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Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Volume 41 • Number 50

The Public is Encouraged to Comment on the Intake Diversion Dam Fish Passage Project on or Before Feb. 17

By Meagan Dotson

On Thursday, January 21st, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation held a public scoping meeting at the Dawson County High School in Glendive, MT to gather public opinion and answer questions about the alternatives being studied as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Intake Diversion Dam fish passage project.

The EIS is being developed to better determine how fish passage, especially that of the endangered pallid sturgeon, can be improved with continued viable operation of the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP). The LYIP provides water to over 50,000 acres of land from Intake into western North Dakota and is vital to agriculture in the area, with annual gross crop values currently between \$25 million and \$30 million.

However, the pallid sturgeon, native to the Yellowstone

River, struggle to swim in the turbulent waters created by the dam, causing them to spawn below Intake. Newly hatched pallid sturgeon can't swim for the first 13- 15 days of life and drift downstream; it is believed that they then drift into Lake Sakakawea and die in the lake environment.

Over thirty individuals with the USACE, Department of Omaha, the BOR, and Tetra Tech, a company that has been contracted to develop alternatives and write the EIS, are working on the project. Alternatives include No Action which would mean the continued operation and maintenance of the existing project, permit for rocking, and Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation; the Rock Ramp Alternative which would replace the existing weir with a concrete weir and a shallow-sloped, un-grouted rock ramp. The Bypass Channel Alternative which would construct a bypass channel around the existing weir and divert about 15% of total river flow. The High Flow Channel Alternative which would modify an existing side channel around the current weir to divert river flow. The Pumping Alternative that would include either pumping stations (surface water) or Ranney

wells (infiltration galleries) to divert water into the existing irrigation canal and the Non-Weir Alternative which could include pumping, alternative energy sources and conservation. Finally, there will be consideration of other recommended alternatives identified during scoping.

The public is invited and encouraged to comment on the issues and alternatives at hand and may submit comments by mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District: Attention CENWO-PM-AA, 1616 Capitol Ave., Omaha, Nebraska 68102 or email comments to cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil. Comments must be postmarked or received via email by February 17, 2016. A draft of the EIS will be complete in May 2016 at which time the BOR will hold another public scoping meeting with another 45-day comment period. The final EIS will be complete in November of 2016.

For additional information, visit the project website at www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao/loweryellowstone or contact Tiffany Vanosdall at 402-995-2695 or by email, tiffany.k.vanosdall@usace.army.mil.

BrownBagger Presentation on Friday, Jan. 29

Submitted by Beth Redlin, Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory

Invasive weeds, droughts, fires, energy development and other disturbances are all impacting the quality of one our most important natural resources in the Northern Great Plains.... our grasslands. ARS scientists are looking at ways to address those impacts, including a recent project enabling scientists to study methods for restoring our grasslands over a large scale in order to determine which techniques are the most effective.

The latter is the subject of the second presentation in the USDA-Agricultural Research Service's Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory (NPARL) 2016 winter BrownBagger Series to be held on Friday, Jan. 29th at the Sidney research lab.

The presentation by ARS Rangeland Management Specialist Matt Rinella runs from noon to 1:00 p.m at the lab located at 1500 N. Central Avenue in Sidney, MT.

Rinella, who works at the Ft. Keogh ARS facility in Miles City, will be discussing a recent study he led looking at hundreds of restoration reports filed for 169 former coal mining fields subject to restoration efforts from 1992 to 2009. "There is a growing need to restore degraded Great Plains grasslands, but there is a lack of information on effective restoration strategies," Rinella said of the study. "We used data from hundreds of coal mine seeding efforts to identify the most effective currently used strategies as well as identify new strategies that may prove more effective."

The researchers looked not only at restoration techniques for grasses, but also shrubs. The latter are important species for wildlife, but also serve as valuable livestock forage in some ecosystems, according to Rinella.

Learn what he and his team found out! Bring your lunch and join us Friday, Jan. 29, for this very informative presentation. We'll provide the dessert!

And consider joining us for these upcoming February BrownBaggers as well featuring:

A talk and demonstration of 3-D printing by Brian McGinnis with Exdivio Solutions, Inc. in Sidney (Feb. 12)

A discussion on sugarbeet and weeds by NDSU Asst. Professor and Extension Agronomist Tom Peters of Fargo. (Feb. 26)

For questions or more information on NPARL's 2016 Brownbagger Series, contact Beth Redlin at 406-433-9427 or beth.redlin@ars.usda.gov.

Attention Richland County Landowners

Submitted by Julie Goss

Attention Richland County Landowners. Application are being accepting for the Richland County Conservation District Cost Share Program. The program is designed to help landowners implement conservation practices on land in Richland County. Past projects include: Stock water wells, stockwater pipelines, solar pumps for stock water wells, irrigation structures, gated pipe purchases, shelterbelts, reseeding crop fields to grass and cover crops.

Any project that enhances the natural resources in Richland County is eligible. The program is open to Richland County landowners. Funding is provided by the Richland County Commissioners.

In the five years of the programs existence over \$750,000 in conservation practices have been implemented in Richland County using \$250,000 in cost share dollars. If you have a project that may fit the program, we cost share up to \$5000.00 on projects costing \$10,000.00 or more. If your project is less than \$10,000.00 we cost share 50% of the project. One individual is eligible to receive up to \$10,000 in a 5 year period with this program. Participants are encouraged to follow NRCS Specifications to ensure success of the project.

Deadline for application is Feb. 29, 2016 and projects that will be funded will be announced by March 15, 2016. Applicants may be requested to interview with the Conservation District Supervisors as part of the application process. Projects must be completed within the year of funding, or by Dec. 31, 2016. Applications can be picked up at the Conservation District Office at 2745 West Holly St, Sidney, MT or by contacting Julie Goss at 433-2103 ext 101.

Now is the time to think about your conservation needs for the summer of 2016. If you need a water well or pipeline, shelterbelt or plan to reseed a cropped field to grass or would like to try some cover crops stop by and pick up an application for cost share.

Door 204: Watford City's Newest Coffee Shop



Door 204 will be holding a Grand Opening Jan. 30 at 204 N. Main in Watford City.



Pictured above is the new Door 204 coffee bar. Pictured left is Cameron Horning's Shred the Lead art studio.

Submitted by Sheridan Martin

In Watford City, ND, citizens can find a brand new, local coffee shop owned by Beth Veeder, who also owns Meyers Department Store right next door. Door 204 is a comfy, yet contemporary designed coffee shop that is also a private postal service and art gallery. Watford City is a close-knit community, and Beth Veeder wanted to bring something new, different and special to the community.

Beth Veeder has managed Meyers Department Store since September of 2011, offering Watford high quality clothing, accessories and design. The building next door went up for sale and she knew she had to make the purchase. As soon as the purchase was made, they started training right away in the postal service because they knew it was something they would want to keep. Not to mention, the post office boxes create a great appeal to the shop alone.

Veeder finally got the idea for a coffee shop because she felt that it was necessary. "I wanted to create a destination place for the community; a sit-down, urban feel where citizens could come hang out and enjoy some great coffee," said Beth. Veeder and her daughter, Lindsay Wingerter and other employees, were trained by Kathy "Jess" James, who owns a coffee shop in Alexander, ND.

The Door 204 Coffee shop won't be just a place to grab your favorite drink and your mail, but also an art gallery as well. When Beth Veeder first started the process of opening the shop, a local artist by the name of Cameron Horning approached her asking to showcase his art in the shop. Beth happily agreed, knowing that his colorful and contemporary art style would only add to the already great shop. Shred the Lead is the name of Cameron's studio, and it's based at the back of the shop.

Beth Veeder has stocked the new coffee shop very well with an ice maker, reverse osmosis machine, brand-new espresso grinder, espresso machine, mini-fridge, and will be featuring coffee syrup brand Stirling. The shop will be serving hot drinks, iced and blended drinks, and even smoothies.

The coffee bar was designed and built by Josh Skogland, owner of Old Barn Woods.

Future plans for Door 204 will bring a lot of interaction in the community. Beth Veeder would like it to be a destination

place where local artists can showcase music, art, and even products. "I would really like to keep activity in the community, and that's what I've designed the coffee shop to be. It's a really great way to stay involved." Veeder would also like to bring in TOMS shoes because they are stylish and she really appreciates their 'Buy one give one' charity. She would also like to add jewelry showcases, as well as accessories and select clothing items and more that also give back.

The grand opening for Door 204 Coffee Shop will be on Sat., Jan. 30th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The grand opening will include featured art by artist Cameron Horning with a silent auction for his art; a portion of the proceeds made from the auction will be donated to Kent Pelton Nature Park. John Skogland, who designed the coffee bar, will also be showcasing a few of his pieces at the event. Door 204 asks you to join them to celebrate local artists, musicians and the community, and of course lots of coffee!

Parenting Class For Divorcing Parents Offered

Marcia Hellandsaas
NDSU Extension Agent

Parents Forever, a parenting class for parents experiencing or considering separation/divorce, who are divorced and experiencing challenges or who have never been married and do not live together, will be held on Tue., Feb. 9 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the McKenzie County Extension Office in Watford City. The workshop cost is \$55 per person.

Skills and tools to help reduce the effects of divorce on children and parents will be introduced and practiced.

Topics discussed will be the transition process and journey, children needs, children emotional status, strengthening communication skills and planning for the future.

Pre-registration is requested prior to attending this program. Please call the McKenzie County Extension Office at 701-444-3451 or e-mail marcia.hellandsaas@ndsu.edu to enroll in this class.

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Thank You

We would like to thank our kids for our surprise 50th anniversary party. We would also like to thank all the family & friends that were there. We appreciate all the cards & the phone calls we received. Thank you once again.

With love,
— Jim & Linda Bieber




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Invites you and your family to the
Sidney High School Gym
January 29th, 2016
For:
SHS Wrestling
Senior Night
With a Tailgate Party
&
Team Autograph Night!
Meal & Team Poster Autographs at 5pm!
Wrestling at 6pm!




DRIVER WANTED

Delivery driver for The Roundup, \$14 per hour.
Must have valid driver's license, be able to lift at least 80lbs. One day/week.
Pick up application at 111 W. Main, Sidney, MT, or at the Sidney Job Service.



STATISTICS



LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

	Sakakawea
Current Elevation.....	1839.2
Last Week's Elev.	1839.6
One Year Ago	1839.6
Release For Day (C.F.S.)	19000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Jan. 18.....	20	-8	0.01
Jan. 19.....	34	5	0.00
Jan. 20.....	20	7	0.00
Jan. 21.....	23	16	0.01
Jan. 22.....	42	22	0.00
Jan. 23.....	45	26	0.00
Jan. 24.....	28	24	0.00
Total YTD Precipitation			0.08

OBITUARIES

Patrick “Pat” Gaffield, 44, Sidney, MT

Funeral service for Patrick Gaffield, 44, of Sidney, MT was at 2 p.m., Monday, Jan. 25, 2016 at the Fulkerson Memorial Chapel with Pastor Richard Evans officiating. Cremation will followed the services. Remembrances, pictures and condolences can be shared at www.fulkersons.com.
Pat died at his home on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016 in Sidney.

Katherine Elizabeth Melland Paschke, 89, Billings, MT

Funeral services for Katherine Melland Paschke, 89, of Billings, MT will be held at 10 a.m., Thurs., January 28, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sidney, MT with Pastor Rolf Preus presiding. Interment will be in the Fairview Cemetary, Fairview, ND under the direction of the Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home. Katherine died on Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016 at St. Vincent Hospital in Billings, MT. Remembrances, pictures and condolences may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Richard “Rick” C. Wiseman, Jr., 47 of Sidney, MT

Funeral services for Richard C. Wiseman, Jr., 47, of Sidney were held at 2 p.m., Thur., Jan. 21, 2016 at the Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel with Pastor Les Anderson officiating. Interment was held at the Sidney Cemetery under the direction of the Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com. Rick died on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016, at his home in Sidney. Rick was a supervisor at Shopko in Sidney, MT.

Bismarck State College Announces The President’s Honor Roll For The Fall 2015 Semester

“President Theodore Roosevelt said, ‘Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.’ We’re so proud of our BSC students who have demonstrated that their academic studies are ‘worth doing.’ Their demonstrated success will carry them well into their beyond, wherever that takes them,” said BSC President Dr. Larry C. Skogen.
The area students who have maintained at least a 3.50 grade point on a 4.00 scale while enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of classes include:
Jared Troutd of Sidney, MT
Christopher Brown of Lincoln, ND

Volunteers Are Needed For The 2C District Boys & Girls Basketball Tournament

By Meagan Dotson
Sidney will be hosting the Eastern Montana 2C District Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament Monday, Feb. 15 through Sat., Feb. 20 at the Sidney High School. The Eastern Montana District II C Basketball Tournament helps support local commerce as twenty-two teams will be guests in town, and the Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture is looking for volunteers to help with the event. There will be eleven schools making the trip and at least thirty volunteers are needed to help sell and take tickets. Monday through Thursday the tournaments will take place from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Anyone interested can contact the Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture at 406-433-1916.

The Master Gardener Program Offers Something For Every Skill Level

By Meagan Dotson
The Master Gardener Program will hold classes Feb. 6 and 20 and March 5 and 19 at the MSU Extension Office in Sidney. The Saturday classes will be from 8 a.m. until noon and will cover a variety of topics including soils, botany, vegetable gardening, perennial and annual flower gardening, and tree and lawn care and will cover some specific topics based on interests of the class such as canning and composting.
The Master Gardener Program began in 1972 when an extension agent in Washington state was overrun with home horticultural questions. The program was loosely based on 4-H classes, the idea being to train volunteers to answer those questions.
This is the fifth series of classes to take place in Richland County. The cost is \$100, however, if attendants complete 20 hours of volunteer time, they will receive a \$50 reimbursement. Past volunteer projects include work at the Arboretum at Hansen Park, building garden beds for the community garden, and helping out at the city parks. Local classes are Level 1 of the national program and those interested can go on to complete Level 2 and Level 3, which are a weekend series of classes at MSU Bozeman.
“Whether a person is experienced or not, everyone will get something out of these classes,” commented Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine. “Topics aren’t going to be over anyone’s head but they’re not going to be boring either.”
To sign up or for more information, contact Fine at the Extension Office at 406-433-1206.

EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!
THE ROUNDUP: PO Box 1207
111 West Main • Sidney, MT 59270
406-433-3306 • Fax: 406-433-4114 • Email: classads@esidney.com

RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

Wed., Jan. 27
2:30 - 4:30p.m. - After School Enrichment. Ages 6 and up. \$50 for six weeks. MonDak Heritage Center. 406-433-3500.
7 p.m. - Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks invites the public to comment on a proposal to fund the purchase of a perpetual channel migration easement on 89.5 acres in Richland County along the Yellowstone River near Sidney. A Public hearing will be held at the MSU Richland Co. Extension Building, 1499 N. Central Ave.
7 p.m. - Wine Glass Painting Class. Come and see what our most popular class is about. \$15. MonDak Heritage Center.
Tue., Jan. 28
6 p.m. - MonDak Writer’s Group. All skill levels accepted. Free MonDak Heritage Center.
Fri., Jan. 29
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Senior commodities will be distributed at the back door of the Nutter Building located at 123 W. Main. Message phone is 406-433-4353.
10:30 a.m. - Storytime. 0-5 yrs. Richland County Library.
5 p.m. - Sidney Eagle Wrestling Senior Night. There will be a tailgate party and Team Poster Autographs at 5 p.m. and the wrestling will begin at 6 p.m.
6 p.m. - Sidney Sportsman’s Night Out at the Richland County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited. For tickets or more info call Stacey at 406-489-2004.

Sat., Jan.30
1 p.m. - In Savage, MT during games against Fairview, MT, there will be a “Super” Bowl Feed. Soup, bread bowl and dessert will be served and a Free Will Donation. Proceeds Benefit the Savage Booster Club.
5 p.m. - 12 a.m. - Parker Dahl Freewill Donation Dinner at Waterhole #3 in Fairview, MT.
6 p.m. - Richland County Republican Central Committee Lincoln-Reagan Dinner. Social with hors d’oeuvres at 6 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Speakers are local and state Republican Candidates. Steak dinner, live & silent auction. Tickets \$35 presale, \$40 at the door, Students \$25. Richland County Fairgrounds. For more info call 406-480-4575 or 406-480-2953.

Sun., Jan. 31
2 p.m. - Downton Abbey Tea Party. Come celebrate the final season at the MonDak Heritage Center. This event will include commemorative photographs, delicious treats and tea, games and crafts. Wear your hat to participate in our hat contest, with prizes going to the most historically accurate, people’s choice and most creative. Space is limited so contact 406-433-3500 to reserve your seats. \$15 for members & \$20 for non-members.
Mon., Feb. 1
5 p.m. - 7 p.m. - In-Person Soccer Registration at the Eastern Ag Research Center/4-H Extension Office Building. The cost is \$45 per player and must be 5 years old by April 1, 2016 up through grade 12. You can also register online at www.midrivers.com/~sidsoccer/, and you can mail registration to Sidney Soccer Association, P.O. Box 604, Sidney, MT, 59270.

Tue., Feb. 2
12 p.m. - 4 p.m. -Walk-in Tuesdays. Come in with your little one and we will create a heart hand print ornament out of wet clay. We will do all artwork for you. No appointment necessary. \$15. MonDak Heritage Center. 406-433-3500.
3:30 p.m. - Lego Club. Richland County Library.
4:30 p.m. - Lego League. Richland County Library.

Wed., Feb. 3
2:30 - 4:30p.m. - After School Enrichment. Ages 6 and up. \$50 for six weeks. MonDak Heritage Center. 406-433-3500.
7 p.m. - Adult Mandala Class. Learn to draw and coor a beautiful mandala pattern. \$15. MonDak Heritage Center. 406-433-3500.
Thur., Feb. 4
7 p.m. - The Valinor Quartet. A distinctive and talented international group of professional musicians. The group utilizes a wide range of styles from classical to Beatles and everything in between. To be held at the MonDak Heritage Center. Tickets can be purchased at the door. \$15/adults, \$13/ seniors and \$10/students. for more info contact Candy at 406-488-4155.

Fri., Feb. 5
10:30 a.m. - Storytime. 0-5 yrs. Richland County Library.
Sat., Feb. 6
8 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Master Gardener Program. Class will cover a variety of topics including soils, botany, vegetable gardening, perennial & annual flower gardening and tree and lawn care. Will be held at the MSU Extension office in Sidney. Cost is \$100, however, there will be a \$50 reimbursement for attendants who complete 20 hrs of volunteer time. There will be 3 more classes with dates of Feb. 20, Mar. 5 and Mar. 19. For more information call 406-433-1206.
7 p.m. - Celebrating Chocolate At The MonDak Heritage Center. The theme for this annual fundraiser is “An Evening In Paris”. Live music by the Valinor Quartet and lots of chocolate with a fine selection of wine. VIP opens at 6:30 with a first look at the silent auction. Tickets for members \$50 and non-members \$60. For more information call Kim at 406-433-3500.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.

Thur., Jan. 28
5 - 7 p.m. - Winter Wine Mixer and University Commons Grand Opening. Come enjoy complimentary wine tastings, gourmet meat and cheese platters, a grilled appetizer bar and fully stocked Viennese dessert table.
Wed., Feb. 3
7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. - National Hard Spring Wheat show at th Grand Williston Hotel. There will be 21 speakers throughout the event and lunch tickets will be \$10 and is served from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 4
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Day 2 of the National Hard Spring Wheat Show.

McKENZIE COUNTY
Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.
Mon., Jan. 25
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm -Stepping On. A community based 7 wk program to be held at Outlaws Bar & Grill in Watford City. Sessions will follow at Outlaws. Pre-reg. requested prior to attending. Please contact McKenzie Cty Ext. office @ 701-444 3451.

DAWSON COUNTY
Events in Glendive unless otherswise listed. MT Zone
Fri., Feb. 12
8 a.m. - 6 p.m. - GATE- 38th Annual Glendive Agri-Trade Exposition. Lunch served by the Cowbelles. GATE Raffle tickets are \$5/ea. or \$25/for 6. For more information call 406-987-3777 or visit website at www.GATEexpo.com.
Sat., Feb. 13
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. - GATE- 38th Annual Glendive Agri-Trade Exposition.

Sidney Basketball Action



Myka Steinbeisser drives past a Glasgow Scottie last Thursday in Glasgow. The Lady Eagles lost. (Photos by Kathy Johnson)

MNAXLP



Left: Jared Steinbeisser sinks a 3 pointer in the 59-40 victory over the Glasgow Scotties last Thursday in Glasgow.

Below: Madison Thiessen shoots for two. The Lady Eagles lost to the Glasgow Scotties last Thursday in Glasgow.



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PHOTO CONTEST

The Rodiron Grill is looking for photographs taken of Sidney and the surrounding area. The winning photos will be used to decorate the walls at the Rodiron Grill, and the winners will receive a **\$25 GIFT CARD!**

Drop off your pictures in an envelope with your name and phone number at the Rodiron Grill. You can also mail them to 119 N. Central Ave. Sidney, MT 59270. Deadline for submissions is February 28th.

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SAVE THE DATE FOR DOOR 204'S

Grand Opening

SAT, JAN 30TH • 5-8PM

Watford City's Newest Coffee Shop

DOOR 204

701-842-6441
204 N. Main • Watford City, ND

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE LOCAL ARTISTS & MUSICIANS WHILE ENJOYING COFFEE & OTHER REFRESHMENTS

SILENT AUCTION
A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Kent Pelton Nature Park

The Coffee Bar was built & designed by Josh Skogland, owner of Old Barn Woods. He will have pieces of his own design for sale.

SIDNEY HEALTH CENTER
Exceptional Care for Life

NOVEMBER CHILDBIRTH CLASS
Saturday, February 6th
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sidney Health Center Classroom
Phone: (406) 488-2577 to Register

Classes held throughout the year in **FEBRUARY • MAY • AUGUST • NOVEMBER**

Find us on **Facebook** 216 14th Ave SW • Sidney, MT
Online: www.sidneyhealth.org

NEW - Online Childbirth Education

The eLearning Childbirth Education Program is an option for those parents who cannot attend conventional prenatal classes or would like home-based education. It may also be used as a "refresher" course or to reinforce what you learned in class. The interactive web-based program includes animated illustrations, videos and voice-overs and can be viewed on a PC, Mac or mobile devices.

For more information, please call the Sidney Health Center OB Clinic at (406) 488-2577.

Sidney Resident Learns The Importance Of Montana Grain Industry



Class II of REAL Montana toured the Rainbow Dam hydroelectric plant on January 15. **Front (L to R):** Megan Hedges, Karli Johnson, Molly Schwend, Nicole Rolf, Lacey Ehlke, Janelle Booth, Maggie Nutter, Katie Cooper, Tracy Mosley. **Back (L to R):** Jerry Gray (NorthWestern Energy), Tom Hougen, Nick Miller, Brian Marler, LaVon Wagler, Jill Herold, Darcia Patten, Blaine Juedeman, Bryan Lorengo, Paul Babb, Tara Becken, Farrah McGregor, Chaley Harney.

Celebrating Chocolate
an evening
in Paris

February 6 2016 at 7pm

Featuring the stylistic
diversity and global flair
of the Valinor Quartet!

Individual Tickets
\$50 for members / \$60 for non-members

Table Packages
\$300 for 4 people / \$600 for 8 people

Table packages include: Early entrance at 6:30pm,
special food and drink, commemorative bottles of wine
and first look at the silent auction.

To Purchase

Visit the MonDak Heritage Center
120 3rd Avenue SE, Sidney, MT
Call 406-433-3500
Email mdhc@richland.org

Special thanks
to our
sponsor:

Benefit Dinner For Parker Dahl Jan. 30

Submitted by Tara Johnson, Manager Waterhole #3, Fairview, MT

Parker Dahl is a 23 year old local who is suffering from an Increased Inter-Cranial pressure with no known cause. A benefit will be held on January 30th, Waterhole #3, 5:00 p.m. for help with medical bills. At the event BBQ pork, salad, baked beans and dessert will be served for a Free Will Donation. There will also be a silent auction and a live auction at 8:00 p.m. with live music to follow until midnight.

Parker was diagnosed with this condition at the age of 16. It is a very rare condition and his doctors have been baffled as to the cause. "Uncharted waters" is the term they keep using. Parker was recently admitted to the ICU in Virginia as his illness took a turn for the worse.

If there are any questions please contact Tara Johnson or Angie Dietrich at 406-480-4018.

Thank you for your time and efforts in helping us raise money for Parker and his family. The medical bills alone are thousands.

Go Fund Me account link: gofundme.com/a9yghyeh
Contact: Angie Dietrich 406-480-4018 for questions or donations.

Northwest Landowners Assoc. Announces Presenters For Landowner Informational Expo

Submitted by Northwest Landowners Association
Berthold, N.D. — Northwest Landowners Association will be hosting a Landowner Informational Expo on February 2nd as an opportunity for its members and the general public to learn more about landowner issues and interface with representatives from state agencies, oil and pipeline companies, and elected officials. The Landowner Informational Expo will be held at the Mountrail County South Complex in Stanley from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. "Northwest Landowners Association strives to provide unbiased education regarding current and past resource development processes," remarked Troy Coons, Chairman of Northwest Landowners Association. "The Informational Expo will be a great opportunity for landowners and those working in related fields to hear from those involved at

Submitted by Karli Johnson

Sidney resident Karli Johnson just returned from three days in Great Falls as part of REAL Montana (Resource Education and Agriculture Leadership). For Karli and other members of REAL Montana Class II, this was the third seminar in their two-year educational program.

The focus of the seminar Jan. 14-16 was "Crop Production Economy & Issues". Class members heard from experts on Montana's role in domestic and global agricultural markets, rail transport, public policy, the Farm Bill, GMOs, and the H2A visa program. A speaker panel consisting of conventional, organic, and no-till farmers briefed the class on current issues in crop production. Representatives from Senator Tester, Senator Daines and Congressman Zinke outlined legislative issues to prepare the class for their upcoming trip to Washington D.C.

The class took part in a skill building training on fundraising, shared a meal at the Hillcrest Colony near Vaughn, and toured the Rainbow Dam hydroelectric facilities. The seminar included a networking banquet where class members interacted with local program sponsors and industry leaders.

"I am continually amazed at what I learn each session even in industries and areas that I am familiar with. I can't wait to learn more about our area in June."

REAL Montana is a leadership class designed to take emerging leaders in the natural resource industries to the next level. Twenty of Montana's sharpest leaders were competitively selected from a pool of qualified candidates representing a wide variety of agriculture and natural resource industries across the state to take part in Class II of REAL Montana.

The two year program features eight in-state seminars, a four-day national study tour in Washington D.C. and a ten-day international trip.

Seminars include training in natural resource development, agriculture institutions and agencies, public speaking/media economics, state and federal policy, international trade, urban/rural relationships, water issues, and other current industry topics.

The class will be in Sidney and the surrounding area June 9-11 studying oil and natural gas production.

REAL Montana is funded through a partnership with Montana State University Extension and private industry. Oversight is provided by an advisory board of industry leaders.

The program will start accepting applications for Class III in the spring of 2017.

Complete program information is available at www.real-montana.org or by contacting Janelle Booth, program director, at (406) 994-6480, janelle.booth@montana.edu.

a high level in rulemaking and policy development for the State of North Dakota."

Those slated to speak at the Informational Expo include: Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General; Doug Goehring, Department of Agriculture; Julie Fedorchak, Public Service Commission; Dave Glatt, Department of Health; Dan Farrell, State Water Commission; Ron Ness, North Dakota Petroleum Council; Kevin Connors, Department of Mineral Resources; Rich Wardner, Senate Majority Leader; and Kenton Onstad, House Minority Leader. "We are so pleased with the caliber of speakers that we have been able to draw to provide information to landowners in North Dakota. We are also excited about how the relationships we have been able to build with industry and state government officials have worked to benefit landowners and North Dakota residents through responsible resource development," remarked Coons.

Since its establishment, Northwest Landowners Association has worked to bring together landowners and stewards of North Dakota's resources for responsible resource development. Now numbering nearly 500 members, Northwest Landowners Association is striving to work with elected officials to develop comprehensive legislation to protect North Dakota's resources well into the future and ensure a more harmonious coexistence among landowners, residents, and industry.

The Informational Expo will also feature booths representing various state agencies, oil and pipeline companies, and elected officials. The Informational Expo is free to all Northwest Landowners Association members and \$10 for non-members with a free lunch being served.

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Williston Chamber Banquet Held Jan. 21

The Williston Area Chamber of Commerce held it's annual banquet Fri., January 21st at the Williston Grand Hotel. Members of the community were recognized and awarded. Not Pictured: Fran Zerr, with Job Service North Dakota, received the Chamber Connector Award; Senator Brad Bekkedahl received the E. Ward Koeser Advocacy Award; Sandy Hampton received the Patriot Award.

MNAXLP



The Chamber Engagement Award was presented to Jackie Weig with the Williston Area Builders Association.



The Leonard P. Nelson Philanthropy Award (presented by the Williston State College Foundation) was received by Pat and Sonny Hanson.

Right: The Patriot Award was accepted by Stephanie Fuchs on behalf of her mother Sandy Hampton. All photos were taken by Diana Jaszczak of the Williston Camera Club.



The Williston Leadership Award was presented to Debbie Richter with American State Bank and Trust.



The Distinguished Western Star Award was presented to Williston Mayor Howard Klug.



Parents of Preteens/Teens are Invited to Parenting Classes

Marcia Hellandsaas
NDSU Extension Agent

Families with preteens (ages 11 and 12) and teens are invited to attend Active Parenting of Teens: Families in Action scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. CT on Feb. 8, 16, 22 and 29 at CrossPoint Church, 304 2nd Avenue Northeast, in Watford City.

Parents will receive: Help in communicating with your teen, tools to provide direction with discipline and insight into today's teen issues.

Topics of sessions include:

February 8: Understanding Parents and Teens, School Success, Mutual Respect, Choices, Drugs, Sexuality and Violence and Taking Time for Fun.

February 16: Cooperation and Communication.

February 22: Responsibility and Discipline, Acceptance and Consequences.

February 29: Courage, Self-Esteem and Encouragement.

Active Parenting of Teens: Families in Action was designed to reach a cross-section of families in a range of family structures. It is appropriate for families with significant teen problems such as drug use and those with everyday challenges such as disrespectful behavior.

Parents and preteens/teens are encouraged to attend the course together. Trained facilitators will lead a parent group and a preteen/teen group meeting separately.

If it is not possible for preteens/teens to attend classes as a family, parents may attend without their children or preteens/teens may attend without their parents.

This course is free of charge and both parents and preteens/teens will receive a workbook.

To register your attendance at Active Parenting of Teens, please call the McKenzie County Extension Office at 701-444-3451 or CrossPoint Church at 701-444-2355 or email Kimberly.neprash@ndsu.edu or info@crosspoint-nd.com.

For more information, please contact the McKenzie County Extension Office.

Dedication Plaque Presented to Alton Hillesland By The Boys & Girls Club Of Richland County And The City Of Sidney

Submitted by Michelle Seadeek

The Boys & Girls Club of Richland County was developed in 2003 and supports 188 members this school year with an average of 100+ daily. The City of Sidney and its residents have been great supporters of the Boys & Girls Club of Richland County since this inception. As the need for larger spaces for the Club grew and continues to do so every year the City and Boys & Girls Club started working together on finding property for a Clubhouse location. The

property that was ultimately decided upon is located within Johnson Park due to its proximity to West Side Elementary school.

In building this partnership with Boys & Girls Club the city received dedication rights for that property. Mayor Norby and the City of Sidney chose to dedicate the land in the name of Alton Hillesland, whom they felt is a significant representative of our community and who continues to support Richland County youth. Alton and his wife, Harriet, have been residents of Sidney since 1976

where he performed duties as pastor of Pella Lutheran Church, raised their family and where Alton is currently the city's building inspector. At the January city council meeting Mayor Norby and Boys & Girls Club presented the dedication plaque to Alton for his many years of service to our community. An additional permanent plaque will be embedded in a large stone on the dedicated property when construction is completed on the Clubhouse sometime in 2018.

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Sidney Boy Scouts Win Awards




Wolves Den winners (Left to Right) 1st place - Christian Rasmussen, 2nd place - Shane Goergen and 3rd Place - Alex Karanjai



Bears Den winners (Left to Right) 1st place - Joey Yadon, 2nd place - Corey Christensen, 3rd place - Korby Koon and 4th place - Aaron See

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All Pack 143 participants. Pack 143 recently held their Rain Gutter Regatta where the scouts built their own boats to race. It was a great fun learning experience for all participants. (Photos submitted by Jody Christensen)



Overall Pack Winners (Left to Right) 2nd place Jared Murschel, 1st place - Christian Rasmussen and 3rd place - Alex Karanjai

Tri-County Implement Receives Boys & Girls Club Of Richland County Builder Award

Submitted by Michelle Seadeek

In 2013 Larry & Tami Christensen and Walt and Karen McNutt, all of Sidney Tri-County Implement, made significant pledges of \$75,000 from each of the two families to the Boys & Girls Club of Richland County Building Fund. In their final year of this pledge the Christensen and McNutt families continue to go above and beyond for our Richland County youth by their continued dedication to our Club.

Please join Boys & Girls Club of Richland County in thanking Tami, Larry, Walt and Karen for their continued support of the BGCRC Building Fund.

Boys & Girls Club of Richland County supports 188 registered members for the 2015-2016 school year with an average of over 100 kids daily at Club Monday through Friday. BGCRC Club mission is to inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

BGCRC goal is to provide a unique facility for our members that promotes and advances this mission. The Christensen and McNutt families are part of a large group of investors dedicated to seeing the BGCRC building vision materialize. If you are interested in knowing more about Boys & Girls Club building campaign or the Club in general, please contact Development Director, Michele Seadeek at the Club at 406-433-6763 or e-mail at m.seadeek@richlandbgc.org.

Boys & Girls Club Serves Healthy Snacks And Gets Kids Moving With Local And National Partnerships!

Submitted by Michelle Seadeek

Richland County Boys & Girls Club is helping to promote healthy eating and physical activity with the selection of nutritious and appropriate snacks for its members when Club is open. Janelle Buxbaum, Operational Program Manager for the local club, works hand in hand with individuals and businesses in Richland County to bring the Healthy Snack Program to Club members. Healthy food options that are donated include milk, yogurt, fresh fruit and vegetables. Summer of 2015 was the start of a first garden program with Club members to understand healthy food processes; ground to table.

Boys & Girls Club of Rich-

land County averages over 100 members daily, each receiving a healthy snack after school. From July 2015 to Dec. 2015 the Club served over 9,500 snacks to members.

Though the Club has many contributors that support the Club's Healthy Snack Program, Reynold's, Reese & Rays, and Oneok were the Club's largest 2015 contributors.

The Club was awarded two linked grants (Wanna Play & Triple Play) from Coco-Cola and Major League Baseball in which a portion helps support healthy snacks eating and education. Wanna Play is a national program that encourages children to increase their overall fitness and health through physical activity and improved nutritional habits,

while learning the fundamental skills of baseball and softball. The Triple Play program encompasses three components to promote a healthy lifestyle through good nutrition, regular physical activity and positive relationships with others! Club members who participate will understand the benefits of eating smart and being physically active. Members are adopting healthier habits by participating in fun, engaging activities at the Club. Most importantly, they learn to take small steps toward positive, lasting behavior change.

Anyone who would like more information about the Club's Healthy Snacks Program or any other programs, please contact the Richland County Boys & Girls Club at 406-433-6763.

INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE

Make	Description.....	Sale Price
'91 Buick.....	Regal, 4-Door, White	\$1,500
'95 Cadillac.....	Denville, 4-Door, Gold	\$3,000
'97 Cadillac.....	Catera, 4-Door, Brown.....	\$2,500
'99 Cadillac.....	Sedan Denville, 4-Door, 77K	\$5,000
'04 Cadillac.....	Denville, 4-Door, Maroon	\$5,500
'94 Chevy	Suburban, 4x4, Diesel, Blk/Tan	\$7,000
'95 Chevy	1/2 Ton, 4x4, Ext. Cab, Green.....	\$4,000
'95 Chevy	1/2 Ton, Reg. Cab w/Snowplow	\$6,500
'96 Chevy	1/2 Ton, 2 WD, Ext. Cab, White.....	\$2,500
'97 Chevy	Cavalier, 2 Door, White	\$2,000
'98 Chevy	1/2 Ton, 4x4, Ext. Cab, White.....	\$4,500
'00 Chevy	Impala LS, 4 Door, Red	\$4,000
'01 Chevy	Suburban, 4x4, 4 Door, Green.....	\$7,000
'03 Chevy	Impala, 4 Door, Beige.....	\$3,500
'04 Chevy	Impala, 4 Door, Red	\$6,000
'06 Chevy	Impala, 4 Door, White	\$8,000
'07 Chevy	Silverado, 4x4, Crew Cab	\$15,000
'07 Chevy	1/2 Ton, 4x4, Crew Cab, Red	\$17,500
'08 Chevy	Impala, 4 Door, Red	\$9,000
'84 Ford	E350, Cube Van, White	\$2,500
'89 Dodge.....	Dakota Reg. Cab, Maroon/Silver	\$1,500
'02 Dodge.....	Dakota, 4x4, Crew Cab, Silver.....	\$7,500
'03 Dodge.....	Stratus, 2 Door, Burgundy	\$4,500
'12 Dodge.....	Grand Caravan, 56K	\$18,000
'93 Ford	1/2 Ton, 4x4, Reg. Cab, Maroon	\$2,500
'93 Ford	1/2 Ton, 4x4, Ext. Cab, Red	\$3,500
'95 Ford	1/2 Ton, 4x4, Ext. Cab, Blue/Silver	\$3,000
'96 Ford	1/2 Ton, 4x4, Crew Cab, Red	\$5,500
'97 Ford	1/2 Ton, 4x4, Super Cab, White	\$6,700
'98 Ford	Expedition, 4x4, Black	\$3,000
'00 Ford	1/2 Ton, 4x4, Super Cab, White	\$3,500
'01 Ford	Escape, 4x4, 4 Door, Red.....	\$4,500
'01 Ford	Focus LX, 4 Door, Black.....	\$3,500
'01 Ford	1/2 Ton, 4x4, Crew Cab, Blue.....	\$6,000
'03 Ford	Explorer, 4x4, Silver	\$4,000
'04 Ford	Ranger, 2 WD, Reg. Cab	\$4,000
'05 GMC	1/2 Ton Sierra, Crew Cab	\$15,000
'00 Honda.....	Accord EX, 4 Door, Gold	\$3,000
'99 Jeep.....	Grand Cherokee, 4x4, Black	\$5,000
'04 Jeep.....	Grand Cherokee, 4x4, Black	\$8,000
'99 Toyota	Camry LE, 4 Door, Burgundy.....	\$4,000



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Diane Greenwood Art at the MonDak

Submitted by Trish Stevenson

Diane Greenwood was raised on the family farm, not far from Fairview, MT. Her paintings of the landscapes and wildlife of Montana have returned to this area as part of the Blue Buffalo Artists exhibit at the MonDak through February 13, 2013.

Diane showed an interest in art at an early age and would often sketch the animals on the farm. As an adult her passion for art flourished and she began studying with accomplished artists to hone her skills. Diane spends many

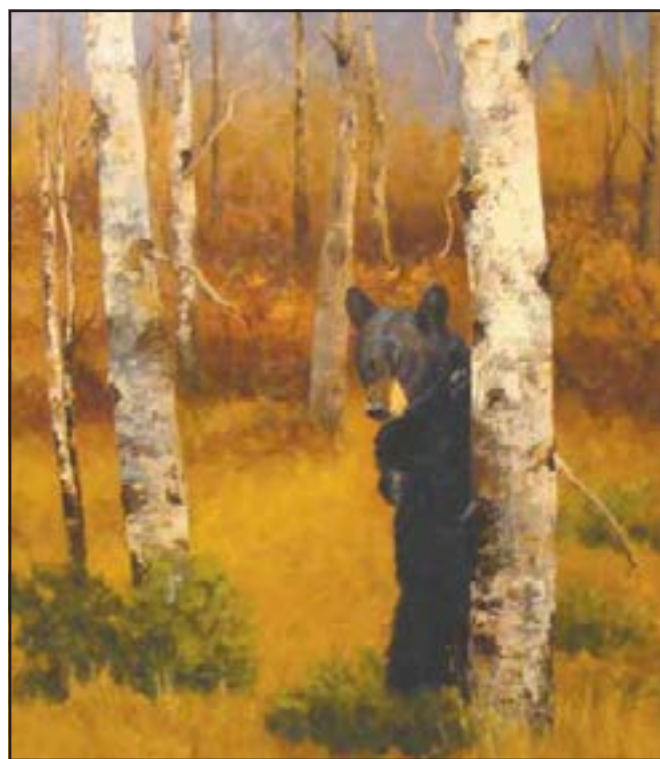
hours sketching and observing the wildlife and landscapes that inspire her to paint "en plein air" or in her studio in Bridger, MT. She often ventures to Yellowstone National Park to observe and record bears, buffalo and landscapes.

Capturing the essence of nature's moments in light, color, mood and movements is what the artist hopes to share through her paintings. Diane's works have been represented in national and regional shows throughout the years, and have won numerous awards. She has exhibited at the Out West Art Show in Great Falls,

MT, and many prestigious venues through the Oil Painters of America, Women Artists of the West, American Women Artists, Montana Professional Artists, Blue Buffalo Artists, and the Pastel Society of the Northern Rockies. Planet Bronze in Bozeman, Montana represents her work.

Diane Greenwood's piece "Peeking."

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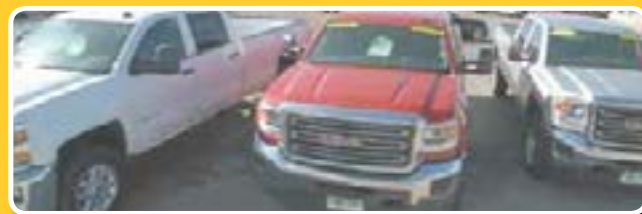
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Sidney School

Thurs., Jan. 28: Chicken fried steak, potatoes & gravy, corn, mandarin oranges, dinner roll.

Fri., Jan. 29: Chicken patty on bun, oven wedges, peaches.

Savage School

Thurs., Jan. 28: Hot ham & cheese.

Fri., Jan. 29: No school.

Rau School

Thurs., Jan. 28: Chicken strips, scalloped potatoes, carrots, apricots.

Fri., Jan. 29: Sandwich, chips, veggies w / ranch, fresh fruit.

Mon., Feb. 1: Breakfast food for lunch.

Tues., Feb. 2: Sloppy Jo's, fries, pickle, pear, milk.

Wed., Feb. 3: Cook's Choice.

Froid School

Thurs., Jan. 28: Beef barley soup, egg salad sandwiches, salad bar, fruit, milk.

Fri., Jan. 29: Soft tacos, refried beans, taco bar, fruit, milk.

Mon., Feb. 1: Sweet & sour chicken, egg rolls, fortune cookies, salad bar, fruit, milk.

Tues., Feb. 2: Cheeseburger soup, club sandwiches, salad bar, fruit, milk.

Wed., Feb. 3: Meatloaf, au gratin potatoes, green beans, lettuce salad, dessert, rolls, salad bar, milk.

Bainville School

Thurs., Jan. 28: Porcupine meatballs, mashed potatoes, green beans, peaches.

Fri., Jan. 29: Turkey cheese wrap w / lettuce, pears.

Mon., Feb. 1: Chicken burger, mashed potato w / gravy, corn, cookies.

Tues., Feb. 2: Polish sausage, sauerkraut, rice, fruit.

Wed., Feb. 3: Chicken dumpling soup, egg salad sandwich, apple slices.

Culbertson School

Thurs., Jan. 28: Tacos, fruit, milk.

Fri., Jan. 29: No School.

Mon., Feb. 1: Cheeseburgers, fries, baby carrots, fruit, milk.

Tues., Feb. 2: Nachos, french fries, corn, fruit, milk.

Wed., Feb. 3: Chili, corn bread muffins, fruit, milk.

Richey School

Thurs., Jan. 28: Fish burger, potato wedges, peas, pears, milk.

Fri., Jan. 29: Tacos, fresh veggies, mandarin oranges, rice krispie bar, milk.

Lambert School

Thurs., Jan. 28: Chicken fajitas, fresh veggies, fruit, milk.

Fri., Jan. 29: Lasagna, green beans, bread, peaches, milk.

Fairview School

Thurs., Jan. 28: Pizza, pineapple, salad, pudding, milk.

Fri., Jan. 29: No school.

Mon., Feb. 1: Cheddarwurst on a bun, fries, tossed salad, apple, milk.

Tues., Feb. 2: Hamburger stroganoff, carrots, pineapple, bread, milk.

Wed., Feb. 3: French bread pizza, pears, mixed veggies, milk.

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MSU Montana Agricultural Experiment Station Releases Wheat Variety Resistant To Major Pest

Submitted by Jenny Lavey, MSU News Service

Nine years ago, a tiny orange bug quietly entered north-western Montana and began demolishing spring wheat yields, costing producers millions of dollars. What was once a primary cash crop for Flathead and Lake counties quickly became an economic disaster and a major worry for area farmers.

In 2007, most producers stopped growing spring wheat and turned to agricultural scientists at the Northwestern Agricultural Research Center, part of the Montana State University Montana Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), for help. Nine years later, MAES says that the answer to the major economic threat of the orange blossom wheat midge is a spring wheat variety called Egan. The new variety is resistant to the midge and is now commercially available to producers.

The seed is also the first-ever certified blend released from MAES. “Egan is so effective in destroying the midge that it requires mixing a small percentage of a susceptible variety with it to keep the midge from developing resistance or becoming a superbug”, said Bill Grey, manager for the MSU Montana Foundation Seed Program. This combination of seed is also referred to as “refuge in a bag.” The refuge refers to the non-Egan seed that will attract the midge.

To bring Egan to commercial viability took a team of wheat breeders, entomologists and agronomists, as well as the only gene in the world known to provide resistance to the orange blossom wheat midge, national and international research connections and colleagues and a statewide network of Montana farmers and certified seed growers. It also took relationships and long meetings between MSU research centers, Extension agents and friends at the Montana Department of Agriculture. Above all, it took an understanding of what weaves much of Montana together: that agriculture’s challenges and successes extend far beyond one’s own field.

In 2006, the midge was quickly and easily adapting to the Flathead. So, Bob Stougaard, superintendent of the North-western Agricultural Research Center, turned over every rock: He consulted with colleagues in Canada and North Dakota, he researched cropping systems, researched when and what insecticides to spray, then introduced a parasitic wasp to prey on the midge. “I never experienced anything like this,” Stougaard said. “The capability of the midge to seemingly show up out of nowhere and cause so much devastation to a crop was astounding.”

By 2009, evidence was mounting that the midge was starting to spread across the state. Seeing the devastating potential of the midge, Stougaard, NWARC Research Associate Brooke Bohannon, retired Pondera County Extension Agent Dan Picard, MSU entomologist David Weaver and a host of Montana farmers and crop consultants who volunteered to put pheromone traps in their fields began monitoring for the midge. MSU software engineer John Sully brought all the data together and created a live-tracking website, Montana Pestweb, that showed the spread of the midge. Six Montana Agricultural Research Centers and 26 MSU Extension offices worked with growers and crop consultants to place hundreds of traps across the state, Stougaard said. Extension agents trained local producers in the biology of the midge, how to track it, what insecticide was effective and, most importantly, when and when not to spray.

“Scouting and spraying were short-term solutions, and we didn’t know what the future would look like,” Stougaard said.

That’s when producers asked MSU spring wheat breeder Luther Talbert if there was anything MSU’s wheat breeding

program could do. Thanks to colleagues at North Dakota State University, Talbert got ahold of the only gene in the world discovered that’s resistant to the midge, called SM1. SM1 produces toxins that kill the midge. When the midge burrows into the developing wheat seed, it dies. Talbert started crossing the resistant line into Montana adapted varieties using traditional breeding techniques. “We crossed this line with the SM1 gene with varieties that were suitable to northwest Montana and let nature derive progeny lines from that,” Talbert said. “From there, we planted those lines in the fields and selected the ones with characteristics we like.”

Six years later, Egan – named after the Egan slough in the Flathead where the midge was so prevalent – was born. According to Talbert, Egan also has high grain protein, strong yield potential under high-yield conditions and is resistant to stripe-rust, a wheat disease found in Montana that can also limit yields. On the other hand, Egan is a little taller than typical varieties grown under irrigation in the Flathead Valley, so lodging – bending over of the stems -- may occur under very high yield levels, Talbert said.

Because Egan with its SM1 gene is so potent to the midge, Canadian and MSU entomologists suggested it be blended with 10 percent of a non-resistant variety to prevent the midge from developing resistance. “This gene works so well that it kills nearly every single midge,” Talbert said. “But those very few that survive may have a resistance to the SM1 gene that they can pass on to their offspring. As their generations progress, you’ll end up with significant, resistant populations that won’t be stopped by Egan.”

The way to mitigate this problem is to allow a small population of “normal” midges to survive and breed with any potential resistant midges. This is accomplished by blending the Egan seed with seed that is susceptible to the midge population – about 10 percent of the susceptible variety. Growers can choose the susceptible variety to blend Egan with. “In a way, producers are sacrificing a small portion of their crop so that the susceptible midges continue to persist and we never allow a significant population of resistant midges to develop,” Talbert said. “We’re sort of using nature’s greatest tools against itself, so it’s a natural form of resistance.”

MAES has grown and tested Egan at seven research centers across the state. Last spring, MAES gave Egan to the Montana Foundation Seed Program for production and certification. Now, Egan is available to producers and is being sold as a certified blend – the first ever certified blend in the university’s history. Purchasing the blend comes with a Certified Seed Only acknowledgement, binding producers to keep buying certified seed year after year, in an effort to ward off a population that is completely resistant.

Grey, who recently retired after 35 years, said the certified seed only and blend idea might take some education on behalf of growers and producers.

“It’s important for all to understand how important the blend ratio is and a bit about the background, as the agreement is legally binding,” he said. “This was a collective response for public good, and the certified seed only agreement is also dependent on a kind of handshake and agreement between neighbors across the state.”

Dan Lake, owner and partner of Lake Seed Inc. in Ronan and certified seed grower, is selling Egan to area growers this spring. “Our growers are really excited about Egan, and we’re going to blend it with a hard red spring wheat we have,” Lake said. “The entire process to get to this point is an extremely good example of MSU research centers working to identify, find solutions and solve a problem alongside producers. When you have research centers that are fixed, functional and modern, it’s an investment statewide, and this is the kind of result you see.”

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BHSU names students to fall 2015 Dean’s List

Submitted by Kathy Johnson

The Office of Academic Affairs at Black Hills State University has released the Dean’s List for the fall 2015 semester. A total of 687 students maintained a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher while taking at least 12 credit hours. Students are listed by hometown or current place of residence. Students that achieved a 4.0 GPA are recognized with an asterisk (*).

Montana:


Circle: Abby Belus; Brooke Dreesen, Glendive: *Jenna Mullendore and Sidney: *Krista Steinbeisser



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January 16 was the Julie Ziegler Invitational at Bismark, ND.
Teams at the event consisted of Sidney Gymnastics Club (SGC),
Jamestown Gymnastic Club, Bismarck Gymnastics Academy, Minot
Gymagic, Red River Valley Gymnastics, TNT Gymnastics (Fargo), Val-
ley City Twister, Dickison Gymnastics Club, Dakota Star Gymnastics
(Mandan), and Williston Western Stars Gymnastics.

Level 3 SGC did not have their full squad, but they still did well.
Makkyia Beyer was a standout with a number of first place finishes
including all round; Macy Tjedle fielded a number of top ten finishes
as well.

SGC competitors included Makyya Beyer, Ella Jordan, Kylie
Schoepp,, Laci Selting and Macy Tjelde.

Vault: 1st, Makyya Beyer 9.200, 3rd, Kylie Schoepp 9.100, 6th,
Macy Tjelde 9.050.

Uneven Bars: 1st, Makkyia Beyer 9.350, 2nd, Macy Tjelde 9.200,
10th, Kylie Schoepp 8.800.

Balance Beam: 4th, Kenzie Gaffield 8.900, 8th, Makkyia Beyer
8.650, 10th, Macy Tjelde 8.500.

Floor Exercise: 1st, Makkyia Beyer 9.325.
All Around: 1st, Makkyia Beyer 36.525

The SGC Level 4 Squad was also not at full strength, but did
well. Especially noteworthy was the performance of Taylor McPherson,
which led to a 2nd place finish in the all around.

Vault: 8th, Taylor McPherson 8.00.

Uneven Bars: 2nd, Taylor McPherson 8.800. 8th, Marleah
Campbell 8.300.

Balance Beam: 4th, Taylor McPherson 8.950.
Floor Exercise: 8th, Taylor McPherson 8.750.
All Around: 2nd, Taylor McPherson 34.500.

January 23rd was the Starstruck Invitational in Mandan, ND, where Sidney Gymnastics club (SGC) beat Bismarck for the first time since Coaches Pat & Jan McWilliams took over the program. The other teams present were Bismarck Gymnastics, Northern Pacific Gymnastics (Miles City), and Dakota Star Gymnastics (Mandan). Two gym-scoring records were set with Ella Jordan 9.65 on balance beam and Kylie Schoepp 9.60 on the vault.

SGC placed first at 110.650, with Bismarck 2nd 110.100 and Dakota Star 3rd 108.350.

SGC Level 3 Team Competitors included Makyya Beyer, Ella Jordan, Kylie Schoepp, Laci Selting, and Macy Tjelde.

Vault: 1st, Kylie Schoepp 9.600, 2nd, Makyya Beyer 9.500, 3rd, Macy Tjelde 9.350, 6th, Laci Selting and Ella Jordan 9.2.

Uneven Bars: 1st, Ella Jor-

dan 9.250, 2nd, Laci Selting 9.000, 5th, Makyya Beyer and Macy Tjelde 8.600, 8th, Kylie Schoepp 8.200.

Balance Beam: 1st, Ella Jordan 9.650, 2nd, Laci Selting 9.350. 4th, Makyya Beyer 9.150, 7th, Macy Tjelde 8.850, 8th, Kylie Schoepp 8.600.

Floor Exercise: 2nd, Lacy Selting 9.200, 4th, Ella Jordan 9.050, 5th, Makyya Beyer 8.950, 6th, Kylie Schoepp 8.900, 7th, Macy Tjelde 8.600.

All Around: 1st, Ella Jordan 37.150, 2nd, Laci Selting 36.750, 4th, Makyya Beyer 36.200, 7th, Macy Tjelde 35.400, 8th, Kylie Schoepp 35.300.

SGC's Level 4 Team had a rocky start with a not up to par showing on their first event on the uneven bars, but pulled back together and did an outstanding job on the next three events and earned a number of first place finishes. Allison Axtman set a

SGC record on the balance beam with a score of 9.600. Kambre Kloker had a shout out day with two first place finishes including the all around.

Bismarck placed 1st at the Level 4 with 103.550, with SGC 2nd at 101.000 and Dickinson 3rd at 100.950.

Vault: 1st, Kambre Kloker 8.650.

Uneven Bars: 3rd, Allison Axtman 8.400, 9th, Taylor McPherson 7.850, 10th, Kambre Kloker 7.600.

Balance Beam: 1st, Allison Axtman 8.400. 2nd. Kambre Kloker 9.350, 10th, Allison Thiel and Riley Jimson 8.650.

Floor Exercise: 1st, Kambre Kloker 8.800, 10th, Allison Axtman 8.300.

All Around: 1st, Kambre Kloker 34.400, 6th, Allison Axtman 33.350.

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The Roundup

Top Ten Growers

Special Section



Above: Sidney Sugars Top 10 Beet Growers for 2015. Front row (L-R) Del, Nollmeyer, Dennis Schmierer, Lee Roy Schmierer, Harlan Conradsen, Brad Tveit, Larry Tveit Jr. and Nolan Tveit. Back row (L-R) Cody Tibbetts, Brock Tibbetts, Cory Conradsen, Troy Conradsen, Shawn Conradsen, DJ Rice, Brent Hagler, Wade Hagler, Alex McPherson and Craig McPherson.

Right: 2015 20/20 Club inductees (L-R) Matt Stedman and Rocky Norby with Norby Inc. and Ryan Haidle of Haidle Farms Inc.



Congratulations Top 10 Beet Growers!



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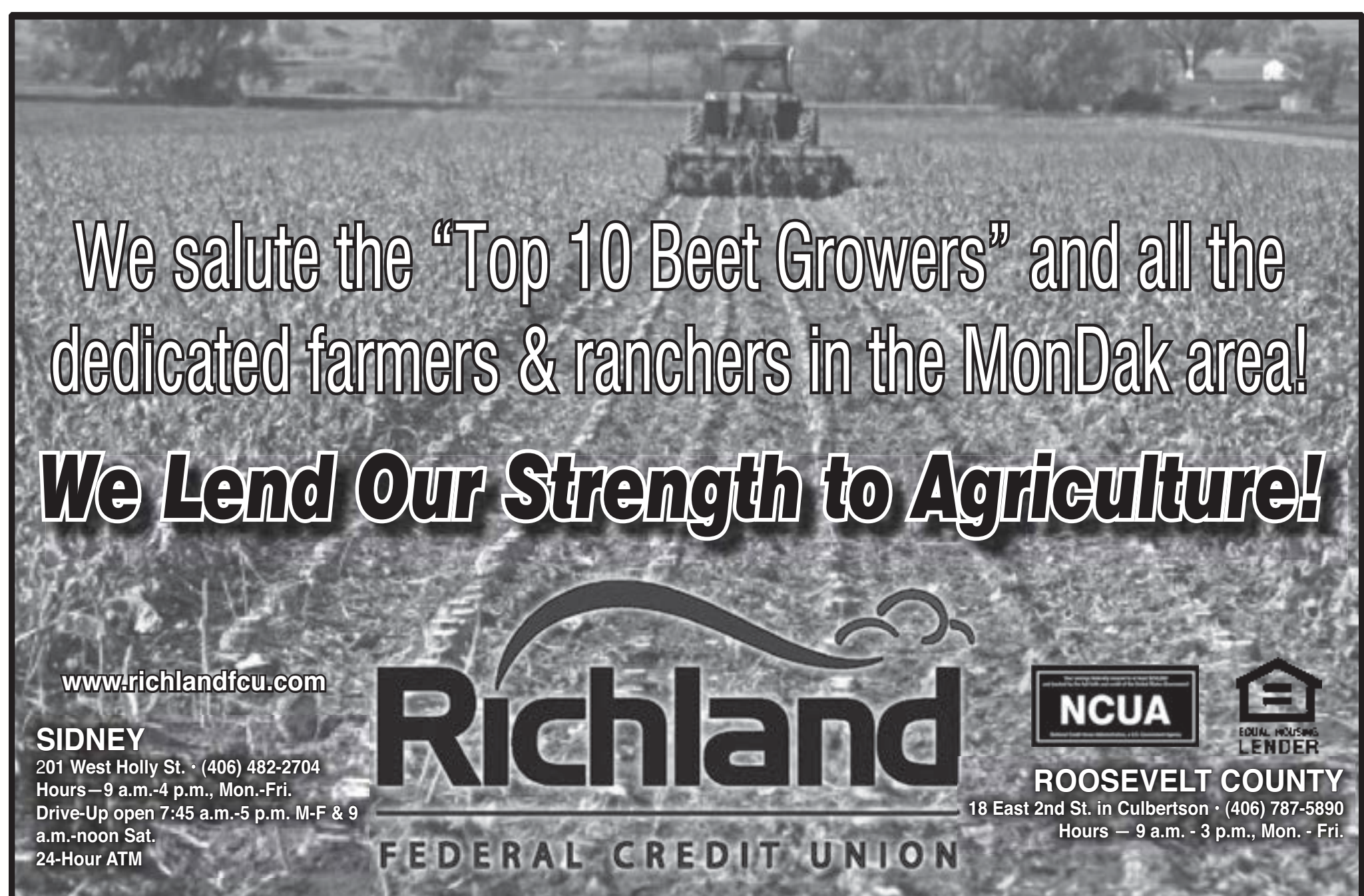
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The Top Ten Growers and 20/20 Club Meeting Wrapped Up a Successful Sugar Beet Season

Overall, it was a very successful year for sugar beets.

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For additional information, visit the project website at www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao/loweryellowstone or contact Tiffany Vanosdall at 402-995-2695 or by email, tiffany.k.vanosdall@usace.army.mil.



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Norby Inc. Joins 20/20 Club



Matt Stedman, left, and Rocky Norby hold the prestigious 20/20 Club plaque on which Norby Inc. appears for the first time.

By Dianne Swanson
Norby Inc. was honored to join Sidney Sugar's exclusive 20/20 Club during the annual Top 10 luncheon held last Wednesday.
Rocky Norby started farming with his dad Richard in 1974 and enjoyed that partnership until 1997. Rocky's wife Lori joined the family in 1979. In 1993, Norbys started growing sugar beets along the Missouri River near Culbertson, and rented out their Sidney ground. Matt Stedman started farming with Norby in 2011. "I'm excited for it," he said. "I love what I do."
This year, the Culbertson land produced 26.69 tons per acre and 20.06 sugar on 1404 acres, an amazing accomplishment according to Sidney Sugars agricultural manager Duane Peters.

Norby has no explanation for the excellent crop other than almost perfect weather. "We used the same fertilizer and the same seed as usual," he said. They plant mostly Beta seed along with some Crystal. They were able to plant almost two weeks early and got some frost. "We had five nights under 23, but the beets didn't die," Norby said. There was also no hail

damage. "The weather was perfect," he added.
Norby plants for sugar rather than tonnage. Having to haul from the field to the pilers, and then pay freight from Culbertson to the factory in Sidney, it pays to raise sugar, not beets. "It's more money in our pocket," Norby explained.
About the 2015 crop, Norby said, "I'd take this crop any day, over and over."

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Congratulations To Our Top Ten Growers For 2015!

Nollmeyer Farms Recognized as the Top Grower in the 50-312 Acres Category

By Meagan Dotson

During the top ten beet grower dinner, Nollmeyer Farms was recognized as the top grower in the 50-312 acres category. Del and Kim Nollmeyer, who farm north of Savage, averaged 40.07 ton per acre, 19.25 percent sugar, which resulted in a 35.28 rating on a 263-acre crop.

Del Nollmeyer grew up farming, started out by renting farmland from his father when he was still in high school. In 1989, he began farming on his own, and his wife Kim credits the quality of their crops to her husband's consistent farming methods.

Only slight changes were made this year such as planting a little earlier than usual and irrigating more than other years. Some of the crop's success can be attributed to being in Mother Nature's good graces; Nollmeyer Farms was fortunate not to have crops freeze off in May, when other beet farmers were being hit with hard frost, and they had virtually no hail storms in their area.

Both are honored to have received Top Grower recognition. However, this is not the first time they've made the Top Ten; the last time Nollmeyer Farms was recognized as one of the Top Ten Beet Growers was in 2013.

"Del is a good farmer and he takes pride in his work," said



Pictured is the same field and location, showing the crop's growth from May 31st to June 11th at Nollmeyer Farms.

Kim Nollmeyer of her husband. "It isn't easy to make the Top Ten when there are so many good farmers with really successful harvests," said Del Nollmeyer. "We're are very happy to have had such a good year."

Tibbetts Agland Named Top Grower with More Than 313 Acres

By Meagan Dotson

Tibbetts Agland was recognized as the top grower with more than 313 acres during the Top Ten Beet Growers meeting. Their Sugar percentage was 19.27 with 37.34 tons per acre and a 34.21 rating. Brothers Cody, Brock, and Todd Tibbetts grew up farming and ranching and six years ago they began growing sugar beets as Roundup Ready Beets made the crop much less management intensive. This made it possible to grow sugar beets in addition to growing feed crops and raising cattle.

The family farm, located between Terry and Intake and totaling 472 acres, has been in the Top Ten before, but has never been the top grower prior to 2016.

"We are fortunate to have fresh beet ground and our focus is on maintaining soil quality, because that's really the basis of it all," said Cody Tibbetts. "This year we did more foliar feeding of micronutrients throughout the growing season."

Tibbetts Agland is a family operation and they recognize that it takes a team of people to cultivate success. Considering that it has been a very good year for beet growers, the Tibbetts are all the more honored to be named Top Grower.

"Everyone and everything comes together to make it work," said Brock Tibbetts. "We want to thank Sidney Sugars, especially Todd Erickson. They've been great to work with."



Brock (L) and Cody Tibbetts (R) of Tibbetts Agland LLC. (Not pictured: Todd Tibbetts)

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MT NRCS Announces Conservation Initiatives for 2016

Submitted by Lori Valadez

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering additional funding through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to target specific resource concerns in Montana in 2016: On-Farm Energy, Organic, Seasonal High Tunnel, Prairie Pothole Wetland and Grassland Retention, Honey Bee Pollinators, Big Horn Irrigation Improvement, and Drought in the Missouri Headwaters Basin.

While NRCS accepts applications for EQIP on a continuous basis, NRCS has set a deadline of Feb. 19, 2016, to apply for 2016 initiatives funding.

Below is an overview of each initiative:

National On-Farm Energy Initiative (NOFEI): NOFEI has two components. In the first component, agricultural producers work with an NRCS-approved Technical Service Provider to develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. In the second component, NRCS may also provide assistance to implement various recommended measures identified in the energy audit through the use of conservation practice standards offered through this initiative.

National Organic Initiative (NOI): NRCS will assist producers with installation of conservation practices on agricultural operations related to organic production. Producers currently certified as organic, transitioning to organic, or National Organic Program exempt will have access to a broad set of conservation practices to assist in treating their resource concerns while fulfilling many of the requirements in an Organic System Plan.

High Tunnel Initiative: NRCS helps producers implement high tunnels that extend growing seasons for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality and fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment.

Prairie Pothole Wetland and Grassland Retention: NRCS will assist producers in 13 counties in Montana to implement conservation practices specifically targeted to encourage the retention of wetland and grasslands in the Prairie Pothole Region, improve wildlife habitat for migratory birds, improve water quality and quantity, improve grassland health, and reduce soil erosion and sedimentation. This initiative will be offered in Blaine, Cascade (north of the Missouri River), Chouteau, Daniels, Glacier, Hill, Lewis and Clark (east of the Divide and north of the Dearborn River), Liberty, Phillips, Pondera, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Teton, Toole and Valley counties.

Honey Bee Pollinators (NEW): NRCS will work with agricultural producers to combat future declines by helping them to implement conservation practices that provide forage for honey bees while enhancing habitat for other pollinators and wildlife and improving the quality of water, air and soil.

Big Horn Irrigation Improvement (NEW): Through this initiative, NRCS will promote irrigation improvements in projects on hay and cropland acres within the Crow Reservation. Producers will be able to switch from open-ditch, flood irrigation to buried

pipe and pivot or gate pipe irrigation.

Drought in the Missouri Headwaters Basin (NEW): NRCS will work with landowners in the Missouri Headwaters Basin to increase water conservation; improve riparian, floodplain, and water management; and promote upland management conservation to help mitigate the effects of drought.

EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible participants to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. Conservation practices must be implemented to NRCS standards and specifications. In Montana, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers will receive a higher payment rate for eligible conservation practices applied.

Applicants that operate as an entity are required to have a DUNs number and have that number registered with SAM.gov prior to submitting their application for consideration.

For more information about EQIP, or other programs offered by NRCS, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov.

Montana Food And Agriculture Development Center Network Spring 2016 Training Schedule

Submitted by Joe Willauer

Upcoming trainings hosted by the Montana Food and Agriculture Development Center Network (FADC) will help Montana food-based businesses and providers institute best practices, comply with existing safety ordinances, and prepare their business for the new updates mandated by the Food Safety Modernization Act. The trainings will cover a variety of food safety and food business topics and be held in locations around Montana.

Trainings Include: Wholesale Success— Great Falls; Feb. 8, On Farm Food Safety Training— Bozeman, Feb. 11-12; Ronan, Feb. 18-19; Great Falls Feb. 25-26, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)—Billings, March 9.

The Montana Food & Agriculture Development Center Network helps Montanans innovate and grow businesses that produce and commercialize food, agricultural and renewable energy products and processes- creating wealth and jobs in our communities and on our farms and ranches. The centers- located in Joliet, Havre, Butte, and Ronan, operate as a statewide network serving community-based businesses throughout Montana.

The trainings are sponsored through a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant.

For more information or to register, contact Joe Willauer at 406.533.6783 or email foodtrainings@headwatersrcd.org.

Space is limited, so be sure to register today.

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2015 Sugar Beet
Growers Breakdown
50 - 312 Acres

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar%	Quality Rating
Nollmeyer Farms.....	263	40.07	19.25	35.28
DKS Farms Inc	78	39.82	19.21	35.14
L. Schmierer Farms Inc.....	83	39.55	19.15	34.97
Conradsen Bros Inc.....	225	40.79	18.51	34.83
Tveit Land & Cattle Co	130	41.04	18.25	34.67

313 Acres or More

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar%	Quality Rating
Tibbett's Agland LLC	472	37.34	19.27	34.21
Triple C Farms Inc.....	399	37.88	18.75	33.90
Rice & Sons Inc.....	360	33.05	19.97	33.19
Triple H Farms.....	394	34.47	19.35	33.14
McPherson Farms Inc...	413	34.65	19.17	33.03

20/20 Club Induction

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar%
Norby Inc.....	1,404	26.69	20.05
Haidle Farms Inc.....	489	31.28	20.08

MT Dept. Of
Agriculture Requesting
Specialty Crop Block
Grant Applications
\$1.3 million in funding available
for Montana agriculture

Submitted by MT Department of Agriculture

The Montana Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for an estimated \$1.3 million in federal funding available through the Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) program.

Montana's SCBG program benefits projects solely enhancing the competitiveness of Montana specialty crops. Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, peas, lentils, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. A list of crops commonly considered Montana specific is available on the program's website. "The growth in Montana's Specialty Crop Block Grant program is allowing for a broader scope of projects, increased research funding, and greater diversification of the Montana's agriculture industry. We look forward to reviewing new, innovative applications related to specialty crops," said Department Director Ron de Yong.

Eligible projects include education on the value of specialty crops, improving efficiency of distribution systems, assisting entities in the development of good agricultural practices, pest and disease control, improving variety development, and sustainable production practices. Technical assistance calls will be held on February 3 and 17, 2016. For more information, visit agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/GrantsLoans/SCBG/Grant_Proposal.html.

State and/or local organizations, government entities, producer associations, academia, community based organizations, and other specialty crop stakeholders are eligible to apply either as single entities or in combined efforts.

Grant proposals are due to the Montana Department of Agriculture by 2:00 p.m. MST on February 24, 2016. For more information, eligibility guidelines, technical assistance and resources, visit scbg.mt.gov or contact Jim Auer, Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Manager, at scbg@mt.gov or (406) 444-5424.

The Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the Montana Department of Agriculture, visit www.agr.mt.gov.

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Haidle Farms Takes 20/20 To A Whole New Level

By Sheridan Martin

This year Haidle Farms, owned by Ryan Haidle, received the 20/20 award for Top 10 Beet Growers. The 20/20 reward is given to beet farmers that produce 20 Tons Per Acre(TPA) of beets with a 20+% sugar outage. Haidle Farms managed to produce 31.28 TPA with 20.08% sugar yield on 489 acres. "We

were very lucky with nutrient soil and great weather this year," said Ryan, when asked how he achieved this year's harvest.

Haidle Farms is a family run operation which Ryan Haidle manages with his brother and his dad. The farm not only grows beets, but also potatoes, alfalfa seed and more.

Ryan Haidle grew up on a farm where he began his interest in farming. After high school, Haidle went to school in Bozeman, MT, got his agronomy degree, and also met his wife Kaitlin; only to return back home to the farm and get to business.



Kaitlin and Ryan Haidle

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Employees Enjoy 30 Plus Years At Sidney Sugars

By Sheridan Martin

Dee Ann Sifuentes of Sidney Sugars has been an employee since September of 1977. When Sifuentes first started at the factory, she began at the beet end of things. Her duties included overseeing the beets coming in as well as extracting the juice.

"When I first started working for Sidney Sugars 38 years ago, there were only 7-8 women that worked here. Now there are 61 female employees at the factory out of the 251 that are employed here," said Dee Ann when asked about changes in the factory over the past 30 years. "There has also been an addition of new silos since I first started."

Dee Ann also talked about how back then they used to pack and load the sugar by hand, typically only filling 5-10 lb. bags with sugar and hand loading them into trucks. "Now we have forklifts and we fill huge industrial sized bags with sugar, load them onto pallets, and then into trucks."

Dee Ann Sifuentes is now the leader of the sanitation program at Sidney Sugars; there she keeps track of when and how

things need to be cleaned to ensure the best quality product for customers.

Another employee who has been at the factory since she was a child, visiting her father who was a watchman at the time, is Gloria Sifuentes. Gloria used to watch her father make his rounds and loved helping him make them, and even as a child she couldn't wait to work at the factory. "I thought the factory was fascinating as a kid," said Gloria.

Sifuentes is now working at Sidney Sugars as a white boiler, which means that she boils the juice from the beets to a certain consistency so the beets drop white centrifugals, which get cut out to create the sugar. Before working as a white boiler, she had many jobs around the factory. First she worked as a sample carrier for a year in 1977. In 1990 she worked as a yard and factory laborer where she worked on the pile ground and took tickets from drivers when they came to dump their beets. "That was a fun job, and I got to see a lot of people. But later I decided I wanted to go inside the factory to try and get a full-time position."

In 1992, she started working in the hammer mill and did that until 1994. "That was not a fun job as it was mostly outdoors and cold." In 1994, she got a job as a sugar cutter and was able to work inside. That same year, a job was posted as a centrifugal operator; Gloria bid for the job and worked the position until 1998. In 1998, a job was posted for a raw sugar boiler and she worked in that field until 2004. It was in 2004 that Gloria Sifuentes decided she wanted to go to college. "Going to college was something I had always wanted to do, so I left the factory and went to NDSCS (North Dakota State College of Science). I received a certificate in Medical Transcription and an Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Administrative Assistant." Towards the end of Gloria's education, she decided to move back home and finish her classes online for Medical Coding and Billing. "I

never did get to finish that degree because at the time my husband worked in the oilfield, and it was slowing down and he got laid off," said Gloria.

In 2009, Gloria needed a full-time job fast, so she reapplied at the factory. "I was surprised when I got my old job back as raw boiler. I did that job until 2011." Again, a job as a white boiler was posted and Gloria bid for the job; she is still working as a white boiler today. "I am hoping to one day move up as sugar end foreman, and who knows, maybe a supervisor."

Most of Gloria's family has worked at Sidney Sugars throughout the years. "My parents as well as sister, brothers, uncles, cousins and nephews. At one time people would joke around and call it the Sifuentes factory."

A lot of changes have happened since Gloria first started working at the factory. The name of the factory used to be Holly Sugar but was later changed to Sidney Sugars. The factory has also updated a lot of equipment and has disposed of machines that were no longer needed. "When I worked in my earlier years, most of the work was done manually. Now we have computers to help and assist us. Granted we still have a few things we do manually, but it sure makes our job easier to do."

Throughout the years, Gloria has seen a lot of people come and go, from factory managers to supervisors, to mill workers and even office personnel. Gloria goes to work every day and sees a lot of the same old factory that has been there for years and remembers how it was when her father worked there. "The one thing I really miss and wish they would bring back is they used to have a whistle that they blew when campaign was over, to let the town know. I loved hearing that whistle, knowing we had another successful campaign."

Finally, what Gloria likes most about her job is the people that she works with. "We not only work together, but sometimes we get together outside of work for barbecues. It's like my second family."



Gloria Sifuentes



Beets waiting to be processed at Sidney Sugars factory.

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USDA & Montana State University Extension Announce Farm Bill Meetings

Submitted by USDA Farm Service

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Montana State University (MSU) Extension today announced seven Farm Bill informational meetings in communities across Montana.

USDA and MSU Extension are conducting the meetings to inform Montana producers about important changes to the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). NAP coverage provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. The next NAP sales closing date in Montana is March 15, 2016 for spring-seeded 2016 NAP crops.

These meetings will focus on the improved NAP program, administered by local FSA offices across Montana. MSU Extension will explain the online NAP Farm Bill Decision Tool that is available to assist current and prospective NAP producers. The decision tool can be accessed at <http://fsa.usapas.com/NAP.aspx>.

Producers are invited to attend any of the seven scheduled meetings. These meetings are free and open to the public. Please RSVP with your local FSA office or to Jennifer Cole at 406.587.6786 or jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov no later than Feb. 3.

NAP Meeting Schedule

Feb. 8, Billings, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Residence Marriot (956 S. 25th St. W)

Feb. 19, Sidney, 10 a.m. to noon, Richland County Extension Office (1499 N. Central Ave.)

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

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in a meeting should contact Jennifer Cole on 406.587.6786, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800.877.8339, and jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov by Feb. 3.

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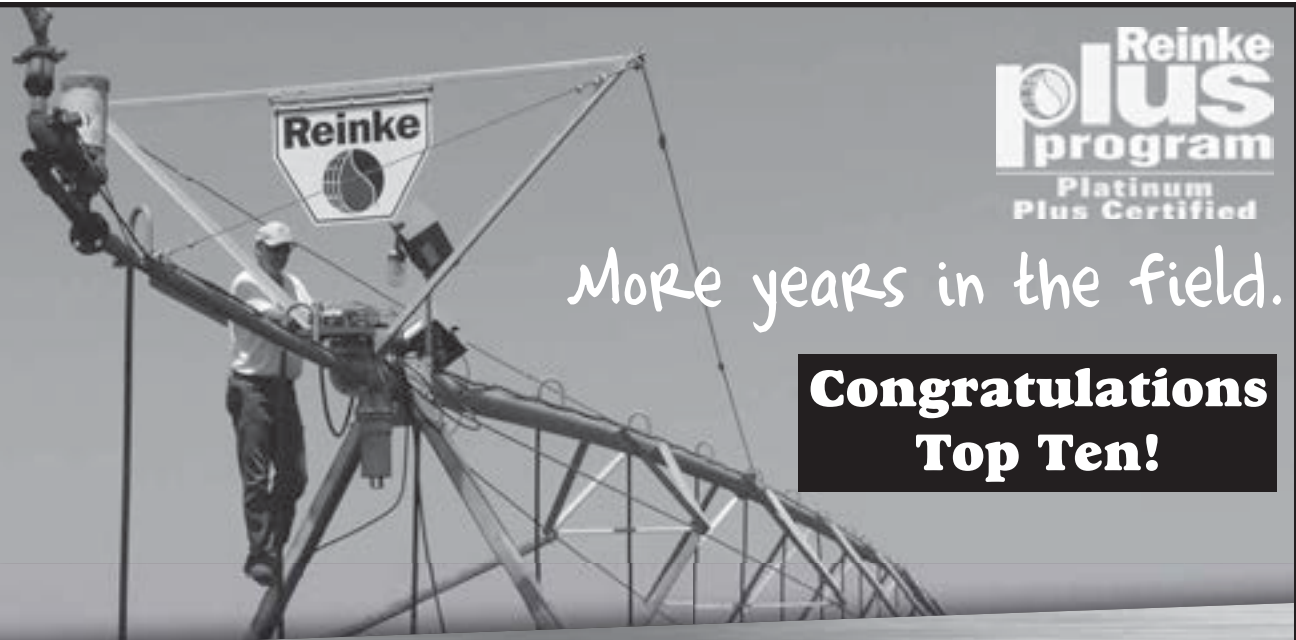


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Speaker Damian Mason Scheduled to be This Year’s Ag Days Entertainment March 3rd

By Meagan Dotson
The MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show, which was formerly held in January, has been moved to March 3rd and 4th in 2016. The two-day trade show will hold educational sessions at the Richland County Event Center featuring the latest and greatest information and developments for Agricultural producers such as GMOs, livestock, and horticulture. It will begin at 9:00am on March 3rd with the Sidney Sugar’s Growers Meeting taking place that afternoon; this is the first year that Ag Days and the Growers Meeting will be held in conjunction. The social will begin at 5:00pm with the banquet to follow at 6:00pm. This year’s entertainment will be speaker Damian Mason with his presentation of Humor for the Heart of Ag. Mason has been speaking for 21 years with over 1,600 appearances in all fifty states and eight foreign countries delivering his humorous, energetic, and informative presentations about Agricultural and Business Reinvention. Mason grew up on a dairy farm and currently owns and manages a farm in Indiana; he graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Economics, is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, and holds Certified Speaking Professional Designation with the National Speakers Association. On March 4th, the day will start with breakfast at 6:30am and the Trade Show will begin at 8:00am. The reason for the change of timing is largely due to the declining attendance over the last couple years, as January weather doesn’t generally cooperate with the event that draws people from multiple counties and while calving could be an issue, the hope is to rejuvenate the annual event. Banquet Tickets will go on sale in mid-January and are available through the Extension Office. For more information, contact Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine at 406-433-1206 or email him at timothy.fine@montana.edu.



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