

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

## Sugar Days 2011

### The Roundup



## Sugarbeet Harvest Underway After Delayed Start

By Lois Kerr

After over a week's delay from scheduled start-up, the sugarbeet harvest got underway on Oct. 8 for Sidney, Culbertson, Savage and Fairview area growers. Those growers in the Powder River and Pleasant View areas followed suit on Oct. 9. At press time, weather has continued to cooperate and growers have had relatively smooth digging with only a few delays at individual stations due to heat. "We're about a third done," said Randy Jones, Sidney Sugars, on Oct. 12. "If the nice weather continues, the majority of growers should be done by the 25<sup>th</sup>."

He continued, "Most stations have had normal scheduling, but there have been a few short hours in some areas due to heat. Each station works according to conditions in its area, so one station may close down early while others continue to dig."

At press time, sugars averaged 17.37%. Tonnage estimates were not available, but Jones feels tons will

average close to the earlier estimates made by agriculturists. "Sugar is a bit below average at this point," Jones said. "I won't begin to estimate tonnage at this time, but I believe we will make or slightly exceed our estimate of 23.4 tons per acre."

Because of heavy road traffic, Jones reminds everyone to take care, be courteous and cautious, and to keep safety in mind at all times. "There is a lot of traffic out there with all the beet trucks and the oil trucks," he commented. "Slow down, drive defensively, and take a little extra time to reach your destination. We are really thankful for the traffic light at Holly and Central, because without that, traffic would really be snarled at that corner."

He concluded, "Don't forget there is now a three-way stop sign by the Good Cents Store. Beet trucks and oil trucks use that intersection, so remember to stop and be courteous to other drivers."



# Savage, Culbertson Pile Grounds Receive Upgrades

By Lois Kerr

Every summer, Sidney Sugars crews work to repair, maintain and upgrade the six pile grounds, preparing these beet receiving stations for the upcoming beet harvest. Some years, a particular pile ground may require additional attention, and this past summer, both the Savage and the Culbertson stations had special needs that crews attended to over the summer months.

Because of this extra work, Savage this year has the capability to weigh semi trucks, an improvement that brings this pile ground into line with the other five stations. "We installed new 70-foot scales at Savage, as this was the only scale house without semi capabilities," says Russ Fullmer, Sidney Sugars agriculture manager. "Growers have been requesting this for a long time. When old trucks wear out, many people are going to semis because they are more efficient. These growers can now haul beets to Savage and don't have to make the run to Sidney to weigh and deliver beets."

Crews pulled out the old scales, added a 34-foot extension to the pits and put in the new scales. Sidney Sugars also installed new electronic equipment in the scale house.

The Culbertson pile grounds also underwent some changes with new landscaping work done prior to harvest startup. "We had to do some reclamation work because of beets that spoiled in the piles last year," Fullmer says. "We had to tear up some ground, put in a new base, and reshape it so moisture can drain."

He adds, "We worked at Culbertson and Savage all summer. These were two big projects, but it is always like this every summer. We always have work to do at all six stations, and there is always something going on over the summer to make sure each station is ready for harvest."



The new scale will handle semis as well as all other beet trucks that deliver product to the Savage pile grounds.



The Savage pile ground can now handle semi trucks, thanks to Sidney Sugars crews installing a new, longer scale this summer.

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# Driving Beet Truck A Yearly Event For Savage Resident

By Lois Kerr

Combine a love of driving with the desire to help out neighbors, and you have Wilma Prevost, Savage, who has been driving beet truck for growers off and on for the past 40 years. She hauled her first load of beets during harvest as a senior in high school. She then drove truck off and on during the '60s and '70s, and returned to driving on an annual basis in 1999, driving for neighbors who required help at harvest.

"I grew up on a farm and drove tractor as a teenager, but the first time I drove a beet truck I was a senior in high school," Prevost recalls. "I helped my dad harvest beets, and I really did enjoy

the driving."

Prevost began driving beet truck again in 1964, when she helped her husband get in the beet crop. "We started farming in '63 and in 1964 I had no choice but to drive beet truck," Prevost comments. "I had four kids and my mother-in-law in the truck with me."

She continues, "When I started driving beet truck, the beet dump was ten miles south of Savage, along the railroad tracks. We could only load six cars each day, and when those cars were full, we were done. A train came through every day and took the full cars and left six more empty ones. If the train was late, we'd have to wait

until the empty cars arrived before we could start up again."

Prevost continued to drive beet truck during harvest every year throughout the '60s. She then accepted a full time job delivering the mail, a job she held for the next two decades. She did take vacation several times during those decades to drive beet truck at harvest. "I did a mail route for 20 years," Prevost says, "but I did take vacation time three times during beet harvest in those 20 years to drive for neighbors."

Prevost retired from delivering mail and in 1999 she resumed the practice of driving beet truck each year for

neighbors, a task she looks forward to with great enthusiasm. "I've been driving every year since 1999," she says. "The past four years I've been driving for Del Nollmeyer."

"I love driving," she adds. "I don't know why I love it so much, but I do. I plan to keep on driving as long as I have my health and as long as they'll have me. The people I've driven for have been so very wonderful to work for."

Prevost feels that driving truck has become easier as manufacturers continue to make improvements on vehicles. "The first truck I drove was a five-ton truck with no power steering," Prevost comments. "They were really

hard to drive. Trucks are bigger now but they are easier to handle. I really enjoy driving the bigger trucks."

Prevost generally delivers about ten loads of beets per shift. "It depends on the weather conditions, but I usually have 8-12 loads each day," she says. "We do work every day that we can

dig, and it usually takes about three weeks each October to complete harvest."

She concludes, "I take all loads to the Savage beet dump. It is a bit busier there than it used to be, but we have three pilers now so we don't have a long wait, which makes it better for all of us."



Prevost in her beet truck.



Wilma Prevost

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# Harvesting The Last Of The Crop

**By Lois Kerr**

When sugarbeet harvest ends each fall, many of us figure that harvest has ended for another year. Not so, for those who have planted such crops as corn, sunflowers and pumpkins. These crops may still be in the field, awaiting picking or combining, as the case may be.

Pumpkins have a long growing season, usually needing anywhere from 75-100 frost free days to reach maturity. Those who plant pumpkins commercially often do not start the harvest until October, depending on weather conditions, as peak time for the sale of pumpkins occurs from mid October to catch the Halloween market.



When harvesting pumpkins, it is best to keep a lot of stem on the fruit as this increases storage time. Pumpkins do best when completely ripened on the vine, and then dried in the sun to toughen up the skin. Once mature, pumpkins will store for several months in a cool location.

Pumpkins, grown all over the world, are members of the squash family. The Irish brought the concept of carving pumpkins to the United States.

Pumpkins contain potassium and vitamin A. Pumpkin flowers are edible. The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1140 lbs., while the largest pumpkin pie ever made measured over 5 feet across, weighed 350 lbs., and contained 80 lbs. of cooked pumpkin, 36 lbs. of sugar, 12 dozen eggs, and took over 6 hours to bake.

Sunflowers, another late season crop used for oil, bird seed and the snack market, are native to the United States; and date back over a thousand years to when Native Americans harvested the crop for oil and for food. Sunflowers can be planted a bit later in the spring, and if added to existing crop rotations can reduce some crop pests.

If planted in early June, sunflowers will bloom in early August and reach maturity by the end of September. Size of the plant varies from variety to variety, but on average sunflowers grow 6 feet in height. Many areas do not harvest sunflowers until mid to late October.

North Dakota grows more sunflowers than any other state. Sunflowers are phototropic in the bud stage, which means that it tends to follow the movement of the sun from east in the morning to west during the afternoon. Once the flower opens, sunflowers tend to face east. There are 50 species and 19 subspecies of sunflowers found in the United States.

Corn, another crop native to the Americas, often will stand in the field well into November before farmers harvest it and use it for livestock feed. This unique crop, originally maize, comes in several groups: sweet corn, field corn and popping corn. Farmers use field corn for animal feed. Sweet corn is used for human consumption when eaten fresh off the stalk. Popcorn makes a great, nutritious snack and it also makes nice baking flour. People use ornamental corn, also called Indian corn, as decorations, but cattle or chickens will eat this variety of corn as well.

The average ear of corn has 800 kernels, arranged in 16 rows. Each kernel of corn has one piece of silk, and each tassel on a corn plant releases as many as 5 million grains of pollen. Over 3000 grocery products contain corn, and one bushel of corn can produce 33 lbs. of sweetener, 32 lbs. of starch, or 2½ gallons of ethanol.

Corn is used in such products as nylon, certain plastics, lubricating oils and synthetic rubber, paints, soaps and linoleum.

Corn is the third most important food crop in the world, following behind wheat and rice. It is second only to wheat in acreage planted.



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# Harvesting Trees

**By Lois Kerr**  
The word 'harvest' brings to mind small grains, alfalfa, sugarbeets, potatoes, legumes and the bounty from the gardens and orchards. Harvest, the seasonal reaping of any natural product, also includes lesser thought about products, including the harvest of trees for wood. Crane resident, Ken Redman, harvests trees and runs the logs through his small mill, producing slabs and boards of whatever dimensions he desires. He uses his end product to build anything from cabinets and trim to corrals and trailer decking.

Redman has worked with this particular mill for a long time, but just recently decided he would pursue millwork and carpentry as a paying hobby. "Dad bought this mill 20 years ago to make corral lumber," Redman remarks. "He built corrals out of cottonwood, and he used the mill to make the timbers on the house he built. I helped him with the mill, so I've been working with it for a long time."

He continues, "A few years ago, I decided to try this again. I like working with wood, and I knew the oil field was not the place where I wanted to spend the rest of my life, so I got the mill from my dad. This is unique, I can work for myself and I can develop this into a small business if I wish."

Redman's mill consists of a band saw that moves along two rails. Redman can position the logs, secure them in place, and run the band saw through the log, rather than moving the log through the saw. "The saw cuts a 1/8 curve so I waste less wood," he comments. "The mill also uses less power. I can cut logs to any size and dimension I want, depending on the project. The saw moves on rails, the wood sits still, so I can work it myself. I like to have assistance, but it isn't necessary."

At this point, Redman has secured all his logs through salvage. "I use trees that have fallen down, been killed by disease, or trees that have been taken out for other reasons," Redman

says. "I'm in the process now of building my inventory, as once I've cut the lumber, it takes one to two years to dry. I'm cutting and stacking lumber now to dry for future use."

Once the wood has dried, Redman runs his cut lumber through a planer and a sander, and uses the finished product for chests, cupboards and other items made from wood.

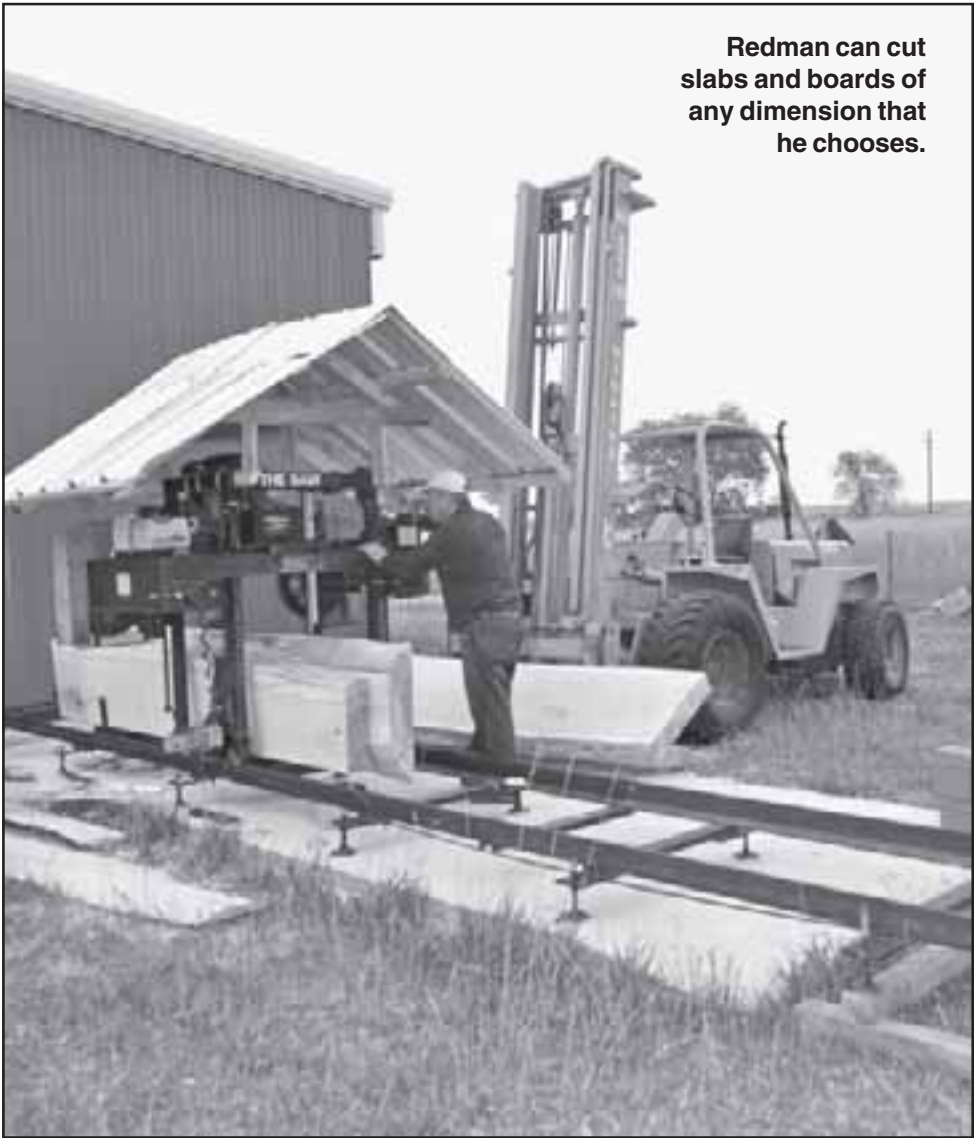
Redman uses a variety of different trees for his lumber and says that each species of tree has its own unique qualities. "Cottonwood is very lightweight but strong, and it works well for a variety of uses, including cupboards," Redman remarks. "It's a boring white color, but it can be stained. Local ash makes great trim and furniture wood. Elm produces a dense, good quality hard wood excellent for chests and cabinets. Russian olive is quite pretty when finished. You have to look twice to decide if it is walnut or not. It is a dark wood that works as a replacement for walnut. The hard part about it is that Russian olives are usually small, crooked trees, and

they have sand in them which is hard on saw blades. However, the final result is beautiful."

Redman appreciates the satisfaction he gains from

working with wood. He also sees a place for his product down the road. "This is a hobby and what I enjoy doing," he concludes. "It is a lot of fun. At some point when I

have enough stockpiled wood, I can see this becoming a hobby that pays its way. I see a place for custom orders in the future."



Redman can cut slabs and boards of any dimension that he chooses.

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Redman prepares to cut boards on his band saw.



The saw runs on rails, allowing Redman to handle the cutting without assistance.



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# All About Pulse Crops

## Saskatchewan University, Regina

"Pulse crops" refers to a group of more than 60 different grain legume crops grown around the world. The seeds of pulse crops are important in human nutrition. They are typically made up of 20-25% protein and 40-50% starch; they are also rich in dietary fiber and usually have only small amounts of oil. The protein of pulse seeds is high in the amino acids lysine and methionine, making pulses nutritionally complementary to cereals, which are deficient in these two essential amino acids. Pulses are the main source of protein in the diet of vegetarians, and feature prominently in the traditional cuisine of virtually every region of the globe. Seeds and pods of many pulse crops are also used as fresh vegetables when the seeds are still tender. Pulses are mainly consumed as human food, but some crops such as field pea and faba bean are also used in animal feeds as a source of protein and starch. Pulses are usually consumed in the form of soup or stew, cooked directly from the whole or split

dry seeds, or in canned form in some countries. Most pulses, but especially chickpea, are also prepared as flour.

The five most important global pulse crops are common bean, field pea, chickpea, lentil and faba bean. Pulse crops are valuable as an annual legume in crop rotations because they provide breaks in disease cycles that affect the major cereal and oilseed crops. They also provide a diversified source of farm income. An important feature of pulse crops, as of other legumes, is their ability to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere in association with bacteria known as Rhizobia, thereby reducing the requirement for nitrogen fertilizer.

Historical records of farms and research stations in Saskatchewan from 1900-1950 show that some pioneering farmers produced beans and peas. The modern pulse industry started in the 1960s, when farmers began producing and exporting field peas and lentils. During the 1970s the industry grew slowly but steadily, building on progress in research and development in agronomy

and plant breeding, especially for lentil, field pea and faba bean. In the 1980s the industry began a dramatic expansion in response to international market demand from pulse importers in countries where cereal and oil-seeds crops had begun to replace pulse crop production.

Each crop sector within the pulse industry produces a diverse range of products that changes in response to market demand. The lentil crop originally consisted of green lentils of various sizes, but since 1996 the red lentil crop has been expanding. Most of the field pea crop is the yellow type, grown for either human food or animal feed. Green peas are grown for human consumption; and small amounts of other types such as marrowfat for snack foods, maple types for bird feed, and small-seeded forage types are also grown. The other pulse crops, such as common bean and faba bean, are grown in smaller quantities. Most dry bean production is pinto or black bean. Small amounts of medium-sized faba bean are grown each year for consumption in Mediterranean markets.

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# Sugar Beet Decorating Contest



Keegan Skogas, 3, with his “Wacky Beet”.



Kaden Skogas, 8, shows off his “Cowboy Beet”.



Jaydyn Gackle, 8, with her retro ‘60s beet.

Kids aged 3-10 decorated sugarbeets for The Roundup’s Beet Decorating Contest, in conjunction with Harvest Festival. Thank you to the Powder Keg, T&C Diner and Fairview Super Valu for providing prizes, and the Powder Keg for hosting the event. Not pictured, Deacon Gackle, 4, also decorated a fun striped beet.



Baylee Schlothauer, 8, decorated this “beet airplane”.



Victoria Patnaude, 10, had fun creating “Sasha Sugar”.



Jade Schlothauer, 9, created a beautiful vase with flowers.

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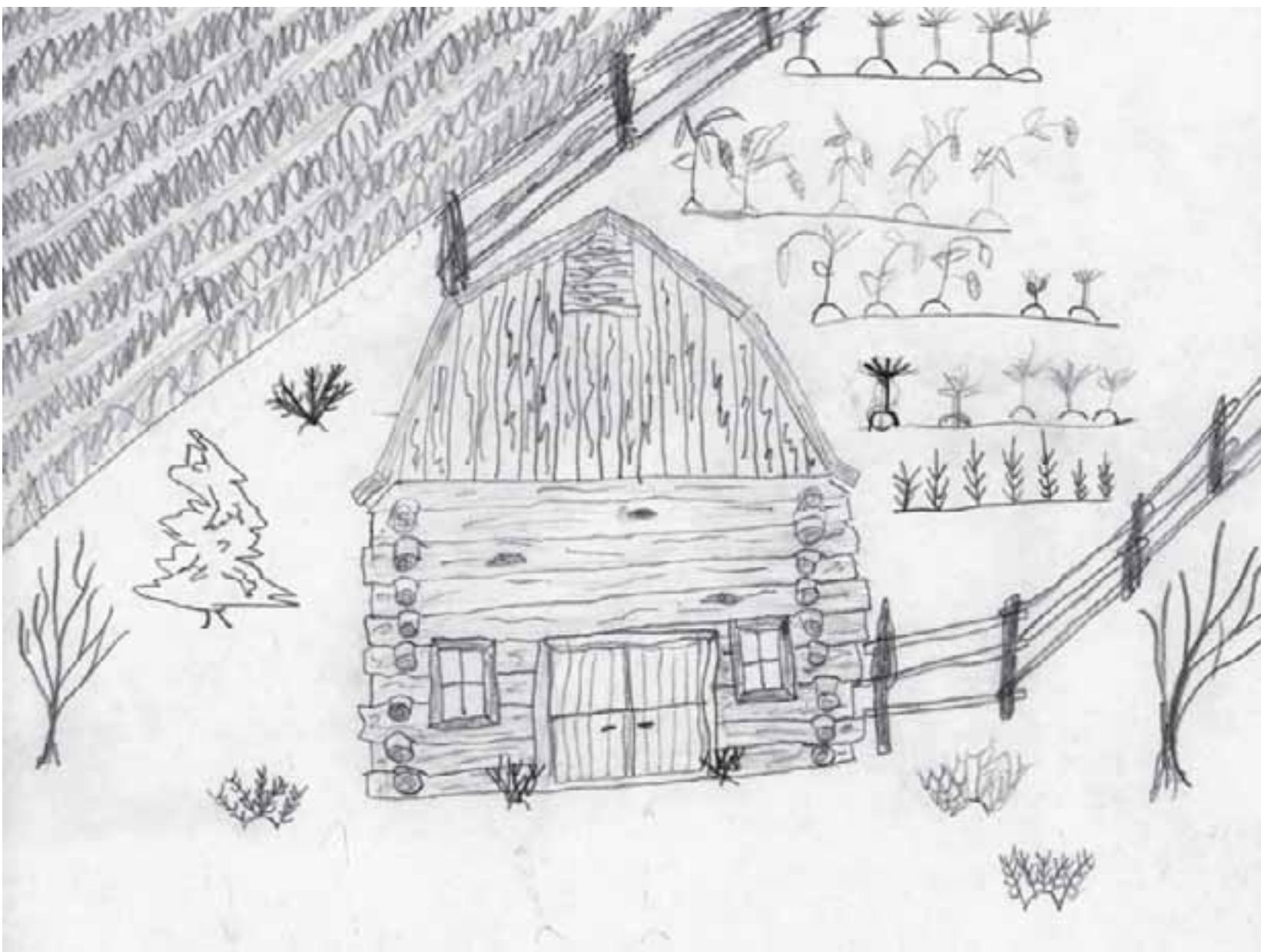


# Harvest Festival Art Contest

Left: Gabe Gonsioroski, 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Lambert School, earned the top award in our Art Contest. Gabe will receive his artwork back, nicely framed, along with an art kit.

Right: Colton Ten Eyck, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at East Fairview Elementary, received honorable mention and a McDonald's gift certificate.

Below: Hunter Watson, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Lambert School, received honorable mention and a McDonald's gift certificate.



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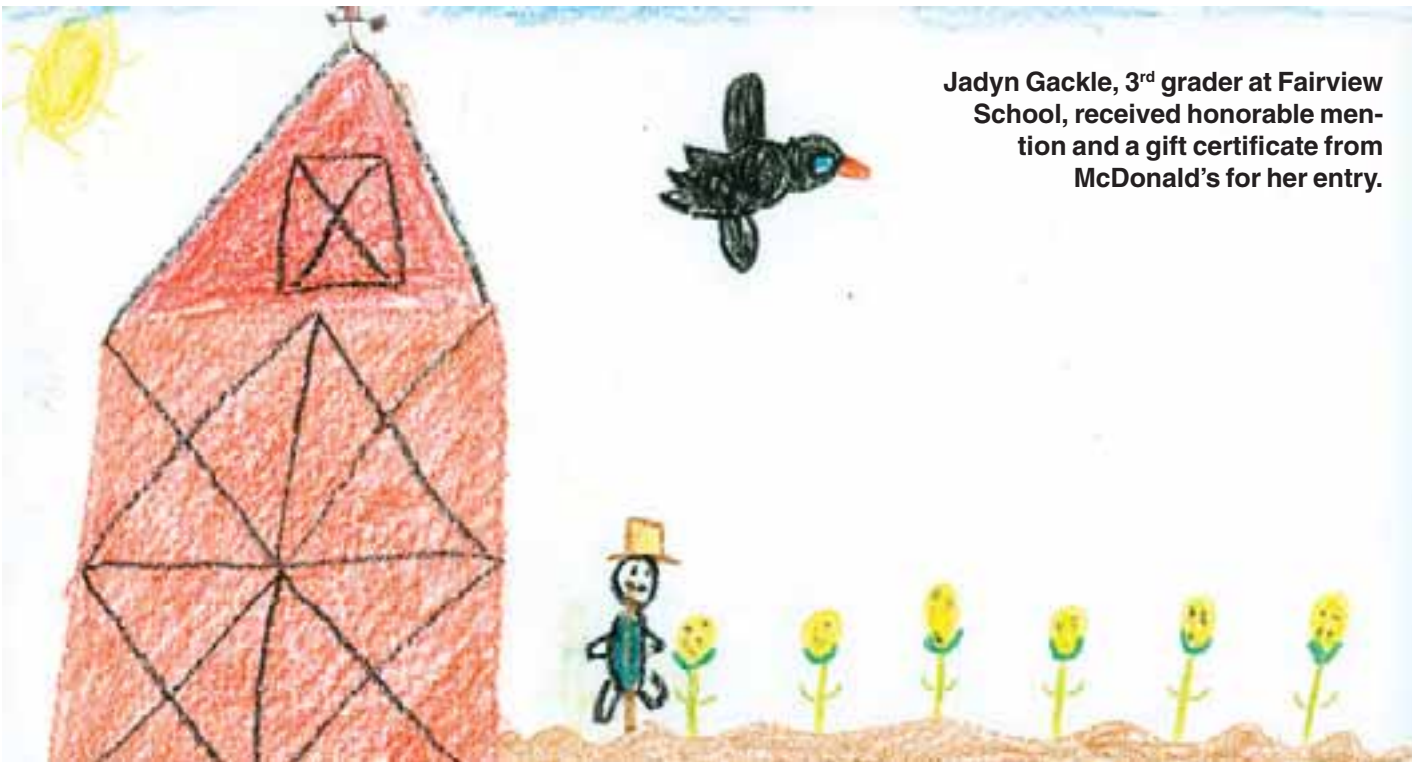
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Jadyn Gackle, 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at Fairview School, received honorable mention and a gift certificate from McDonald's for her entry.




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# 38<sup>th</sup> Harvest For Sidney Sugars Agriculturist

**By Lois Kerr**  
For the 38<sup>th</sup> straight year, Sidney Sugars Agriculturist Kerry Rasmussen has supervised beet harvest, organizing and training pile ground employees, working with growers, and doing everything possible to ensure that beet harvest runs as smoothly and trouble-free as possible for everyone. Rasmussen, who plans to retire from Sidney Sugars in the spring, expects harvest 2011 will be his last harvest as an agriculturist.

"It's been a good run," Rasmussen remarks. "I've served at every pile ground in the Sidney Sugars district with the exception of the factory yard. Each area is unique, but every area has great growers and I've enjoyed working with all of them."

Rasmussen's career as an agriculturist began in April 1973 when Holly Sugar hired him and sent him to Delta to



Kerry Rasmussen has completed 38 harvests as an agriculturist.

learn the ropes. "I was born and raised in Sidney," Rasmussen says. "Holly Sugar didn't want to start a new hire in the place he was born, so they sent me to Delta."

Delta closed in 1976 so Holly Sugar transferred Rasmussen to Worland, where he spent the next four years. In 1981, Rasmussen returned to Sidney and has worked as an agriculturist ever since, serving growers honestly and fairly, and becoming well respected in the process.

Rasmussen notes that when he returned to Sidney in 1981, employment difficulties resembled the problems employers have today in recruiting labor. "I came back to Sidney in 1981 during the last oil boom," Rasmussen comments. "Because of all the oil activity, we had a lot of trouble finding help for several years in the '80s."

Rasmussen first served the Glendive/Fallon/Terry grower district, and then in 1987 he took over the Fairview growing district. In 2000, he switched grower areas again and spent several years serving the Savage/Culbertson district. When Savage joined Powder River and Pleasant View as a single grower district, Rasmussen served this en-

tire southern district before returning to the Fairview area three years ago. He has worked with Fairview area growers for the past three years and will finish out his career as agriculturist with the Sugar Valley district.

In his 38 years as agriculturist, Rasmussen has seen and worked through every situation imaginable during harvest. "Each harvest is unique," he says. "Sometimes it's too hot and we can't start on schedule, or we may have rain delays. We've had harvests delayed because of late September freezes or early snows. Every so often we get an uneventful year with no delays at all."

He adds, "I prefer dry harvests. Beets come in clean and dry which is good for everyone. When piler crews have to start scraping mud off pilers this gets really tough on a crew."

Rasmussen puts in a lot of time preparing for harvest, as he must train and organize the pile ground crews. "We have 50 plus employees at Sugar Valley here in Fairview," he remarks. "We run 24 hours a day, most employees are new, so every year I'm training new people at the pilers. We used to get return people, but we now only have a 20% return rate, so I'm teaching new people every year. It is ongoing training and organizing but the beet growers go through the same thing each harvest with new drivers."

He adds, "This is why we need to remember to work safely. Safety is paramount."

Rasmussen has seen a lot of changes through the years, but he thinks the biggest change has come with Roundup Ready beets. "Roundup Ready makes weed control so easy," he notes. "We had a limited number of herbicides available for sugarbeets so weed tolerance was increasing and fields were getting weedier and weedier. However, Roundup Ready beets have made weed control much easier."

He adds, "Everything went very well this year with the Roundup Ready beets. Growers had rules and regulations to follow, but growers abided by the rules and it went very well."

Rasmussen looks back on his 38 years with no regrets. His duties as agriculturist have kept him busy, but



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he has enjoyed all aspects of the work. "Sugarbeets are a very interesting crop," he says. "There is always something new to learn. After 38 years, you'd think I'd have it all figured out, but there is always something new that comes up."

He continues, "I have especially enjoyed working with the growers. In fact, that's what I liked best. I also like

not having to punch a time clock and I like working outside. I had the best of both worlds."

Rasmussen plans to farm full time after he retires from Sidney Sugars this spring. "My great grandfather homesteaded near Brorson in 1910," Rasmussen comments. "I've been farming part time with my dad on nights and weekends, but I've now

bought the farm from my parents. Now I plan to farm full time and actually do a good job. I'm looking forward to farming on a full time basis, as I don't want to just retire and quit. I want something to do."

Duane Peters, agriculturist hired by Sidney Sugars this summer, will take over the responsibilities of Sugar Valley after Rasmussen retires.

## Reminder: MT Cowboy Hall of Fame Seeks Nominations for Class of 2012

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

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

(2011 inductee bios coming soon).

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

Anyone with an interest in Montana's history and Western heritage is invited to submit a nomination. Requirements include a cover letter with details about the nominee, the submitter, and a contact person or next of kin for the nominee; a two-page-or-less computer generated document detailing the nominee's background

and contributions to Montana's western heritage (in hard copy and CD copy); and a copy-ready photo if available. Please contact the MCHF & WHC at 406-653-3800 for full details about submission requirements. All nomination documents must be postmarked by Dec. 15, 2011.

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

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

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# Labor Shortages Not Unique To Present Day

By Lois Kerr

Extreme times call for extreme measures, and sometimes these extraordinary efforts lead to innovation and invention. Growers today may complain about the difficulty of finding harvest help, but today's situation doesn't compare with the acute labor shortages growers faced during World War II, particularly during the 1942 harvest year. With all able bodied men off to war, growers worked with communities and state agencies to find solutions to labor problems. They also turned their creativity into manufacturing improved implements and equipment.

Labor reached an acute stage in 1942. That year, farm-

ers planted 25% fewer beet acres because they figured they could never get the crop harvested before freeze-up. Shortages encouraged enterprising farmers to experiment with homemade equipment that included the manufacturing of beet toppers, beet harvesting machines, and beet pullers. Farmers also turned to Extension agents, who scoured their information sources to obtain plans for building labor saving devices. Many farmers received these plans and built machinery that included Jay-hawk stackers for putting up hay.

Through Extension efforts, Montana State University students also came to the Sidney area in 1942 to help with harvest. These students stayed with local families during the

harvest season. Community businesses and schools pitched in to help with harvest. The Sidney, Fairview and Savage communities closed their businesses during the peak 8-10 day harvest period so employees could help with harvest. The Sidney, Fairview and Savage schools also closed for two weeks during the 1942 beet harvest to help get the crop in. All students, boys and girls of all ages, worked in the fields, along with other volunteers who did their best to help harvest the crop. The situation improved somewhat by 1943 when 320 Mexican nationals came to work the beet fields, along with 800 Texas Mexicans as well. The sugar company in Sidney recruited these laborers, and the company also brought in these workers at company expense.

The Mexican labor also worked peas, harvested potatoes, hay and grain, and assisted in all other farming chores. It took cooperation, innovation and sheer will, but agricultural people prevailed and harvested their crops in spite of seemingly insurmountable labor problems.



Mexican Nationals thinning and hoeing beets, 1943.



Home-made irrigation pump used by Earl Wilson and Marcus Sorenson.



Close-up view of homemade beet topping machine which topped beets on three Richland County farms in 1942.



Beet harvesting machine invented by Hans Iverson, Sidney. With acute labor shortages, all possible methods were used to get the beets out, 1942.

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# Harvesting Pulse Crops

## Saskatchewan Agriculture

Pulse crops can be swathed and threshed or straight combined. However, the choice depends on machinery availability, the crop type, shattering resistance, stage of maturity and uniformity of maturity. Below are guidelines for the different types of pulse crops:

**Chickpeas:** Chickpeas do not cure well in the swath, resulting in high green seed if swathed or desiccated too early. Best yields are obtained when crop is left standing and then straight combined. Swathing may result in lower yield, higher green seed and seed infection from both fungal and bacterial diseases, resulting in reduced quality and yield. Desiccation is a better alternative to swathing. However, you have to wait until at least 80 per cent of the pods have turned brown. A killing frost in late fall could actually facilitate quicker combining. The sooner the crop matures, the better the yield and quality. Immature areas in the field should be combined and stored separately.

**Dry beans:** Due to non-uniform maturation in the field and susceptibility to shattering, beans are better swathed than straight-cut. Straight-cutting requires even maturity and high pod clearance. Immature beans can dry down in the swath without losing quality or shattering.

**Lentils:** Lentils can be swathed or straight cut depending on grower preference. However, due to the indeterminate growth habit of some lentil types, significant losses can occur if left to mature and dry in the field. Hence, the crop is often swathed or desiccated to achieve uniform dryness and good colour.

**Field peas:** Peas can be swathed prior to full maturity or straight combined at full maturity. However, to preserve green colour, green peas are usually swathed or desiccated early and combined as soon as possible before bleaching occurs. If straight cutting is planned, desiccation prior to maturity may be necessary. Yellow peas and feed peas can be swathed prior to maturity or straight cut when mature.

**Fababean:** Due to the high risk of shattering, fababean is best swathed and combined when dry than allowed to mature and straight cut. There are no registered desiccants.

How do I know when my pulse crop is ready for harvesting?

Close monitoring is the best method. The producer must walk the fields and examine the crops closely. Determining when to harvest depends on whether the producer plans to swath, desiccate or straight-cut. Does it matter whether I desiccate with Reglone or glyphosate?

Reglone is a herbicide that kills plant tissues immediately on contact, and therefore speeds up the drying process for both crop and green weeds. Conversely, glyphosate is a herbicide that kills the plant slowly after absorption and trans-

location to the growing points in the plant. Glyphosate is used in a pre-harvest application to control perennial weeds such as quackgrass, perennial sow-thistle, toadflax, dandelions and Canada thistle. Therefore, glyphosate is generally not referred to as a desiccant because it contributes only slightly to the dry-down of the crop. Depending on the weather conditions, crop dry-down after a pre-harvest glyphosate application can take anywhere from one to three weeks or more under extremely cool and cloudy conditions. To achieve rapid dry-down for the purposes of managing harvest, Reglone is a better choice. Liberty is also registered for desiccation of lentils. The speed of dry-down with Liberty is somewhere between Reglone and glyphosate. The choice and timing of each product depend on the crop in question. Glyphosate is registered for pre-harvest perennial weed control in dry beans, field peas, lentils, chickpeas, faba bean and lupin (not all products are registered for all crops, please check labels before applying). Reglone is registered for desiccation in chickpeas, dry beans, field peas and lentils. Note that pre-harvest treatments do not accelerate the maturity of the crop. They will kill and dry-down the crop at any growth stage. Hence, it is up to the producer to ensure that the crop has reached acceptable level of maturity before applying a desiccant.

Can I apply pre-harvest glyphosate to pulse crops to be used as seed?

No, you should not apply glyphosate to pulse crops intended for use as seed. As the glyphosate may be translocated to the filling seed, the residual glyphosate in the seed will lead to poor germination and seedling damage when the affected seeds are planted.

Is there any preferred time of day for swathing?

Swathing at night or early in the morning when there is dew on the crop will minimize the risk of shattering. Swathing under conditions of high humidity can also reduce the risk of shattering.

Do I need to roll the swath?

Rolling helps anchor the swath into the stubble or flatten it and reduce the risk of swath blowing in the wind, especially in low-cut crops like peas and lentils. However, rolling may also cause shattering losses, especially if conditions are dry.

Are pick-up reels, vine lifters and lifter guards necessary?

Pick-up reels, vine lifters and/or lifter guards have become a standard feature on pulse harvesting equipment. They improve the ability to harvest the pulses, which tend to lie low to the ground, lodge or get entangled in a mess close to the ground. If the crop is swathed, a pick-up reel will help move the plant material off the cutter bar. Lifter guards on the swather allow closer cutting to the soil surface. The pick-up reels and vine lifters should be adjusted properly to provide maximum lifting action. The reel speed should coincide with ground speed.



R. Erps, Sidney farmer, got out his own beets and two of his neighbors' beets with this beet topping outfit, 1942.



This puller brought the beets to the surface after being topped by the homemade beet topper, 1942.

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# Remembering Dore Pile Grounds

By Lois Kerr

Land usage changes through the years. The small patch of ground located along the highway south of the Dore elevator served as a sugarbeet pile grounds for many years until sugar factory officials closed it in 1996. During that time, residents saw a lot of heavy truck traffic in and out of the pile grounds during harvest. Today, that same piece of ground now stores tanker rail cars for the movement of crude oil and residents see a tremendous amount of truck traffic all year long, not just during harvest.

Randy Jones, Sidney Sugars, remembers the Dore pile grounds that served 26 growers and stored 3000 acres of beets at harvest. Jones worked as an agriculturist at the time and handled the Dore pile grounds as part of his responsibilities. "The scale house was just south of the Dore elevator, and we piled the beets to the south," Jones says. "It was a terrible pile ground. It was narrow, we always had long truck lines, and it was very busy and very bad for trucks. We had one piler that we had to move after five or six dumps, so it was slow going."

He adds, "We could only have five trucks in line at the scale house at one time because there was no more room."

To add insult to injury, computers had not yet arrived on the scene, so the wait at the scale house resulted in part because everything had to be calculated by hand. "The paperwork really held up the process," Jones remarks.

To make life easier for everyone, growers who hauled to Dore worked out a delivery system that included the pile ground at Fairview. All growers with fields to the south of a designated line hauled beets to Dore, while growers with fields to the north of the line took the beets to Fairview. Growers with fields on both sides of the line got together and worked out a system so half of the growers first harvested fields bound for Dore while the other half first harvested beets delivered to the Fairview pile grounds. When both sides had finished their respective fields, they switched with neighbors and harvested their fields on the other side of the line. "This system worked well," Jones says. "Approximately 15 growers would haul to Dore at any one time which helped to relieve the congestion."

dumped at Dore," Cayko remarks. "Trucks came in and lined up at the scale. If there were a lot of trucks in the area, we were packed in like sardines."

"However," he continues, "being in line so long, we had a game we'd play. There was a railing against a storage house and we'd toss nickels and dimes to see if we could land the coins on the railing ledge. We played for the coins. Anyone who landed a coin on the ledge won. It was a fun way to pass the time, and it provided good camaraderie with other growers who were waiting."

Because of the narrowness of the grounds, the crowded conditions, combined with North Dakota road restrictions, the sugar factory decided to combine the Dore, Marley and Fairview pile grounds into one super station. "It was more economical to combine the three stations into one," Jones says. "We built the super pile ground, Sugar Valley, at Fairview, to make more room and to speed up the process. 1996 was the last year we used Dore; we opened Sugar Valley and used it for the first time in 1997."

The piler used at the Dore receiving station now sits at the Sugar Valley station. Dore, now used as a crude oil storage and transfer facility, still sees a lot of truck traffic, not just at harvest time but year round. Increased traffic on Highway 58 convinced many growers to use gravel roads to travel to and from Sugar Valley while delivering this year's crop of beets.

Grower Terry Cayko remembers this system very well. He hauled beets to Dore as a youngster and as an adult, and he participated in this method of delivery. "We had our own system and it worked very well," Cayko says. "We figured it out so we didn't all harvest beets on one side of the line all at the same time."

Cayko recalls long waits at the Dore pile grounds, but he also says that this provided time to visit with neighbors and to have a little fun. "There was usually about an hour's wait when we

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Dore pile grounds from the air, 1996.

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# Safe Driving Tips For Harvest Season

Harvest is here again and the Richland County Emergency Medical Services Board would like to remind all drivers to drive safely especially during this time. Here are a few facts and safety tips to keep you and your family safe.

In the United States more than 70% of all fatal collisions involve automobiles and large trucks. In these crashes the operator of the automobile, rather than the truck driver, contributed to the cause of the collision.

Most collisions involving cars and trucks occur in daylight, on straight and dry pavement, and under good weather conditions.

Because trucks are larger and heavier than automobiles, four out of five times, the operator of the automobile or its passengers, and not the truck driver, are killed in a fatal automobile-truck crash.

Trucks tend to have special hazards; they have large blind spots called "no zones" and need additional room when making turns. A trustworthy rule to follow at all times is if you cannot see the operator of the truck in their outside mirrors then he/she probably cannot see your vehicle.

hicle.

Thoughts to consider- If you know that you may encounter an unusual amount of harvest production, leave your house earlier to ensure that you arrive at your destination on time. This is key!

Be patient and wear your seatbelt. Not wearing your seatbelt increases your chances of death by 40-50%.

95% of all road accidents are a direct result of a traffic offense.

Use your headlights, even in the daytime; it increases your car's visibility by 20%.

Think twice before pulling out in front of a large truck. Large trucks with full loads take three times the distance to stop from highway speeds on dry roads than would a passenger vehicle.

Maintain a constant speed when passing, and keep in mind it is a violation to exceed posted speed limits. Make sure you can see the front of the truck in your

rear view mirror before pulling back into the lane of travel. Pass when it is safe to do so. Never pass while going over a hill. Make sure you can see what's ahead of you before you pass.

Keep windshields clean. When being passed by a large vehicle, slow down slightly, as water spray or dirt from the vehicle tires can reduce your visibility.

Always keep your distance, never tailgate.

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# MSU Students Trap Worms To Help Understand Enemy In Montana’s Grain Fields

By Evelyn Boswell  
MSU News Service

Montana State University students traveled thousands of miles, dug hundreds of holes and sorted through truckloads of dirt to trap worms this summer.

The messy life and long hours of a worm wrangler help pay their way through college, but they also benefit an MSU graduate student who is conducting several studies involving a growing enemy of Montana’s grain, said undergraduates Branden Brelsford, Bozeman, and Emily Rohwer, Forest Grove, OR.

Wireworms, the tiny white larvae that turn into click beetles, are second only to the wheat stem sawfly for insects that damage wheat and barley in Montana, said Anuar Morales-Rodriguez, Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology doctoral candidate. Wireworms also eat sugar beets, potatoes, lentils and other crops they encounter un-

derground.

“We are losing several acres every year. They are taking out great big patches in the field and costing us considerable yield,” said Richard Barber, Denton, referring to his seed production fields for spring wheat, winter wheat and lentils.

Mark Grubb, Conrad, said he saw barren spots around the farm even when he was a young man working for his father, but, the problem worsened exponentially after he joined the Conservation Stewardship Program and instituted no-till practices on irrigated crops. The most significant damage occurred in his barley fields, but wireworms also invaded his winter wheat and spring wheat.



Wireworms feed on the roots of canola seedlings near Kalispell.

“It’s pretty much farm-wide now,” Grubb said.

Brelsford and Rohwer trapped wireworms in Barber’s and Grubbs’ fields this summer, as well as in other private and MSU fields around Montana. Supervised by Morales-Rodriguez in Kevin Wanner’s laboratory, Brelsford and Rohwer generally ran their trap lines twice a week. They left Bozeman at 5 a.m. and headed for fields as far away as Kalispell where they dug holes about 10 inches deep, set their traps and emptied previously set traps into plastic bags. They returned home the same day with their quarry still in the dirt.

Sorting through the bags revealed what they’d captured, the students said. Sometimes they found wireworms that almost fooled them into thinking they were roots. Occasionally, they came across beetles the size of their palms. They carried those across the hall to show international beetle expert Michael Ivie, who collaborates with Wanner. They also picked out spiders, decomposing earthworms and germinating seeds. The seeds, like any living organism, emit carbon dioxide which attracts the wireworms.

Morales-Rodriguez, a Colombian native who came to MSU because his research interests meshed with Wanner’s, said Brelsford and Rohwer probably traveled 10,000 miles this summer and captured 2,000 worms so far. That’s more worms than Montana producers want to see, but five times less than Morales-Rodriguez needs for his studies. He blamed the shortage on spring flooding, which sent the wireworms deeper underground, and said he has postponed some of his experiments because of it.

Morales-Rodriguez’ dissertation is focused on the man-

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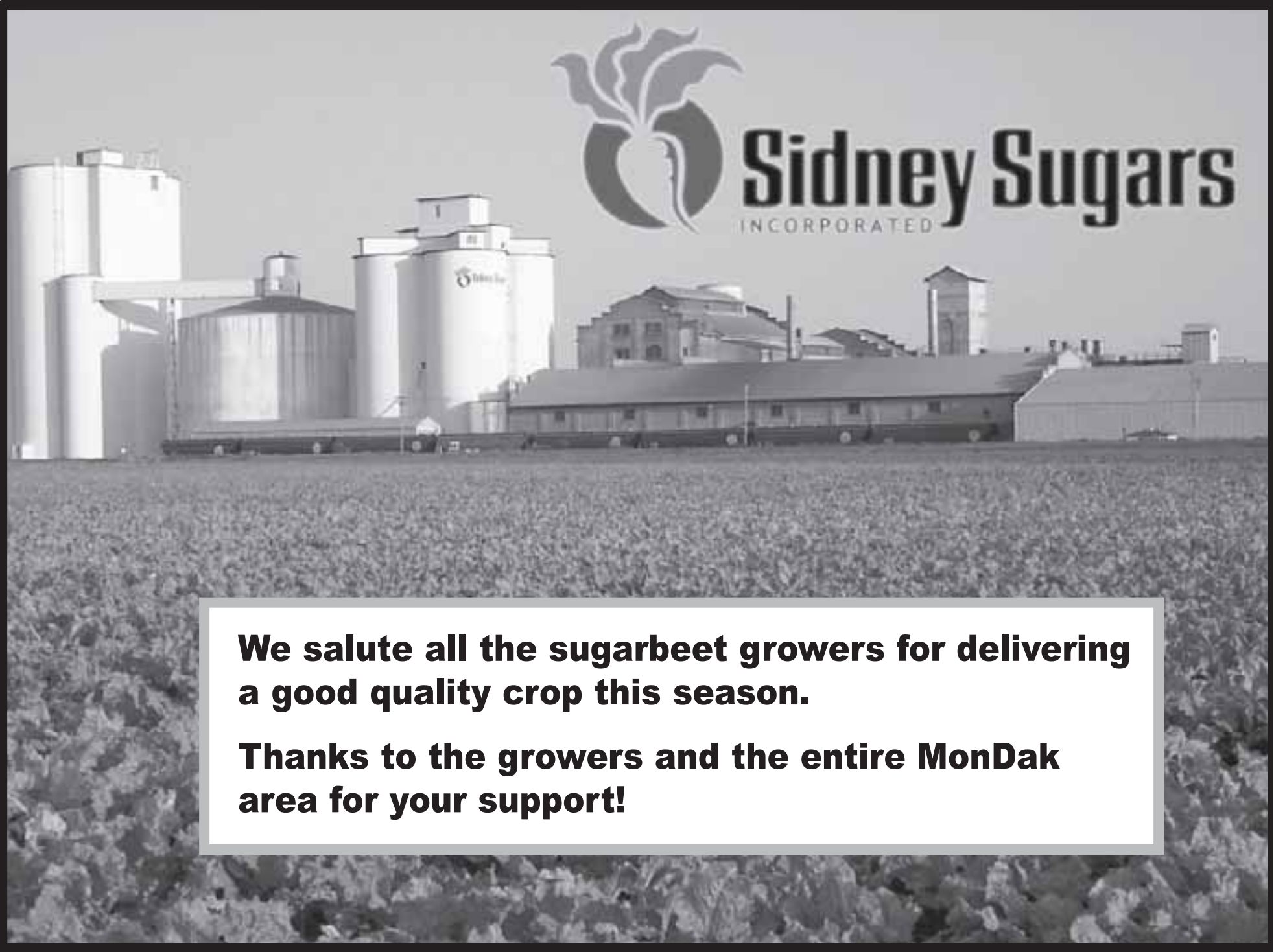
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agement of wireworms in Montana's wheat and barley fields. Describing his other research projects, Morales-Rodriguez said one study acquires basic information about the wireworms that live in Montana. The United States has 885 species, and 195 live in Montana, but they all look alike, he said. One way the MSU team is telling them apart is by analyzing their DNA supported by traditional taxonomy.

"With our work, we also want to link specific wireworm species to their adult counterparts," Morales-Rodriguez said.

Scientists know a lot about click beetles, but not nearly as much about wireworms, the immature stage of click beetles, he said. Working with him on that is Frank Etzler, Buffalo, NY, a master's degree student in entomology. Etzler works in Ivie's lab.

M o r a l e s - Rodriguez is also evaluating the effectiveness of biological controls, such as bacteria and fungus, against wireworms. He is conducting experiments to see which chemicals work best. He said lindane was highly effective, but the insecticide can no longer be used in agriculture. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency started restricting its use in the 1970s and completely banned it for agriculture in 2007.

M o r a l e s - Rodriguez is analyzing four types of traps, as well. Brelsford and Rohwer currently use all four traps to capture their worms.

In another project, Morales-Rodriguez is conducting a wireworm survey in conjunction with Wanner and MSU Extension. Participating producers request traps from MSU, set the traps in their grain fields and send the contents to MSU.

"We don't really know

too much about the life cycle and all the biological manifestations of wireworms in Montana," Morales-Rodriguez said. "We assume their life cycle is three to five years, but some people report seven years."

Morales-Rodriguez said wireworms live all over the world, and only some species cause problems. In fact, they often eat other insects that might be considered pests. But everything changes when the wireworms encounter agricultural land and do what comes naturally – eat. Then they become pests themselves.

As he tries to understand

sophomore in pre-med. Both said they enjoy research. Brelsford added that he likes the fact that the wireworm projects often send him outdoors.

Others working with Morales-Rodriguez are scientists at MSU's Agricultural Research Centers – particularly John Miller and Grant Jackson, Conrad, and David Wichman, Moccasin. MSU Extension Agent Dan Picard, Conrad, is involved, as well.

Funding for the wireworm research comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Crops at Risk" program and from industrial support.



Above: Branden Brelsford, left, Anuar Morales-Rodriguez and Emily Rohwer sort through dirt in Kevin Wanner's laboratory at Montana State University. The three are looking for wireworms, a growing enemy of Montana's grain. (MSU photo by Kelly Gorham).

how wireworms function in Montana, Morales-Rodriguez said he appreciates the help he's gotten from all his collaborators, including Rohwer and Brelsford.

"They are really, really good workers and hard workers," he said of the worm trappers.

Rohwer is a senior in biotechnology (microbial systems). Brelsford is a

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# MSU Researcher Discovers Link Between Montana Weather, Ocean Near Peru

By Evelyn Boswell  
MSU News Service

A Montana State University researcher who analyzed 100 years of data has found a significant link between extreme Montana weather and the ocean temperatures near Peru.

Montanans who want to know what to expect from the weather should look to the Pacific Ocean in the fall or maybe find a way to chat with some Peruvian fishermen, according to Joseph Caprio, MSU's Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences professor emeritus and former Montana State climatologist.

If the average surface temperature of the ocean near Peru is warmer than normal from November through March, fishing off the coast of Peru will be poor and Montana will experience El Nino from the following December through June, Caprio said. El Nino generally means Montana will be warm and dry.

If the average surface temperature is cooler than usual from November through March, fishing off the coast of Peru will be good and Montana will have a cool, wet spring, like the one experienced this year during La Nina, Caprio said. He added that weather in different areas of the country responds differently to El Nino or La Nina.

Caprio said Peruvian fishermen knew hundreds of years ago that ocean temperatures affected their livelihood. Scientists have long known that weather around the globe is linked to El Nino in different parts of the world. Meteorologists with the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration make long-range forecasts by monitoring sea surface temperatures, atmospheric pressure, wind, air temperatures and cloudiness in various areas of the Pacific Ocean.

Caprio focused on the sea-surface temperatures in the area that's associated with Montana weather. That area is off the Peruvian coast and near the equator. It covers about 550 miles from north to south and 4,100 miles east to west. Caprio specifically wanted to determine the effect of El Nino on extreme daily temperatures and precipitation in Montana.

"Since El Nino sea surface temperature anomalies tend to persist for many months and have predictable climatic associations, it is prudent to undertake research to understand how El Nino affects extremes of weather for individual locations in order to provide useful information for decision

makers," Caprio said in a paper he published in the Inter-mountain Journal of Sciences.

"Compared to normal years, El Nino years tend to have about 20% more days with extreme high daytime temperatures, 20% fewer days with extreme low nighttime temperatures and 20% fewer days with high precipitation amounts," Caprio said.

"An increase or decrease of extreme daily weather occurrences can impact natural resources and a wide range of human activities including agriculture, forestry, recreation, construction and other businesses," he added.

Luther Talbert, MSU's Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology professor, reported the impact of a long-term trend toward warmer temperatures on hard red spring wheat in a paper he co-authored with other ag researchers at MSU. Published last year in the journal "Crop Science", the paper showed that warmer temperatures are changing the environment for spring wheat production and will impact the goals of breeding programs.

That study looked at weather data and crop performance at six Agricultural Research Stations across Montana. From 1950-2007, the mean annual temperatures at five of the six sites increased significantly. March temperatures increased significantly at all sites, and planting dates became significantly earlier over time. This has led to earlier planting and a potentially longer growing season. Conversely, hotter temperatures in summer are causing earlier leaf senescence, thus shortening the time plants have to produce plump grain.

"The projection of increasing temperatures suggests the need for management and breeding strategies to ensure productivity of hard red spring wheat in the northern Great Plains," the paper said.

Caprio conducted his study by analyzing the relationship between two databases that each provided 100 years of information. One database gave the air temperature and precipitation as recorded every day from 1901-2000 on the MSU campus. The other database came from the Japanese Meteorological Agency and gave the monthly temperature of the ocean's surface between the latitudes of 40° north and 40° south and the longitudes of 150° west and 90 degrees west. Those temperatures were taken in a variety of ways over the years—some by ship, others by buoys and satellites, Caprio said.

Joseph Caprio stands in front of the Joseph M. Caprio Weather Station on the MSU campus. The MSU researcher found a significant link between Montana's weather and the ocean temperatures near Peru by comparing two databases. One database consisted of 100 years of daily air temperatures and precipitation recorded at MSU. (MSU photo by Kelly Gorham).



Caprio specifically compared MSU temperatures and precipitation between Dec. 3 and June 23 to average sea-surface temperatures between November and March. The study period included 50 normal years, 25 El Nino years and 25 La Nina years.

To analyze the data, Caprio used a statistical method he developed years ago called the "iterative chi-square method". "It's different from most other techniques for studying climate impacts because it uses daily temperatures and precipitation," Caprio said. He added that he has proven the method in previous studies that considered the effect of daily temperatures and precipitation on apple, peach, grape, sweet cherry and apricot production in British Columbia, tree ring growth in Arizona, wheat production and winterkill in Montana, and climate variation in the Northwest.

Caprio said he continues to conduct such research because he has a curiosity to discover and wants to share his research methods with the scientific community, contribute to human knowledge, assist researchers in determining the effect of daily temperature and precipitation on agriculture natural resources and human activity, and emphasize the importance of long-term daily weather observations.

Co-authors on Caprio's latest study were Perry Miller and Jon Wraith, both in MSU's Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences. Wraith is now with the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture in Durham, NH.

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