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Farm & Ranch Monthly Magazine

Published monthly by The Roundup
PO Box 1207 • Sidney, MT 59270 • 406-433-3306

Schepens Chosen as Montana State 4-H Ambassador



Pictured is Taylor Schepens with her 4-H market steer along with her other projects in sewing, quilting and woodworking.

By Samantha Goldsmith

Seventeen year old Taylor Schepens, daughter of Robert Schepens and Lacey Nevins of Sidney is excited to present her 4-H projects at this year's county fair to be held in Sidney, MT., August 3-6.

With a lot of encouragement from her stepdad Matt Nevins and his family, at age 9, Taylor became a member of 4-H. Matt and his family had been previously involved with the group and knew it would be a great opportunity and good experience. Taylor's younger brother Trey also became a member when he was old enough. One of Taylor's most memorable experiences with 4-H was her first State Congress competition where she met new people and formed new friendships that have lasted throughout the years.

Currently Taylor has been actively working on her projects in sewing, woodworking, quilting and her favorite project, her market steer, which will be featured at the Richland County Fair this year. Along with those projects she has also been involved in Junior Leaders, a group within 4-H that does community services and helps local families in need. Taylor is also a county ambassador for the county level of 4-H but her most exciting 4-H accomplishment has been being chosen as a Montana State 4-H ambassador. Taylor applied for this position, went through a two day interview

process and competed with 14 other candidates who had also applied. She is now one of five members of the Montana Extension Advisory Committee or MEAC, who are evenly spread throughout the state. As part of MEAC she and the other four members will be responsible for planning the 4-H state events like fall training for the county level ambassadors and State Congress. State congress is a state wide competition where members of 4-H stay in the dorms at MSU-Bozeman and bring projects of their choice to compete with. They participate in a day of workshops and finish each day with a dance. Also as a MEAC member, Taylor is extremely excited to soon be visiting county fairs across the state to help the local extension agents.

When asked how 4-H has influenced her life, she replied, "I think 4-H has changed me as a person. I don't think I'd be the same person I am today without it. 4-H is like a big family I can always count on when going through tough times." She also stated that 4-H has helped her shape her plans for the future.

Taylor's future plans are to attend school in Minot, ND., or Billings, MT., where she plans to major in social work with a minor in psychology. She hopes to focus her involvement on making sure kids are being treated properly and are in good homes. Taylor said, "Having the opportunity to work with the different age groups and become a role model for them is what has put my plans for the future in perspective for me."

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WREC Has Successful Turnout for Their Nesson Valley Field Day

By Meagan Dotson

The Nesson Valley Irrigated Field Day, held July 15th, began with an interactive presentation given by Brian Jenks in which 10 plots each containing sugar beet, soybean, pea, corn, and wheat were sprayed with different herbicides and attendants were invited to walk around and view the effects of each. Participants enjoyed the chance to see herbicide injury symptoms up-close and evaluate the plots.

Tom Scherer emphasized the importance of irrigation maintenance and encouraged people to walk their irrigation systems each spring looking for leaks in general, and also pointed out specific parts of irrigation systems that can be prone to leakage.

The High Tunnel Project was presented by Kyla Splichal and Esther McGinnis; high tunnels can prolong the growing season of garden vegetables and flowers and featured an automated watering system and roll down sides to allow for ventilation.

Bart Stevens discussed crop rotation with growing sugar beets full-tillage vs. no-tillage in rotation with either barley or corn-soybean, and Audrey Kalil gave an overview of her work with sugar beet diseases.

Susie Thompson with NDSU's potato breeding program discussed different varieties of potatoes and the qualities needed for fresh market, frozen, and chips. Dave Sands discussed low-glycemic potatoes that are being developed to open up the potato market to consumers with blood sugar issues. Low-glycemic potatoes would essentially be more comparable to a whole grain than a starch for diabetic consumers.

Tyler Tjelde and Justin Jacobs wrapped up the day with an overview of variety trials and other work being conducted at the site.

The WREC would like to thank all of the lunch sponsors and attendants that made the 2016 Field Days successful.



Dr. Brian Jenks (far right) explains plots demonstrating herbicide injury or safety on a variety of crops and encourages the crowd to guess which herbicide was applied.



Research specialist Kyla Splichal talks about her experiments growing vegetables in the new high-tunnel at the Nesson Valley site.



Irrigation research agronomist Tyler Tjelde talks about variety trials and other research projects being conducted at the Nesson Valley irrigated site.



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MSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialists To Host Statewide Veterinary Feed Directive Meetings

From MSU News Service

Montana State University Extension beef cattle specialists will host summer meetings across Montana to help livestock producers understand a new ruling by the United States Food and Drug Administration concerning feed-grade antibiotics.

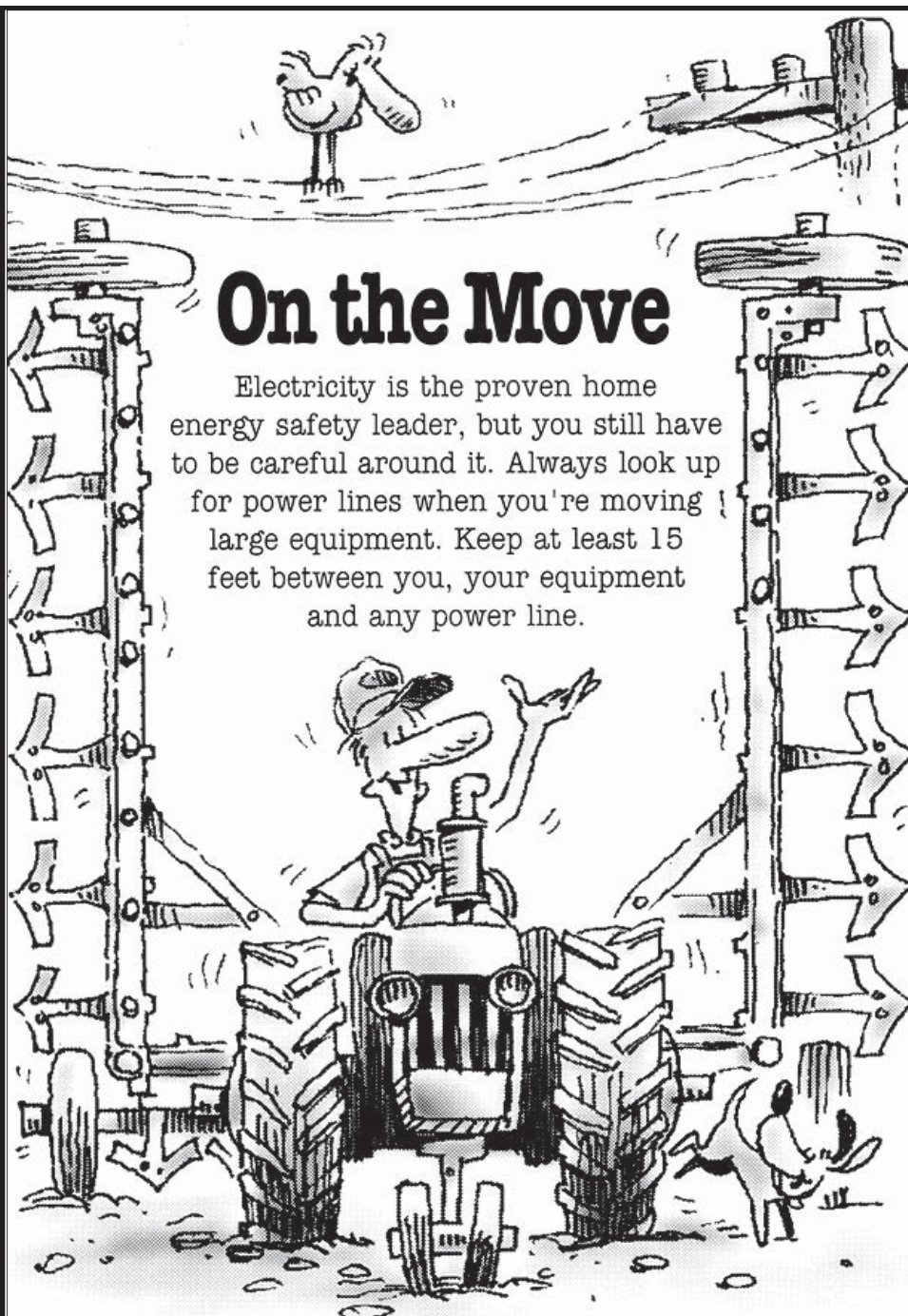
The veterinary feed directive, or VFD, was developed by the USDA and will impact how producers feed their livestock. The VFD impacts feed-grade antibiotics that are medically important, which are antibiotics used in both human and animal medicine. The VFD rule will be implemented on Jan. 1, 2017.

In preparation for the rule, MSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialists Megan Van Emon and Rachel Endecott and Montana Veterinary Medical Association President-Elect Katie Rein will present a series of meetings throughout Montana. The meetings will focus on the VFD basics, label changes, veterinary-client-patient-relationships, required information on a VFD form, impacts on minor species and other information. The goal of the meetings is to provide information that will help attendees aid in the ease of implementation of the VFD rule.

Meeting attendees will be given information in a binder, courtesy of the Western Extension Risk Management Education Center. All meetings will be held from 1-5 p.m. The schedule of the meetings and contact information follows by date, location, Extension agent and a contact phone number: Aug. 3, Miles City, Mike Schuldt, 874-3370; Aug. 4, Billings, Steve Lackman, 256-2828; Aug. 9, Glasgow, Shelley Mills, 228-6241; Aug. 10, Havre, Nicole Gray, 231-5150; Aug. 11, Lewiston, Darren Crawford, 535-3919; Aug. 16, Sidney, Tim Fine, 433-1206; Aug. 24, Butte, Kellee Anderson, 723-0217; Aug. 25, Missoula, Campbell Barrett, 258-4200; Sept. 21, Dillon, Jackie Sutton, 683-3785. For more information, contact Van Emon at megan.vanemon@montana.edu or (406) 874-8286 or visit the MSU Beef Extension website at <http://animalrangeextension.montana.edu/beef/VFD.html>. RSVPs for the meetings are encouraged by contacting the corresponding MSU Extension agent.

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WREC's Dry Land Field Day Covered a Variety of Topics for Farmers & Home Gardeners

By Meagan Dotson

The weather was beautiful and the turnout was good for the Williston Research and Extension Center Dry Land Field Day, July 14th. Dr. Rich Horsley started off the day, discussing what buyers are looking for when it comes to barley. He noted that there is a lot of interest in two row barley and discussed Americans' interest in craft beers; while craft brewers only make up about 10% of the market, they purchase about 25% of barley yield due to brewing with straight barley rather than mixing with other grains as larger companies do.

Plant pathologist Audrey Kalil introduced herself as a new staff member at WREC and reviewed different wheat diseases as well as discussing North Dakota's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) scouting program. This program is unique to the state and consists of summer employees scouting fields and reporting their findings, which are available at www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndipm. She also discussed her interest in researching how beneficial soil microbes can reduce crop diseases in diverse crop rotations.

The long-term Cropping Sequence Study was introduced by Dr. Don Tanaka. Tanaka described how his previous work in no-till research showed that while there is a transition phase when going from tilled to no-till systems in which yields may be lower, the long-term quality of the soil improves and is better able to supply crops with water and nutrients.

WREC agronomist Dr. Gautam Pradhan shared results from dry land testing and research on pulse crops, talked about new varieties of peas that are going to be released, and buying certified seed. While many farmers save money by saving part of their seeds from each crop for planting the next season, Pradhan reminded attendants that buying certified 'clean' seed helps maintain crop quality.

Drs. Rich Zollinger, Kirk Howatt, and Brian Jenks discussed the importance of fall weed control in regards to winter annual weed management and spent some time focusing on Narrow Leaf Hawk's Beard (also known as False Dandelion) and Horseweed (also called Marestail). Both are relatively new weeds to the area and are becoming a growing concern.

An experiment investigating different crop rotations for reclaiming soil affected by pipeline installation and road compaction was discussed by Austin Link and Chris Augustine.

Ag engineer John Nowatzki presented information on the importance of selecting nozzles that would reduce herbicide drift. The most effective way to reduce drift is to use nozzles that produce coarse (big) droplets rather than fine (small) droplets.

The Horticulture Tour speakers Kyla Splichal and Tom Kalb covered growing a variety of garden vegetables and flowers, highlighting varieties that do well in our area as well as lawn care and maintenance.

A new feature for the Dry Land Field Day was the Stump the Plant Doctors booth; Kalil, Splichal, and Dr. Clair Keene with WREC had several people stop by their booth with questions about tree and flower diseases and weed control. They were pleased that many attendees brought samples and their questions.

Pulse crops were the topic of the afternoon session, discussing the history of growing pulse crops in the MonDak and how diseases affect them. For the first time, a dedicated pulse crop scout collected information on pulse crop diseases in our area. This work was made possible by Kalil and she hopes it will continue in future years.

Panelists from Safflower Technology Inc., Viterra, Columbia Grain, and AGT Foods discussed options for contracting pulse crops and opportunities to increase price premiums through options such as seed production.

The WREC would like to thank all those who sponsored the BBQ chicken lunch, ice cream booth, evening social, and door prizes, as well as all those in attendance.



Dr. Gautam Pradhan talks about the benefits of buying certified seed with the crowd.



Drs. Rich Zollinger, Brian Jenks and Kirk Howatt (left to right) tell the audience how to identify marsh sowthistle and narrow-leaf hawk's beard and how to control these weeds.

LYIP Begins Rocking



Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project started rocking the Yellowstone River Monday, July 25. The almost yearly event begins with mining the huge rock, identifying low spots by boat and then using a trolley system to deliver the rock to where it is needed.

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New MSU Spring Wheat Variety Licensed To Montana Company

By Anne Cantrell, MSU News Service

Montana State University has completed an agreement to license a new variety of hard red spring wheat to Montana-based Northern Seed, LLC.

Licensing the variety to Northern Seed means that the the Montana-based research company will lead the market development, data collection and production plans for this new Clearfield line.

“Northern Seed is a respected agribusiness that at every turn works to improve commercial seed by benefiting the grower and the environment,” said Charles Boyer, MSU vice president of agriculture and dean of the College of Agriculture. “We’re proud to work with a company that supports research and development from Montana’s flagship land-grant university.”

Northern Seed has the capability to continue evaluation of this variety in their extensive research program with plots located throughout the state, according to Ryan Holt, executive vice president at Northern Seed. Holt expects that spring wheat producers will be able to access certified seed from their local Northern Seed, LLC-approved dealers on a limited basis in the spring of 2018 and fully in the spring of 2019.

“Vida has proven to be a very good variety that is widely adapted in Montana,” Holt said. “We are excited to be able to offer a variety with these characteristics combined with the BASF Clearfield technology. This variety is another example of the impact the collaboration between Northern Seed and MSU can bring to the Montana producer, providing tools that will make them more successful.”

The new variety, identified with experimental number MT1173, is an MSU variety that was derived by crossing the BASF Clearfield herbicide-resistant genes with

the MSU variety Vida. As part of their research, MSU wheat breeders developed several Clearfield lines that were similar to Vida, and this line was selected for the balance of its gluten strength, protein content and yield, according to Luther Talbert, a professor in the MSU College of Agriculture’s Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology who conducted research on the variety.

MT1173 was tested at locations across Montana. Talbert noted that data from advanced yield trials in 2012 and 2013 show that the variety had a yield similar to Vida and higher than most other varieties at most sites. The grain protein of MT1173 was found to be similar to Vida, and MT1173 was shown to head slightly later than Vida and grow to approximately the same height. Talbert noted that MT1173 was developed using traditional plant breeding methods and not by genetic engineering.

MSU’s research into the genetics and breeding of grains has led to the development of crop varieties that offer greater yield, as well as resistance to a number of diseases and pests. The wheat research programs are carried out by MSU’s agricultural research centers. That research is integral to Montana’s wheat crop, Talbert said, and MSU is the leading provider of varieties for the 5 million acres of wheat grown in Montana. “We are pleased that the legacy of MSU research in wheat breeding is continuing to support Montana’s producers,” said Renee Reijo Pera, MSU vice president of research and economic development. “Spring wheat is a critical component of the Montana economy, and under the direction of Northern Seed, we expect this new line will have a positive impact in our state.”

For more information, contact the MSU Technology Transfer Office at (406) 994-7868.

A farmer near Great Falls inspects a mid-summer wheat crop. MSU photo by Kelly Gorham.



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Fall Herbicide Application

By Tim Fine

In order for an industry to survive and be sustainable, it must be able to adapt and change. Agriculture, our nation's number one industry is no different. Changes in farming practices, crop varieties, management practices, and much more are constantly being researched and recommended. One such practice that has become fairly commonplace in agriculture production is the advent of minimum tillage or no-tillage systems for crop production.

I will not go into too much detail in regards to the hows and whys of no-till production but the science behind it is that when you reduce the number of times the soil is disturbed you also reduce the amount of disturbance to the beneficial organisms that are working under the soil which allows for a potentially more fertile and productive soil, saves on the fuel bill, and reduces the detrimental effects that compacted soils play in reducing crop yields.

Many agricultural producers in our region (and a vast majority across the nation) have adapted their systems to no till for these very beneficial reasons, however, just like most changes in any industry there are some trade-offs to changing practices and it is not always a win-win situation.

One of the issues that has recently reared its ugly head is that we are starting to see new weed species invading cropping areas and even some species that are not new are becoming more of a problem. While there are several factors that contribute to this, not making a fall tillage pass through a field allows some weed species to thrive. So I thought that I would list just a few of the weeds that are becoming an issue and discuss some management strategies.

Horseweed or marestail (*Coryza Canadensis*)- If you have attended the ARS Field Day, EARC Field Day, or the Pulse Day held in Richland County, Montana, you probably have heard me talk about this weed. Horseweed is a winter or summer annual and has directly benefitted from no-till production. We do have glyphosate resistant horseweed in Richland County but that does not mean that every plant in the county is resistant to herbicides containing glyphosate. Typically, horseweed is in the basal or rosette stage in the fall so an application of glyphosate (if the plant is not resistant), dicamba, or 2,4-D ester may go a long way in preventing further infestations.



What a field would look like at the end of the season if control measures are not taken against horseweed. (Source http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/early_management_horseweed_control_in_soybeans_is_important)

Narrowleaf hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum*)- Narrowleaf hawksbeard is still a relatively new plant that is just beginning to rear its ugly head in Richland County. Prior to June, I was fairly certain that we did not have this weed in our county but at one of the field days a producer pulled a weed and brought it to me. As he was walking towards me, I realized that, unfortunately what he had pulled was most definitely narrowleaf hawksbeard. This weed is another one that acts as either a summer or winter annual and will sometimes be in the rosette stage in fall. Just like with horseweed, a fall application of 2,4-D or glyphosate could be beneficial to prevent the spread. On a side note, this weed has really taken off in counties to the north of us. So much so that if you are driving through Sheridan, Daniels, Valley, and parts of Roosevelt counties in mid to late June you will notice yellow ditches, CRP fields and hay fields primarily because of this yellow-flowered weed.

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)-As opposed to the two weeds listed above, Canada thistle is not a relatively new weed to deal with and it is not an annual weed. Regardless of management strategies, control of Canada thistle normally takes repeated attempts to get satisfactory control. Fall applied herbicides probably



Narrowleaf hawksbeard. (Source <http://www.fairbanksweeds.org>)

give the best opportunity for control of this weed. A fall herbicide application to Canada thistle moves through the plant's system as sugars are being sent from the leaves to the roots. According to the North Dakota Weed Control Guide (<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/weeds/weed-control-guides/nd-weed-control-guide-1>) "products containing glyphosate or clopyralid fall-applied to Canada thistle in the rosette stage provides greater control then when applied to bolting or flowering stems.

There are plenty of other weeds that I could have suggested and I am sure that as the years progress and things change there will be plenty more weeds that come down the pike. If

there is a take home message it is that if these weeds that are in the rosette stage in the fall are controlled then, you can save yourself some headaches the following crop season.

I should point out that there are other products available that will provide control of these weeds. The ones listed are the most common but by no means are the products listed above an exhaustive list. Careful consideration should be made when selecting herbicides as some will have re-plant restrictions. Information in this article is provided for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply an endorsement of them by MSU Extension. Common chemical and trade names are used in this article for clarity for the reader. Inclusion of a common chemical or trade name does not imply endorsement of that particular product or brand of herbicide and exclusion does not imply non-approval. This article is not intended to replace the product label.



Canada thistle root system after 14 months growth from 25 vegetative shoot cuttings. (Source <http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/natural-resources/canada-thistle-3-108>)

EARC Welcomes New Plant Pathologist

By Samantha Goldsmith

There's a new Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at the MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center in Sidney, MT. Six weeks ago, Frankie Crutcher joined the research center from College Station, Texas, but is originally from Helena, MT. She has been a plant pathologist for almost ten years. Her main focus will be pulse crops and sugar beets but she has an interest in small grains such as wheat and barley. Frankie will be continuing her work on the different types of diseases these crops can develop through variety trials on pulse crops and sugar beets. Her main focus will be trying to combat the different diseases plant develop during growth.

Crutcher obtained her undergraduate degree at MSU-Bozeman, focusing on Plant Bio Technology. After MSU-Bozeman she then got her graduate credentials in Genetics from Texas A&M, College Station, Texas. Crutcher spent four years at the USDA doing her post doctorate work on how different mycotoxins are involved in the disease progression and severity. She also worked on finding micro organisms that could potentially detoxify those mycotoxins.

Crutcher says, "Attending MSU has been the biggest influence on my career choices." she also said she wasn't a member of FFA or 4H in school, "I grew up in Helena so I wasn't a farm girl." Although she knew she had an interest in plants after taking biology class in high school, it wasn't until she took an Introduction to Plant Pathology that she knew wanted to be a plant pathologist. While obtaining her undergraduate degree at MSU-Bozeman, she developed her interest in agriculture, world hunger. She wanted to help the farmers that produce the crops we buy in grocery stores today.

Crutcher has been focusing on how to combat plant diseases such as Fusarium and other mycotoxins that can cause crop rejection at the time of harvest. She has also been gathering tissue from wheat plants to study endophytes on the surfaces and within the plants to help protect against pathogens.

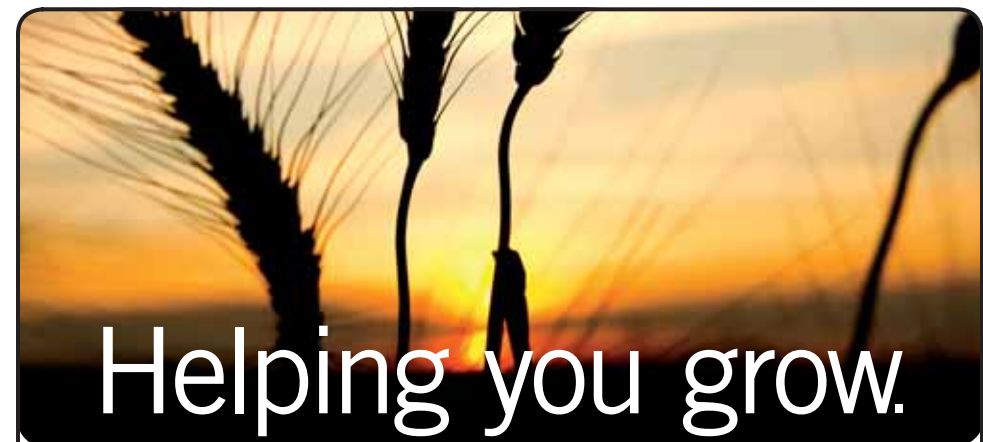
With the sugar beet harvest coming up soon, Frankie will be working closely with Sidney Sugars to help address problems local farmers may have with their

crops. Sidney Sugars will be taking her out to the fields and when the factory is running again, she'll be taking a tour and learning more about the production process. "I think once I understand the process as a whole it will be easier to address problems the sugar beets may have," she says.

Crutcher said she is currently meeting with four other individuals and will be working on the diseases that effect pulse crops state wide. Crutcher's future plans include meeting other researchers to find commonalities between them which will be used in doing research collaborations with professors from MSU-Bozeman next year on sugar beets and pulse crops.



Frankie Crutcher



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Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament Winners



The Sidney Chamber held its annual Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament on July 11 at the Sidney Country Club. Placing 1st in the Ag Golf Tournament was Norby Incorporated: Jakob Bartholomeaussen, Matt Steadman, Marvin Steadman and Eric Knutson (Photos by Samantha Goldsmith)



2nd, Farmers Insurance: Chad Albin, Jeff Steffan, Jeff Andersen and Mike Steffan



3rd, Farm Equipment Sales: Grant Salvevold, Luke Anderson, Dana Berwick and Guy Salvevold

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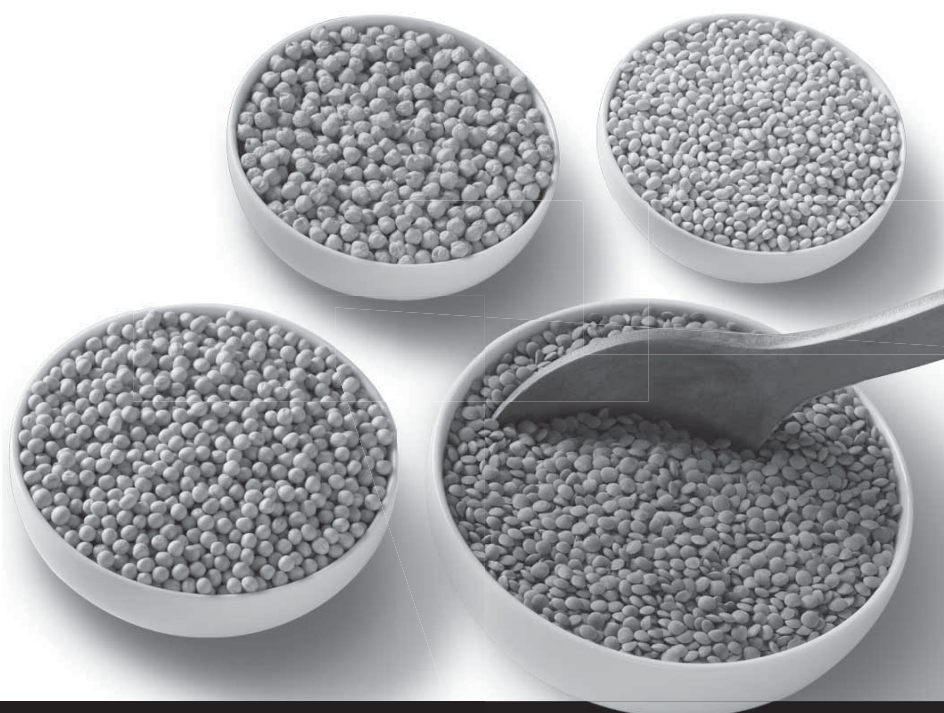
The Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, Richland Economic Development Corp, and Sidney Sugars, Inc. would like to extend their deepest thanks to the following sponsors for their support towards the bus trips made to Glendive and to Billings to attend the public hearings for the EIS of the LYIP and Intake:

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