

# 2011 Pest Management Tour On Tap Oct 3-7

#### By Lois Kerr

The Montana State University Pesticide Education and Integrated Pest Management Programs will offer a 2011 Pest Management Tour for private, commercial, and government applicators in eastern Montana. The tour will cover a ten-county area over a five-day time period, Oct. 3-7. The information provided will include a variety of topics, and participants who attend the full day will receive six credits towards certification.

"The 2011 Pest Management Tour will cover many subject areas of local interest, including urban/horticultural pests, cropland weeds, pesticide safety, plant pathology, recordkeeping, agricultural pesticide storage and security, and the impact of pesticides in the environment," says Cecil Tharp, MSU pesticide education specialist. "MSU representatives speaking at the tour include Fabian Menalled, MSU cropland weed specialist; Mary Burrows, MSU plant pathologist; Rande Roth, MDA agricultural officer; Diana DeYoung, MDA agricultural officer, Michaela Hystad, MDA agricultural officer, and me."

Private applicators can choose to attend either the morning or afternoon sessions to earn a total of three credits, or to attend the whole day, which will gain them six credits towards certification. Commercial and government applicators also are welcome to attend." The Pest Management Tour will be offering government/commercial recertification credits in the categories of Dealer, Demonstration and Research, Agricultural Plant Pest Control, Right of Way, and Special Utility Pest and Regulatory Weed Pest Control," says Tharp.

Organizers planned this tour to specifically reach areas in Montana whose applicators need recertification credits. "This tour is designed to target regions in Montana that are in the final year of the private recertification cycle," Tharp comments. "Private applicator licenses in Region 4 will expire on Jan. 1, 2012. Applicators within this region must attain six private applicator credits to re-quality into the next recertification cycle. Region 4 includes Roosevelt, Daniels, Valley, Philips, Garfield, McCone, Dawson, Wibaux, Fallon, Carter and Custer counties."

The tour will cover ten counties over a five-day period. The tour begins on Oct. 3 and will cover Daniels and Roosevelt counties. One session will be held at the Froid Community Center and the other at the Nemont Friendship Room, Scobey. People may contact Ann Ronning at 406-787-5312 for information on the Froid meeting, and contact Nicole Winkler, 406-487-2861 for further information on the Scobey session.



Insect pests can ravage crops and gardens leaving just bare stalks of what once was a healthy plant. A segment of the pest management tour will deal with garden and horticultural pests.

The tour moves to Valley and Phillips counties on Oct. 4, with one session held at the Cottonwood Inn, Glasgow, and the other session scheduled at the Great Northern Hotel, Malta. People may contact Shelley Mills at 406-228-6241for further information on the Glasgow session and Marko Manoukian at 406-654-2543 for more information on the session scheduled for Malta.

On Oct. 5, the tour moves to Garfield and McCone counties. One session will be held at the McCone County Fairgrounds, Circle, and the other at VFW Hall, Jordan. People may contact Ken Nelson at 406-485-2605 for more information on the Circle tour, and Eric Miller at 406-557-2770 for information on the session scheduled for Jordan.

Oct. 6 sees the tour move to Custer County and Fallon/Carter counties. One session will be held at the Eagles Club, Miles City, and the other will be held at The Garage, Baker. Contact Christina McRae 406-874-3370 for information on the session scheduled for Miles City or Elin Westover at 406-778-3431 for information on the Baker tour.

The tour winds up on Oct. 7 at Dawson and Wibaux counties. No location had been set for these sessions at press time, but interested people can contact Bruce Smith, 406-377-4277 for information on the session scheduled for Glendive and Dave Bertelsen at 406-796-2486 for further information on the Wibaux session.

Interested people can also see a detailed program agenda at www.pesticides.montana.edu. People also may visit with local extension agents for further information on location and pre-registration.

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### **Prairie Fare**

# Onions Offer More Than Flavor

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

"No onions on my sandwich, please." my eight-yearold daughter said. I was chopping onions and other vegetables as I assembled panini sandwiches to cook on our electric sandwich grill.

"How about just a little onion for flavor?" I asked.

"Remember the customer is always right, and this customer doesn't like onions!" she exclaimed. My little "customer" has eaten more finely minced onions without knowing it than she could ever imagine.

"Well, I don't allow barefoot customers in my kitchen when I create my special sandwiches," I noted. I was trying to throw her off my culinary trail.

She walked around the side of our cupboard. She pointed at my bare feet, shook her head and grinned at me. I guess I had to follow the rules, too. Obviously, fine mincing wasn't going to work under my daughter's watchful eye.

"Okay, no onions on your sandwich today," I said.

Onions are the third most popular vegetable in the U.S. On average, every person in the U.S. eats about 20 pounds of onions annually. Onions are widely used in salsa, soup, sandwiches, salads, main dishes and appetizers such as onion rings and onion blossoms.

Available in white, yellow and red varieties, onions provide a lot more than flavor. A cup of chopped onion adds just 64 calories to your recipe, along with nearly 3 grams of fiber, plus vitamin C, folate (a B vitamin) and several minerals.

Onions contain some health-promoting antioxidant compounds that are being studied for their role in fighting heart disease, cancer and even osteoporosis and ulcers. "Quercetin" is among the natural antioxidants abundant in onions.

Despite their culinary popularity, onions have a reputation for causing bad breath and crying, not necessarily in that order.

As for the breath issue, you can visit with people who also have been eating onions, or you can try some other remedies. Drinking lemonade, rinsing your mouth with lemon water or chewing on some parsley, a natural breath freshener, have been noted as helpful in reducing halitosis. Or grab your toothbrush and some minty toothpaste and find a sink.

Known for their tendency to promote weeping, onions contain sulfur compounds that might irritate our eyes. To lessen this tendency, the National Onion Association suggests chilling the onions for about 30 minutes before peeling and cutting. Because much of the sulfur compounds are concentrated in the root end of the onion, start by cutting the onion from the tip, and cut the root end last.

Are you ready to try a new onion recipe? If you did some advance planning last spring, your onions are ready for harvesting about now.

When selecting onions at the grocery store, look for firm bulbs without cuts or bruises. For the best flavor, clean and cut the onions as close as you can to their actual use in your recipes because the aroma tends to increase while the flavor decreases after cutting. However, you can safely store chopped onion in a sealed container in your refrigerator for a week.

As we wind down the outdoor grilling season in the Midwest, try this flavorful grilled onion recipe from the National Onion Association. Check out other onion recipes at http://onions-usa.org/.

Herb-buttered Grilled Onion Bloom

1 yellow onion (2 1/2 inches in diameter)\*

1 1/2 tsp. butter

1/2 tsp. dried oregano or thyme

1/4 tsp. dried rosemary, crumbled

Salt, pepper (optional)

Cut 1/2 inch off the top of the onion, then peel the outer layer and discard.

Cut the onion into about 12 vertical wedges, leaving the root base intact. Set the onion on a 12- by 10-inch foil sheet. Top the onion with butter and spices.

Add salt and pepper if desired. Wrap foil around the onion, pinching edges together tightly. Place foil package on a rack over medium heat in a barbecue grill and grill for 25 to 30 minutes or until juicy and tender.

\* If you use a larger onion, adjust the recipe accordingly.

Makes two servings. Each serving has 50 calories, 3 grams (g) of fat, 1 g of protein, 6 g of carbohydrate, 1 g of fiber and 0 milligrams of sodium.

(Julie Garden-Robinson, Ph.D., R.D., L.R.D., is a North Dakota State University Extension Service food and nutrition specialist and associate professor in the Department of Health, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences.)

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# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Beef Cattle & Forage Grazing Workshop To Be Held Sept. 13 In Dickinson

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Beef Cattle and Forage Grazing Workshop will be held Tuesday, Sept. 13 at the Dickinson Research Extension Center Ranch headquarters southwest of Manning, according to program coordinator Doug Landblom. The program will run from 1-5 p.m.

One highlight on the program will be a discussion on alternatives to current high grain prices. "High grain prices are great if you are producing grain but if you are on the other side of the coin there is a crunch," Landblom said. "One of the things that we want to do is take a look at forage grazing methods and opportunities; that is profit from grazing."

Beef producer Myron Lick, Ruso, ND, will present information on grass finishing and direct marketing. NDSU range specialist Kevin Sedivec will present information on high stocking density and rapid rotations. Landblom will talk about long fed yearling research at the Center. Our goal is to use forage sequencing of perennial and annual forages to reduce the number of

days to finish steers in the feedlot.

A representative from the feedlot industry has been invited to discuss finishing yearling steers that have been grown on forages for an extended period of time.

Kris Ringwall and Carl Dahlen, NDSU extension beef specialists, will present information on animal frame size and efficiency.

The Beef Cattle and Forage Grazing Workshop will include actual field demonstrations for attendees.

In addition to the Beef Cattle and Forage Grazing Workshop on Sept. 13, agricultural producers are invited to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cover Crop Workshop, sponsored by the Southwest North Dakota Soil Health Demonstration scheduled Wednesday, Sept. 21, at the plot demonstration site 22 miles north of Dickinson along North Dakota Highway 22. The Cover Crop Workshop begins at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the Dickinson Research Extension Center at 701-483-2348 or 701-225-3811 ext. 3.

# "Understanding Northern Feed Ingredients" Short Course Is Oct. 25-27

Learn from experts how to manufacture livestock feeds that take advantage of combinations of regional legumes, pulses, grains, oilseeds and co-products. The "Understanding Northern Feed Ingredients" short course will be Oct. 25-27 at the Northern Crops Institute, Fargo, ND.

Regionally recognized nutrition faculty will discuss the use of combinatorial feeds in livestock diets. The staff at NCI's Feed Production Center will demonstrate the production of these feeds and provide for handson training opportunities. See first-hand how to manufacture combinatorial feeds and capture their value through increased livestock performance. Gain a clearer understanding of how combinations of ingredients can increase nutrient density and then, take ad-

vantage of that increase in livestock production.

The course is intended for feed manufacturers, livestock producers and nutritionists.

Course topics will include: nutrition review; proteins and lipids; combinatorial feeds in livestock production; review of the pelleting process, including steam quality and die design; and hands-on pellet production.

Enroll early. All courses are contingent upon sufficient enrollment numbers. Special rates are available to groups of three or more from the same company.

For more information and to register, visit www.northern-crops.com and follow the educational courses link or you may call 701-231-7736 or email nci@ndsu.edu.

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# Harvesting Good Health For Farming Families

### By Jaimee Green Northeast Montana Health Services

With reality television shows on the rise, viewers can see what it's like to ride the high seas as crab fisherman, build some of the tallest superstructures, haul in a 600-lb. swordfish and even catch a glimpse of some of the world's dirtiest jobs. Yet, major networks aren't airing any reality show about the perils faced by the American farmer each seeding and harvest season. Perhaps they should.

Farming is one of the most hazardous industries from a health perspective; leaving farmers at risk for work related lung disease, back injury, skin diseases and certain cancers associated with chemical use and prolonged sun exposure.

Farming is also one of the few industries that can affect an entire family because typically, everyone is involved.

Farmers who have experienced back pain know the difficulty it can bring with making even the slightest movements. Farmers are more susceptible to back injury because they often find themselves in precarious positions that put strain on the lower back including when operating heavy equipment, lifting heavy objects and repetitive motion. Injuries can be caused by sudden movements or continued use over a prolonged amount of time.

Back pain and injury are caused by many factors including stretched muscles, torn ligaments and ruptured disks.

Farmers who are overweight, smoke, don't lift objects properly, have poor posture and don't exercise regularly may be prone to back pain and problems. Some factors that might make you more susceptible to back pain include simply getting older, having a family with a history of back pain, a job with an emphasis on manual physical labor or sitting for long periods of time.

Most minor injuries should result in pain that lasts for less than a month. During that time you should avoid heavy lifting but try to continue with your normal activities.

Many times temporary back pain will go away on its own. However, if you experience numbness, tingling or loss of control of your arms and legs you may have a spinal cord injury. If the pain in your neck extends down the back of your leg you may be suffering from sciatica. If pain increases when you cough or bend for-

ward at the waist you may have a herniated disk. Fever accompanied by burning during urination could indicate you have a urinary tract infection. If you experience a dull pain in one area of your spine when lying down or getting out of bed and you are over the age of 50, you may be suffering osteoarthritis.

Back exercises can help prevent pain including strengthening exercises and stretches to relieve pain in the short term while helping get your body conditioned to resist future injuries.

Tips for Prevention

Use proper lifting techniques

Maintain good posture by stepping forward with the entire body instead of reaching out for objects and keep your feet a shoulders width apart when standing.

Stretch

Decrease constant vibrations by installing better seats and cushions in tractors

Use machines to do the heavy lifting

Use tables at waist level to avoid excessive bending

Work with tools close to the body

Rotate work so one person isn't always doing the same thing

Change position often

Eat right, exercise, avoid alcohol and tobacco Proper Lifting:

Survey the situation before lifting

If it's too heavy, get help

Get close to the object, use a wide balanced stance, grasp firmly, bend at the knees while contracting the abdominal muscles

Lift slowly using knees and leg muscles Pivot with your feet instead of twisting your back Use same techniques for putting object down

# September Puzzle Answers

Keyword: stalemate

Crypto-list: puddle, fjord, swamp, cascade, fountain, rivulet, aqueduct, reservoir, whirlpool



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# Trent Loos To Be 2012 MonDak Ag Days Entertainment

By Lois Kerr

The MonDak Ag Days Committee is pleased to announce that Trent Loos, passionate advocate for agriculture, will serve as the Thursday night, Jan. 12 after-dinner speaker at the 2012 MonDak Ag Days banquet to be held at the Richland



**Trent Loos** 

County Fair Event Center. Loos, a 6<sup>th</sup> generation rancher, began speaking out on behalf of agriculture in 2000 and uses radio, publications, the Internet and public speaking engagements as tools to get the positive message and the truth out about agriculture and food production today. For his topic of discussion at the MonDak Ag Days, Loos will focus on food production issues and will speak following the Ag Days banquet. "There are so many misconceptions that exist about food production," he remarks. "I will lay out a clear path on how to overcome this."

He continues, "There is a disconnect between food production and consumers and this is how myths begin. People no longer know where their food comes from and what goes on in food production, so they can't separate fact from fiction."

Although agriculture represents such a tiny portion of the population, we in agriculture still can have a voice and get our message out to the public. Loos believes all of us can make a huge difference in our own individual ways when it comes to promoting agriculture. "We are a small percentage of the population but we can do something," he admonishes. "Each person one day at a time can tell the real story, and we can make a difference as individuals. Only a third of

the population of the original 13 colonies was in favor of the revolution, but look what happened there."

Loos began his quest over a decade ago to set the record straight about agriculture. The catalyst for his decision to promote agriculture arrived in the form of an animal

rights activist. Loos attended a talk given by this man, a talk riddled with untruths and inaccuracies, and he realized that people needed to counter these myths with the truth. "I used to complain like everyone else that the boy in the grocery store had no idea where his milk came from, but that's all I did, complain," Loos says. "I then went to a talk given by an animal rights person and it dawned on me that this guy was telling lies and that people believed him. I took it upon myself to tell the truth about agriculture and to make a difference."

Loos initially began his quest to educate the public by walking into a radio station in South Dakota and telling the manager he was a 6th generation rancher and he wanted his own radio show to talk about agriculture. That simple step launched his agricultural advocacy and mushroomed into over 100 radio stations airing his shows, Loos writing newspaper articles, using the Internet to get his message out, and accepting speaking engagements. "I walked into the radio station at Spearfish, SD, and told Jim Thompson I wanted my own radio show. He initially laughed at me but he became my men-

tor and taught me the ropes," Loos comments. "I first aired on KMZU Radio in Carrolton, MO, in January 2001. I now do five radio shows every day with over 100 stations across the nation carrying the shows. I write a column for the High Plains Journal and I travel to over 35 states each year to speak."

Loos also travels internationally as he has given talks in Canada and Australia. "This is a global phenomenon," he comments about the disconnect regarding agriculture. "I try to educate and motivate my audience on issues related to animal agriculture and food production."

Loos feels the biggest issue facing agriculture today is complacency, an issue we can and must address. "There is a disconnect and we have to do more than just complain about it," he says. "My uncle used to tell me to stay home, work hard, and things would take care of themselves. That just isn't true, that's not the way it is."

He concludes, "Food production is a means of national security. A country that can't feed itself is vulnerable, and I intend to see that this doesn't happen to us."

Loos will give a very interesting, intriguing talk. Plan to attend the Ag Days banquet and listen to Loos present his ideas for educating the public about agriculture today.



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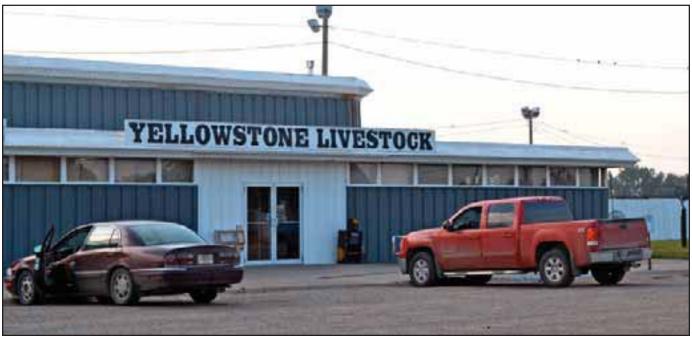
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# Yellowstone Livestock Company Offers Video Auction Sales



Yellowstone Livestock Company, Sidney, MT.

#### By Lois Kerr

Under the new management of C.J. Johnsrud, Yellowstone Livestock Company continues to work tirelessly to provide top notch service and protection for its customers. Johnsrud, who assumed responsibilities of manager in June of this year, believes his knowledge of the value of cattle enables Yellowstone Livestock Company to get the best price for cattlemen. "Knowing what an animal is worth is key to managing the market and providing protection for customers," he remarks. "Management needs to know what cattle are worth so we can protect the market, make sure the animals are sold for their full value and that both buyers and sellers are happy."

Not only does Yellowstone Livestock Company offer weekly live auctions, held every Wednesday at the Yellowstone Livestock sale barn, but last month management introduced a new tool to better serve customers. On Aug. 3, Yellowstone Livestock Company held its first ever video sale, and Johnsrud says it was a huge success. "By doing this video sale we were able to capture consigners we otherwise would never have had, and to capture buyers from all over the U.S. we otherwise would not have had," he comments. "The sale was a success. Our competitors had video sales prior, during and after our sale, and our prices were as good if not better. We had a strong buyer base plus we were roughly half the cost of our competitors for this video sale. Also, there is no fee involved if there is no sale."

To prepare for a video sale, Yellowstone Livestock Com-

pany meets with customers, videos the cattle, writes down and compiles information on each animal, creates a sale catalogue, and then sends DVDs to cattle buyers. The day of the sale, Yellowstone Livestock puts the video on its TV and begins the sale. "We take bids by phone and via the Internet," Johnsrud comments. "We had buyers from lowa, Colorado and Washington for this sale, as well as local buyers."

He adds, "The whole point is that more people have the opportunity to view the cattle. This video sale was a success and it is just one more tool we offer to better serve our clientele."

Yellowstone Livestock Company sold 1842 head of cattle from North Dakota and Montana at this sale, and have the ability to sell more than this at future sales.

Yellowstone Livestock Company will offer monthly video sales from now until spring. People can contact the company at 482-3513 for more information, with any questions they may have, or to consign cattle.

Johnsrud emphasizes that although a success, video sales are only one of the services offered by the company. "Basically we have the ability to offer a sale barn, we have video, we contract cattle, and we are representatives for Superior Livestock," Johnsrud says. "We believe that we can market livestock in any way, shape or form and do a good job. After all, if we aren't as good as the competitors, then we are pointless. Therefore we strive to offer superior service and to top the market in cattle."

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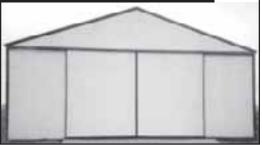


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# "Take A Break"

#### By Lois Kerr

#### LOOP-A-WORD Ice Cream

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

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brownie mint (rum) raisin tutti frutti cone bubblegum confetti mocha scoop vanilla butter(scotch) dish moose tracks shake candy (cane) flavor more sherbet caramel float neopolitan sundae caribou frappe oreo tasty cheesecake frozen tiger (tiger) peach chocolate fudge peanut butter tin roof coconut lime toffee pecan coffee marble praline topping cold melt rocky road treat

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

# 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

5. L \_\_ D G E

#### **CRYPTO-LIST**

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

Sources of moisture ex: stream

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See answers on page 8.

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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Robert & Mema have sold their farm and will be offering their full line of equipment at auction. This farm has been in the family for 90 years. Most of the farm machinery has been shedded and is field ready Bring the family as there is something for everyone at this sale. See you on October 8th | Rick



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# Focus On Farm Safety

#### By Lois Kerr

Agricultural injury jumped 15% in 2010. Those in agriculture typically suffer more injuries than most other professions simply because of the nature of the job. Farmers and ranchers handle pesticides and herbicides which can prove toxic if not handled correctly. Moving parts on equipment invite accidents, ATVs kill inexperienced drivers, unskilled drivers can overturn tractors or other large equipment, and dragging implements and negotiating turns can cause difficulties. People get kicked by livestock or suffer falls from horses, they overexert themselves or fall off bins or roofs. Combine this with slips and falls, strains, sprains and bruises, and one can understand why those in agriculture have a higher injury rate than other professions. Unfortunately as well, farm accidents usually happen a long way from the nearest health providers, making it vital that those who work in agriculture have at least a basic knowledge of first aid.

The Richland County Health Department has hired Mary Friesz as its new Injury Prevention Specialist/DUI Task Force



# By Mary Friesz Injury Prevention Specialist Richland County Health Department

A Farm Safety Workshop will be offered on Sept. 29 at 9 a.m. at the Community Service Building – Room 202.

Richland County Health Department's Injury Prevention Coalition obtained a grant from Farm Safety 4 Kids to help educate leaders in the agricultural area of our community. The grant will also allow the Richland County Injury Prevention Coalition to supply printed literature for both adults and children on Farm Safety. Unintentional Injuries are the third leading cause of death in Richland County and number one in the state of Montana, Farm Safety is just one area that the coalition is focusing on.

The workshop will present information on: Farm Safety of Children, Tractor & Implement Safety, Rural Road Safety, Livestock Safety and Chemical/Grain Safety. The coalition's goal is to give not only information but tools to leaders in hopes that they would share their acquired knowledge with the community.

Presenters include Sunrise Equipment, Sheriff's Department, MSU Extension Office and RCHD. The coalition would also like to thank Blue Rock Bottling Company and Reese & Ray's IGA for the lunch.

If you have any questions or would like to attend the workshop please contact Mary Friesz at the Richland County Health Department 433-2207 or mfriesz@richland.org.

coordinator. Her responsibilities include informing and educating the public on safety issues of all sorts, and she intends to include farm safety issues as part of her job responsibilities. "My focus will be in unintentional injury prevention and working with drinking age public to educate them on drinking and driving," says Friesz. "Both safety and drinking and driving are vital to Richland County. Unintentional injury is the number 1 leading cause of death in Montana and it is the third leading cause of death in Richland County. As far as DUI is concerned, this area has one of the highest levels of blood alcohol when people are arrested for DUI. My goal is to teach people how to drink responsibly and to practice responsible alcohol consumption. I work with those who are of legal age for drinking to help everyone be safe so no one suffers."

Friesz defines unintentional injury as any injury that causes bodily harm. This includes farm, work, home, vehicle and biking accidents. There is so much we have to focus on, and all of it is preventable," she remarks. "Farm safety is an important issue."

Friesz will offer a farm safety workshop on Sept. 29 starting at 9 a.m. at the Community Service Building Room 202, Sidney. The workshop will include information on farm safety for children, tractor and implement safety, rural road safety, livestock safety and the proper handling of chemicals.

Friez also plans to publish information in local newspapers on a regular basis dealing with a variety of safety issues, including farm safety, and she expects to offer workshops and training sessions on important safety issues. "We want to touch on everything and to reach all segments of the population," she comments. "The whole point is that we want to see the community safe. I've been here for eighteen months now and this is my home and my future, and I want to make a difference in this community."

Friesz invites input, assistance and feedback from the public. She also encourages people to contact her with questions or to discuss safety issues. "I am open to the public for resources and information," Friesz says. "We are available for everyone, and I welcome visitors. People can contact me to request training or for information. As we see a need for special training, we will try to offer workshops dealing with that issue."

Friesz has office hours from Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. People may call her at the Richland County Health Department (406-433-2207) or contact her via email at mfriesz@richland.org. She also encourages people to check out the web site at www.richland.org/health.

"Anyone with questions or ideas can stop in or email me," she comments. "To succeed, we need team players and partners, and we need to work with all available resources because we are here to protect and educate the public."

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# What Counts Is The Water That Actually Enters Plant Roots

By Don Comis

To help farmers make the best use of limited irrigation water in the arid West, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) researchers are helping farmers determine how much water major crops actually need.

Tom Trout, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Water Management Research Unit (WMRU) research leader, Fort Collins, CO, and his colleagues are measuring crop wateruse efficiency not by the traditional measure of crop yield per drop of irrigation water applied, but instead yield per drop of water actually taken in by the crop.

ARS is USDA's chief intramural scientific research agency, and the research supports USDA's commitment to agricultural sustainability.

Trout is in the fourth year of a study to determine how much water the four crops common to the High Plains region-corn, wheat, sunflower, and pinto beansactually use.

Regenesis Management Group, LLC, Denver, CO, has signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with ARS to create monitoring instruments and software for a web-based application being designed by the company, known as SWIIM<sup>TM</sup>, or Sustainable Water and Innovative Irrigation Management<sup>TM</sup>. Contributions to SWIIM<sup>TM</sup> are also provided through a research and development agreement with Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

Trout and his colleagues designed the study to find out if limited irrigation is best for farmers for each of these crops and to help with irrigation timing, amounts, and other options. The four crops are being grown with six levels of irrigation, from full irrigation down to only 40% of full.

In the first three years of the study, each acre of land produced about 10 bushels of corn for each inch depth of water consumed, or one pound of corn for each 60 gallons of water.

These results will help farmers in this region decide whether to put all their irrigation water into producing corn, or to reduce either their irrigation levels or the amount of land they plant, and sell or lease water rights on the rest.

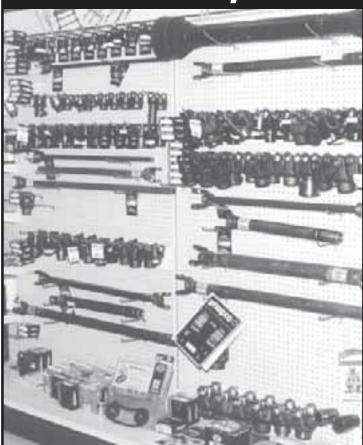
These results are preliminary and may vary with different timing of water applications or newly developed varieties.

The scientists plan to extend the results over a wide range of conditions throughout the central high plains.

Read more about this research in the August 2011 issue of Agricultural Research magazine.

Trout published findings from this research in the trade journal Colorado Water as well as in abstracts for professional meetings, most recently at the annual Universities Council on Water Resources/National Institutes for Water Resources conference in Boulder, CO.

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# **Take Steps To Prevent Rabies**

North Dakota State University's Extension Service veterinarian urges people to protect themselves and their animals against rabies.

Rabies is a fatal viral infection that kills an estimated 35,000-50,000 people and millions of animals around the world each year, according to NDSU Extension veterinarian Charlie Stoltenow.

The most common way to get rabies is from a bite of an animal with the disease. Infection through fresh wounds or mucous membranes is less likely but possible, Stoltenow says.

Recently, a bat with rabies was reported in Minnesota. The woman who was bitten was not going to submit it for testing until her son told her to do so.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says people can't tell if a bat has rabies just by looking at it. Rabies only can be confirmed in a laboratory.

However, any bat that is active by day or is found in a place where bats usually are not seen, such as in a home or on a lawn, might be rabid. A bat that is unable to fly and can be approached easily could be sick.

Here are some prevention tips:

- \* Avoid contact with bats, skunks or raccoons.
- \* Make sure dogs, cats, ferrets, horses and high-value or frequently handled livestock have current rabies vaccinations.
- \* Do not perform oral exams on animals that appear to have difficulty chewing or swallowing, exhibit any type of oral or facial paralysis or show excessive salivation. Veterinarians should use extreme caution when doing oral exams on such animals.
- \* Contact local animal control authorities about animals you suspect have rabies.

Behavioral changes and unexplained paralysis are two indications of rabies. Other warning signs are anorexia, apprehension, nervousness, irritability, hyperactivity, isolation, lack of coordination, altered vocalization, changes in temperament and uncharacteristic aggressiveness.

Rabies exists in two forms: furious and dumb. Animals with the furious type are irrational and will attack other animals, people or moving objects at the slightest provocation or noise. They assume an alert position and expression with dilated pupils and may chew or swallow foreign objects. Lack of muscular coordination, paralysis and death follow.

Symptoms of dumb rabies include paralysis of the throat and jaw muscles, profuse salivation and difficulty swallowing. Animals may drop their jaws. Death eventually follows.

The rabies virus may be in saliva for three to five days in domestic dogs and cats and up to eight days in skunks before the animals show clinical signs that they have the disease, according to Stoltenow. Also, signs of the disease generally take 14 to 90 days to show up in the victim of a rabid animal bite, although research shows the disease's

incubation period can be as short as nine days and as long as seven years.

"The variability is due to a variety of factors, such as the location of the wound, severity of the wound, distance from the brain, and amount and strain of the virus introduced," he says.

Once transmitted by a bite, the virus stays at the bite site for a considerable amount of time. It replicates in muscle cells and travels along nerves to the spinal cord and brain, and then to the salivary glands.

The rabies virus will not survive outside a mammalian host in the environment for an extended period, and is killed easily by soap and water, and common disinfectants.

Initial human symptoms include apprehension, excitability, headache, fever, malaise and sensory changes at the bite site. As the disease progresses, victims suffer from paralysis, difficulty swallowing, delirium and convulsions. Eventually they go into a coma and die, usually from respiratory failure.

People who suspect they've been exposed to rabies should contact their doctor immediately, Stoltenow says. A rabies post-exposure prophylaxis series is available for people who have been exposed to the disease, but the cost can exceed \$5,000 per person.



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The Sidney Sugars Incorporated factory has served the Sidney area since 1925, providing an outlet for farmers to grow and sell sugarbeets. In 2002, American Crystal bought the Sidney factory from Holly Sugar and the Sidney factory became part of the American Crystal Company and took the name Sidney Sugars. Sidney Sugars operates as a wholly owned subsidiary of American Crystal Sugar Company.

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

proximately 120 seasonal employees to work at the factory during the winter months where they produce white sugar for sale around the country. Winter campaigns generally last about four months.

Sidney Sugars has 90 year round employees and has 120 sugarbeet growers.

The company also produces approximately 50,000 tons of pressed pulp each year and 35,000 tons of molasses for sale.

Since 1996, Sidney Sugars has done a lot of renovating to improve sugar production and efficiency. These renovations and additions include ten sugar storage silos, a thick juice tank, lime kiln and slacker modification, and boiler house modification.

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# Bovine Connection Scheduled For Sidney Dec. 1-2

#### By Lois Kerr

The Richland County, McKenzie County and Williams County Extension offices will once again offer the Bovine Connection, scheduled this year for Dec. 1-2 at the Extension office in Sidney. "We have the dates set, but we do not have the agenda finalized yet," says Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine. "This two-day event held every second year for beef cattle producers and associated Ag businesses alternates every second year between Sidney, Williston and Watford City. This year it's Sidney's turn to host the event."

The Bovine Connection traditionally features speakers who discuss a wide range of issues pertinent to the cattle industry. Presenters provide research knowledge, new prac-

tices and ideas, and practical information for beef producers in efforts to assist cattlemen in making informed decisions concerning their livestock business.

Organizers rotate the seminar on a two-year cycle, moving it from Williston to Sidney to Watford City. This allows all three centers to have the opportunity to host the event every sixth year.

Organizers held the first Bovine Connection in 1989 after seeing a need for the dissemination of information and education on beef cattle topics to area cattlemen. Organizers wanted to see this information provided locally to eliminate the need for ranchers to have to travel long distances to obtain the same information. Extension agents from Williams, Roosevelt, Richland and McKenzie counties got to-

gether, pooled resources, and produced a quality seminar for area cattle producers and agribusiness people. No county alone had the resources to obtain the caliber of speaker organizers wanted for this event, but combining resources allowed them to provide excellent speakers right here at home that provided essential information to local cattlemen.

Today the Bovine Connection receives organizational help from extension agents in North Dakota and Montana, area ranchers from both states, area agribusiness people from both states, and the District 1 Cattlewomen.

Organizers will set the agenda during the month of September. The October Ag Roundup will publish further information and updates about the Bovine Connection.



# 58<sup>th</sup> Annual NDRA Championship Rodeo Scheduled For Sept. 9-10

Experience great rodeo action at the 58th Annual NDRA Championship Rodeo to be held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 9-10 at the McKenzie County Fairgrounds multi-purpose building, Watford City,

Friday and Saturday's rodeos get underway at 7 p.m. both nights followed by the Rodeo Dance featuring Benny Paulson & "Outlaw Sippin" in the multi-purpose building each night.

Saturday's events begin at 8 a.m. with the Watford City

High School Rodeo. The Championship Team Roping will be held in the outdoor arena. Entries will begin at 9 a.m. with roping to begin at 10 a.m.

There will be concessions and beer gardens both days. Tickets will be available at local businesses and at the door. Adult tickets are \$12; Children (9-16) \$8; and 8 and under are free. Family tickets are \$35.

Call the McKenzie County Tourism Bureau at 701-444-2804 or 1-800-701-2804.



## A Little Bit Country

# **Fall Weed Control In Lawns**

### By Warren Froelich NDSU Extension Service, Williams County

For most homeowners weed control in lawns is normally done in the spring as the dandelions begin to appear. Although spring application of herbicides probably catches us in a better mood, fall applications are really quite effective, especially if a systemic product is used. I say this with a bit of hesitation because the most common herbicide used (2,4-D) is not translocated throughout the plants vascular system, including roots.

The herbicide, 2,4-D, is simply a contact product which kills only the above ground foliage. It is very effective on sprouting annual broadleaf plants. However, I have found a spring application plus another during

the fall to be very effective on hard-to-kill weeds such as dandelions.

Some of the lawn weed control products promoted as being very effective against dandelions contain dicamba along with 2,4-D. Dicamba does make for more effective weed control but there is a downside. It is highly water soluble and can move with gravity into the tree root zone. Keep in mind dicamba is for broadleaf plants and our deciduous trees are also broadleaf plants.

So, if you applied a herbicide to the dandelions this spring, dig out that hand sprayer and give them another treatment this fall. Next spring you can expect to find your lawn free of nearly all broadleaf weeds. This will give you more time to apply some fertilizer which

promotes a denser growth of grass and in turn will make the lawn more competitive against invading weeds.

Selecting Portable Generators

Following last spring's April 30 storm I promised myself an early Christmas present, a portable electric generator. Since then I have been casually looking at generators on display in various stores. Of course, I am looking for the best buy but until recently I had little idea what to look for. In my search for information I found a publication of the Mississippi State University Extension Service. It is a simple two-page fact sheet which provides a checklist along with concise information about size, fuel type, noise and electrical considerations such as voltage, current, starting current frequency and power. It also hi-lites many safety issues.

Selecting the right size will be my biggest challenge as it is obvious the larger output generators cost more. Because the water pump and heater motor operate on 240 volts, my purchase will need to have that feature along with the ability to provide power to some of the systems which operate on 120 volts. A generator which is too small can cause severe operating problems causing the generator to malfunction or not perform the task. On the other hand, using a generator that is too large results in higher initial cost, higher operating cost and added weight.

I do have a few copies of the Mississippi publication and will make them available at no cost. Just call 701-577-4595. I intend to have enough power to keep the temperature in the house at tolerable levels and provide water to the cows. Hopefully that is enough to keep away future snowstorms and power outages.



# Experience Great Rodeo Action At The 2011 NDRA Championship Finals

Friday & Saturday Sept. 9 & 10

McKenzie County Fairgrounds
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#### Friday

NDRA Rodeo - 7 p.m. Rodeo Dance - 9 p.m.

Ben Paulson & "Outlaw Sippin"

#### Saturday

WCHS Rodeo - 8 a.m. Championship Team Roping (outdoor arena)

9 a.m. entry • 10 a.m. roping NDRA Rodeo - 7 p.m. Rodeo Dance - 9 p.m.

Ben Paulson & "Outlaw Sippin"



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# Harvest Days Photo Contest

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

Top prize is two 2012

**Richland County Fair** 

packages.

Photos will be on display at the Yellowstone Marketplace the week of Harvest Days. The public is urged to stop in and vote for the People's Choice Award.

Pictured is Kim Nollmeyer of Savage getting ready to irrigate.

Send your photos to PO Box 1207, Sidney, MT 59270 or drop them off at our office at 111 West Main. To be eligible the photos must be printed on photo quality paper, 8"x 10" in size, fit the theme and include name, contact info and a description of the photo. Entry blanks will be available online at www.roundupweb.com, in The Roundup office and in future issues of the weekly Roundup newspaper. Photos may be used in future Ag Roundup & Roundup publications. Entries must be received by Oct. 14, 2011.

# **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.

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# **Protecting Groundwater**

#### By Lois Kerr

With all the flooding regional people have seen over the course of the past several months, protecting our precious water from contamination can become a major concern. Even without flooding issues, preserving the quality and the availability of our groundwater is of paramount importance to everyone. Considering 95% of all available fresh water comes from aquifers, and surface water bodies are connected to groundwater, good stewardship makes sense.

Jon Reiten, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, defines groundwater as "any water underground in aquifers and in porous mediums that allow water to run through it. It's a zone of underground water that contains enough water to support a well."

Reiten points out that we can pollute this water if we aren't careful. "Any water on the surface moves into the groundwater surface," he says. "A chemical spill or any other sort of spill, the contents of a septic system, all these can make their way into the underground water system."

Pollution isn't the only issue we face. Overuse or over pumping can make a huge impact in availability of water. Aquifers may be held in deep channels, such as the aquifer that serves the town of Sidney, or they can be flowing aquifers like the Fox Hills/Hell Creek aquifer from which communities such as Circle and Richey receive their water. Flowing aquifers, if overused or over pumped, can cause serious problems for multitudes of people if the water level drops. "There are some issues with flowing aquifers," Reiten remarks. "Flowing aquifers can be vulnerable if they are overused or over pumped. This can affect water wells for miles, and a lot of people can be affected."

He continues, 'Water is a need for new development in gas and oil and for other industrial purposes, but if we overdevelop there is a potential that this will impact people who depend on that water source."

The dry-up or inability to use a well means tremendous cost in dollars to drill a new, deeper well. "Ranchers use flowing aquifers because they don't need electricity to pump the water in some cases, but if the water levels fall, these people will have to drill new wells which can become a pricey issue," Reiten remarks. "Over pumping is an important issue as water for a large area could be impacted if we over pump for any reason."

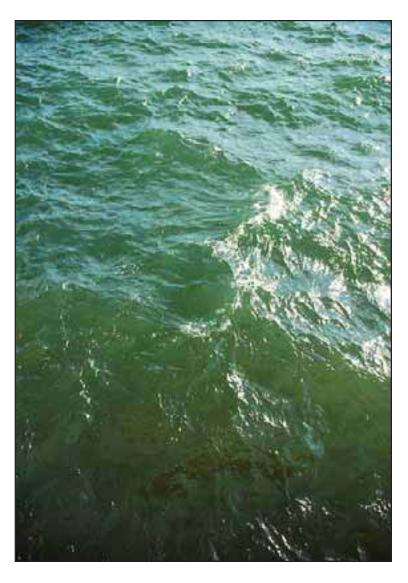
Reiten has begun to monitor the Fox Hills/Hell Creek flowing aquifer to try to get a grip on what, if anything is happening to water levels and how this will affect surrounding areas. "We've already had reports that people have had their water wells go dry," Reiten comments. "If the aquifer keeps dropping and stops flowing, wells will become unusable. There are indications that this is going on."

He continues, "Water is vital. We must know our geology and must map out the main aquifers in order to understand them and to know what we have to do to protect them. We have lots of water, but we need to map, find the sources, and then develop these aquifers properly."

As far as individual water well owners are concerned, Reiten advises people to make sure they keep wells clean and uncontaminated. If for any reason people decide to abandon a well, Reiten encourages them to hire a specialist to properly cap and seal off the unwanted well.

"Properly plug abandoned wells, using bentonite chips and staying below the plow line," he says. "Seal it off, because you don't want surface contaminants flowing into it. We worry about chemicals, along with a whole host of contaminant materials that can form a conduit to an aquifer. You want to cut this off, so it is best to use a licensed well driller so the well is abandoned properly."

He concludes. "If you just cut the well off, you can get all sorts of contaminants into the ground water."



# **Disappointing Crop Year Nears End**

#### By Lois Kerr

It's been a disappointing crop year for everyone. Yields are down, and in many cases quality also is not up to usual standards. Overall, this will not be a banner year for anyone, sugarbeet growers included.

"Our last root sample taken last month was 16 tons, and last year at the same time it was 24 tons," says Russ Fullmer, Sidney Sugars agricultural manager. "We're expect-

ing a 22-23 tons per acre crop, which is definitely not a record crop year."

He adds, "Other crops didn't do so well either. Grain didn't like the year, and the potato harvest is disappointing. It hasn't been a record year for anyone. However, prices are up so that is a help. There is usually a bright side somewhere."

The hail some beet fields received last month did set the beets back but didn't kill them. "It's hard to kill a beet at this time of year," Fullmer remarks. "Hail will set beets back in yield and sugar but it won't kill them."

He continues, "Otherwise, beets are growing well with the heat even though we are behind in grower degree days. Some fields have started to yellow off so they should be starting to produce sugar."

Growers and Sidney Sugars will see increased activity as the busy harvest season approaches. "Things will start to get busy now," Fullmer comments. "The Grower Board will hold pre harvest meetings and Sidney Sugars will hold station meetings in September. We'll also have grower night at the tare lab at the last part of September."

He continues, "Sidney Sugars crews are scrambling to get pile grounds ready. We have the new scale in at Savage but it still has to be hooked up and tested by the state and we need to finish land-scaping and haul things out of the way."

Sidney Sugars still needs employees to help at harvest and to work in the factory for the winter. Interested people can contact

Fullmer and he'll direct them where to go to apply. "Any locals looking for seasonal harvest jobs should get hold of us," Fullmer says. "Express Employment will be here again this year to hire. People wanting to work during harvest can come to the Sidney Sugars Agriculture Department. Anyone wanting factory work can come here or go to Job Services. Factory work will last from October through the end of January."



# The Last Gunfight

#### **Book Review by Lois Kerr**

Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, the Clantons and the famous shootout at the OK Corral in Tombstone, Arizona territory lives on in legend and myth and has defined

our perceptions of the American West. The legend makes a great story and wonderful movies, but most of what we think we know about the famous shootout, the Earps, the Clantons, and Tombstone itself isn't true. The shootout didn't even occur at the OK Corral, incidentally.

In his very readable, interesting book, The Last Gunfight: The Real Story of the Shootout at the OK Corral and How it Changed the American West, by Jeff Guinn, explodes a lot of the myth surrounding the legendary fight. Rather, Guinn tells the real story about the life and times of the people involved and the events that led to the confrontation between eight men. one of whom was so drunk he could hardly stand up straight.

We discover good guys don't wear white

hats, bad guys don't wear black hats, as TV would have us believe. In fact, at times a person might have a bit of difficulty distinguishing between the good guys and the bad guys involved in this confrontation. None of the men involved, including Wyatt Earp, had a corner on integrity and honesty; rancher Ike Clanton was a loudmouth drunk, Doc Holliday had a mean temper and a difficult personality, and Wyatt Earp sought to achieve fame and fortune.

I found this book very fascinating. Guinn gives us the background and sets the scene, giving us the actions and events that lead to the shootout that left three men dead. He opens our eyes to a few truths along the way. For instance, Tombstone was not a lawless

town, full of armed desperados. Gunfights were not a common occurrence; in fact most towns prohibited guns in city limits, and a man wearing a holster caused comment. Even the sheriff of Tombstone, Wyatt's brother

Virgil Earp, only took a gun with him when he expected trouble. Most people stuck their guns in their pockets or waist bands and only used holsters on the trail. During the famous shootout, Wyatt Earp himself had his gun in the pocket of an overcoat, not strapped on his hip.

In fact. what started the troubles between the Clantons and the Earps was the same problem that has wracked our country in spades in the past decade: politics. Then as now. Democrats and Republican fought tooth and nail; double dealing and broken promises abounded. and this fueled anger and distrust. Add in pride, ego, and ambition, and a deadly brew simmered and worsened. Toss in alcohol and a 24-hour drinking spree, and the situation blew up and became

Here, at long last, is a thoughtful and fleresly -HAMPTON SIDES, author of BLOOD AND THUNDER THE LAST GIINFIGHT The Real Story of the Shootout at the O.K. Corral-And How It Changed the American West JEFF GUINN

part of the history of the American west.

Guinn tells the story of the shootout in extremely readable fashion. This book for the most part reads like a novel, not a history book, and Guinn also tells us about the hearing after the shootout, the crippling of Virgil Earp and the assassination of Morgan Earp, which lead to Wyatt Earp's revenge ride. This book provides a good read about a very famous incident that occurred on Oct. 26, 1881 in a vacant lot beside a boardinghouse in Tombstone.

I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the history of the American west or with an interest in the famous gun battle between the Earp brothers and Doc Holliday and the Clantons.

# About The Ag Roundup



The Ag Roundup is a monthly Farm & Ranch Magazine. It is delivered to over 10,000 farm & ranch families in Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana. The advertising and news deadline for the October 2011 issue is September 27. Subscription Rate: \$15 per year.

Mailing Address:

The Roundup P.O.Box 1207 Sidney, MT

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# Call Before You Dig

#### By Lois Kerr

Gearing up to finish last minute fall chores can mean digging in new fence posts, trenching in a water line, moving a bush or shrub using a backhoe, installing a sprinkler system, or any one of a dozen tasks that mean digging a hole of one sort or another. Both Montana and North Dakota law states that any kind of digging requires location of underground utilities prior to taking that first shovelful of earth. This includes people using any type of tool, equipment, or explosive while grading, trenching, digging, ditching, augering, scraping, or doing any other activity that moves earth, rock, or other material in the ground. People planning to dig or excavate can get the location of underground utilities for free simply by calling 811, the call before you dig number. Failure to phone in ahead of time to locate buried utilities can result in injury, disrupted services, or even death, as buried facilities continue to increase in number every year.

"811 is a great thing because there is so much that is buried underground now," says Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association (LYREA) General Manager Don Prevost. "There are a lot of buried utilities out there and no one person knows where they all are."

He adds, "It's taken awhile for the lay person to get used to this. Rural folks often don't think about the potential for hitting buried utilities and they dig without having a locate done first."

Call before you dig applies to contractors as well as to private individuals. LYREA always calls in a locate prior to beginning a job. "LYREA, along with every other business or individual who needs to excavate, has to call in a locate, no matter what the job," Prevost remarks. "We know where our



Locators use flags, paint or other colored markers to clearly show where a buried utility line runs. Different utilities use different colored markers to show a location.

own lines are, but we have no idea what else is out there. Even in an emergency when the power is out, we have to wait for the locators before we can begin to repair. This is why it sometimes takes awhile to get an underground fault fixed."

Failure to locate underground utilities, particularly gas lines, has resulted in spectacular accidents. Prevost has never witnessed a horrific accident, but LYREA has encountered problems with severed electrical lines. "We've had people cut our cables, and the electricity then goes to ground and knocks the power off," he remarks. "People using hand held tools like shovels or post hole diggers, as well as those using heavy equipment can hit something that sparks a gas line. This is one big reason why people need to locate all underground facilities prior to digging."

He adds, "LYREA crews are always very careful, but we've had a few close calls. I've also seen pictures after someone has hit a gas line and these are always terrible."

In Montana, a person can dig 18 inches or further from the locator mark. If for some reason a person has to dig inside the 18 inch tolerance range, Prevost offers some advice. "People need to dig by hand if they have to get closer," he comments. "For instance if they are pulling pipe or doing something else that requires them to dig inside the 18 inch line, do it by hand, slowly and very carefully."

He adds, "We also can disconnect electrical lines if someone needs to dig closer to our buried lines. People can contact us and we will disconnect power while they dig."

Locate markers are only valid for 30 days. If a person does not complete the job in that time period, he or she must request a new locate. "Flags and markers aren't permanent," Prevost explains. "Cattle will pull out the flags and other markers will disappear over time. People have to relocate the lines with visible markers. There's just too much out there and if a line is cut, it can hurt a lot of people."

It is easy to make the call before you dig phone call. People requesting a locate must give their name, address, phone number, and the type of work planned at the locate site. Locators from the utility companies involved then come and mark the specified location, letting excavators know the location of every buried utility on the work site.

Flag color indicates the utility involved. White flags or markers mark the proposed digging site. Red flags or markers show buried electrical lines, yellow flags and markers indicate gas and oil lines, orange marks communications locations, blue and purple indicate water lines, and green flags show where sewers and drains lie.

It takes 48 hours under normal situations for locators to complete their job of marking buried utilities. Even if a person has located underground facilities before and thinks he knows the locations, he must STILL phone ahead and have the work site plainly marked before he can begin to dig. Be safe, request a locate every time you plan to dig, even if it is just putting in fence posts.





# U.S. Department Of Transportation Reinforces Commitment To No New Regulations For America's Ag Community

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced today that it has no intention to propose new regulations governing the transport of agricultural products. The agency also released guidance designed to make sure states clearly understand the common sense exemptions that allow farmers, their employees, and their families to accomplish their day-to-day work and transport their products to market.

After hearing from concerned farmers earlier this year, FMCSA initiated this review to make sure states don't go overboard in enforcing regulations on agricultural operators, and to ensure consistent access to exemptions for farmers. No regulations will be proposed for any new safety requirements or changes to the rules governing the transport of agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm.

"We have no intention of instituting onerous regulations on the hardworking farmers who feed our country and fuel our economy," said Secretary Ray LaHood. "Farmers deserve to know that reasonable, common sense exemptions will continue to be consistently available to agricultural operations across the country, and that's why we released this guidance."

This guidance—which does not impose any new rules on farmers—follows the Federal Register public notice which FMCSA issued on May 31, 2011, asking farmers, farm organizations and the public to give input on the agency's longstanding safety rules.

"We want to make it absolutely clear that farmers will not be subjected to new and impractical safety regulations," said U.S. Transportation Deputy Secretary John Porcari. "The farm community can be confident that states will continue to follow the regulatory exemptions for farmers that have always worked so well."

"FMCSA is pleased with the input we've received from the agricultural community and members of Congress. We received about 1700 comments and the vast majority called for us to preserve the guidance that leaves states to carry out the farm exceptions as they have for many years." said FMCSA Administrator Anne Ferro. "We want to make crystal clear that we are not imposing any new regulations."

Earlier this year, farm groups came to FMCSA with concerns that some states might not allow exemptions to Commercial Drivers License (CDL) requirements for certain farm operations using "crop-share" leasing.

When FMCSA investigated, there appeared to be wide differences among states in how the "for-hire" and related agricultural exceptions were being applied. In order to ensure consistency, FMCSA asked state officials to cease all

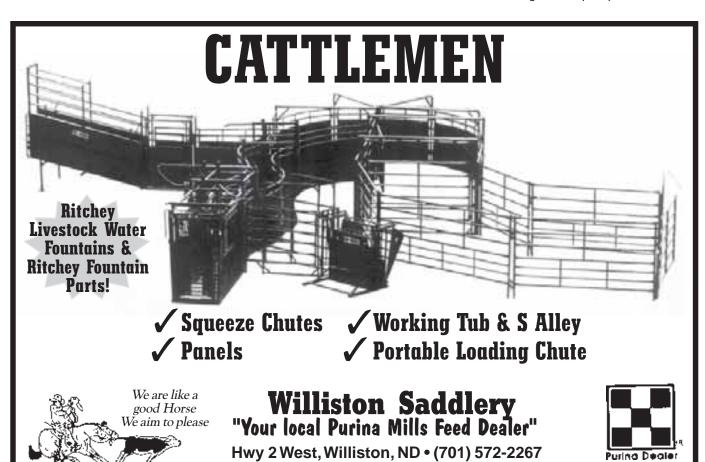
new entrant safety audits on farmers engaged in "crop-share" leasing and issued the public notice soliciting input that would provide insight on the complex use of farm equipment on public roads. The guidance released today, which is based on that input, clarifies three critical issues:

a. Interstate vs. intrastate commerce. Since the difference between the two has been determined by the U.S. Supreme Court and other Federal courts, FMCSA has limited flexibility to provide additional guidelines. The Agency has concluded that new regulatory guidance concerning the distinction between interstate and intrastate commerce is not necessary. Generally, the states and the industry have a common understanding on this point. To the extent that fact-specific questions arise, the Agency will work with the States and the industry to provide a clarification for the specific scenario.

a. Commercial Driver's License. Federal regulations allow states to make exceptions to Commercial Driver's License (CDL) regulations for certain farm vehicle drivers such as farm employees and family members, as long as their vehicles are not used by "for-hire" motor carriers. Some states have questioned whether this exemption applies to drivers who work for "crop share" or similar arrangements. FMCSA's notice includes guidance to ensure consistent application of the exemption. After considering the public comments, the Agency has determined that farmers who rent their land for a share of the crops and haul their own and the landlord's crops to market should have access to the agricultural CDL exemptions given by the states.

a. Implements of Husbandry. In a perfect world, farm vehicles would only operate on farms, while commercial trucks would operate on public roads. The reality is that farm equipment that is not designed or intended for every-day use on public roads is often used for short trips at limited speeds. This creates a gray area for classification. After considering the public comments, FMCSA has determined that most States have already adopted common sense enforcement practices that allow farmers to safely move equipment to and from their fields. In areas where farm implements are common, the enforcement community and the agricultural community have achieved a mutual understanding of which safety regulations should apply to farm equipment on their public roads.

FMCSA is committed to the safety of our highways and the long-term success of America's agricultural industry. To learn more about federal safety regulations that impact the transportation of agricultural products and equipment, please visit the FMCSA website at www.fmcsa.dot.gov.



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# Veterinarians, Livestock Owners Must Be Vigilant

Severe drought in the southern U.S., coupled with extreme wet conditions in the upper Midwest, is creating situations in which North Dakota veterinarians and livestock owners may see health problems not normally found in the state.

"There is unprecedented movement of cattle across the country," says North Dakota State University Extension Service Veterinarian Charlie Stoltenow. "Livestock owners may see signs in their cattle that they have not seen before. If they do, they should contact their veterinarian right away and have the animal examined."

Health problems cattle owners might see include anaplasmosis, red water disease and babesiosis.

Anaplasmosis usually is caused by Anaplasma marginale, a blood parasite. It is not contagious between animals. It usually is transmitted by a tick. The ticks that carry anaplasmosis can overwinter in North Dakota. Other biting insects, such as mosquitoes, horse flies and stable flies, also can transmit anaplasmosis.

Calves can be infected with the disease but are much more resistant than older cattle. Because the parasite destroys red blood cells, anemia is the classic symptom associated with anaplasmosis. Redwater is caused by Leptospira, a bacterial pathogen. Leptospirosis is transmitted from animal to animal (and to humans) by contact with Leptospira in contaminated urine, feed and water. The Leptospira pathogen associated with redwater causes the destruction of red blood cells and the release of hemoglobin, which is flushed from the animal's body through the urine, hence the name redwater. Leptospira can survive in North Dakota.

Babesiosis (Texas fever) is very rare in the U.S., and a program is under way along the U.S.-Mexico border to control it. Babesiosis is caused by Babesia bigemina and Babesia bovis, which are blood parasites.

Babesiosis is transmitted by Boophilus ticks. Boophilus ticks cannot survive North Dakota winters, but cattle can be infected with the disease elsewhere before being brought into the state. Signs in cattle include a high fever (105° F and above), anemia, hemoglobinuria (brown urine) and staggering.

"It is important for veterinarians and livestock owners to be observant and vigilant," Stoltenow says. "Livestock owners are encouraged to contact their veterinarian right away if an animal is exhibiting signs of illness."

He also recommends livestock owners purchase and move only animals with a known health background.

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

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

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

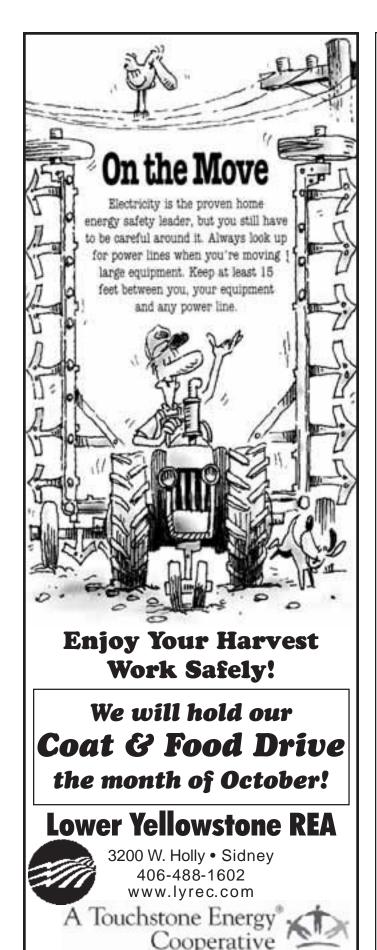
Eighty-eight percent of the 2010 U.S. dry pea crop was produced in the four-state region of North Dakota, Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota. The cool, dry growing season of the U.S. northern tier is especially well suited for

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

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

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

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



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Wed., Oct. 12 Feeder Calf Special
Feature Red Angus Influence 10 a.m.
In House Video Sale - Time TBA
Wed., Oct. 19 Feeder Calf Special
Feature Shots & All Natural 10 a.m.
Sheep Sale 4 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 26 Feeder Calf Special
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## Pesticide Training Set For October In Eastern MT

By MSU News Service

Pesticide experts will go on tour Oct. 3-7 to help Eastern Montanans renew their private pesticide applicator licenses before the end of the year.

Private citizens who wish to purchase, use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides on land they own, rent or lease need a private applicator license. Private applicators in Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux counties need to recertify by the end of 2011, said Cecil Tharp, Montana State University Extension Pesticide Education specialist. Those 17 counties lie within Montana Private Pesticide District number four.

To help private applicators recertify before it's too late, the MSU Pesticide Safety Education and MSU Integrated Pest Management programs will hold 10 meetings over five days. Simultaneous meetings will be held Oct. 3 in Froid and Scobey, Oct. 4 in Glasgow and Malta, Oct. 5 in Circle and Jordan, Oct. 6 in Baker and Miles City, and Oct. 7 in

Glendive and Wibaux.

Each meeting will include a session on pesticide storage and security. A new topic for these training sessions, it relates to Homeland Security, Tharp said. Another new topic at some of the meetings will be the management of narrowleaf hawksbeard, an emerging weed in northeast Montana.

Most of the meetings will also include a session on pesticide movement in the environment. Other topics will vary by area, but they may include cheatgrass management in croplands, preventing and managing herbicide resistance, common plant diseases, common urban insects, calibrating ground sprayers, weed management in small grain and pulse crop rotations, biological control of weeds, managing noxious weeds in rangleland, USDA restricted use recording keeping, and various ways that pesticides can be misused so they end up in manure, compost or grass clippings and damage non-target plants.

Speakers from MSU, DOW AgroScience and the Montana Department of Agriculture will conduct the training sessions.

Private applicators will receive three credits for attending either the morning or afternoon session and six credits for attending all day. Government and commercial applicators who attend morning and afternoon sessions will be qualified to receive commercial/government applicator credits towards the categories of dealer, demonstration and research, agricultural plant pest control, right of way, special utility pest and regulatory weed pest control.

Montana has five private pesticide districts, with applicator licenses expiring in stages. Private applicator licenses last five years.

Courses in the 2011 Pest Management Tour are open to anyone who wants to recertify, but pre-registration is required for most locations so organizers have enough room and materials for those who attend. Some counties are charging a small fee to cover materials and lunch. Attendees should check fees and pre-register with their local Extension agent.

Agendas vary for each meeting. For locations, schedules and topics to be covered, check the Pesticide Education Program Website at www.pesticides.montana.edu and select the "2011 Pest Management Tour." For more information, contact Tharp at ctharp@montana.edu or 406-994-5067.







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