of determining factors for our winter conditions. This seesawing of atmospheric pressure between the Arctic and mild latitudes is always present and fluctuates between positive and negative phases.

Unlike an El Nino or La Nina, which are caused by temperature shifts in the Pacific Ocean, Atmospheric Oscillation refers to shifts in atmospheric pressure between the Arctic Circle and much of the Northern Hemisphere. In the positive phase, atmospheric pressure lessens over the Arctic Circle and increases in the southern latitudes. In the negative phase, just the opposite happens. Atmospheric pressure is higher over the Arctic Circle and lower in the south. What does that mean for us? It means that when the Atmospheric Oscillation is in a positive phase, low-pressure systems, which cause cold, stormy weather, stay trapped in the extreme north. In a negative phase, those low-pressure systems are forced southward, bringing frigid air from the polar region down with them.

Atmospheric Oscillations are difficult to predict and because of that, the Climatic Prediction Center doesn't factor them into their three month outlooks which is why this winter's weather is still really anyone's guess.

The average temperature in the U.S. during the month of August was 74.4 degrees, 1.6 degrees above the long term average. This makes August of 2012 the 16th warmest on record. This, combined with the hottest July and a warmer than average June contributed to the third hottest summer on record since record keeping began in 1895, according to the National Climatic Data Center.

For those who look to the Farmer's Almanac for a glimpse into future weather predictions, the 2013 edition predicts the Midwest will experience "milder than normal temperatures with average precipitation," calling it a winter of contraries with winter returning to some, but not all areas. It predicts the eastern half will experience cold and lots of snow while the western half will have warm, dry conditions while the gulf experiences cooler, wetter conditions. The Great Lakes and Northeast will see a return of winter.

NOAA does not take the Farmer's Almanac predictions into consideration when figuring out weather patterns and predictions although both are predicting similar weather patterns across much of the United States.

Estate Preservation Will Be Focus of Upcoming Workshop

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is hosting a free educational workshop on estate preservation. Called "Estate Strategy Essentials," the 45-minute workshop will be held at 9:45 a.m. on October 14, 2012 at Pella Lutheran Church's Education Wing Assembly Area, Sidney, MT. The workshop is presented by Ron Gebhardt, ron.gebhardt@thrivent.com, 406-433-5287 and Harvey Senn, Harvey.senn@thrivent.com 406-433-6143 CA/AR Insurance ID #58464 financial representatives with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in Sidney.

The "Estate Strategy Essentials" workshop helps participants understand the three essential elements of any good estate strategy: wills, durable/financial powers of attorney, living wills/medical powers of attorney. As a result of attending the workshop, attendees will be better prepared to take action to protect their estates and pass them on according to their wishes.

"Having proper estate planning documents in place such as wills, trusts and powers of attorney can save families a great deal of financial and emotional stress," says Senn. "This workshop offers tools to help people make smart, informed decisions about protecting their estates according to their wishes."

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Fall is Time to Plant Hardy Spring-flowering Bulbs

NDSU Agriculture Communication

Fall is the time to plant daffodils and other narcissus bulbs, according to Ron Smith, North Dakota State University Extension Service horticulturist.

"For gardeners, the joy starts early by selecting what to buy and plant," Smith says. "Choose different types for a variety of looks and to create a staggered spring-season bloom schedule. When picking out daffodils, the classic trumpet types are a good place to start. They're the must-haves for that archetypal 'big yellow' appeal. Trumpet daffodils come in crisp solids or mixed colors, including yellows, whites, oranges,

reds and even peachy-pinks and greens."

How to choose from so many choices? First, fall in love with the look and then organize your favorites by their specific bloom times for early, mid or late spring. Daffodils (narcissi) are perennials that will naturalize when planted in full sun and soil that drains well. This makes narcissi a sound investment because they'll come back to bloom year after year and even multiply through time.

This kind of staying power is a major bonus for gardeners. Also, narcissus bulbs and plants are pest-resistant. Deer, squirrels, voles, groundhogs and other

foraging animals don't eat them. This is an important factor in selecting bulbs for spring blooming.

Tulips, as much as they are loved by gardeners, are among the favorites of nature's early spring nibblers such as voles, rabbits and deer.

"Once the temperatures drop in the fall and sweater wearing becomes a regular wardrobe selection, it's time to plant daffodils and other spring-blooming flower bulbs," Smith says. "This fall, if our local conditions are unusually hot and dry, which they have been for most of our region, one can plant a bit later than usual to give the soil sufficient time to cool off. However, to get a good selection at local retail garden centers, make your selections early to get top quality."

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EARS SHS Ag Dept Event

The Sidney High School Agriculture Department teacher and students have embarked on a community service project and “doing to learn” activity at the Eastern Agriculture Research Center (EARS) north of Sidney. The agriculture department volunteered this fall to assist in the landscaping of the new facility with EARS staff. It is estimated the project will take over 100 student hours to complete. The attached photo shows students at various phases of completing site preparation, laying fabric, planting shrubs, dispersing rock and rain water removal. The cooperative venture with employees at EARS and SHS students is a win-win situation.



(L-R) Ethan Chamberlain & Ryan Steinbeisser plant shrubs as other SHS-Agr. ED students in background conduct similar tasks. (Photo by Gary Schaff)

MOGA Applauds USFWS Decision to Delist Wyoming Gray Wolf

Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA) Executive Director Mac Minard, applauded today's announcement by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to delist the Wyoming population of gray wolves and declare them recovered and no longer in need of protections afforded by the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Of the action Minard said, “Beginning September 30th, wolves in Wyoming will be managed by the state under an approved management plan; this action places them on equal footing with the sister states of Montana and Idaho. Sportsmen in the West see this as a major victory for science based management over emotional arguments.”

“Our primary goal, and that of the states, is to ensure that gray wolf populations in the Northern Rocky Mountains remain healthy, giving future generations of Americans the chance to hear its howl echo across the area,” said Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe.

No one, least of all residents of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, want to see wolves back on the endangered species list. But that's what will happen if recovery targets are not sustained. However, many sportsmen fear the loss of over 100 years of successful wildlife management due to an uncontrolled expansion of wolves on the landscape.

To secure the delisting decision Wyoming committed to meeting statutory and regulatory standards by managing for a buffer above minimum management targets and maintaining at least 150 wolves and 15 breeding pairs within the State of Wyoming. This is the same management objective

as was adopted by the states of Montana and Idaho.

Beginning October 1, the State of Wyoming has authorized a harvest of 52 wolves in other portions of northwestern Wyoming's Trophy Area in 2012.

MOGA has previously released a blueprint for managing large predators in Montana that falls within the limits required by the USFWS agreements. Under that plan three primary principles are identified; 1) regulated hunting and trapping needs to be liberalized for predators commensurate with the principles of sustain yield, 2) a fully funded Wildlife Services is essential is applying surgical control (of wolves primarily) in places and times where regulated hunting and trapping cannot meet the needed reductions and 3) predators need to be managed in concert with stated management goals for ungulate populations.

Of the policy Executive Director Mac Minard said, “This policy is a thoughtful and reasoned approach that balances the need to manage wildlife for the benefit of the Montana public and control some segments of the predator populations at times and locations, and in a species specific manner, where such measures help attain stated wildlife management objectives. We believe this is a very direct and thoughtful approach that many hunters/conservationists will stand behind.”

“We applaud the fact that Wyoming will now be able to craft the kind of responsible management system they need to balance competing interests and address long-term conservation goals for all species involved,” said Minard.

Montana Farm Bureau Takes Exception To New School Lunch Regulations

Submitted by Montana Farm Bureau Federation

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation is taking exception to the new school food regulations coming down from the United States Department of Agriculture and the White House. According to the USDA, which released the rules in January 2012, the 'Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act' has new meal requirements that supposedly improve the health and nutrition of nearly 32 million kids that participate in school meal programs every school day.

However, the state's largest agricultural organization says that isn't so. "First Lady Michelle Obama and USDA Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack believe that telling kids

how to eat right hasn't worked, so they will MAKE them eat right," says MFBF Executive Vice President Jake Cummins. "In other words, federal bureaucrats are taking over the most important role of parents—feeding our children. According to Mrs. Obama's blog "Let's Move!", "We can't just leave it to the parents," the federal government is responsible for what our children eat at school.

The result is new USDA nutrition guidelines for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) starting this school year. The guidelines have always had minimum calorie levels but now they include maximum calorie levels as well. "The "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kid Act" subsidizes and regu-

lates what children eat before school, at lunch, after school and during summer vacations in federally funded school-based feeding programs, and USDA has designed menus exhaustive in detail," Cummins explains. "The school lunch ladies no longer have any say in what goes in kids' lunches any more, nor do local school boards or anybody else at the local level, including a kid's parents. That decision has been made for them and now we have a lot of kids who are more hungry than ever."

Cummins is especially critical of the USDA's take on protein. "First the USDA tried Meatless Monday, which didn't fly. Now they are mandating limited meat consumption, stating that a portion of meat must not exceed two ounces. That's the size of a meatball," Cummins says incredulously. "Forcing vegetarianism on kids is inexcusable, especially coming from the agency that handles agricultural issues and works with ranchers."

He points out that while some kids may lounge around the house, watching television and not burning many calories, many kids play sports or do manual labor after school. "Rural kids often don't come home from school until after club meetings and sports practice, and then may put in several hours of work before they eat supper. A two-ounce piece of meat or a few nuts, one of USDA's suggested protein substitute, aren't going to give this kid the energy he needs."

Cummins says that while eating your fruits and vegetables along with your meat is wise, for the federal government to dictate the maximum a kid can eat is ridiculous. "When did we decide in this country that Mrs. Obama and Mr. Vilsack know more about feeding our kids than us or the school lunch lady? That's just wrong," he concludes.



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Dairy Focus

Protecting Hay More Important Than Ever

By J.W. Schroeder, Dairy Specialist
NDSU Extension Service

Covering hay bales cuts hay loss significantly.

The U.S. drought of 2012 has left most livestock producers in the Midwest and beyond scrambling for more hay.

Earlier this summer, I expressed what county Extension agents are verifying: Unprecedented hay prices are the reality, mainly the result of hay buying pressure to supplement out-of-state demand.

Even though we looked relatively good in North Dakota, compared with the states deeply affected by the drought, as the summer wore on to yield little or no second cutting, in many cases, hay yields are off by 30 to 50 percent. This further adds to supply-and-demand concerns.

To feed ruminant animals such as beef cattle and sheep through the winter season, many livestock producers are looking for ways to stretch their feed resources. Two of the quickest ways to waste this precious commodity are to delay hauling and failing to protect your forage.

Round bales, the most common form of baling, inherently are designed to shed water, but you still can lose 15 to 30 percent of a harvested hay crop if it is left outside uncovered. So if hay yields on a farm are 50 percent lower because of the weather and the producer does not normally cover all of his or her round-baled hay, he or she can cut this shortfall substantially by covering the hay.

Even farms that have invested in net-wrapped round bales but leave them outside will find that providing more protection from moisture will save them hay. Research at various Midwest universities has revealed that round-baled, twine-tied hay sitting on the ground uncovered will suffer a total loss of 20 to 35 percent on average.

Net-wrapped round bales have become very popular, and many assume that net wrapping protects the bales from rainfall. Net wrapping does protect the hay to an extent because it makes the bale surface smoother and denser so it can shed water, but the advantage is not great.

University of Kentucky trials found net-wrapped bales still lose 15 to 25 percent of their total dry-matter hay on average when stored outside. Although much of the rain runs off the net-wrapped surface, enough soaks into the outer layer of the hay to cause deterioration. Also, the researchers found that much of the rain was running to the bottom of the bale and being absorbed by the hay where it contacts the soil surface, causing spoilage.

Some factors to keep in mind that affect hay loss are:

The amount of moisture the hay is exposed to, such as rainfall, snow, dew or ground moisture

The number of months the hay is exposed before it is fed: A wet summer and fall will cause more loss than a dry

one.

The air temperature during the storage period (higher temperatures lead to greater losses)

The type of hay (for example, alfalfa and second or third cuttings): The more digestible the hay is for animals, the more digestible it will be for bacteria that spoil hay.

The best way to reduce round-bale hay spoilage is to cover the bales to keep rainfall off and break the contact with the soil so the bales do not draw moisture from the ground.

The same University of Kentucky study analyzed various forms of hay storage and found some significant results. Putting the bales inside under a roof is one of the best options, whether it is a steel-roof pole barn, older wooden barn or hoop-roofed barn. Total dry-matter losses are typically only 4 to 7 percent when the hay is stored inside and out of direct contact with the ground.

The ultimate in hay storage options is building a new structure. Of course, this is a long-term investment, but depending on your needs, it can pay for itself in 10 to 15 years if hay is stored each year, especially with today's higher hay prices.

However, for the short term, plastic coverage offers protection in various forms. Renting an in-line plastic bale wrapper can protect dry round bales for less than \$10 per ton. With a dry-matter loss of 4 to 7 percent, plastic coverage is just as good as inside storage, the same study showed.

Covering hay that's stacked on a pad of stone or porous material with plastic tarps can keep the loss down to the same 4 to 7 percent level if the tarp can be secured well enough against the wind to stay in place.

Plastic bale sleeves slipped over the bale, leaving each end open, diminish rainfall and soil moisture entry into the bale, resulting in the same low-level loss of 4 to 7 percent. However, bale sleeves are labor-intensive because they are put on by hand, so they work best on smaller volumes of round bales.

Stacking uncovered bales on top of one another in a pyramid shape, with the bottom bales in direct contact with the ground, resulted in a 25 to 35 percent loss even though half the bales were off the ground. Net-wrapped bales on the ground suffered a 15 to 25 percent loss, and pyramid-stacked bales on stone or a porous pad suffered a 13 to 17 percent loss.

So, any method of protection is better than leaving the bale outside, exposed to the weather. In a short hay year such as this when all feeds will be high-priced, covering what hay you have is the most important step in determining ways to lessen the impact of the drought.

USDA Notice to Women & Hispanic Farmers & Ranchers: Compensation For Claims Of Discrimination

If you are a female farmer or rancher or a Hispanic farmer or rancher and you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 because of your gender or race, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

You may be eligible if:

- you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and
- the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
- you believe these actions occurred because you are female or Hispanic.

The Farm Service Agency wants all producers who may be eligible to be aware of this claims process for female and Hispanic farmers and ranchers so they can come forward and participate in these processes.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims package in the female and Hispanic farmers claims process, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the Website: www.farmerclaims.gov.

In 2011, a Class Administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or Website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process. In order to participate, you must submit a claim to the Claims Administrator by the end of the claims period.

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers.

The claims process provides up to \$50,000 for each woman or Hispanic farmer who can show that USDA denied them a loan or loan servicing for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. Hispanic or female farmers who provide additional proof and meet other requirements can receive \$50,000. Successful claimants may also be eligible for funds to pay the taxes on their awards and for forgiveness of certain existing USDA loans. There is no filing fees or other costs to claimants to participate in the program. Participation is voluntary, and individuals who opt not to participate are not precluded by the program from filing a complaint in court.

If you are currently represented by counsel regarding allegations of discrimination against USDA or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination by USDA, you should contact your counsel regarding your claims process. USDA cannot provide legal advice to you. You are not required to hire an attorney to file a claim, but you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community for additional guidance.


Audio and video public service announcements in English and Spanish from Secretary Vilsack and downloadable print and web banner ads on the Hispanic and women farmer claims process are available at: http://www.usda.gov/PSAs_Print_and_WebBanner_Ads.xml. For more information, contact the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following Website: www.farmerclaims.gov.

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By Jerry Palen



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Proper Cleaning Can Prevent Equipment Fires Especially During Drought

Ever have your combine burn up? The Montana Farm Bureau is urging everyone combining crops and baling hay to be extremely cautious this harvest season due to extremely dry conditions and high fire danger. Often the person driving the combine or pulling the baler can't see what's happening directly behind. By the time they notice a fire, it may be too late to save the equipment and the field.

"We had one fire started by the sickle on our mowing machine. In another instance, we had had work done to a tractor's engine, and an hour and a half into it pulling the baler, it caught on fire as did the baler," remembers MFBF President Bob Hanson. "That was scary. We ejected the bale, and were able to put the fire out, but had to buy a new baler."

Hanson says he's increased his diligence for baler safety. "Now once a day when I open the baler, I have a temperature gun to see if the baler bearings are getting too hot," he says. "We carry a huge fire extinguisher on all of our equipment which has water, soap and compressed air. We make sure our weed spray truck is filled with water all of the time and is parked in the field where we're working."

Chip Petrea, PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, says one of the problems with combine fires is the machines have gotten larger with greater storage capacities. "The operator cannot see the engine area without assistance. Reaching the engine area of the combine can be difficult, particularly for older farmers with health issues such as arthritis, coronary or respiratory problems," he explains.

He strongly advises inspecting the machine during the day, and follow proper cleaning guidelines and procedures. The machine must be inspected periodically throughout the harvest day. Buildup of crop material and other debris must be removed to ensure proper machine function and to reduce the risk of fire. Frequency of inspections and cleanings will vary depending on a number of factors, including operating conditions, machine settings, crop conditions, operating speeds, and weather conditions. Inspections and cleanings may be required multiple times throughout

the harvest day, particularly in dry, hot, and windy conditions.

Before you start cleaning, ensure the machine has been completely turned off, set the parking brake and remove the key. "Then thoroughly clean machine from top to bottom. The use of compressed air is highly recommended to ensure adequate cleaning," Petrea advises.

"Clean all areas accessible from engine deck. Start with the engine compartment and work outward and counterclockwise," Petrea notes. "Focus cleaning efforts on areas that collect crop debris or which reach elevated temperatures during machine operation. Once the top areas of the machine are clean, clean areas accessible from ground level, then start over again, focusing on those areas which are prone to collecting debris or those that reach elevated temperatures during machine operation. Once the cleaning from ground level is finished, recheck the engine compartment for any crop debris that may have blown in from ground level cleaning."

Having an accessible fire extinguisher and a means to call 911 can save your combine, your crop, neighboring property and even your life.

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Blister Beetles Toxic to Horses

Blister beetles, which are toxic to horses, could be a problem in North Dakota this year.

"While blister beetles are common in many areas of the U.S., horse owners in North Dakota usually have not been concerned with this toxic insect," says Carrie Hammer, North Dakota State University Extension Service equine specialist. "However, several individuals in western North Dakota have reported alfalfa fields infested with blister beetles this year. Horse owners need to be cautious because horses that consume alfalfa hay contaminated with these beetles have a high risk for serious illness and death."

Several species of blister beetles can be found in the U.S., and all produce cantharidin, a toxin that causes inflammation and blistering of internal body tissues. Although all species produce the toxin, the cantharidin content varies among species. The striped blister beetle is known for consistently having higher toxin concentrations.

"A common question from horse owners is: 'How many beetles can my horse consume before I need to worry?'" Hammer says. "Due to the variation in toxin concentration among beetles, this is a difficult question to answer. However, most studies report ingestion of 25 to 300 beetles is enough to kill an average-size adult horse."

Clinical signs of blister beetle poisoning usually occur six to eight hours after ingestion. Affected horses often show signs of colic and depression, although urinary, cardiovascular and nervous system problems also can occur.

Horses consuming a toxic dose can die quickly (within three to 18 hours).

Owners should consult their veterinarian immediately if they suspect their horse has consumed blister beetles.

Blister beetles tend to congregate in certain areas of a field. Thus, hay bales from those areas often contain high beetle numbers, whereas bales from other areas of the field may be beetle-free.

Hammer encourages horse owners to check alfalfa bales carefully prior to feeding the alfalfa to their horses and discard any contaminated bales.

"Even the juice from crushed beetles can cause illness; therefore, owners should not simply remove dead beetles in hopes of feeding the hay," she adds.



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A Little Bit Country

New Wheat Varieties

Warren Froelich

NDSU Extension Agent, Williams County

As area farmers complete harvest, their focus will likely turn to marketing the 2012 crop and plans for 2013. Selecting crops and varieties along with determining fertilizer and machinery needs will require major decisions sometime this winter.

The primary crop grown in the counties of north-west North Dakota is durum. I suspect it will remain number one but recent requests for information about varieties leads me to believe there will be more acres planted of spring wheat next year.

In recent years the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station has released several new varieties of hard spring wheat. These include Velva (2012), Prosper (2011), Barlow (2009), Faller (2007), Howard (2006), and Glenn (2005).

Velva has a broad adaptation to the spring wheat region but fits better in Central and Western North Dakota environments. It has excelled in performance, particularly where Reeder is grown. It has high grain yield – higher than most varieties adapted to the Central and Western regions including Glenn, the most dominant variety of the region.

Velva is a semi-dwarf with medium late maturity, similar to Reeder and Faller. Straw strength, test weight, and protein are similar to Reeder. However, its excellent leaf disease package is better than Reeder.

Velva is resistant or medium resistant to leaf and stem rusts; resistant to Septorias; resistant to races two and three of tan spot and medium susceptible to scab compared to susceptible checks.

Durum growers will be hearing about the new NDSU release named Carpio. It has shown excellent yield potential in NDSU yield trials as well as very good yield stability across multiple environments. Data from these

trials shows Carpio provides yield advantages over Divide and Lebstock. It has a larger kernel size than Mountrail.

Carpio has been given an overall quality rating of “Excellent” by the NDSU Cereal Chemists. It has very good protein content.

The scab tolerance of Carpio is close to that of Divide which is slightly better than Grenora, Albabo, Lebstock, Mountrail, and Pierce.

While its grain yields are very competitive to other popular varieties at most test sites across the state I am a bit concerned about its performance at Williston during the 2007-11 yield trials.

Windbreak Construction Guidelines

Most cattle producers of this area understand the importance of protecting their cows from the cold winter winds. I remember Dexter Johnson, former NDSU Agricultural Engineer, telling us that a 20 mile per hour wind is considered to be equivalent to an extra 30 degrees of cold.

I envy those cattlemen who have established tree windbreaks near their cattle wintering areas. For those of us who have not been able to do this, we must utilize other forms of windbreak material. Most of us utilize high fences made of wood or metal sheets. Another option is large bales stacked outside of the feedlot perimeter.

Whatever form the windbreak is made of we must remember that it does not stop the wind; it simply deflects it. Consequently, the windbreak directs the wind off to someplace else. When wind passes over a vertical barrier, it will tend to drop or swirl downward on the leeward side. The amount of swirl and how close to the fence it drops depends a large extent on how solid, dense, porous, and open the barrier is.

Research has shown that the most effective windbreak is one that is 75 to 80 percent solid and 20-25 percent open. This design allows some air to leak through preventing some of the down-drafting and swirling which occurs by a solid board fence.

In general, wind velocities are reduced 5 to 10 barrier heights away on the windward side and 10-30 heights away on the leeward side of the windbreak. However, the wind velocity reduction beyond 20 heights is minor.

I hesitated writing about this basic concept of protecting cattle during our cold winter months but hope it will serve as a reminder to act now. I am sure most minds are focused on completing fall harvest, transporting hay to the feedyard, etc. instead of -20 degree winter temperatures.

The logo features the word "Roundup" in a large, bold, 3D-style font with a metallic or chrome-like texture. Below it, "WEB.COM" is written in a smaller, similar 3D font.

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