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Keeping the Wagon Train Tradition Alive

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Celebrating 50 Years Of Keeping The Wagon Train Tradition Alive

By Anna Dragseth

A significant part of North Dakota's history begins around the time when settlers came across the prairie in wagon trains. These trains reached places that eventually became homesteads, towns, and cities. Although the days of the wagon trains are long gone, you can still experience what it was like long ago on the Long X Wagon Train - a train of covered horse-drawn wagons and riders based out of McKenzie County.

This year the Long X Wagon train is celebrating 50 years of keeping the pioneer experience alive. The wagon train began in 1969 and has continued to do wagon trains every year since then. "We have done wagon trains two to three times a year during the spring, summer, and fall. We try to do it around the time the cowboys have the cattle out in the pasture," explained Lyle Leiseth, an active participant in the Long X Wagon Train.

On Wednesday, June 19 participants of the Long X Wagon Train celebrated the 50th Anniversary with a Wagon Train that started 15 miles northwest of Watford City. The next day riders participated in the McKenzie County Fair Parade. "The 50th Anniversary Wagon Train ride started at 8:30 a.m. at Craig Hystad's place, and there was a noon meal provided. The ride ended at the Watford City Fairgrounds where there was a big evening meal furnished, and on Thursday we rode in the parade," stated Leiseth.

The Long X Wagon Train was established by Lee Stenjem and Clarence Leiseth. "Back when it started getting going we had up to 17 wagons with a lot of riders, now there are not as many people participating in it as much as they used to. We are always looking for new blood, and it doesn't take much money to come along and have a little fun," said Leiseth.

The Long X Wagon Train has covered ground in Fairview, Cartwright, Alexander, Killdeer, Minot, Arnegard, and Watford City. Every time they do a wagon train, they try to pick a new area. Leiseth said, "We always try to pick new scenery that people haven't ridden around in before." During the trip, you can ride in a covered wagon, or bring your own horse and travel by horseback. You'll cross some truly scenic territory.

The Long X Wagon Train provides an opportunity to relive North Dakota history.

It's one thing to read about history, but it's another thing to stand there and touch it, see it, feel it, and experience it. When Leiseth was asked what the primary purpose of hosting wagon trains every year was, he responded, "to keep the wagon train alive." He feels that preserving the wagon train tradition is important.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. "It is a lot of fun for the whole family!" said Leiseth.

People of all ages can ride along with the Long X Wagon Train for a small annual fee of \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Dues must be paid prior to riding and can be mailed to Long X Wagon Train, 3379 134th Ave NW Arnegard, ND 58835.



The Long X Wagon Train crossing the North Dakota prairie.



Jerald Leiseth and his grandson, Erik Leiseth.



The Long X Wagon Train also participates in many local parades.

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WREC Receives \$750,000 From State Legislature For New Seed Plant



Groundbreaking ceremony was held during the WREC Field Day on July 10. From left, Brad Bekkedahl, Allen Domagala, Dr. Greg Lardy, Mark Birdsall, Chad Anderson, Kyle Dragseth, Daniel Stenberg, and Tom Wheeler

By Anna Dragseth

The NDSU Williston Research Extension Center's (WREC) employees and farmers in the MonDak trade area are excited about the good news the WREC received in late April. This good news was that the WREC received \$750,000 in funding from the North Dakota State Legislature to build a brand new seed cleaning facility. This new facility will benefit not only the WREC and its employees but also MonDak area growers who purchase seeds from the WREC on a regular basis.

Kyle Dragseth, Farm Manager at the WREC, explained that the funding was finally made possible by the progressiveness of Tom Wheeler, the Advisory Board President, and Jerry Bergman, the WREC Director, "They have worked long and hard to get this vision to a near reality," said Dragseth.

In order to obtain the funding, there were many procedures the WREC had to go through. Dragseth explained, "There have been many hoops to jump through in an attempt to raise funds for a new facility: first was getting permission from the Board of Higher Education, NDSU, and the State Legislators." Since then, a campaign has been underway to raise the necessary funds for Williston's seed-cleaning facility.

Jerry Bergman, Director of the WREC, stated, "We are still working on fundraising and thus far have fundraised just over 50% of the money needed to make this happen." Although the WREC still has fundraising to do, \$750,000 will go a long way toward the WREC's capital campaign goal of \$2.25 million.

The WREC is hoping to be done with fundraising by December 2019, and if things go as planned, construction for the new facility will possibly begin in the spring of 2020. "We're going to move the current facility to another spot on the fields here, and build the new seed cleaning plant where the old one was," added Dragseth.

The research center has been trying for many years to update its current seed cleaning facility, but with lack of funding, it just wasn't possible. The WREC's existing facility was built in 1956, making it the oldest one out of all the Research Centers in the state of North Dakota.

As the WREC's Farm Manager, Dragseth conducts and oversees all farming aspects of dryland research projects, farm operations, and seed production, equipment, station care, and maintenance. Dragseth has worked at the WREC for 23 years full time, and four years part-time, so he has had many years of experience with cleaning seed at the WREC's current facility.

Dragseth explained when cleaning seed at the current facility; it is challenging to keep an eye on the seeds when they are on five different levels. "It isn't the best of working conditions either; it contains poor lighting, ladders, and poor dust control. It's also hard to find the parts to keep the current plant up and running."

WREC's current seed cleaning facility only produces 35 bushels an hour, which makes it challenging to keep up with regional demand. The new facility is expected to clean seed almost six times faster than that - approximately 200 bushels an hour. It will also be all on one level so Dragseth will be able to do several projects at once. "We will be able to more than triple our cleaning capacity and guarantee purity of seed varieties. We will also be able to increase the number of crops that we can grow for seed production, to give the seedsmen who acquire the seed from us more options and availability. That is the goal here to produce the best public seed varieties that we can to make the producers in the MonDak region more profitable. The good thing about public seed varieties is you can replant your seed production back year after year on your own operation," added Dragseth.

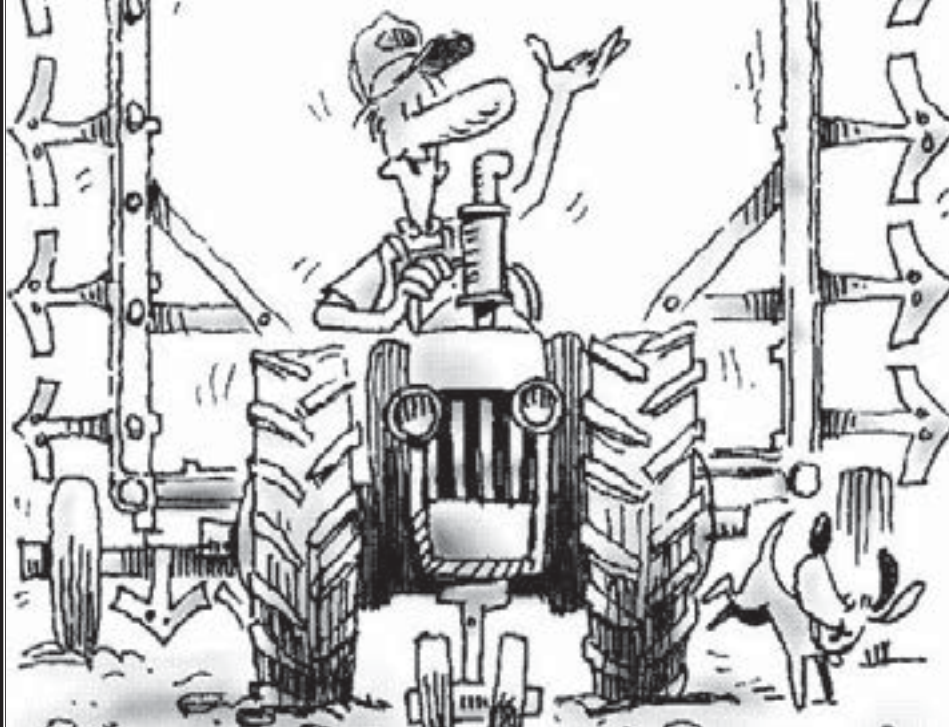
When Dragseth was asked what part of the new facility he was most excited about, he explained, "The seed plant being equipped with an optical sorter with infrared lighting designed for the most complex color sorting." This sorter will deliver seed with the highest genetic purity of new and higher-yielding/value-added crop varieties for MonDak area growers. The new facility will enable pure seed production and guarantee complete separation of crops, with all the seed cleaning equipment designed for simplicity of clean-out and ease of accessibility.

This new facility will benefit WREC and its seed consumers in a number of ways. It will help the WREC become more profitable and enable consumers' access to more crops and different varieties of seeds from public breeding programs to include North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

If you are interested in donating money to the WREC, checks can be made out to the NDSU Foundation or WREC and mailed to 14120 Highway 2, Williston, ND 58801. The contribution will be tax-deductible, and donors that donate \$100 or more will be recognized on the Hall of Honor, located in the Ernie French Center. For more information, you can call the WREC at 701-774-4315.

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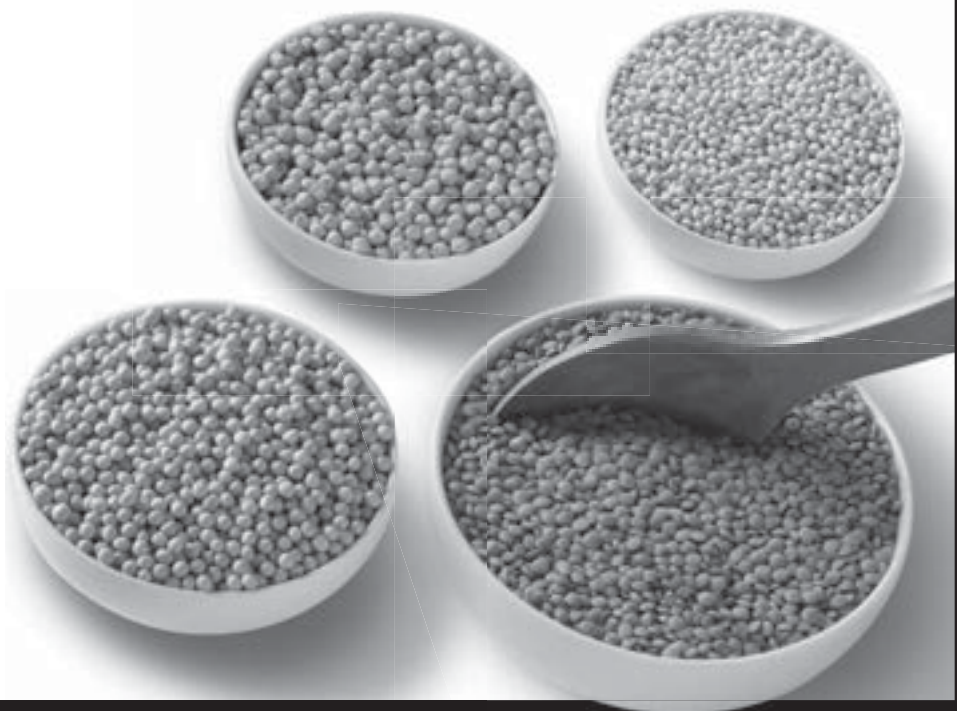
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Hemp A Possible Cash Crop For Eastern Montana

By Anna Dragseth

Industrial hemp farming has become increasingly popular. Farmers that are growing hemp are seeing both a demand and profit increase, while farmers who have never grown hemp before are rushing to plant it in their fields.

The production of industrial hemp in the United States was made possible in December 2018 when President Donald Trump signed the Farm Bill into law; the legislation removed hemp from the government's controlled drug category, stimulating a surge in demand for cannabidiol (CBD), a chemical that is derived from hemp plants. This enables Montana farmers the opportunity to include an additional crop choice to their rotation plan with potential for a high return.

Industrial hemp is a variety of *Cannabis sativa* L. and is of the same plant species as marijuana. Hemp, however, has lower levels of the psychoactive compound THC (tetrahydrocannabinol). Hemp contains less than 0.3% THC, while marijuana has over 30% THC.

Hemp is known to be one of the oldest multipurpose crops. It is a faster-growing plant and every single part of the plant can be used. There are global estimates that the hemp market consists of more than 25,000 products. Hemp fiber has the potential to be a valuable feedstock for several well-established industries.

Cannabidiol (CBD) is also of deep and broad interest among pharmaceutical and medical researchers. CBD is known to have strong pharmaceutical effects. Recently, it has been discovered that CBD can be beneficial in the treatment of childhood epilepsy. Currently, only two drugs derived from the substance are FDA approved.

Variety selection, environment, and agronomic management can affect the concentration of CBD. As industrial hemp has not been grown in the United States for many years, data available from the earlier research is not suitable for today's agriculture. Because of this, scientists and researchers have started implementing trials of hemp at the Montana State University Eastern Agricultural Research Center in Sidney, Montana. Dr. Chengci Chen, Superintendent and Cropping Systems Agronomist, and Dr. Apurba Sutradhar, Postdoctoral Research Associate, have been working on the hemp trials in an effort to see how profitable hemp would be if grown in Eastern Montana. "Our goal is to adapt hemp as a mainstream and/or rotational crop for industrial application. The main objective for this research project is to optimize cultivation practices for eastern Montana. We are evaluating germ-



Among the many presentations at this year's field day, Drs. Chengci Chen and Apurba Sutradhar discussed industrial hemp as a potential crop for Eastern Montana. Pictured is Dr. Chen with a sample crop of industrial hemp which was approved in the 2018 farm bill. Chen covered potential hemp varieties as well as agronomic practices such as seeding date, fertility rates and when to harvest.

plasm, agronomic parameters, production/harvest for use as fiber, grain, and CBD, nutrient management, and performance of hemp under eastern Montana conditions," explained Sutradhar.

"Agriculture as a whole has changed considerably, so past production information cannot be relied upon to determine how the crop should be grown and harvested today. Local research will be needed to provide specific information on cultural requirements, such as plant spacing, nutritional needs, crop rotation, as well as harvest and processing methods," said Sutradhar.

Chen and Sutradhar explained that this would be an ongoing research project where they will be evaluating variety response to seeding date and plant spacing to tissue CBD concentration. Chen said, "Precise data is not available on the size of the potential market of industrial hemp in the United States. However, current industry estimates report that United States retail sales of all hemp-based products may be nearly \$500 million per year."

There is a lot of excitement in the farming community because hemp is seen as a high-return crop. Many farmers around the country are struggling to make ends meet, and hemp just might be the crop they need to increase profits.

Sidney Chamber Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament Winners



This year's Sidney Chamber Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament was held on Monday, July 8. There were 97 golfers in total. Above: Cara Storm of the Chamber's Ag Committee presents the award to the first place team, Rick Hackley, Luke Panasuk, Tom Thompson and Bob Thompson.



Cara Storm of the Chamber's Ag Committee presents the award to the second place team, Rochelle Franzen, Tim Franzen, Jenna Olson and Ian Pennington, not pictured. (Photos submitted)



Cara Storm of the Chamber's Ag Committee presents the award to the third place team, Jordan Skaley, Kylee Lange, Bryar Lange, Dick Lange and D'Lon Anderson.

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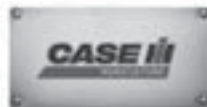
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Effects Of Fall And Spring Nitrogen Application On Sugarbeet Root Yield And Sugar Content

By Anna Dragseth

Adequate nitrogen is essential for optimum growth and development of sugarbeets and is known to be the most important nutrient in sugarbeet production. However, excessive uptake of nitrogen can stimulate excessive canopy growth and reduce sugar content in sugarbeet roots. To combat this issue, researchers at the Montana State University Eastern Agricultural Research Center, Dr.Chengci Chen, Superintendent and Cropping Systems Agronomist, and Dr.Apurba Sutradhar, Postdoctoral Research Associate, have been conducting studies on the effects spring and fall nitrogen have on sugarbeet sugar content and root yield.

"Nitrogen loss is an increasing concern for the environment, and there are many factors that contribute to nitrogen loss. One of the major factors is nitrogen application timing. Farmers consider the weather and the number of days when deciding the appropriate time to apply nitrogen and unfortunately time is often limited in the spring for fieldwork," explained Sutradhar.

Chen and Sutradhar are comparing two application timings, The first set of trials are applying nitrogen after harvest and the second set of trials is applying nitrogen in the spring before seeding. These trials are being performed in an effort to determine which management system maximizes farm profit by minimizing nitrogen loss and promoting environmental sustainability.

"Under no-till and conventional tillage systems, we are comparing the effect of fall and spring nitrogen application with multiple rates on sugarbeet root yield and sugar content. In addition to soil-applied nitrogen, we are also applying foliar magnesium and zinc to evaluate if these two nutrients have any effect on the roots and sugar concentration," said Chen.

The benefit of no-till farming is it requires less off-farm inputs compared to conventional tillage systems. "The expected outcome is sugarbeet yield and quality will not be compromised by converting to the no-till sugarbeet production system, and thereby farmers can save a significant amount of money by reducing off-farm inputs and farm operations," explained Sutradhar.

No-till system promotes soil health by reducing surface

crusting and sealing; it also enhances infiltration and decreases water runoff due to irrigation. "Our sugarbeet fertility trial is under the irrigated system. We have set up a soil moisture monitoring system to determine how tillage and nitrogen management affect soil moisture retention and infiltration, especially after irrigation and rainfall events."

In addition to no-till, Chen and Sutradhar are also conducting a seed treatment study, where they are evaluating multiple commercial products marketed by the company, Talc U.S.A. to increase sugarbeet yield, plant health, and sugar content. "These products should provide farmers with a micronutrient boost, enhance plant's defense mechanism, increase soil microbial activity, microbial nitrogen-fixing, and phosphorus mobilization," said Sutradhar.

Chen and Sutradhar explained that this is an ongoing project that has proved to be so far, successful. "We have a good stand of sugarbeet on both conventional tillage and no-till sides. We are taking measurements at this point, and data is yet to be analyzed," stated Chen.

In summary, the ultimate goal of Chen and Sutradhar's research on nitrogen management is to provide useful information to assist farmers in making timely management decisions on soil fertility and water application for profitable sugarbeet production in the MonDak region.



No-till sugarbeets on-farm trial near Culbertson. (Photo submitted)

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New Agricultural And Natural Resource Agent In McKenzie County

By Anna Dragseth

Devan Leo joined McKenzie County as the new Agricultural and Natural Resource Agent in April 2019.

So far Leo has enjoyed her time in McKenzie County. She said, "I really enjoyed my job thus far! I am still in the learning curve but am quickly picking up important information. It has been a wonderful experience, and I hope to continue this type of work for many years to come!"

Leo is fresh off the press, so to speak, so she has plenty to learn. Leo added, "In the short time I have been here, I have seen enough to try and help boost some of our programs that are weak or maybe start up committees for some of the larger projects that require more attention and care. I plan to attend as many trainings as possible to learn as much as I can and spread the knowledge wealth to my county residents!"

Leo recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in December 2018 at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. Leo said, "I first attended college at Northwest College located in Powell, Wyoming. I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do, so I pursued two separate AAS degrees from Powell. My first was in Equine Riding and Training, and my second was in Graphic Design. These two Associates degrees allowed me to explore multiple different work fields. I Graduated Powell in 2012 and went on an International Foreign Youth Exchange trip," stated Leo. A former 4-H leader presented this opportunity to her. Leo accepted the position as a representative for MT and ended up on an agricultural tour through host families in Norway and Germany. "I was abroad for six months before returning stateside. After a few years of wandering through jobs, I decided to go back to school, and I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science in Bozeman."

After Leo graduated from MSU, she applied for multiple jobs throughout MT and ND. "I figured wherever the best interview happened was where I would end up. When I showed up for the interview here, I felt right at home! A party of very jovial and inviting individuals greeted me at the door! The interview, even though formal, felt like home. I interviewed for one other position in ND, and I decided that Watford City was the place to be," said Leo.

Leo grew up in a small town located in the far southwest corner of Montana, nestled in the Madison Valley called Ennis, Montana. "My family and I moved around quite a bit when I was younger but finally settled in Ennis. Ennis is cupped by two mountain ranges which make for breathtaking scenery but can also be very dangerous; in the winter months especially," said Leo. Here she helped her family raise lambs, cows, horses, pigs, chickens, and rabbits. "We had a family weed spraying



Devan Leo

business, and we traded much of that work to lease a property to raise livestock. I raised club lambs with my mom, and we also had other livestock. My brother raised a small group of cows that he showed, and we also had pigs, horses, dogs, chickens, and Mini Lops and Standard Rex Rabbits. I was the top club lamb ram producer in the state of MT for two years running and also the top club lamb ewe producer in the state of MT for three years running," explained Leo.

Leo has participated in 4-H for 13 years, "It was a very strong program within our county, I started as a Clover-bud and continued participating in as many projects as possible," said Leo. Throughout her time in 4-H, she has been a 4-H Ambassador, volunteer project leader, and a club leader for the very same club she was in as a 4-H youth.

"Extension was always something I admired, and in my county, I helped our agents as much as possible. I would help give demonstrations on multiple topics as well as assisting with fair activities," said Leo. She explained that during her time in 4-H, extension agents promoted her participation with extension as often as possible.

Leo explained that she was not interested in being an extension agent at first, but she admired all the hard work and time they put into 4-H. "I wasn't sure that was something I wanted to be responsible for! I now know that it was the right decision for me," said Leo.

Leo hopes to bring new ideas, different perspectives, and a refreshed view of what the future may hold for McKenzie County and its surrounding neighbors. She has already planned events for McKenzie County. For example, she is organizing a Noxious Weed Information Day in September, where she will be collaborating with the Williston Research Extension Center and other constituents within the state. Leo explained, "I am excited for this because I think it has value for my producers to be educated further on the new processes and new upcoming weeds that present problems in other states. We don't want those weeds here, and if we can prevent them from coming or at least are prepared to combat them, then we will have all the information we need! Education is important to me, and I want to share that wealth of knowledge as much as possible."

New Farmers: Gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans That Fit Their Operation

Washington – A new online tool can help farmers and ranchers find information on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm loans that may best fit their operations. USDA has launched the new Farm Loan Discovery Tool as the newest feature on farmers.gov, the Department's self-service website for farmers.

"Access to credit is critical in the agriculture industry, especially for new farmers," said Bill Northey, Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. "This new interactive tool can help farmers find information on USDA farm loans within minutes. We are working to improve our customer service, and part of our solution is through improving how farmers can work with us online."

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help. Compared to this time last year, FSA has seen an 18 percent increase in the amount it has obligated for direct farm ownership loans, and through the 2018 Farm Bill, has increased the limits for several loan products.

USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.

"We received suggestions from both farmers and our staff on how to improve the farm loan process, and we wanted to harness this opportunity to be more efficient

and effective," Northey said. "This feature is one step in our efforts."

How the Tool Works

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will be provided information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the Farm Loan Discovery Tool by visiting farmers.gov/fund and clicking the "Start" button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

USDA Opens Signup For Market Facilitation Program: Enrollment Now Open through Dec. 6

Washington – Signup are open for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6.

“Our team at USDA reflected on what worked well and gathered feedback on last year’s program to make this one even stronger and more effective for farmers. Our farmers work hard, are the most productive in the world, and we aim to match their enthusiasm and patriotism as we support them,” said Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue.

MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

Non-Specialty Crops

MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.

MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm’s total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019. A producer’s total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings.

Dairy and Hogs

Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per

hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

Specialty Crops

MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

More Information

Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person’s or legal entity’s average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on farmers.gov/mfp, including payment information and a program application.

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3469 engine hours/2636 separator. Hopper extensions,
chopper. Consigned \$40,000
2005 Case IH 2042, 36', finger reel,
good condition..... \$26,000
2013 Case IH 3152, 40', uppercross auger kit,
transport \$40,000

Lease Returns Available

- Maxxum 125 • Magnum 310CVT
- Farmall 120A • Puma 165 & 185

Used Tractors In Stock

1979 John Deere 4840 3-point, PTO \$19,500
New Holland 9682, 4600 Hrs, Trelleborg duals, weight
kit, EZ-steer guidance \$69,000
1997 Case IH 9370, 7600 Hrs, 12 speed.. \$49,000

Used Mowers

Dixon 36" deck, bagger..... \$1,200

New Haying Equipment In Stock

Pro Ag 1400 Bale Mover • Twinstar G3-7 Rake
Case IH 1504 Windrower • Case IH RB565 Round Baler

Used Haying Equipment In Stock

2003 Case IH RB562, twine & mesh..... \$22,000

New Seeding, Tillage, Sprayers

Case IH Precision Air 100 Pull-Type Sprayer

Used Seeding, Tillage, Sprayers

Concord 4710 air drill, 3400 Tow behind cart... \$28,000
Brandt 5B4000 suspended boom sprayer, 90' booms... \$19,900
John Deere 2100 inline ripper \$3,500
Brillion 30' mulcher, very good condition \$35,000

New Miscellaneous In Stock

Danuser Palet Forks - 48", 4000lb
Danuser Hydraulic Post Hole Digger & Augers
Danuser T3 Hydraulic Post Drivers
Schulte FX-1800 Mower

Miscellaneous Used Equipment

2013 Haybuster 2650 bale processor \$17,000
Brandt 5200EX Grain Vac..... \$11,500

New Grabtech Skidsteer Grapple Buckets In Stock!

Phoenix Rotary Harrow 60', very nice condition, consigned... \$20,000



CASE IH MAXXUM 125



CASE IH PUMA 185



TRI-COUNTY IMPLEMENT, INC.

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