

October 2014 Edition

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See page 15

Farm & Ranch Monthly Magazine

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North Dakota Agricultural Producers Invited to Attend Important Farm Bill Meetings

Submitted by Dan Janes

USDA North Dakota Farm Service Agency (FSA) is partnering with the North Dakota State University Extension Service to host a series of informational meetings to discuss the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014.

The 2014 Farm Bill authorizes three program election options: PLC, ARC-County (ARC-CO) and ARC-Individual (ARC-IC). Producers must make a one-time decision to retain or reallocate crop bases, to retain or update program payment yields and select the type of coverage (price protection, county revenue protection, and/or individual revenue protection) for the 2014-18 crop years.

The informational meetings will explain the program election, base allocation and yield update process.

Meetings will be held in the following locations:

October 8, 1pm-3pm, Minot, North Central Research Extension Center, 5400 Highway 83 South.

October 9, 8am-10am, Williston, Williston Research Extension Center, 14120 Highway 2

October 9, 1pm-3pm, Dickinson, Dickinson State University, Ag Building Auditorium 104

The meetings are free and open to the general public.

"Farm owners and operators have a lot of decisions to make for these new programs and we want to make sure everyone has as much information as possible before making enrollment choices," said Aaron Krauter, North Dakota FSA State Executive Director. "All interested producers, regardless of operation size, should join us to learn more about these new programs."

For more information about the meetings, please contact your local FSA office.

MSU Extension, USDA Announce Farm Bill Meetings in 28 Communities

Submitted by Sepp Jannotta

Montana State University Extension, in partnership with U.S. Department of Agriculture, will be visiting 28 Montana communities this fall to conduct a series of informational meetings about important new programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014.

The meetings will focus on the price-loss coverage and agricultural-risk coverage that will be administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency and the supplemental-coverage option administered by USDA's Risk Management Agency through federal crop insurance providers. MSU Extension will explain the new online Farm Bill Decision Tool that will be available this fall to assist producers in understanding their options.

The schedule of meetings runs Oct. 15 through Nov. 12:

Oct. 21: Sidney, 8 a.m. to noon, MSU Extension Office, 1499 N. Central Ave.;

Oct. 22: Glasgow, 8 a.m. to noon, Cottonwood Inn, 45 First Ave. NE., Wolf Point, 2-6 p.m., Dumont Building, Fort Peck Community College, 301 Benton St.

Oct. 23: Circle, 8 a.m. to noon, Community Building, McCone County Fairgrounds, one-half mile southwest of Circle on Highway 200;

Glendive, 2-6 p.m., Dawson County Courthouse, 207 W. Bell St.

Oct. 24: Baker, 8 a.m. to noon, Exhibit Hall, Fallon County, 3440 Highway 7.

Nov. 10. Informational webinar, contact MSU Extension for details.

For more information, including a printable schedule, visit MSU Extension's Farm Bill website at <http://www.montana.edu/farmbill> and Montana FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt. Visit RMA's Farm Bill website at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/news/currentissues/farmbill/>.

MSU Graduate Joins Staff at High Plains Vet Clinic

Anna Downen has been working at the High Plains Veterinary Clinic in Sidney since May, 2014. Downen and her team competed and placed 2nd in the National Animal Science Competition in July. The 24 year old Columbia Falls native recently graduated from MSU- Bozeman with a BS in Animal Science with a focus on equine. While Anna is working at the front office she also gets to help with the animals that are brought in and hopes one day to become a Certified Veterinary Technician. (Photo by Susan Schieffer)

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THINK SAFETY

We urge everyone to “think safety” during the annual sugarbeet harvest. Please be mindful of the added truck traffic on the roads.



Best Wishes For A Great Harvest!

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Sidney Sugars Anticipating “Tons” This Harvest Season



By Dianne Swanson

The 2014 sugar beet crop is shaping up to be a good one according to Sidney Sugars agricultural manager Russ Fullmer. The latest root samples indicated big tonnage. “They were pretty good,” Fullmer said. “The tons will be there.”

The earlier light frosts should help with sugar content while not affecting growth. Fullmer said there are more yellow fields this year than in the past few years, indicating that the beets are making sugar. Sugar content has been an issue recently, but Fullmer predicts better sugar this harvest. The root samples showed average sugar but Fullmer said there is not much correlation between the test results and harvest since the beets have about a month yet to grow, with many factors which could affect the sugar, and tonnage.

Harvest workers are gathering in the area with most of them being RVer. They will be scattered at all the stations from Fairview and Culbertson, south to Terry. Campaign workers are needed. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Job Service or Sidney Sugars operations department at 406-433-3303.

Harvest started in Culbertson September 29, the factory and Sugar Valley September 30, and will begin in Savage October 1, Pleasant View October 2 and Powder River October 3. The factory started slicing September 30.

Everyone is reminded to please pay attention and drive safely. Loaded beet trucks cannot accelerate, or stop, quickly. Please be courteous and enjoy the fall harvest season.



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USED 4WD DRIVE TRACTORS

1981 JD 8640 (229 PTO HP) Quad-range tranny, 3 hyd, PTO, 14' Degelman dozer..... \$21,500
1995 JD 8970 (400 eng HP), powershift tranny, 4 hyd, 520/ 85R42 duals..... \$69,500

USED MFWD & 2WD TRACTORS

2000 JD 5510 (75 PTO HP) sync shuttle tranny, MFWD, 3pt hitch, 18.4x30 singles..... \$21,500

USED LOADER TRACTORS

2011 JD 5065E, (65 eng HP) MFWD, 3pt hitch, 1 hyd, PTO, only 103 hrs, new JD 553 load with 6' bucket, ONLY 108 HRS!..... \$31,900
2008 JD 7330 (125 PTO HP) IVT tranny, MFWD, 3 pt hitch, 3 hydraulics, dual PTO, 18.4X38 singles, JD 741 SL loader, 8' bucket, grapple, joystick..... \$109,500
1968 JD 4020 (90 PTO HP) powershift, 3 pt hitch, 2 hyd, dual PTO, 18.4x34 singles, JD 158 loader, bucket, grapple \$9,950
1975 JD 4030 (80 PTO HP), syncro-range tranny, 3pt hitch, 3 hyd, PTO, 14.9x38 singles, JD 148 loader, 6' bucket, grapple trt hyd (THIS IS A CONSIGNED TRACTOR, SOLD AS IS) \$13,500

USED COMBINES

(1) 2012 JD S660 combines, 520/85r38 duals, Contour master, low low hoursCALL
2006 JD 9660STS, 520/85r38 dualsCALL
2002 JD 9650 STS, 800/70r65 singles, chopper... \$95,000
1999 JD 9610, 30.5x32 singles, chopper, chaff spreader, dual range cyl \$69,500
Used set of 18.4x38 duals for 9600, 9610 (60%rubber)..... \$3,000
2013 640 FD, draper platform, no HHS in rigid..CALL
2012 635 FD draper platform, no HHS.....CALL
2010 JD 630R platform, pickup reel.....CALL
1997 JD 930F flex platform \$9,950
JD 930F flex platform w/ CWS air real, header trailer \$14,500
MacDon 962 draper platform w/ pickup reel ... \$17,500
1997 Macdon 960D platformCALL

USED HAYING EQUIPMENT

0% Financing for up to 5 years on all Balers O.A.C

(2) 2011 JD 568 Round Balers, loaded. H241 & H242\$32,500 ea
2011 JD 568 round baler, loaded, net wrap \$36,500
(2) 2009 JD 568 Round Baler, loaded. H176 & H206 \$34,500
2007 JD 568 round baler, mega wide pickup, net wrap \$19,500
2007 JD 568 Round Baler. Loaded except for kicker bar. H277..... \$28,500
2005 JD 567 round baler w/net wrap, mega wide. H077 \$16,900
1994 JD 535 Round Baler. H202 \$8,500
1998 JD 566 Round baler. mega-tooth pickup ... \$9,250
1998 NH 664 Round baler with net wrap..... \$5,950
3970 Forage Harvester \$3,500

USED BEET EQUIPMENT

2004 Amity 6 row beet harvester, steerable, row finder..... \$33,500
Artsway 9420 beet harvester, 6 row, 24", row finder, rear steer \$14,500
Red River 624N beet harvester, 6 row, 24", row finder, narrow hitch \$11,500
WIC 9 row defoliator, steerable, knife scalper ... \$6,500
1993 WIC 6 row defoliator, steerable, knife scalper..... \$6,500
2005 Amity 6 row defoliator, steerable \$11,500

USED MISCELLANEOUS

746 loader mounts for 77-7920 \$500
840 Loader mounts for 8000 series..... \$500
Brandt 4000EX grain vace \$4,500
2013 Brandt 13x70HP swing away auger with hydraulic winch \$21,900
2006 Brandt 10x70 swing away auger with pit express drive over hopper \$10,900
Brandt 8x52 super charged auger, 24HP honda ... \$6,950
2011 JD XUV 825i gator, 4000 miles..... \$8,950
2011 JD XUV 850i gator..... \$9,950
Diamond 72" & 62" mowers..... \$2,500

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Fall Landscaping & Lawn Care

By Tim Fine
MSU Extension Agent

Recent weather fluctuations have driven home the point for me that fall is definitely upon us which means that winter and those dreaded four-letter words, cold and snow, are soon to follow. However, we can hope that those two things are still more than a few weeks away and enjoy what is left of the fall season. One way to do just that is to start preparing for next spring in the yard and garden. To help you get a head-start, here are a couple of tips for fall garden maintenance and clean-up.

In the vegetable garden- fall is a great time to add some amendments. After your vegetables have finished producing, it is time to put the garden to bed for the winter. If your plants are not diseased, feel free to leave them on the surface of the garden and till them in. Or, you may choose to pull them up and add them to the compost pile, either option is perfectly acceptable. If you have access to some well-composted manure or have a compost pile of your own, you may consider adding some to the garden prior to doing your tillage. Or, you may choose to just add the compost and let it sit without doing any tillage. That is o.k. too but you will definitely want to till it in next spring. Another option that can help add amendments to garden soil is to start a “green manure” crop this fall. Planting something like winter rye, oats, or legumes like peas will not only help retain topsoil, but in the case of the legumes, can add nitrogen to your soil. The one drawback with the green manures is that, you have to incorporate them into the soil next spring and there is always the chance that they may re-grow and end up being weeds the following season.

In the lawn-The two best things that can be done this time of year to help your lawn survive the winter and be ready to grow next spring are fertilization and aeration. Not necessarily in that order. Fall fertilization with a slow-release nitrogen product will help to encourage root growth this fall so that next spring when it warms up, the grass will be ready to go. Aerating a lawn helps combat issues like compaction and allows for more air to get down to the root zone. Oxygen is one of the most important elements that roots need to thrive. A good, deep watering of the root zone never hurts either. And when you are ready to make that final mowing, you might want to consider actually lowering the mowing height from what you normally mow the lawn at. This is not to suggest that scalping the lawn is a good thing but if there is not as much re-growth before the snow falls, there is less chance for the development of snow mold next spring.

In landscape beds-As flowers start to fade, it is a good idea to start to trim back spindly stalks, get rid of dead flowers, and prune out any diseased or damaged flowering plants and shrub and tree branches. If you have some more tender plants, like roses for example, you may want to consider cutting them back to a manageable size and mulching over them to protect them over the winter. As a matter of fact, applying a fresh layer of mulch before the ground freezes helps not only to conserve soil moisture, but it also alleviates some of the issues associated with fluctuations in soil temperature.

Trees-As mentioned above, pruning can be done in the fall. Really, you should wait until the trees are dormant (have lost all of their leaves) so most people wait until early spring, when the temperatures are a little more conducive to being outside, but if there are a few nice days and the trees have reached dormancy, there is nothing saying that you have to wait. Probably of more importance, and especially for evergreen trees, is to give the root zone a really good deep soaking of water. This helps prevent desiccation over the winter as winds and direct sunlight tend to zap moisture out of the trees. This deep watering should be held off until after the trees have gone dormant, so waiting until after leaves have fallen off of deciduous trees but before the ground freezes is a good practice. The cold, windy winter that

we experienced in 2013 and early 2014 was not very kind to trees and landscape plants. Those factors coupled with a lack of snow cover caused many trees to die or severely delay leafing out. Then, this spring was wet and cold which created a perfect environment for many diseases to establish themselves in our landscape. Anything that you can do to help your tree(s) make it through the winter will be of great benefit next spring. Especially if this winter and next spring are similar to last year's. It's probably a good idea to wait until next spring to fertilize trees as well. Fertilizing now may actually encourage growth and not allow trees to properly “harden off” before winter.

Most people think of fall as a time to reap what you sew, sit back and wait for next spring to come; which is a perfectly acceptable practice as well. However, doing a few of these things may make next spring's chores a little bit easier. One thing that I should point out is that, when doing pruning, clipping, cutting etc... it is perfectly fine to add these clippings to a compost pile. However, if you are rouging out diseased branches and plants, they should be thrown in the garbage or burned. Many of our plant diseases are capable of over-wintering on plant material and unless the compost pile is closely monitored, it does not usually get warm enough to kill them.

As always, if you have any questions about the tips mentioned above, or if you want more detail about the what's and why's of the suggestions mentioned, feel free to give me a call at 433-1206 or send an email to timothy.fine@montana.edu.

Farm Bureau Photo Contest

Submitted by Nicole Hackley

Richland County Farm Bureau is helping to promote this year's Montana Farm Bureau 2014 Photo Contest, put on by the Women's Leadership Committee. The photo contest will be held this year during the Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Annual Convention at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, November 9th-12th. Photos will be on display and voted on by popular vote. The winners of first, second and third places will be announced at the awards banquet on Tuesday, November 11th. First place earns \$75, second place \$50 and third place \$25. The top three winning photographs become the property of MFBF to be used for display and publicity purposes.

The theme for 2014 is “Faces of Agriculture”, and the Women's Committee encourages members to enter photos that capture what the theme means to them. Contest rules are: 1) The entrant must be a current MFBF member. 2) Contest is open to amateur photographers only. 3) Photos must be taken by the entrant. 4) Photos can be black and white, or color, sizes 3x5, 5x7 or panoramic 4x12. 5) Name, address and membership number must be on back. 6) No more than three photos per entrant. 7) No matting or framing.

Pictures can be submitted to Lisa McFarland at 8201 Molt Rd, Billings, MT 59106. Please include a stamped envelope for return of photos. For any questions you can contact Lisa at (406) 698-9809 or lisa.mcfarland@eciblg.com.

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Farmall 110A w/loader



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LB 434 Square Baler



Case IH WD1203 Windrower



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USED TRACTORS

1979 JD 4840, 3 pt, PTO	\$22,500
2005 CaseIH MX255, MFD, 3pt, 3638hrs, 480/80R42 Duals w/CaseIH LX780 loader & grapple.....	\$108,000
Bobcat T190 track loader, cab, auxiliary hydraulics, 2002hrs.....	\$22,000
IH Hydro 70, gas engine, new tires, dual loader, grapple	\$10,000
1994 Case IH 7140 MFD, 3 remotes, 20.8 x 42 Duals, 7800 Hrs	SOLD!
2010 John Deere 3520 compact tractor, mfd, loader, misc attachments, 230 hrs ..	\$24,900

USED MISCELLANEOUS

Farmhand 25' mulcher.....	\$11,500
John Deere 2700 disc ripper, 7 shank....	\$22,000
2005 Parma 30' mulcher.....	\$25,000
Case 75XT Skidsteer, 2400 hours....	\$23,000
Rem 2500 Grain Vac, good condition.....	SOLD!
2010 Brillion 30' mulcher, very good condition	\$29,000

Grasshopper 729, liquid cooled, 61' Power Fold deck, 1320 hours	\$8,900
--	---------

USED SEEDING & SPRAYING

Concord 4710 Drill, 3000 tow behind cart, hydraulic drive.....	\$30,000
2005 Brandt 2SB4000, suspended boom, 90', 1500 gal. tank	\$25,000
Summers 2pt sprayer, 88' booms, 500 gal tank, Dickey John monitor.....	SOLD!
Monosem 6 row, 24" planter.....	CALL

USED HARVEST EQUIPMENT

2005 2042 35' draper head.....	\$32,000
MacDon 960 35' draper head, transport, CIH adapter	\$10,000

USED HAYING EQUIPMENT

2011 CaseIH RB 564 premium round baler, 9600 bales, wide pickup, mesh wrap, very nice.....	SOLD!
2008 CaseIH RB564 round baler, 8700 bales, mesh wrap, wide pickup, endless belts,	

hydraulic pickup lift, central lube ...	\$26,500
2006 RBX563 Round Baler, wide pickup, mesh wrap, endless belts, 8,000 bales, good cond.....	\$26,000
CIH RBX 563 baler, mesh, wide pickup...	\$25,000
2003 CaseIH RBX562, MeshWrap, Like New	\$24,500
2011 Haybuster 2650, hydraulic chute lift, big tires, very good condition.....	\$16,000
1999 CaseIH RS561	\$12,500

2008 Vermeer Processor, BP8000 ...	\$10,500
1995 CaseIH 8465	\$8,995
1994 CaseIH 8480 Softcore	\$6,995
1990 Hesston 560 Round Baler.....	\$5,500
New Holland 1475 mower conditioner.....	SOLD!
Hesston 6550 Windrower, diesel, cab, air 14' lead.....	SOLD!
USED COMBINES	
2006 2388, 2103 engine hours/1656 sep. hours, chopper consigned.....	\$115,000

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MOSS Bringing Unique Learning Experience to Brorson School



By Meagan Dotson

The Montana Outdoor Science School, or MOSS, will be visiting Brorson School October 13 and 14. MOSS is a privately funded organization out of Bozeman, MT that teaches the global leadership concept of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. MOSS will be coming into the classroom and teaching lab studies in conjunction with field science. For instance, the topic of aquatic plants would consist of a plant study or dissection as part of a lab study. Students would then go to a swamp or lake to study plant-life in the field. This encourages students to talk about science in the world around them.

A variety of topics will be discussed including aquatic plants, photosynthesis and animal tracking. The school will be divided into two groups and focus on specific topics such as renewable resources and predators. Kindergarten through third grade will be learning about sustainable energy while fourth through sixth grades will be focusing on airborne engineers, such as hawks and eagles, as part of the predator study.

MOSS focuses on presenting information without textbooks to offer a hands-on learning experience and they tailor each program to accommodate the grade they are presenting to. To learn more about MOSS or find out how to bring this unique learning experience into the classroom, visit outdoorscience.org.

MOVING AUCTION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2014 • 1:00 P.M.

**LOCATION: From Richey, MT -
Take Highway 254 South
for 5 miles.**

**OWNERS:
MARCO & TERESA UNRUH
406-773-5640**

Lunch will be available.



TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT

- JD 1620 diesel Tractor MFWD, 3 pt. PTO w/JD 100 Front-end Loader, 925 hours
- 3 pt. Woods Backhoe, model 1050
- 3 pt. Backblade
- 3 pt. JD Rotary Mower, model 506
- 3 pt. Cultivator
- 3 pt. Disc Plow
- 3 pt. Danuser Post Hole Digger & (2) Augers
- 3 pt. 15,000 watt PTO Generator

PICKUPS, VAN, BOATS, ATVS, CYCLES & TRAILERS

- 2008 Chevy Silverado LT 4-door Pickup, 4x4, 76,000 miles (nice)
- 1980 Ford 1 ton, dually Pickup, 351 engine 4-speed w/box & hoist
- (2) 1979 Ford Chateau Club Wagon Van, 351 engine (1-runs, 1-parts)
- 1984 SeaRay 21' Boat, 302 inboard engine, cutty cabin w/Shore Lander Trailer
- 2005 Kawasaki Jet Ski, model 206 & Trailer
- Honda 500 Rubicon ATV
- Frontblade for ATV
- (2) ATV Sprayers
- Honda Fourtrax ATV
- Honda VT1100 Shadow Motorcycle, saddle bags, windshield
- Kymco 150cc Scooter
- 18' Flatbed Car Trailer
- 8' ATV Trailer
- Pickup Box Trailer



HORSES, TACK & TRAILER

- (2) Miniature Riding Horses (Mares)
- Miniature Riding Horse (Stud)
- Miniature Stud Colt
- (2) Kids Saddles
- Misc Tack
- Hale 16' Stock Trailer (refurbished)

PORTABLE COOLER, MEAT CUTTING EQUIPMENT

- 6x9 Portable Cooler w/Trolley Rail System
- Biro 91" Meat Saw
- 1 hp Meat Grinder
- Large Smoker & 100# propane bottle
- Misc Meat Processing Items

ANTIQUES & HOUSEHOLD

- Large Safe (from Richey Nat'l Bank)
- Platform Scale
- 120 # Anvil
- Kenmore 23 Chest Freezer
- Refrigerator w/freezer on bottom
- Sears Front-load Washing Machine
- Sears Dryer
- Wood Oval Table w/4 Chairs
- Large Hutch
- 4-piece Queen Bedroom Set (headboard, chest of drawer, vanity w/mirror, nightstand)
- (2) Queen size Bed Frames
- (2) Twin Beds
- (2) Desk Chairs
- (3) Window Air Conditioners
- Bicycles

GARDEN TRACTOR, TANKS & SHOP

- Honda model 5518 Garden Tractor, 4-wheel steer, 4x4, 18 hp, 8-speed
- Belly Mower
- (2) Honda 60" Swisher Mowers (1-14.5 hp, 1-13.5 hp)
- Garden Tiller (fits on Tractor)
- Snow Blower (fits on Tractor)
- Honda Cultivator
- 300 & 1000 gallon Poly Water Tanks
- 350 gallon Fuel Tank
- Cement Mixer w/electric motor
- Shredder w/electric motor
- (3) Trailer House Axles
- (6) 10' Aluminum Unloading Rollers
- 150' Perforated Drain Line Pipe
- Propane Torch
- Apollo Welder
- Sears Drill Press
- Chain Saw
- Floor model Tool Box
- Chain Hoist
- Electric Grinder
- Bench Vise
- Air Compressor
- Screw Drivers, Hammers, Saws
- Punches, Sockets, Wrenches
- Levels, Brace & Bit
- Plumbing Supplies
- Screws, Bolts, Nuts
- Shovels, Rakes, Hoes



AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Marco and Teresa are selling their property and liquidating most of their items. Everything has been kept inside and is in excellent shape! This will be an afternoon sale you will not want to miss!! Hope to see you on SUNDAY, Oct 12th. Rick



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Williams County Extension Agent Comes Out of Retirement to Serve The Public

By Susan Schieffer

Warren Froelich is back in the proverbial saddle. After retiring from the Williams County Extension office last August, Froelich has once again picked up the reins. When asked why he came out of retirement he states simply, "There was just a need. Everyone here was filling in and trying to help but I wanted to alleviate some of the burden for them." Warren's wife, Mary, also works as a Family Consumer Science Extension Agent, and clued him in to the strain his absence had made. "There was a need to address the issues of plant and animal life and also to provide quality in knowledgeable speakers."

Since his return, Froelich states he had an "exciting year helping to prepare the 4H for the Upper Missouri County Fair", which occurs during the last week of June. "We can continue offering quality education programs with our 4H youth and have also been able to expand some of the programs we provide. "

"After 46 years of service, it was difficult to leave. I love this job and I love working with these people." During his retirement he jokes that he "played around with my cattle", and he got to test out his new saddle but it is evident in how he talks that while he is only back part-time, he couldn't be happier in his old job. When asked how long he will be back for, Warren simply gives no timeline. "It's a challenge to



Warren Froelich with his horse McKeag, the foundation sire of a herd of quarter horses Froelich and three of his brothers have near Selfridge, ND.

find someone. It's hard for the University to compete and in a way they are a bit hamstrung by the budget and the increase to our cost of living."

So for now, the Williams County Extension Office has found itself back in the trusted and dedicated hands of an old friend.

RoundupWEB.COM

Tester, Walsh Recognized as Fighters for Montana's Farming and Ranching Families

Submitted by Marnee Banks

Montana's Senators Jon Tester and John Walsh received the Golden Triangle Award from the National Farmers Union Tuesday night for their work fighting for farming and ranching families in Montana.

Tester, the Senate's only working farmer, and Walsh, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, were recognized for their work fighting for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), improving brucellosis prevention, improving livestock disaster programs and implementing the 2014 Farm Bill.

"Farmers and ranchers across our state put in long hours to produce the crops and livestock that feed families and support households nationwide," Tester said. "It's an honor to receive this award and a good reminder of why I fight so hard for our producers and the economies and communities they support."

"Montana's farmers and ranchers are the backbone of our economy and they produce the highest quality products in the world," Walsh said. "In the Senate, we must move forward with common sense policies to ensure that Montana's livestock and crops can continue sending our prized products across the globe." "Montana Farmers Union appreciates Senator Walsh and Senator Tester's contributions to Montana's agriculture producers," said Montana Farmers Union President Alan Merrill. "We value the Senators efforts that supports livestock disease

research, protects Montana markets, and commitment for country-of-origin labeling. We are excited to recognize Senator Walsh and Senator Tester for their consistent advocacy for Montana's family farms and ranches."

Tester, in addition to pushing for quick implementation of the Farm Bill's livestock disaster assistance programs earlier this year, is also a champion in the Senate for COOL. He led efforts to preserve strong Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) rules in the Farm Bill, helping consumers know where meat was born, raised and processed and giving them the option to buy U.S.-made meat if they choose.

Walsh is sponsoring the American Livestock Protection and Ranching Opportunity Act, which establishes a Livestock Disease Initiative and authorizes \$5 million annually to study brucellosis and other diseases. Walsh's bill also prohibits the import of foreign beef until the exporting country is certified by the USDA as free of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. The Golden Triangle Award is presented to members of Congress who have demonstrated leadership and supported policies that benefit family farmers and ranchers.

The National Farmers Union represents more than 200,000 family farms and ranches across the United States. The Montana Farmers Union was established in 1915 to protect family farms and ranches throughout Montana



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By Jerry Palen



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Irrigation Powers a \$22 Million Economy on the Tongue River

Submitted by
Shannon Ruckman

What does irrigation do for Montana's agricultural economy? Take a trip down the Tongue River Valley, where you'll find about 25,000 irrigated acres along its 190-mile length.

With 130 frost-free days per year, high quality soils, and a climate that features hot days and warm nights, growing conditions are nearly identical to California's San Joaquin Valley. Apples, pears, melons, squash—just about any crop grown in the Golden State can be grown here. There's a vineyard in Miles City.

"We have an image problem," says John Hamilton, whose thriving new orchard includes 25 varieties of apples. "People think of eastern Montana as a wasteland. They don't realize what we have down here."

It all starts with the DNRC-owned Tongue River Reservoir, which stores 56,000 acre-feet of water. A major upgrade of the dam was completed in 1999. The work included adding four feet to the height of the structure, which added 20,000 acre-feet of water storage.

The Tongue River Water Users Association has a contract with DNRC for 40,000 acre-feet of stored water for irrigation. Art Hayes Jr., President of the Water Users Association, says reservoir operations are managed by a committee that includes himself, DNRC, a representative from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Indian tribe, and one at-large member.

Art's great-grandfather came to the Tongue River Valley in 1884, and two years later was among the first settlers to bring cattle into the region. He also made one of the earliest water right claims.

"He realized nobody was going to survive here without irrigation," says Art. "Our family has quite a few of the early water rights."

Today Hayes' Brown Cattle Company operates on 10,000 acres, 500 of which produce irrigated alfalfa hay. A portion of the crop feeds his cows and the remainder is sold. A typical dryland alfalfa yield is 1-2 tons per acre; irrigated, the yield rises to 7-10 tons.

In 2013, agriculture in the Tongue River Valley was analyzed by Montana State University's Agricultural Marketing Policy Center.

"Agriculture in the valley produces \$22 million in revenue each year," says Hayes, "and 40 percent of that production comes from irrigated land, even though it's one-sixth of the total acreage."

Alfalfa hay is the most prevalent crop, accounting for \$5.5 to 7 million of the valley's annual gross revenues. Les Hirsch takes this abundant local resource and turns it into a value-added product—feed pellets for livestock.

He got interested in making pelletized alfalfa 14 years ago. "I knew that if we could find a way to put it into pellets, we could add value and not be so dependent on the sale of a round bale."

Hirsch grows about 1,200-1,500 tons of alfalfa each year on 320 irrigated acres. He purchases additional alfalfa from local farms and ranches, along with dried shelled peas; the peas, rich in protein, are combined with alfalfa to make the pellets. Each year, he purchases about 50,000 bushels of peas within a 60-mile radius of his farm.



Art Hayes Jr. is president of the Tongue River Water Users Association, and operates the Brown Cattle Company in the Tongue River Valley.

"It's great for the local economy," he says.

Tri State Alfalfa Cubes sells pelletized feed across northern Wyoming and the northern tier of Montana. "It's turned into a product that fits the marketplace," says Hirsch. "Our family business has grown into sales of 7,000 tons per year."

Les has lived and worked along the Tongue River his entire life. For the past 25 years he has also served as vice-chair of the Tongue River Water Users Association.

"My mother remembers before the dam came in, without any storage there were several years that producers ran out of irrigation water," he says. "Around here we'd probably get one cutting of alfalfa without irrigation. With it, we get three."

Hirsch's business has led to further economic development in the area.

"We buy 12 semi-loads of binder to make our pellets," he says. "We buy a lot of diesel fuel to run our production facility. In any given year we've got 425 semi loads of ingredients coming in or going out."

A local trucking business has sprung up. Hirsch also needed to purchase customized trailers and trucks, and there are 2 or 3 families in the area providing these services.

"A dollar turns over about seven times here," he says.

John Hamilton is a local innovator. "This area grows just about anything you can grow in California," he says. To prove it, Hamilton in 2007 designed an orchard with 105 fruit trees. He's growing plums, pears, apples, cherries, peaches.

"I'm growing about 25 different varieties of apples—early, mid and late season varieties," says Hamilton. "This year it was phenomenal. Some of the Honeycrisp apples weighed half a pound each. This was my first year of full production."

Hamilton is known in Miles City as The Watermelon Man. "A lot of people out here have never tasted vine-ripened fruit," he says. "There's no comparison to a watermelon you buy at the supermarket. Those are picked green and they ripen during transport. Mine are picked ripe and sold fresh off the truck."

He also raises squash, cantaloupe, and pumpkins. He's a fixture at the Miles City Farmer's Market.

All of Hamilton's crops are grown with irrigation water.

"You can get by without irrigation for one in twenty years," he says. "The other 19 years you'll get nothing. We can regulate the flow to where we get irrigation water all summer. It's a tremendous system we have."

On his Cedar Hills Ranch, Hamilton also raises cattle and grows spring wheat, barley and alfalfa.

"Wonderful soils, wonderful grass, wonderful water," Hamilton says. "We have some incredibly valuable natural resources in this valley."

All three water users are determined to keep things that way. They say energy development in the Tongue River watershed impacts water quality and threatens the valley's vibrant economy. Water discharged from coalbed methane drilling contains elevated sodium levels. Hamilton says it doesn't take much to disrupt soil productivity.

"A lot of these crops are sensitive to salt. We've always had high quality water in the Tongue River until energy development. With naturally occurring salts in the ecosystem, you start adding a little more and you can tip the balance."

Hayes says the balance has already been tipped toward higher levels of salinity. "We're at the point now where we need a strong flushing flow each spring to mitigate it."

Each of DNRC's 21 water projects supports an agricultural economy. Irrigation water generates direct economic benefits by directly increasing the supply and / or value of some crops, and in the process generating jobs and income. And like the Tongue River Valley, most all irrigation-driven economies produce a ripple or multiplier effect, making the overall impact larger: farmers and ranchers spend a portion of their income on goods and services in the local area, supporting local businesses and their workers.

Go to www.dnrc.mt.gov for more information on DNRC's programs and services.

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Badlands Steel of Williston



Ryan Luebke gets ready to shape a piece of steel at Badlands Steel in Williston.

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

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

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

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

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

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Vo Ag Teacher Offers Hands-on Experience, Encourages Community Involvement

By Meagan Dotson

In January of 2014, Ted Fulgham made the switch from working in the oilfield to becoming the Vo Ag teacher at Sidney Senior High School. Having previously taught at Montana schools in Hardin for eight years, Lodge Grass for 3 years, and Joliet for two years, Fulgham is pleased to once again be working with students.

The Vo Ag department includes Animal, Equine and Livestock studies, as well as Agronomy and Welding. These programs teach basic skills for continued education or entering the workforce. For example, the welding class teaches the fundamentals of the trade so that a graduate would have the knowledge to become a welder's helper in the oilfield.

"These classes give students an outlet. Kids need to have someplace where they can do something hands-on. This gives them an opportunity to show success in areas other than academics," Fulgham commented.

There are 45 students between the mechanics, agronomy, farm business and livestock judging teams. As of two years ago, the state of Montana now pays FFA dues and this year FFA has between 80 and 90 members.

In addition to FFA involvement, class sizes have also increased as students in these classes range from freshmen to seniors. Equine studies are an addition Fulgham introduced to the program. Community service is also a big part of hands on learning in the department and everyone in Fulgham's classes are involved in volunteer work.

"If you are going to be in my classes," says Fulgham, "you will be involved with serving the community."

Over the summer FFA put on a petting zoo in the Tractor Supply Parking lot as a way to get people interested and involved. October 16th they will be helping with commodity boxes which are boxes filled with non-perishable food items distributed to elderly and low-income residents.

Upcoming events for the Vo Ag department include District Livestock Judging October 1st involving all districts from the Big Muddy region. Fulgham's students will also be participating in John Deere Ag Days in Bozeman, MT November 13, 14 and 15.

Fulgham adds that he is always open for ideas and input from the community. Anyone who would like to become involved is welcome to help out. He can be contacted at SHS at 406-433-2330.



Randy Lander, shows his horse for an Equine Breed project in the Equine Science Class.



FFA Officers (L-R) Sierra Osborne, Reporter; Marcus Lovegren, VP; Chris Gartner, President; Garret Leland, Secretary; and Casey Christensen, Treasurer.

MSU Selects New Vice President, Dean of Agriculture

Submitted by AG Media

Charles Boyer from California State University, Fresno, has been chosen to lead the College of Agriculture and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station at Montana State University.

Currently dean of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Boyer will begin his new role as MSU's vice president of agriculture and dean of MSU's College of Agriculture on Dec. 15.

"As the state's land-grant university, MSU is committed to enhancing and strengthening our partnership with agriculture, the No. 1 industry in the state. Dr. Charles Boyer's vast experience advancing research, teaching and service, as well as his success working with producer groups and his successful fundraising track record, make him an outstanding choice to lead these efforts," said MSU President Waded Cruzado.

Boyer said he anticipates working closely with the agriculture community at MSU and throughout the entire state.

"I look forward to the opportunity to build on the

strong partnerships between MSU and the agricultural community," Boyer said. "These partnerships are already strong, and they will benefit us all as we work together to find new ways to serve the agricultural community of Montana."

MSU elevated its dean of the College of Agriculture to a vice presidential position earlier this year, in recognition of its importance to the state's economy and the MSU mission. The new vice president of agriculture will lead the College of Agriculture and Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.

MSU's College of Agriculture has approximately 1,028 students with 11 bachelor degree programs, nine master degree programs and four doctoral degree programs from five departments and one division. Historically, it has been among the top three MSU colleges in terms of research activity. The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station conducts research at seven research centers strategically located across the state to address the diverse climatological challenges of Montana's agriculture industry.



MSU Faculty Member to be Honored for Outstanding Paper

Submitted by MSU News Service

Lance McNew, a new faculty member in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at Montana State University, will be honored Oct. 26 in Pittsburgh at the 21st annual conference of The Wildlife Society.

McNew was lead author of a scientific article selected as the 2014 outstanding article in wildlife publications. It ran in the Journal of Wildlife Management and described findings about greater prairie-chickens, an indicator species for tallgrass prairie in North America.

The Wildlife Society publishes more than 200 articles each year in its three peer-reviewed wildlife ecology journals. It then selects one of those as the year's outstanding article. The article must show originality of research or thought and a high scholastic standard in presentation. The article must have been published within the last three years.

McNew wrote his article with three co-authors from Kansas State University. The paper, titled "Demography of Greater Prairie-Chickens: Regional Variation in Vital Rates, Sensitivity Values, and Population Dynamics," summarized a four-year study in east-central Kansas. The research is complete, McNew said, but the team is finishing up some analyses this fall.

The paper being honored was part of his doctoral research at Kansas State University, where he was a Ph.D. student from 2006 to 2010 and postdoctoral researcher from 2010 to 2012, McNew said. He was notified about the award in August when he was working at the U.S. Geological Survey at the Alaska Science Center. He worked for the USGS from 2012 until this August, when he came to MSU. His research interests at MSU involve wildlife habitat ecology with a focus on improving the functionality of wildlife habitats in agricultural systems.



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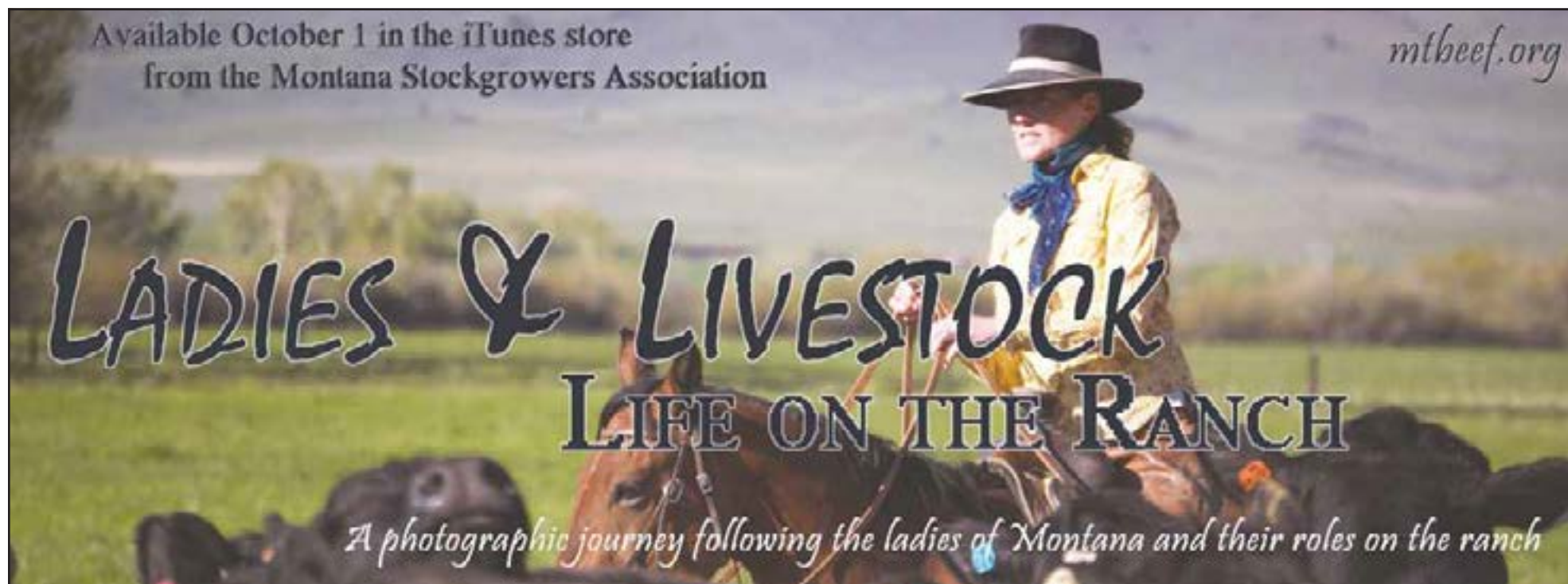


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New Digital Photography Book to Feature Ladies of Montana Ranching

“Ladies and Livestock: Life on the Ranch,” the second book in the Montana Family Ranching Series, from the Research and Education Endowment Foundation of the Montana Stockgrowers Association (REEF), is set to be released on October 1. The digital book is a pictorial explanation of Montana women and their roles in the ranching community.

“Women are often described as the ‘backbone’ to the ranch and we want to capture what that means in this book,” said Lauren Chase, author and photographer.

Ladies and Livestock is leading the way in multimedia technology and storytelling as it will be released in digital format instead of print. Available in the Apple iBook store beginning October 1, 2014, readers will be able to download Ladies and Livestock to their iPads and flip through the vivid imagery with the swipe of their fingers.

This book features over 130 pages of stories, photographs and video features of the ladies who raise livestock, care for the land, and build their families’ legacies on Montana ranches. Not only are these Montana women working on the ranch, many have jobs in town, volunteer in their communities, and are involved in the legislation process of issues affecting agriculture.

Ladies and Livestock is the second in a series of books featured in the Montana Family Ranching Series. The first edition, Big Sky Boots, released in 2012, features the working seasons of the Montana cowboy and is available in print edition from the Montana Stockgrowers Association by visiting bit.ly/BigSkyBoots <http://mtbeef.org/family-ranching/>.

“This series is meant to help people understand what it takes to make a Montana ranch operate successfully and also, to show the wonderful ranch families that make it possible. Creating the book for the iPad is really exciting for us because we can reach new audiences much easier through digital means,” said Chase.

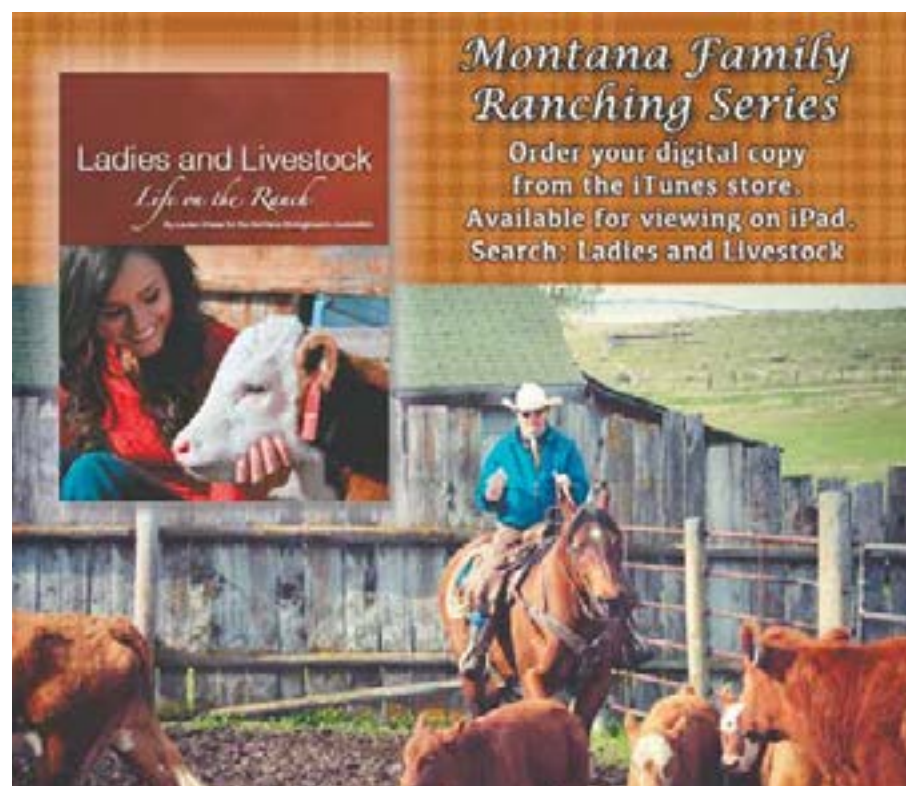
By utilizing the digital technology, “Ladies and Livestock” adds a new dimension to reading a book. Included on nearly 30 of the pages are video features that play with the touch of the finger. These videos show interviews of the ladies speaking on their ranch history, family life and how they feel about being part of Montana’s agriculture.

This book is a multimedia journey through the life of a woman on a Montana ranch. Not only can readers see photographs, but can hear the woman tell her own story and see the emotion on her face as she talks about how important her family

is to her.

The book can be downloaded for \$14.99 in the Apple iBook store by searching title: Ladies and Livestock. Proceeds from the sales of the book contribute to the Montana Stockgrowers Association’s Foundation to help support educational programs and scholarships for youth.

To learn more about this project and the author, visit www.mtbeef.org. You can also follow along with this story-telling project on MSGA’s Facebook, Twitter, Blog, Instagram and Pinterest pages.



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MSU Professor Named American Society of Agronomy Fellow

Submitted by Jennifer Lavey

Perry Miller, Montana State University professor of cropping systems in the College of Agriculture, has been named a fellow in the American Society of Agronomy.

ASA members nominate worthy colleagues based on their professional achievements and meritorious service. Perry will be officially recognized as an ASA fellow during the society's annual meeting in Long Beach, Calif., in November.

Miller, who joined the MSU faculty in 1998, specializes in semiarid crop rotations with emphasis on the role of annual legumes in increasing soil nitrogen availability in no-till farming regimes, particularly dryland wheat systems. He has authored and co-authored 70 peer-reviewed publications and helped mentor 30 grad students.

In addition to his work with MSU and activities with the American Society of Agronomy, Miller is a member of the Canadian Society of Agronomy, as well as the Crop Science Society of America.

Perry Miller
examines a crop
of safflower
at a Montana
State University
research site in
Amsterdam, Mont.
MSU photo by
Kelly Gorham.



U.S. Cattlemen's Association Membership Meeting October 3; In Conjunction With I-BAND Annual Convention

Submitted by Jess Peterson

The United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) will hold its annual directors' and membership meeting in conjunction with the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota's (I-BAND) annual meeting at the Ramada Bismarck Hotel in Bismarck, ND on October 3 and 4.

The two-day, dual event will feature speakers from across the country including USDA Under Secretary Ed Avalos; Mary Kay Thatcher, American Farm Bureau Federation; National Farmers Union; Dr. Susan Keller, North Dakota State Veterinarian and award-winning agriculture journalist Alan Gueberty.

Sessions begin both days at 9:00 a.m. Brian Klippenstein, Executive Director of Protect the Harvest will make a presentation at 1:00 p.m., Friday, October 3. Mr. Klippenstein will be speaking on the animal rights movement in America, led by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), which has evolved into a wealthy and successful attack group determined to end the consumption of meat, threaten

consumer access to affordable food, eliminate hunting, outlaw rodeos and circuses, and even ban animal ownership (including pets) altogether.

Gueberty, a keynote speaker for the event, writes the syndicated agriculture column "The Farm and Food File," which appears weekly in more than 70 newspapers throughout the U.S. and Canada. He is also a contributor to the online publication "Daily Yonder." A social hour will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 4, followed by a banquet.

"You don't have to be a member to attend this two-day event," said Kenny Graner, I-BAND President. "We just want cattle producers to come and enjoy themselves in a fun and festive atmosphere while learning about different issues affecting our businesses."

Hotel reservations must be made by September 19 to receive the special USCA rate. To make reservations call the Ramada Bismarck Hotel at 701/258-7000.

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- Air Compressor
- Floor Jack
- Electric Saws
- 2/4" Socket Sets
- Misc Shop Tools
- Branding Irons
- Bolts, nuts, screws
- Chain Boomers
- Wrenches
- Spud Bars, Screw Jacks
- Many Items too numerous to Mention

HOUSEHOLD

- Oak 4-leaf Table w/6 Chairs
- (2) Couches, 1-sleeper & matching love seat
- (2) Rocking Chairs
- Rocker/Recliner
- Misc Stationary Chairs
- (2) End Tables, Coffee Table
- Small Entertainment Center
- Card Table & Chairs
- Misc Lamps
- Entry Bench w/mirror
- 4-piece Blonde Bedroom Set 2/full length mirror
- 2-piece Bedroom Set, headboard, vanity w/mirror
- Dresser, Vanity w/mirror
- Bedroom Dresser w/drawers & doors
- King-size Bed
- Full Roll-a-way Bed
- Office Cabinet
- Book Shelf
- (2) Upright Freezers
- (2) Chest Freezers
- (2) Refrigerators
- Pressure Cookers
- Lots of Books
- Many Games & Puzzles
- Compost Tumbler
- Many Items too numerous to Mention

ANTIQUES

- Red Wing Crocks, 2-12 gallon, 3, 4 & 8 gallon
- Oak 4-shelf Display Case
- Wood Display Case
- Buffet w/mirror
- Oak Kid Chairs, 1-rocking
- Extendable Wood Table
- Several Iron Framed Beds
- Oval Beveled Mirror
- Rectangular Wood Beveled Mirror
- Dressers, some w/mirrors
- Vanity Dresser w/round mirror
- Full Bed w/wood Headboard
- Small Crib, marbles
- Desks, 1-steel, 1-wood
- Wood Wash Basin Stand
- Pictures & Mirrors
- Many Women's Hats & Boxes
- Singer Sewing Machine
- Minnesota Sewing Machine
- Windsor Royal Stove
- (2) Wood Coal Stoves
- Milk Bottles, Cream Cans
- Many Tea Cups & Saucers
- Many Small Figurines
- Many Vases & Knick Knacks
- Bells, Pitcher w/ Basins
- Many Dishes, Bowls
- Trunks, Lots of Jars, some blue
- Galvanized double Tubs w/stand
- Saddles, 1-Hereford
- Army Box
- Many Items too numerous to mention



AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: The Heirs have decided to liquidate the items of the Estate of the Aitken Trust. There are many, many items & too numerous to be listed. If you are looking for a small acreage with house & buildings, this is the place for you! It's only 5 miles from town! Don't miss this auction! Hope to see you on Saturday & Sunday, October 18 & 19th!!! Rick



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Heavy Rain Impacts 2014 Durum Crop



Dr. Joyce Eckhoff

By Meagan Dotson

According to Joyce Eckhoff, head of the MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center, the 2014 durum crop is expected to produce a high yield but lower quality than previous years. The spring durum, Divide, was the most common variety grown this year and due to heavy moisture in April and May, many crops were planted late, if at all. It was the rain early in the season that contributed to the high yield; however rain on the already mature crop late in the season is to blame for the lower quality. Harvest was also delayed because of the precipitation in August and September.

Durum, which is used to make pasta, is an important crop to the region because it offers variety, giving farmers an option in what they choose to grow. Durum often sells at a higher price than spring wheat which can make it appealing to farmers. Most of the durum produced in the United States is grown in northeastern Montana and northwestern North Dakota, with North Dakota being the top producer.

Eckhoff explains that a few years ago the price of durum was high because of limited global supply, and therefore many farmers opted to plant it. This caused a surplus and ultimately drove the price down. Because of the lower price and the wet spring, fewer crops were planted in 2014. Crops in France and Italy have also suffered because of wet conditions and this could potentially drive the price up.

The outcome remains to be seen as one report predicted that durum that was unaffected by rain would sell in the \$8 to \$9 range. However durum that suffered the effects of the wet weather- lower test weight, discoloration and low falling numbers- would only sell in the \$6 to \$8 range. As of September 17, it was estimated that 29% of durum had been harvested in Montana and 20% in North Dakota.



Visiting Physicians

• October 2014 •

2 - Dr. Mark Noel

- ENT
- Audiology Services

3 - Dr. Ravindra Joshi

- Orthopedist

13 - Dr. Aaron Albers

- Podiatrist

14 - Dr. Erdal Diri

- Rheumatologist

16 - Dr. Mark Noel

- ENT
- Audiology Services

21 - Dr. Emad Dodin

- Interventional Cardiology

27 - Dr. Aaron Albers

- Podiatrist

28 - Dr. Erdal Diri

- Rheumatologist

30 - Pacemaker Check

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Montana REAP's the Benefits as USDA Invests \$68 Million in 540 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects Nationwide

Funding includes loan guarantees and grants for solar energy to create jobs, promote energy independence and advance the use of renewable fuels

By Michael Dann

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on Thursday, September 15, 2014 that USDA is investing in 540 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects nationwide. Montana was awarded five of the grants totaling \$168,000.

"We are very proud to be able to assist Montanans in investing in renewable resources," says USDA Rural Development state director Anthony Preite. "The grants received in Montana averaged more than \$33,000 and that will transfer into thousands more in energy savings."

"These loan guarantees and grants will have far-reaching impacts nationwide, particularly in the rural communities where these projects are located," Vilsack said. "Investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency will continue the unprecedented increase in home-grown energy sources and American energy independence we've seen in recent years. This is creating jobs, providing new economic opportunities and leading the way to a more secure energy future."

The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). REAP was created by the 2008 Farm Bill and was reauthorized by the recently passed 2014 Farm Bill.

The announcement came on the same day as President Obama announced new executive actions to further advance the development of solar technologies across the country. These new investments in solar will reduce America's energy consumption, cut carbon pollution by nearly 300 million metric tons – equivalent to taking more than 60 million cars off the road for a year – and save businesses nearly \$45 billion on their energy bills. The renewed effort to invest in solar energy also includes commitments from a broad coalition of 50 public and private sector partners, including leading industry, community development organizations and housing providers in 28 states. To learn more about this new Obama Administration initiative to increase the use of solar power, visit the White House website.

"USDA is proud to play a key role in Obama Administration's efforts to promote the use of solar technologies," Vilsack said. "Of the REAP projects funded today, 240 projects are for solar investments of \$5.2 million in grants and \$55.3 million in loans."

For example, USDA is awarding a grant of \$44,642 to On Site Management in Bozeman, MT, to put a 49.5 KW rooftop solar array on a business in Belgrade, MT.

Eligible agricultural producers and rural small businesses may use REAP funds to make energy efficiency improvements or install renewable energy systems including solar, wind, renewable biomass (including anaerobic digesters), small hydroelectric, ocean energy, hydrogen, and geothermal.

Preite said, "Further information on the application process for funding future REAP projects will be available in the near future and USDA Rural Development will be aggressively seeking new applicants."

Funding is contingent upon the recipients meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.

Since the start of the Obama Administration, REAP has supported more than 8,800 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects nationwide. During this period, USDA has provided more than \$276 million in grants and \$268 million in loan guarantees to agricultural producers and rural small business owners.

President Obama's historic investments in rural America have made our rural communities stronger. Under his leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way – strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities.

For more information on the REAP program and other programs offered by USDA Rural Development Montana, call (406) 585-2540 or logon to www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt.

MT Stockgrowers Seeks Nominations for Ranching Woman of the Year

Submitted by Ryan Goodman

The Montana Stockgrowers Association is seeking nominations for the 2014 Montana Ranching Woman of the Year. The annual award is presented to an MSGA member who has made great contributions to the Montana ranching community and has gone above and beyond to support their family and friends. Nominations are due November 1 and the recipient will be recognized at MSGA's annual convention in Billings, December 11-13.

"Women are often the backbone of Montana's ranching communities. These women often go above and beyond to support their immediate family members and pitch in whenever the need arises in their communities," said Tucker Hughes, MSGA President from Stanford. "We look forward to recognizing these accomplished women each year at our annual convention and thanking them for their hard work."

Last year's recipient of the Ranching Woman of the Year was Glenna Stucky, who ranches with her husband, Earl, near Avon. Along with raising their family, Glenna has been heavily involved in local 4-H programs, CattleWomen's activities and several community events. Family friends Ed and Bev Fryer describe Glenna as "just one of those people that when you meet them, you know that they are very

happy and successful being a Ranch Woman."

Past recipients of the award include Floydena Garrison of Glen, Helen Hougen of Melstone, Marian Hanson of Ashland, Carol Mosher of Augusta, Donna Sitz-Arthur of Billings, and Holley Smith of Glen.

Nomination letters submitted by family or close friends should identify a ranching woman, who is a member of Montana Stockgrowers, describe her role on the ranch, and the characteristics that set her apart when supporting the family and ranch, as well as describe her involvement in community efforts. Biographies should include the ranching woman's hometown, family members, and number of years involved in ranching activities.

Along with the nomination biography, submissions should include photos depicting the ranching woman's family, ranch and community involvement.

Nominations should be submitted to the Montana Stockgrowers office by November 1, 2014 via mail (420 N. California, Helena, MT 59601) or email (lorrie@mtbeef.org). For more information contact the MSGA office at (406) 442-3420 or visit mtbeef.org.

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"Make It With Sugar" Registration Blank

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Categories: (Check all that apply)

☐ Cake ☐ Cookies ☐ Pies ☐ Candy ☐ Breads & Rolls ☐ Other

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Deming 2 Time Lamb Champ

By Meagan Dotson

At 12 years old, Becca Deming shows a work ethic and sense of responsibility beyond her years. At this year's Richland County Fair she won Grand Champion Market Lamb for the second year in a row along with Grand Champion Breeder Lamb, Grand Champion Junior Lamb Showman and Grand Champion Junior Over-all Showman. This year Deming was up against approximately 17 other market lambs and plans on attending the Northern International Livestock Expo (NILE) held in Billings MT in October which is a much larger competition.

Deming explains that judges look specifically at the loin, butt, and hind saddle areas on a market lamb. If these areas are too small it means the lamb is not ready for market, however if these areas are too big the lamb is over-finished. She speaks with knowledge and certainty as she explains what she's learned over the past four years in the Richland Rascals 4H Club.

"I give all my credit to Caitlin Klaboe and Kevin Frasier, a family friend and Ag teacher in Oklahoma," Deming says.

Klaboe Livestock out of Miles City, MT is where the Demings have gotten all of their lambs.

"The knowledge she (Caitlin Klaboe) gives to the children is worth more than the lambs are," says Kelly Deming, Becca Deming's mom.

Becca Deming explains that the work that goes into raising a lamb begins long before the animal is ever brought home. Having the proper space and equipment is just the beginning. A lamb stand is needed to get the lambs ready for the show which is called "fitting". In late March or early April the family makes the trip to Miles City where a lamb is picked out and brought home. Once home the lamb is given a few days to settle in. Feedings are morning and night and must be monitored to safeguard against choking and it is a rule in the Deming household that animals are fed before people as people have access to the fridge and the pantry and the animals don't.

Humanizing the lambs is time spent talking to them, rubbing them and just letting them get used to people. They must be walked on a halter and as they get older and stronger they are run behind a 4 wheeler at a jogging pace to build their leg muscles. Both training them to walk on a halter and humanizing them are essential to showing them in competitions.

"My favorite part is getting to show the lambs. Getting a lamb is like getting a puppy and selling them is like losing your dog," admits Becca Deming.

However she understands that it is all part of the process and this year James, one of her two lambs, has been bought by Border Steel, who agreed to let her keep James until after NILE in October. Both animals will be entered, James as a heavy weight market lamb.

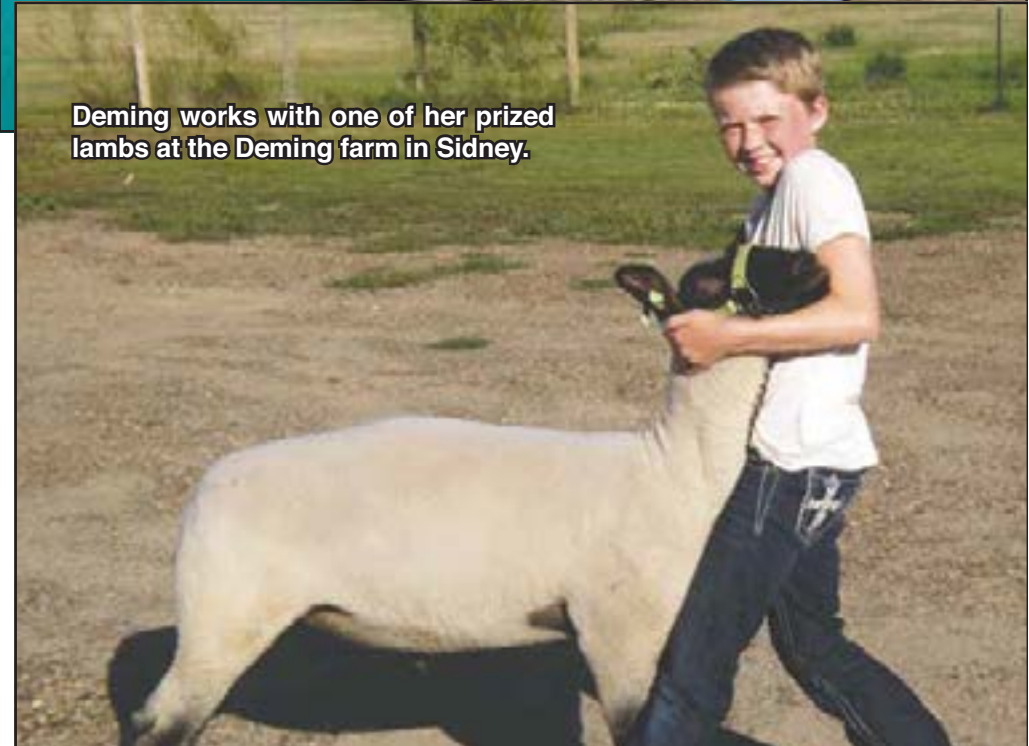
The Demings opened up their property to in-town families that wouldn't be able to participate in 4H otherwise. They keep the animals of three to four other families and get to witness the dedication of the kids who faithfully show up to care for and work with their 4H animals.

"The kids are self-sufficient when it comes to the animals and it's been a great opportunity. They have learned responsibility with adult supervision," notes Kelly Deming.

Becca Deming also showed hogs, beef, her dog Roxie, and has shown horses in the past. She may get the chance to show her beef nationally and is one of only three kids in Richland County who led their own steers to weigh-ins, a testament to her commitment. In 2013 she won Grand Champion Market Lamb, Reserve Feeder Lamb and Grand Peewee Showman. The Demings would like to especially thank Restorx for purchasing her 2013 lamb shown at the NILE competition in 2013; their support for her expanding as a showman has been greatly appreciated. While she admits it takes time and things don't always go your way, she adds that it's been a lot of fun because she has friends around working just as hard and having just as much fun. Friendships have been a big part of her 4H experience this year and she is looking forward to another year of raising and showing animals.



Bret Smelser of Border Steel & Recycling, Sidney, purchased Becca Deming's Grand Champion Market Lambs the past 2 years. Smelser bought him premium, he doesn't get him after the NILE



Deming works with one of her prized lambs at the Deming farm in Sidney.

A Steak in Ag

A Monthly Report

by R-CALF USA

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

Groups Pleased With Appeal Court's Affirmation of COOL

Recently, eleven judges at the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (Appeals Court) denied the request by the American Meat Institute, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and other meatpacker lobby groups for an injunction that would have halted enforcement of the U.S. country-of-origin labeling (COOL) law.

The appeals court flatly rejected the meatpacker lobby's assertion that the only purpose for COOL was to satisfy consumers' 'idle curiosity.' To the contrary, it found that COOL information "has an historical pedigree" and listed many other statutes that require COOL information on various products including the Tariff Acts of 1890 and 1930, the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939, the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act, and the American Automobile Labeling Act.

Groups Urge Ag Secretary to Enforce Beef Checkoff Program's Prohibition Against Conflicts of Interest; Urge Other Reforms

Thirty-six organizations recently sent a joint letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urging him to immediately implement their recommendations for eliminating the conflicts of interest from the Beef Checkoff Program.

For over four years, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) ignored the Secretary's direct warning about the need for checkoff integrity, which would include, for example, the independence of the Federation of State Beef Councils (Federation). During that entire time the Secretary waited while industry groups self-selected participants to work harmoniously with the NCBA to develop a plan for reforming the Beef Checkoff Program so it would operate as the law intended and so the interests of all producers and importers are supported, not just the interests of NCBA members.

In early August, the self-selected participants of the working group proposed changes that would double the beef checkoff assessment and make certain procedural modifications to the program. The 36 groups found the working group's proposal unacceptable and offered an entirely new proposal. Their joint letter states that the two most offensive and glaring conflicts of interest in the Beef Checkoff Program are that the decision-making Federation is "housed, administered, owned and controlled" by the NCBA and that checkoff funds strengthen the NCBA's advocacy efforts because they offset, "if not directly subsidize," the NCBA's administrative costs. The letter refers to this offset as cross-subsidization.

The joint letter urges Vilsack to:

Enforce the prohibition against conflicts of interest in contracting and all other decision-making operations of the Beef Checkoff Program

Enforce a prohibition against contracting with organizations that engage in policy-oriented activities.

Require a legally independent Federation, without affiliation to NCBA or any other private entity.

"The Beef Checkoff Program was never intended as a vehicle to strengthen the political voice of NCBA or any other policy organization above the voices of any other organization or above the collective voice of the producers funding the program," the joint letter states.

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