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**Crooked
Creek Farms**

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Photo by Carla Leland Photography

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Crooked Creek Farms Keeping It Fresh All The Way To Your Table

By Meagan Dotson

Hayley Darnielle and her husband, Shayn, are first generation farmers, operating Darnielle Farms about 30 miles outside of Sidney, and in 2021, just prior to Covid, Hayley bought her first milk cow and the wheels were set in motion for Crooked Creek Farms.

"I've always been an animal lover and wanted to ranch full time, but as first-generation farmers, I couldn't be at the ranch full time," Hayley explained.

She was managing the local feed store and bottle feeding 20-30 bum calves at a time. The word got out with those who knew her from the feed store, and she soon had multiple people asking to buy milk from her.

In the spring of 2021, SB 199, also known as the Montana Local Food Choice Act, passed and opened up the door of possibility for Hayley. She was able to quit her job and devote herself full time to Crooked Creek Farms selling raw dairy including milk, cream, and butter and farm fresh chicken, duck, and quail eggs. Hayley also incubates and raises chicks which she later sells.

To comply with Montana laws, her cows are tested annually for brucellosis and every six months she sends milk samples to a lab in Idaho to ensure the cows do not have mastitis or other illnesses. Additionally, her equipment is tested to make sure it is being cleaned properly.

"When SB 199 passed it gave me this opportunity," she recalls. "After Covid everyone was more conscientious of where their food came from. My business really grew from word of mouth, and the more customers the better."

Hayley operates Crooked Creek Farms with four cows and one heifer. To comply with Montana state law which stipulates staying under five milking cows, she only has four producing milk at once. Additionally, she has chickens, ducks, quail and goats, though she does not sell goat dairy at this time. Currently, she has just one cow producing milk which produces 20-30 gallons of milk for sale each week, she sells a couple dozen chicks each week, and has 15-20 dozen eggs for sale weekly. As the weather warms, she expects her egg production to increase. She delivers to Sidney once a week, and plans to be at the Farmers Market in Sidney most Saturdays throughout the season.

For anyone interested in Crooked Creek Farms raw dairy, farm fresh eggs or chicks, you can visit the website at www.crookedcreekfarmsmt.com, check them out on Facebook, or call Hayley at 406-480-0911.



Hayley Darnielle pictured here with one of her milk cows. (Photo courtesy of Carla Leland Photography)



Shayn and Hayley Darnielle are first generation farmers who operate both Darnielle Farms and Crooked Creek Farms. (Photo courtesy of Carla Leland Photography)



When SB 199 passed in 2021, it opened up the possibilities for Darnielle and Crooked Creek Farms. (Photo courtesy of Carla Leland Photography)

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MonDak Ag Days Recap

By Robyn Heck

MonDak Ag Days was held Thursday and Friday, March 2 and 3, at the Richland County Event Center.

A recap of the events held:

Weiland Presented “Drainage Tiles Dos and Don’ts

MonDak Ag Days kicked off Thursday morning, March 2 with the trade show opening at 8 a.m.

“Drainage Tiles Dos and Don’ts.”

Jerry Weiland is the Midwest and West region salesman FRANCO. Prior to that he spent numerous years serving the people of South Dakota and Nebraska with Hefty Seed. He has extensive experience in agribusiness and economics.

Tile drainage is a form of agricultural drainage system that removes excess sub-surface water from fields to allow sufficient air space within the soil, proper cultivation, and access by heavy machinery to tend and harvest crops. It’s a type of agricultural plumbing. The excess water from the soil is siphoned away. Tiling is particularly important in places across the Midwest that historically were covered in wetlands. A drawback of drainage tiles is that they don’t just remove water, they take fertilizer and nutrients such as nitrates and phosphorus. Those nutrients are responsible for toxic algae in lakes. Those blooms rob the water of oxygen and can suffocate and harm the aquatic life. Efforts are underway to address these effects.

Weiland engaged the advice from the start. He said, “What are your drainage tile problems?” The clinic was spent brainstorming solutions.

Getting More “Bang For Your Fertilizer Buck”

The second session of MonDak Ag Days was “Getting More Bang for your Fertilizer Buck” presented by MSU Assistant Research Professor Manbir Rakkar.

Dr. Rakkar’s research aims to resolve soil issues using interdisciplinary approaches. Currently she is focused on preventing, mitigating, and adapt-

ing to soil acidification in Montana. Her presentation goal was to discuss an increase in fertilizer use efficiency, decrease crop loss, and prevent soil acidity. Most agriculture soils in our state are near neutral to basic with a surface soil pH of 6.5 to 8. However, fields with crop losses due to soil acidification have been found in 24 Montana counties, including Roosevelt County.

Prussic Acid In Livestock

The 3rd session for the MonDak Ag Days was titled “Prussic Acid in Livestock”.

Presented by Richland County MSU extension agent Marley Manoukian.

Manoukian helps producers and home gardeners with plant and insect identification and plant disease diagnosis. She assists with soil, water, and forage quality analysis, in-house nitrate testing, and can provide the Private Application Training program for producers interested in becoming licensed to use restricted use pesticides.

Manoukian grew up in Malta, MT. “I welcome any and all questions regarding horticulture and agriculture, and if I don’t know the answer, I will gladly find out,” she said. It was discovered in the early 1900s that under certain conditions, sorghum is capable of releasing hydrocyanic acid (or prussic acid), which makes them potentially dangerous for grazing. Since there is no treatment for prussic acid poisoning in cattle, prevention is the best medicine. It is important to know that young plants contain more prussic acid than older plants, stress such as drought or freeze produces higher prussic acid, there is more in the leaves than the stems, and sun curing of hay will reduce prussic acid, especially if the hay is crimped. Prussic acid poisoning can cause death in cattle. Early signs are excitement, rapid pulse, muscle tremors, rapid or labored breathing, pink fluid in the mucous membranes, and cherry red blood. Our goal is to prevent prussic acid poisoning,” said Manoukian.

Updates To Medically Important Antibiotics

The 4th session of the MonDak Ag Days was “Updates to Medically Important Antibiotics” presented by Gary Schieber.

Schieber has lived in Sidney since 2004, and is a High Plains Veterinary Clinic, veterinarian.

Schieber began by stating that some antibiotics have been available over-the-counter for many years. However, starting June 11, 2023, all antibiotics will require a veterinary prescription. “This has been in the works by the FDA for many years,” said Schieber. Some common antibiotics ranchers will no longer be able to easily purchase include: oxytetracycline, sulfamethazine, procaine penicillin, tylosin, erythromycin, and lincomycin. Does this mean ranchers need to get a new prescription every time they get a sick animal? The short answer is: no. A veterinarian can write a prescription for a herd as long as they are familiar with the operation and make routine visits as to have a working knowledge of the operation. “There must be a valid client-patient-relationship,” said Schieber. He also discussed efforts to slow antimicrobial resistance in animals.

Cattle Market Update

The 5th session of MonDak Ag Days was called the “Cattle Market Update” presented by Katelyn McCulloch, Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC) director and senior agriculture economist.

LMIC’s mission is to provide timely and comprehensive livestock marketing resources through cooperation. It has provided economic analysis and market projections concerning the livestock industry since 1955. She has expertise in the cattle, hog, dairy, hay and grain sectors covering market analysis and outlook. McCulloch has published through a variety of channels market analysis, research, and new articles. She has been a frequent presenter on the national and regional levels, as well as through rural media outlets. McCulloch has worked in the Farm Credit System as well as in Washington, DC, for American Farm

Bureau Federation on livestock related agriculture policy topics.

“I don’t believe you will see a price break on hay until this summer,” said McCulloch. Fed cattle prices in 2023 are raised on firm demand and lighter carcass weights. The import forecast for 2023 is raised on early customs and import inspection data to 3.4 billion lbs. Export projections for 2023 are unchanged at 3.1 million lbs.

MonDak Ag Days Banquet

The 2023 MonDak Ag Days banquet was held Thursday, March 2 at the Sidney Elks Club served by the Sidney High School FFA chapter.

“Each of us can be a voice for agriculture,” began Jay Bodner, keynote speaker, who was named 2022 Outstanding Agricultural Leader on behalf of the MSU College of Agriculture. His family runs a ranch near Rainsford, MT. He continued, “Agriculture is the #1 industry in Montana, and a recent American Farm Bureau survey said that 88% of Americans trust farmers. I think that is an accurate depiction of what we do. Visitors are enthralled by what we do to earn the title of farmer and rancher.” He discussed how it is beneficial for those in the agriculture industry to network. His advice continued; Learn about what is going on in your community and participate. Be the agricultural advocate. Get involved at the local level. Join the Sidney groups such as the Montana Stockgrowers Association or the Farm Bureau Association. Visit with other farmers about techniques. See if there is an easier way to do things. “Be polite, be professional, and be prepared to network with other groups,” said Bodner. “You can engage in being an advocate at the Montana legislature and U.S. Congress. The agriculture industry is a passion and a lifestyle. It’s a resilient community that works hard to feed the world. Be proud of what you do.

“Farm Bill, Crop Budget, & Agriculture Update

The first speaker on Friday morning was Ron Haugen, NDSU farm manage-

Continued on page 6.

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MonDak Ag Days...

Continued from page 4.

ment specialist. The session was titled “Farm Bill, Crop Budget and Agriculture Update”. “We all know input costs are rising, but what can we do to ease the financial burden?” began Haugen. He then explained that all are welcome to use the NDSU farm bill calculator. “This is an online tool for producers to help determining the price loss coverage election,” explained Haugen.

Haugen also spoke about the opinions expressed in the North Dakota Farmers Union farm bill discussion session that took place last June. They emphasized the parts of the farm bill they appreciated (crop insurance, price loss coverage/ agriculture risk coverage decision making, and plant abuse prevention, and also discussed areas of concern (inflation, higher input costs, supply shortages, and labor shortages.). Haugen ended by explaining that we need to continue to be a voice for agriculture. “Twenty-five percent of the Senate and half of the House have never voted on a farm bill. Some don’t even know what the farm bill is,” said Haugen.

Value Added Ag Opportunities

The 2023 MonDak Ag days 11 a.m. Friday session was titled “Value Added Ag Opportunities”, presented by Hailey Vine.

Vine is the Great Northern Development Corporation food and ag development center director.

Value added agriculture is the production of a product in a manner that enhances its value. “People will pay more for locally made, and that continues the cycle to support your economy, especially in smaller rural communities. Agritourism is as value added as you can get because you are using your land and making it work for you,” explained Vine. Agri-tourism events can be things like participating in a farmers market, giving farm tours, stargazing tours, historical walks and hikes, dino-digs and pedal-to-plate rides.

Pedal-to-plate is an event where participants bicycle to different farms for different activities such as tasting different foods, seeing different animals, etc. Vine also explained that there are also grants available. “The Value Added Producer” grant is due the middle of May, and it is intended to help with processing costs and marketing and advertising expenses,” said Vine. There is also a “Growth Through Agriculture” grant, a marketing development program, and more. Contact Vine for more information at fadc@gndc.org or 406-643-2590 extension 201.

On April 11 in Glendive, and April 13 in Glasgow, there will be a “Homegrown to Market” workshop. To register, email Tara at Hourman@epedc.com.

Vine then discussed the benefit of the “Made in Montana” program. “If you can, apply to the Made in Montana program so that you can include that label on your merchandise. Those not in the Ag community really pay attention to those specific labels,” explained Vine.

Vine is originally from South Dakota. She and her husband live in Circle, MT.

Pre-Emergent Herbicides & Modes Of Action

The final session of the 2023 MonDak Ag Days was titled “Pre-emergent Herbicides and Modes of Action”. It was presented by Charlie Lim, NDSU Extension Office weed specialist, Williston.

Lim grew up in the Philippines. His family raised rice. He studied at MSU in Bozeman and became a weed scientist. Lim develops innovative extension programs that help producers in the ag industry identify, assess, and control weeds. He also communicates with other extension specialists, appropriate research extension center personnel, and producers about issues that need new or additional research.

The main topic of his talk was about the weed Kochia. Kochia can be difficult to manage because of its ability to spread and quickly reestablish itself, particularly in a time of drought.

WIC Farm Direct Program Encourages Farmers To Sign Up

By Montana DPHHS

Ahead of farmer’s market season, Montana farmers are encouraged to join the state’s Farm Direct Program.

“This is an excellent opportunity for farmers to get additional sales on their locally grown fruits and vegetables,” said Lacy Little, Montana Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program director that oversees Farm Direct. “It also helps WIC participants access locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables during the summer months.”

Farm Direct is administered through nine local WIC agencies including: Gallatin County WIC, Lewis and Clark County WIC, Cascade County WIC, Flathead WIC, Riverstone WIC, Missoula WIC, Ravalli County WIC, Big Horn WIC, and Park County WIC.

Farm Direct is a state-administered federal nutrition program that authorizes farmers to accept WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program Benefits (FMNP) at farmer’s markets, roadside stands, or even their farms. Farm Direct loosely defines farmers to include recreational growers who grow their produce in their backyard and professional farms. Once authorized, the farmer can begin selling their produce and accepting benefits right away.

“I am a farmer who chooses to sell my produce each summer right here in Hardin,” said Hardin farmer Mark Zerbe. “I set up my stand in a convenient location and display my Farm Direct poster where it is easy to see on top of my stand. I am looking forward to this summer and will have more fresh veggies to sell.”

On average, about 125 farmers participate in the Farm Direct program each summer. The season runs from June 15-Sept. 30, and farmers have until Oct. 31 to redeem their vouchers at their local bank for payment.

All WIC eligible families, in participating WIC FMNP agencies, can participate. Approximately 3,200 WIC families participate in Farm Direct, with most of the beneficiary’s children. Participants receive \$30 worth of vouchers to use at a farmers’ market or farm stand. However, because funds are allocated by participant, not by household, a mother with two young children could receive \$90 for the summer. Eligible foods include fresh local fruits and vegetables. Foods such as baked goods, cheese, eggs, honey, and plants are not eligible.

Farmers interested in learning more can contact Glade Roos of the Farm Direct Program at 406-444-2841 or email at groos@mt.gov. Farmers can also reach out directly to any of the nine participating WIC FMNP agencies.

WIC in Montana includes 35 local agencies and over 80 clinic sites serving all 56 counties and seven tribal reservations. In Montana, almost 14,000 women, infants, and children are enrolled. However, only 55% of eligible families are signed up.

WIC eligibility requires participants to be pregnant, postpartum, breastfeeding, or have a child younger than five. Participants must also meet income requirements—making less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level or qualify for Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, or the free/reduced school meal program. Specific WIC eligibility guidelines can be found on the DPHHS website.

WIC was created in 1974 to help families and young children during a critical time of growth and development. The program’s benefits include providing families access to healthy food, breastfeeding education, referral to other health and social services, and much more. WIC is a voluntary program, and participation does not interfere with other programs such as SNAP or Medicaid.

To learn more about WIC or for eligibility requirements, go to www.dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/wic/index. Families can also contact their local WIC clinic or visit www.signupwic.com. The state office may be reached at 1-800-433-4298 or via email at montanawicprogram@mt.gov.

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Gear Up For Grand Opening Of McKenzie County Ag Expo June 15

By Meagan Dotson

The McKenzie County Ag Expo is in its final stages of completion in preparation for the grand opening during the McKenzie County Fair. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 15 at the Bulls & Broncs event.

The idea was rooted in giving the McKenzie County Fairgrounds an upgrade, but it was quickly determined that an entire new facility would be the better option, as the fairgrounds were limited on surrounding land to expand onto. Three potential building sites were looked at and the chosen location at the bypass on US Highway 85 on the west side of Watford City was the most easily accessible. The 211 acres that was once a bare field is the new home to the 112,000 square foot McKenzie County Ag Expo, with the exhibit hall being 15,500 square feet and the livestock expo being 52,000 square feet. The site also has an arena and grandstand able to accommodate 2,300 people.

"The Ag Expo can hold events ranging from rodeos and motorsports, to weddings and banquets, and everything in between," said McKenzie County Ag Expo Director Chris Kubal. "The McKenzie County Ag Expo will enhance the community and bring people together and can be used by anyone."

FCI served as the general contractor for the project, breaking ground in the fall of 2021.

"FCI has been awesome. I can't say enough good things about them. Without them, there would be no way we'd be ready for the fair in June," Kubal commented.

In addition to hosting the McKenzie County Fair, the North Dakota Rodeo Association finals and Stan Headings Bares & Broncs have contracted through 2025. Indoor motocross is on the books, as is the facility's first wedding. However, the possibilities are endless; McKenzie County Ag Expo is in communications with the National Truck and Tractor Pull and RC racing cars, and events such as Dust and Diamonds or Leather and Lace, a Cowboy Christmas event, pumpkin patch,

and barrel racing have all been discussed as possibilities.

"This has all been done with huge support from the McKenzie County Commissioners and I'm hoping people come out and enjoy what McKenzie County has to offer," Kubal remarked.

If anyone is interested in renting the facility, contact Events Coordinator Kylee Roff at 701-580-3387 or Kubal at 701-842-EXPO once they have officially opened. Kubal can also be contacted at 701-580-2976. The McKenzie County Ag Expo is located at 12880 25th St. NW, Watford City, ND.



Shown is an artist's rendering of the completed project. (Provided by McKenzie County Ag Expo)



The 211 acres the McKenzie County Ag Expo sits on has been under construction since the fall of 2021. (Submitted by McKenzie County Ag Expo)



A view from the grandstands at the newly built McKenzie County Ag Expo. (Submitted by McKenzie County Ag Expo)

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



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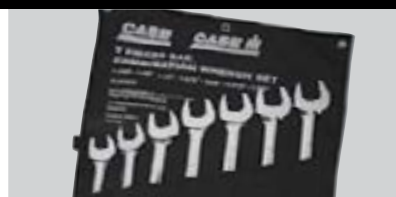
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Policy For Suspension Of Poultry/ Bird Events Amended

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota State Board of Animal Health met last week and amended the policy for the suspension of poultry/bird events.

Effective immediately, following a detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), comingling events such as poultry and bird shows, sales and swaps will only be prohibited in the affected county, unless the 10 km control zone extends into an adjoining county, in which case, that county will also be restricted. If no new cases emerge in 30 days after a detection, the suspension will be automatically lifted for that area.

"While there are no current cases of avian influenza in the state, the board made this decision in order to decrease the impact of restrictions on poultry and bird events in adjoining counties," State Board of Animal Health President Dr. Gerald Kitto said.

"I applaud the board working to balance the needs of commerce while protecting poultry producers from this devastating disease," Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said.

Avian influenza infects many species of wild birds and can be transmitted by direct contact with infected birds or contaminated food or water. Sick and dead wild birds should be reported to North Dakota Game and Fish at <https://gf.nd.gov/wildlife/diseases/mortality-report>.

More information about avian influenza is available at www.ndda.nd.gov/divisions/animal-health/diseases/avian-influenza and from the USDA-APHIS at www.aphis.usda.gov



Youth Farm Safety Camps Set

Three dates and locations are available for North Dakota youth.

Youth will learn the basics of safe tractor and machinery operation at the NDSU Extension Youth Farm Safety Camps. (NDSU photo)

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Youth will be able to learn about safe farm and ranch practices during three statewide Farm Safety Camps that North Dakota State University Extension is hosting this year. Camping dates and location are:

- May 23-25, Williston State College Campus, Williston
- May 30- June 1, NDSU Campus, Fargo
- June 26-28, Bismarck State College Campus, Bismarck

The camps cover the basics of safe tractor and machinery operation, general farm hazards, livestock handling, use of personal protective equipment, and basic first-aid and first-response procedures.

"These camps are designed to help teens become familiar with the most serious hazards associated with operating tractors and agricultural machinery, along with the fundamentals of safe operation and maintenance," says Angie Johnson, NDSU Extension farm and ranch safety coordinator, who is collaborating with NDSU Extension agents to conduct these camps.

Participants will receive hands-on experience and learning opportunities, including:

- Safe tractor operation, including a tractor driving obstacle course
 - Livestock handling
 - All-terrain vehicle safety, including an ATV driving course
 - Skidsteer safety
 - Roadway safety using rules of the road
 - Farm first-aid and emergency preparedness
 - Laws related to youth working in agriculture
 - Equipment operation and maintenance
 - Farm stress management skills
 - Farm hazard identification
- Youth will have opportunities for

hands-on learning, including utilizing farm equipment on obstacle courses to simulate actual farm situations. Livestock handling sessions will allow participants to interact with animals and learn more about animal behaviors and safety when working with animals. ATV certification and Stop the Bleed certification are also included.

Federal law under the Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture requires that youth under the age of 16 receive certification of training prior to employment on farms operated by anyone other than a parent or guardian. The program is for youth 14 and 15 years old. Youth who are 13 can participate, and the license they receive will become valid when they reach their 14th birthday.

By successfully passing this program, participants will receive official certification to operate tractors over 20 horsepower and some pieces of farm machinery when working for a farmer or rancher outside the family.

"While this certification is not required for youth to work on their own family farm, we encourage all teens who plan to work on a farm to participate in this program," says Johnson. "These camps are designed to strengthen communication skills between parents, employers and teen workers on the farm. Farm safety training prepares the next generation of the workforce with the safety skills needed to prevent injuries and fatalities on the job."

Camps are open to youth from all counties in North Dakota. Youth do not need to be enrolled in 4-H to participate.

Registration opens April 1. The deadline to register is April 30. The cost of each camp is \$275. Registration for both camps can be found online at nfsu.ag/youthfarmsafety.

For more information regarding farm safety camp, please contact your local county Extension agent.



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North Dakota Ranchers Should Prepare For Flooding

Adequate preparation can mitigate the impact of flooding and muddy conditions.



Mud will likely be an issue on many farms and ranches this spring. (NDSU photo)

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Ranchers should make plans for moving feed and livestock to higher ground before flooding this spring, according to North Dakota State University Extension specialists.

The latest flood forecast shows a high probability of moderate to major spring flooding along the Red River Basin, as well as minor to moderate flooding potential along portions of the Souris River. In addition to riverine flooding, there is the potential for overland flooding due to snowpack across the state. The risk of flooding will be dictated by additional precipitation and the melt/thaw cycle. Due to overland flooding, many areas that typically do not flood may be flooded this year.

"Floodwaters can rise quickly, potentially cutting off access to feed and/or water sources for livestock," warns Miranda Meehan, NDSU Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist. "Beef cattle out on pasture are especially susceptible to displacement by flooding."

"Although cattle will move to higher ground if possible, they may move to areas where rescue is not possible. Trying to rescue cattle and other large livestock in deep-water situations is dangerous and can be deadly to animals and people. Plans should be made weeks ahead of a potential disaster, with consideration given to pens, loading facilities, transportation, evacuation routes and final destination of livestock."

Floodwaters often prevent producers from reaching feed supplies either directly or through damage to roads.

"Having feed supplies on hand is important because feed assistance may not be available during a flood," says Karl Hoppe, NDSU's Carrington Research Extension Center Extension livestock systems specialist. "Ranchers should pre-select sites on high ground for hay, emergency water supplies, and fencing supplies or panels."

Ranchers also need to be aware that moving feed may cause problems. For example, moving big round hay bales to higher ground can result in hay loss because twine- or net-wrapped bales may be frozen to the ground. Also, road weight restrictions can limit ranchers' ability to haul in new feed if they use co-products such as beet pulp, beet tailings or distillers grains to feed their cattle.

Hoppe advises ranchers to ensure accessible storage facilities and an adequate supply of feedstuffs.

If forage resources are inaccessible for small ruminants of sheep and goats, have a plan for grain supplementation at or near the barn. Springtime has vulnerable ewes and does and their offspring that can be managed by meeting energy requirements needed during lactation if flooding occurs.

"Consider where barns are located when being used for livestock shelter,"

says Zac Carlson, NDSU Extension beef specialist. "If a barn is located in a flood plain like most old barns built close to water, then provide an escape route for the cattle to leave if an overnight flood occurs. Do not shut the barn door unless you check livestock every few hours."

While not all areas will experience flooding, mud will likely be an issue on many farms and ranches this spring.

Mud can reduce the insulation value of hair coats, increase energy requirements, and increase the potential for foot rot and other health issues.

Mud also may chill or trap newborn calves and lambs, and can carry a variety of pathogens that can affect calves and lambs directly or through contact with dirty udders.

There are few options once muddy conditions are in place; therefore, preventive practices are key.

These recommendations can aid in reducing muddy conditions:

- Scrape lots to maintain a 3-5% slope away from the feed bunk.
- Reshape mounds to ensure quick drainage.
- Move livestock to temporary feeding areas such as stockpiled pastures

with adequate drainage or fields containing crop residue such as corn stalks. Be aware of the high risk of soil compaction when placing livestock in saturated crop fields in the spring and the potential for challenging planting conditions.

"The potential for high water tables during spring thaw can cause issues for North Dakota livestock owners who have dirty-water containment ponds and manure stacking areas," says Mary Keena, NDSU's Carrington Research Extension Center Extension livestock environmental management specialist.

During spring thaw, dirty-water containment ponds should be inspected daily.

If your manure management dirty-water containment pond looks like it is going to overtop, is showing signs of major bank erosion or is being encroached upon by floodwaters, contact the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality at 701-328-5210 to report these issues before they happen.

"Ranches should evaluate their potential for flooding and plan accordingly," says Keena. "If you do not have access to higher ground, you may need to consider moving livestock off-site until the risk of flooding subsides. If you need help evaluating options, contact your NDSU Extension agent or emergency management office."

Visit NDSU Extension's flood website at www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/ag-topics/disasters/flood for more information and resources to aid in flood preparations on your operation.

Prairie County LAND AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: SALE WILL BE HELD AT CIRCLE, MT – VETS CLUB

OWNERS: WITTKOPP LAND LLC, CURT WITTKOPP, WHOSE ADDRESS IS CIRCLE, MT WILL OFFER THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY TO THE PUBLIC AT AUCTION. THE FINAL BID WILL BE SUBJECT TO HIS APPROVAL. THE OWNER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY, AND ALL BIDS.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

+/-1561.86 TOTAL ACRES W/+/-488.72 ACRES OF CROPLAND & +/-1073.14 ACRES OF GRASSLAND
S10, T16 N, R47 E,
N2NW4:SE4NW4:NE4:NE4SE4:LESS
6.71 STATE & 4.35 HWY

IMPROVEMENTS: East Duck Creek runs through the property and Section 10 & 11 has a well. 832 sq ft House w/basement, new siding, and windows, (approximately 10 years ago) roof (last year), nearly new appliances, 24x30 Implement Shed, (4) Grain Bins (3-2300 bushel & 1-1400 bushel)

S11, T16 N, R47 E, ALL
S14, T16 N, R47 E, ALL LESS 27.08 ST HWY

WATER RIGHTS: All water rights held will transfer.

MINERAL RIGHTS: No mineral rights will transfer.

WILDLIFE: Pheasants, Mule Deer and Whitetail.

A title commitment has been ordered and will be available, at their request, to prospective buyers for inspection prior to sale day. The above may or may not be the proper legal description; it was taken from the Prairie County Tax Receipts.

TAXES: Taxes will be pro-rated from the day of closing.

TITLE INSURANCE: Standard owner's title insurance will be provided by the seller through Prairie Abstract & Title, 203 S Logan Ave, Terry, MT (406) 635-5472.

TERMS: Cash. 5% down sale day, the balance due at closing approximately 30 days from sale date at the office of Prairie Abstract & Title, 203 S Logan Ave, Terry, MT (406) 635-5472.

Buyer's Premium: A 2 % Buyer's premium will be added to the winning bid price to arrive at the total contract price paid by the purchaser.

Your bid is considered acceptance of the terms of this auction. If you, the Buyer fails to close, the down payment is non-refundable. If the Sellers fail to close, 100% of the down

payment will be returned. At this time, there is no known reason that the Seller would not be able to close. All funds are held in the escrow account of Prairie Abstract & Title, 203 S Logan Ave, Terry, MT (406) 635-5472.

All information is from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed by the Sellers or the Auctioneers. Offering is subject to error, omission, and approval of purchase by owner. We urge independent verification of each, and every item submitted to the satisfaction of any prospective buyer. It is every potential bidder/purchaser's sole responsibility

to accomplish his or her due diligence in whatever manner he or she deems advisable. Announcements made sale day take precedence over any printed materials. The property sells "As Is-Where Is."

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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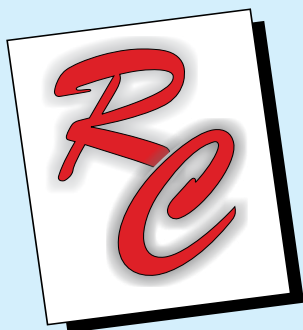
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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE
Here is an opportunity for someone to own a prime piece of property in Prairie County. There is an abundance of wildlife, including pheasants, Whitetail and Mule Deer. There is an older home that has been kept livable and East Duck Creek runs through this property. Hope to see you on **WEDNESDAY, May 10th!**
~Rick



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Retained Placenta In Beef Cattle

By Marley Manoukian
MSU Richland County Extension

Retained placenta in a cow is typically defined as failure to expel the fetal membranes within 24 hours after following parturition or birth of the calf. Under normal circumstances, expulsion of the placenta occurs within eight hours after the calf has been born. The point at which nourishment from the cow is passed to the fetus through the placenta is called a placentome. This placentome is made of the joining of the cotyledon (fetal side) and the caruncle (cow side). When the placenta is retained, the cotyledons do not detach from the caruncles on the uterus during parturition. While retained placenta is rare, they can create a potential for problems.

A retained placenta permits manure and microorganisms to enter the uterus. When a cow lays down, bacteria within the dirt or mud she is laying in also can enter the uterus and can cause infection, resulting in negative consequences. Infections within the uterus can cause fever, weight loss, and in severe cases can cause death. An infected and inflamed uterus results in the cow taking longer to clean and be prepared for the next breeding season, resulting in delayed rebreeding of that cow, or that cow coming up as open. Ultimately, retained placenta can risk reproductive efficiency and can lose operation's profit potential.

Causes of retain placenta include 1) dystocia or calving difficulty due to too large of a calf, twins, or abnormal presentation of the fetus, 2) poor nutrition from inadequate energy or protein during pregnancy, deficiency in Vitamin A, Selenium, Iodine, or Vitamin E, 3) stress, obesity, or genetics, or 4) infectious diseases such as Leptospirosis, IBR virus, BVD virus, or Brucellosis.

Proper herd health and nutrition, along with a mineral program will prevent most problems that retained placenta is associated with. If you are experiencing issues as a result of retained placenta, contact your veterinarian for best treatment options.



AUCTION

Tuesday
APRIL 25, 2023
SALE TIME: 10:30 AM

**GORDON BROKAW ESTATE
AND SUSAN BROKAW Williston, ND**

VIEW PHOTOS AT
WWW.BITZAUCTION.COM

NOTE: There Are Very Few Small Items. Auction Will Be Completed By 1:00 PM

FROM Williston, ND: North On Hwy 2 & 85 To Love's Truck Stop.
East On 85B & Co Road 6 - 5 Miles To 131 St. NW, 1 Mile South To 56th St. (West To Farm)

NOTE: Due To The Death Of Her Husband Susan Has Decided To Sell The Equipment.
This Is A Clean Line Of Equipment - Most Major Items Have Been Shredded.

— TRUCKS & PICKUPS & VEHICLE —

2005 IHC #7600 Truck, Eaton Fuller 10-Speed Trans., Triple Axle - W/Reiten 22"x68" Box Hoist, Roll Tarp (Very Clean Unit)

1957 Ford Truck W/16' Box (Not Running)

1974 IHC Load Star 2-Ton Truck, 16' Box Hoist, Roll Tarp, 44,088 Miles

TRACTORS

John Deere 7800 Tractor, FWA, 3 Point, Quick Hitch, 5909 Hours, 480-80R-42 Duals, S# 7800H011514

John Deere 8760 Tractor (4x4), 20.5-38 Duals, 6063 Hours, S#RW8960H004519

IHC 3388 Diesel Tractor 2+2

HARVESTING EQUIP.

John Deere 9500 Combine, Chopper, 3402 Engine Hours, 2319 Machine Hours

JD 925 Straight Header

JD 925 Straight Header W/Finger Reel

(2) Header Trailers

Brandt #5200 EX Grain Vacuum (Like New)

JD #912 Pickup Header

OMC 24' PT Swather

GRAIN STORAGE

(2) Grain Max, Meridian 4000 Bu. Bins, On Skids W/Fans

(1) 40' Storage Container

OTHER FARM EQUIPMENT

Summers 110' Ultimate Sprayer (Like New)

Degelman Hydraulic Bat Rock Picker

Crown Hydraulic Bat Rock Picker

Farm King Canola Roller

Degelman Fork Type Rock Picker

Kwik Klean Grain Cleaner

Flexical 64' #55 Sprayer

Gravity Box On Trailer

Water Transfer Sprayer Pump

(2) 560 Gal. Fuel Tanks

Several Poly Water Tanks

JD 7' Sickle Mower, PT

Some GPS Equipment

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

(3) Case IH #7200 14' Hoe Drills W/Transport

Wilrich 22' Chisel Plow W/Degelman Harrows

Taylor Way 14' Disc

JD 16' Chisel Plow

Melroe 18' Chisel Plow

3-Point Anhydrous Applicator

AUGERS

Brandt #840 EZ Mover Auger W/25 HP Motor, Self Propelled

Sakundiak SLM D10" x 72' Swingout, Hyd., PTO Auger

Sakundiak HD 10-1600 Swingout, Out Hyd., PTO Auger

Westfield 42' Auger

Mayrath 6" Auger (Gas Motor)

Truck Endgate Auger

Some Scrap Iron & Old Line Of Equipment

VIEWING DATES
OF AUCTION ITEMS
**Sat., April 22 or
Mon., April 24**

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Used Haying Equipment

2022 Case IH WD1505 Windrower, 14' head,
18 hrs., consigned..... \$162,000
2005 John Deere 4895 Windrower,
18' head..... \$49,000
2016 John Deere W155 Windrower, 18' auger
head, 900 hrs \$129,000



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Parma 30' Mulcher