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Bovine Connection Returns to Benefit Farmers and Ranchers

By Cheyenne Wiley

The blowing snow and icy roads did not hinder the Bovine Connection's turnout in Culbertson on Nov. 29. After a five-year hiatus, the Bovine Connection returned to the area thanks to ag agents of Montana State University and North Dakota State University and several sponsors.

More than 40 farmers and ranchers showed up to the Culbertson Saddle Club Barn, where five presenters from Montana and North Dakota shared information about the current cattle industry.

"People are scared of getting out of a bad situation because they're afraid of the dark, the unknown – what's in the dark," said Dave Pratt of Ranch Management Consultants.

The "unknown" involves the low market prices that have recently affected farmers and ranchers.

Pratt spent the afternoon providing tips to ranchers to increase their profit, as well as how to successfully transfer a ranch on to the next generation.

"Ninety-five percent of ranchers in the United States do not make a profit," he said. "Of people who want to pass their ranches on to the next generation, only one-third is successful."

To learn Pratt's secrets, visit www. ranchmanagement.com and subscribe to Profit Tips at the bottom of the page.

Speakers Lisa Pederson, Extension beef quality specialist, and Dr. Gerald Stokka, livestock stewardship specialist, both of North Dakota State University, were unable to attend due to inclement weather but engaged with the audience via Skype.

Pederson spoke about strategic culling, in which the farmer removes poorly performing cows or bulls from the herd to manage profitability and productivity. Reasons for culling a cow may include low reproductive success, old age, or poor teeth and genetics.

Stokka discussed in his presentation a new rule that farmers must abide by: the veterinary feed directive. VFD feed drugs are antibiotics used for animal medicine and will require a prescription from a veterinarian starting Jan. 1, 2017. VFD orders will be needed to purchase medicated feed.

Wendy Becker of the Montana State University Extension showcased new cuts of beef on the market.

Dr. Andrew Roberts of the USDA Ag-

ricultural Research Services Range and Livestock Experiment Station shared his research regarding production efficiency in beef cattle.

"The less the dam is fed, the heavier the heifer will be after five years," Roberts said. "Feeding cows a bunch of hay now may not benefit heifers down the road."

The Culbertson Saddle Club catered a steak lunch to all attendees.

For more information on the Bovine Connection seminar, contact your local Montana State University or North Dakota State University ag agent.



Dave Pratt of Ranch Management Consultants, Inc. shares his tips on increasing ranching profits at the Bovine Connection seminar on Nov. 29 in Culbertson. Pratt teaches ranching for profit across the nation and has even presented in Australia. (Photo by Cheyenne Wiley)





The 2016 Harvest Brought in a Record Breaking Sugar Beet Crop

By Meagan Dotson

It was an interesting growing season and harvest for sugar beets this year, with 2016 being a record year for tonnage. There was an estimated 31 - 31.5 tons per acre, however lots of fall rain pushed that number to an average of 33.4 tons per acre in comparison to 32.3 tons/acre in 2015, and 30.4 tons per acre in 2014.

The season started in mud, and finished in mud. The dry spring was hit with 3 inches of rain that came fast, hardening a crust on top of the fields. Over the summer, lighter than normal beet stands indicated larger beets; there are usually 12-15 beets planted in a 10' space, and this year there were few more than 10 beets per 10'. Harvest proved to be wetter than normal, and the September rains effected the sugar content; the preferred sugar content is 17.75% or higher, and the 2016 crop averaged 17.69%, but ultimately, the exceptional tonnage made up for the sugar content.

A testament to the size of the sugar beets this year, Sugar Valley had the largest beet during the Big Beet Contest at more than 27 lbs.

"I can't say enough about the farmers," commented Sidney Sugar's Agricultural Manager Duane Peters. "The increased tonnage is a credit to the growers. They are a good crew and know what they're doing. This year blew us out of the water; it was a challenging season, but it was a very good crop."

Overall, there were 1,124,000 tons harvested from 33,633 total acres, and the large size of the sugar beets should provide good air-flow while the beets are stored in piles.

Peters added that he would like to see cool weather while the beets are stored, and that he is very happy with the 2016 crop, which is the largest crop in the history of the factory.



The 2016 beet harvest had a variety of challenges, including snow.



The large size of the beets this year should allow for good airflow while being stored. (Photos courtesy of Sidney Sugars)

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Breakthrough Ag Technology from MSU Registered for Commercial Use

From MSU News Service

A naturally occurring bacterium discovered by Montana State University has been registered for commercial use and sale by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its impressive plant-disease fighting capabilities.

This is the first time MSU has had a technology registered by the EPA for commercial use, a significant milestone in the university's research and technology transfer history. Canada has published an intent to register the bacterium for use and other countries are expected to follow suit.

The disease-fighting bacterium, BmJ WG, was discovered and named "Bacillus mycoides isolate J" by Barry Jacobsen, associate director of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and professor of plant sciences and plant pathology in MSU's College of Agriculture.

It is currently licensed for use by Certis USA, one of the world's leading manufacturers and distributors of biotreatments for plant pests and diseases.

Jacobsen originally isolated the bacterium in 1994 from a field of sugar beets near Sidney, Montana that had been devastated by a catastrophic Cercospora leaf spot outbreak. Jacobsen's early research showed the bacterium activated the natural

immune defenses of plants against bacterial, viral and fungal diseases.

"When I first started working with this I thought we really had something special with which to protect sugar beets," Jacobsen said. "Subsequent research by Certis discovered it could do more than I ever dreamed. It is so gratifying to see how this will help protect so many different crops around the world."

Certis' research found the bacterium can be effective in fighting off diseases in almonds, all citrus crops, all cole crops – broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, etc. – all cucurbits – squash, zucchini, pumpkins – tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, tomatillo, okra, lettuce, legumes, pecans, apples, pears and other pome fruits, potatoes, spinach and sugar beets.

The patented BmJ spray, called LifeGard, is expected to provide farmers with an effective and natural alternative to traditional chemical crop treatments. It was just approved by the Organic Material Review Institute for use in organic production. Attorneys with the international patent law firm Cooley were instrumental in counseling MSU throughout the patent procurement and licensing phases of BmJ's development.

That BmJ's journey to a commercial product took 22 years is illustrative of the challenges of moving scientific discoveries into the marketplace, said Renee Reijo Pera, MSU vice president of research and economic

development.

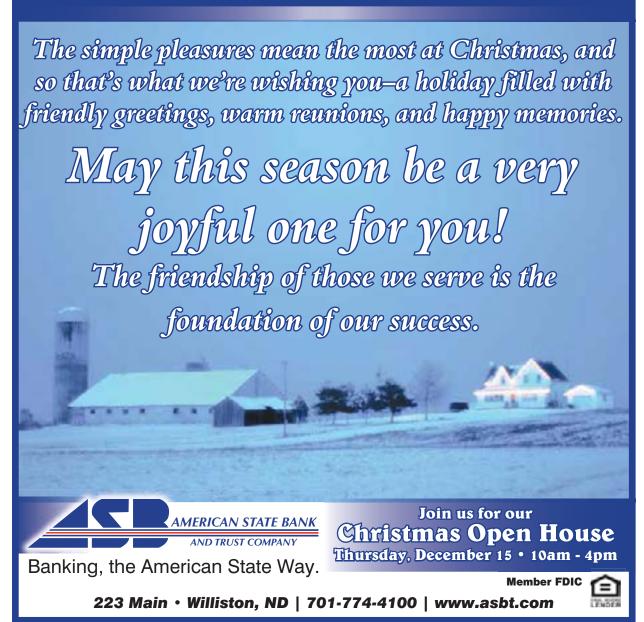
"It is not easy moving a discovery in basic science into the marketplace," Reijo Pera said. "But the potential benefits of such work can be enormous -- world changing. In the case of the BmJ, this will benefit farmers not only in Montana, but across the globe. This is a great example of what a landgrant university like MSU can do to improve our world. It's a very proud day for us."

Many hands helped get BmJ where it is today. Jacobsen's early work was assisted by then post-doctoral research scientist Nina Zidack, now director of the MSU Potato Lab, and then doctoral student Rebecca Bargabus-Larson, both of whom are co-inventors. Also instrumental was Rebecca Mahurin, who served as director of MSU's Technology Transfer Office through BmJ's early development and now serves as special projects manager in the MSU Office of Research and Economic Development. In 2003, BmJ was licensed to Montana Microbial Products where its co-founder, Cliff Bradley, helped advance the research on the bacterium before it was ultimately licensed to Certis, USA.

MSU College of Agriculture Professor Barry Jacobsen holds a sample of an agricultural disease-fighting technology that could save farmers around the world millions



of dollars. MSU research has shown the technology, a naturally occurring bacterium dubbed BmJ, works on a wide array of crops and diseases and initiates an innate immune response by activating a gene found in most plants. (MSU Photo by Kelly Gorham.)





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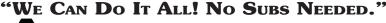




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call (701) 857-7396



Erdal Diri, MD
Rheumatology

Dec. 13th & 27th
For an appointment
call (701) 857-7495



Emad Dodin, MD
Cardiology

Dec. 14th For an appointment call (701) 857-7388



Amanda Weidler, FNP-C Cardiology

Dec. 14th
For an appointment call (701) 857-7388



Jerrica Maxson, AuD Audiology

Dec. 15th For an appointment call (701) 857-5986



Mark Noel, DO Ear, Nose and Throat

Dec. 15th For an appointment call (701) 857-5986



Tricia Nechodom, AuD

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NDSU Extension Helps Strengthen State's Livestock Industry

Extension provides information on reproduction, nutrition, animal care and health, range management, resource stewardship and economics.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Like most cattle producers, Darwin Chesrown of Turtle Lake wants to improve his operation, but he's reluctant to commit the entire herd to trying something different.

So when the North Dakota State University Extension Service developed an annual feedout project in conjunction with the Dakota Feeder Calf Show, he took advantage of it.

The project allows producers to see what can happen if they keep and feed calves after weaning instead of selling them. Each producer may consign two or three calves to the project. Those calves are fed to market weight at the NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC) feedlot, then harvested. Consigners receive data on the calves' performance and carcass quality.

"Feeding calves to finish has changed our breeding program," says Chesrown, who has consigned calves to the feedout project since it started 18 years ago.

"While controlling prices is difficult, we can control the type of cattle we raise," says Karl Hoppe, area Extension livestock specialist at the CREC and feedout project organizer. "That's why knowing how well cattle grow and what type of carcass they produce is important."

The feedout project is one of many ways NDSU Extension agents and specialists provide the state's beef industry with research-based information on genetics and reproduction, nutrition, animal care and health, range management, resource stewardship and market economics.

In many cases, agents and specialists are involved in the research, too.

For example, producers commonly harvest hay in roadside ditches and feed it to cattle and other livestock, but little has been known about the hay's quality. So in 2015, Extension agents from 29 counties teamed up with Extension livestock specialists to provide some answers. The agents worked with producers in 36 counties to collect 182 samples of hay harvested from roadside ditches, and the specialists analyzed the samples.

"The ditch hay project results provided some valuable data, which we were able to share with our producers," says Rick Schmidt, agriculture and natural resources agent for Oliver County. "Some of the interesting information gathered was the amount of ash (dust, dirt, garbage) that is in ditch hay, compared with adjacent hay fields."

The study also found that the hay's quality varies greatly, which, agents say, emphasizes the importance of getting the hay's nutrient content tested before feeding it to livestock.

"Knowing the nutritional content of the feed livestock are consuming will help producers build a ration that meets their animals' requirements and can also save them money on feed costs," says Paige Brummund, agriculture and natural resources agent for Ward County.

Here are other examples of how Extension is providing support to the state's livestock industry.

Reproduction

Specialists and agents continually work with cattle producers to increase the efficiency and genetics of their herds by using innovative methods such as artificial insemination (AI).

"Artificial insemination offers cattle producers the opportunity to use semen from high-accuracy, genetically superior sires at a fraction of the cost of purchasing a herd bull with similar genetics," beef specialist Carl Dahlen says. "In addition, using estrus synchronization and AI can increase the number of calves born earlier in the calving season and increase weaning weights of calves."

To demonstrate Al's effectiveness, Dahlen collaborated with researchers from NDSU's Animal Sciences Department to compare pregnancy rates, calving dates and calf weaning weights in commercial beef cows bred by AI or bulls on cattle operations in the state. Agents recruited producers who never had used AI to take part in the study.

Nutrient Management

Protecting North Dakota's air and water are a priority. Mary Berg, area Extension livestock environmental management specialist, and Paulo Flores, nutrient management specialist, both at the CREC, work with Shafiqur Rahman, an associate professor in NDSU's Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department, to develop resources to inform producers about the impacts of livestock facilities on water and air quality.

The team also helps producers understand animal feeding rules and regulations, manure's value as a fertilizer and how manure spreader calibration can save the environment. Agents have worked with Berg to develop some of the resources, such as a poster and video on composting dead livestock, and the agents have shared that information with the producers in their counties.

As a result, Pembina County producer Russell Edgar tried composting in the winter, when he knew burial, his usual disposal method for dead cattle, wouldn't work because of frozen ground.

"I'd recommend the practice," Edgar says. "We use ingredients already in the feedlot like straw and waste feed, so it is easy to do. There's no odor, no dead animals for anyone to see. It keeps things clean and the carcasses away from animals like coyotes."

Health

Extension veterinarian and livestock stewardship specialist Gerald Stokka, other livestock specialists and agents are educating producers about a new directive regulating certain medications added to livestock feed. Producers will need a veterinary feed directive order from a veterinarian to buy and use any livestock feed additive containing an antibiotic that's considered medically important, such as injectable antibiotics.

This goes into effect Jan. 1, 2017, so Stokka and the others are urging producers to develop a working relationship with a veterinarian, if they don't already have one, and seek the veterinarian's advice about herd health management as soon as possible.

Visit https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndsuag/livestock for more information about NDSU Extension's livestock work.



Paige Brummund, Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for Ward County, takes a sample from a hay bale for a ditch hay quality study. (NDSU photo)

The Glendive Agri-Trade Expo is Scheduled for Feb. 10th & 11th 2017

By Kathy Newton McLane

February will be here before we know it. Mark the second weekend in February (February 10 & 11th) on your calendars for the Glendive Agri-Trade Expo (GATE) as we celebrate the 39th year of this exceptional agricultural tradeshow at the Eastern Plains Event Center (EPEC) in Glendive.

Every year, vendors from surrounding states and Canada convene in Glendive to showcase their products and get up close and personal with area residents. Northern AgNetwork and KXGN will again be on hand for interviews and live broadcasts during the show.

This is a great chance to break the ho hum of mid-winter cabin fever and come to the tradeshow to visit with friends and neighbors and see what's new and interesting in the world of agriculture. If you're feeling lucky, buy a raffle ticket and win one of those great prizes. Raffle tickets can be obtained from any GATE Board member or from the Chamber of Commerce.

Friday will feature weed seminars where private, governmental, and commercial pesticide applicators can receive the necessary points for renewing their chemical applicators licenses. On Saturday there will be additional useful and educational seminars – including one on pressure-cooking! And as always, enjoy the awesome cooking of the Glendive Cowbelles during both days of the tradeshow.

Vendors, please contact any GATE board member or call 406-987-3777 to register or if you have any questions or you can check out the website at www.gatexpo.com. We're looking forward to seeing you there!



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Forever Buds Named the 4-H Club of the Year

By Josie Evenson Richland County Extension Agent

The Forever Buds 4-H club was named club of the year at the Richland County 4-H Achievement Day. The annual event was held on Sunday, October 23, 2016 at the Richland County Event Center and was hosted by the Missouri River Ranchers 4-H Club. This event is a time for 4-H members, leaders and parents to celebrate all the accomplishments throughout the past 4-H year.

The Friend of 4-H award is given to a business, family or individual who has gone above and beyond to help the 4-H program. The award this year was given to J.J Hovde and Wendy Becker for their continued dedication to the 4-H program through their education and technical support of the livestock projects. Both Hovde and Becker give unselfishly of their time during the fair to run ultrasound tests on all market livestock projects, to ensure that all Richland County youth with market projects learn more about their project and are entered in local and state ultrasound contests. Both are a huge asset to the program.

Achievement Day serves as a day of celebration. A day to highlight the accomplishments of those involved in the Richland County 4-H Program. There are many different awards that are presented to members and leaders for their dedication to 4-H throughout the year.

This year's Helping Hand Award was awarded to Dillon Lunderby. The Helping Hands Award is presented each year to a member that shows not only great leadership, but also a willingness to go out of their way to help others in the 4-H program. We would like to thank Duane and Sherry Mitchell for sponsoring this award.

We would also like to thank the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the awards for the Jr. Members. Receiving the trophies this year were: Top Jr. Beef Judge – Braden Kindopp, Top Jr. Swine Judge – Jaylen Baxter, Top Jr. Sheep Judge – Garrett Larson, Top Reasons- CJ Nevins, Top Jr. Overall Judge – Jaylen Baxter, Top Jr. Girl Demonstrator – Jori Horsburgh, Top Jr. Boy Demonstrator – Corbin Steinbeisser, Top Crown Demonstrator – Becca Deming, Top Jr. Public Speech- Amariah Hier, Jr. Fashion Revue - Lauren Prevost and Top Jr Quilt – Trey Schepens.

Shooting sports is by far the most attended activity in 4-H throughout the nation. The past year consisted of 6 shoots in the disciplines of Air Rifle, Archery and Air Pistol. Winners of each category are as follows: Top Sr Air Rifle-Holly Bouchard, Top Intermediate Air Rifle Shane Waltner, Top Jr Air Rifle- Dalton Bouchard, and Most Improved Air Rifle- Grace Klempel. Top Sr Archery-Holly Bouchard, Top Intermediate Archery-Beth McMillen, Top Jr Archery-Corbin Mullin and Most Improved Archery-Liam Steinbeisser. Top Sr Pistol-Sierra Osborne, Top Intermediate Pistol –Colten Dahl, Top Jr Pistol-Lily Waltner and Most Improved Pistol- Jaxsen Reuter.

The shotgun program was also brought back this year. In the shotgun division the winners were: Top Sr Shotgun – Sierra Osborne, Top Intermediate Shotgun- Colten Dahl, Top Jr Shotgun- Wyatt McPherson and Most Improved Shotgun- Chace Waters.

The Horse committee presented awards to Shaylee Dean as the All Around Rookie, Allison Lander as the All Around Junior and Randy Lander as the All Around Senior. The Silver Spur award is given to a person that has dedicated their time and skills to help make the horse program here in Richland County a better program. This year the Silver Spur award was given to two very special ladies, Waynette



Forever Buds 4-H Club, named Club of the year.

Molloy and Pat Wick.

The family of Brad Carnduff also has started a memorial in his name. This year at Achievement Day the first award was given. This year a beautiful saddle and matching tack was given to a 4-H member through a drawing. The winner was Allison Lander. The family hopes to continue this award in Brad's name.

Linda Simonsen, the local poultry leader also gives an annual poultry award. This year that award was given to Cade Verschoot.

The carcass champion awards go to the top beef, lamb, hog and goat carcass from the fair. This year the top beef carcass went to Sierra Osborne, the top lamb carcass went to Kynlee Vitt, the top swine carcass went to Garrett Youngquist and top goat carcass went to Madison Sparks.

New awards in the livestock projects were decided on and given by the 4-H Livestock Committee. These awards are based on average daily gain of the market animal, live placing at the market show during the fair and the carcass data. The Overall Species champions were: Market Beef- Tana Kostelecky, Hog- Bryar Lange, Sheep- Sierra Osborne and Goat- Will Sparks.

The Gorder Family presented livestock grants to Mya Jorgensen, Taryn Hagler and Mazie Madison for their projects. These scholarships are given to 4-H members to help them in their projects in memory of Brodie Gorder through the Brodie Gorder Memorial.

4-H is geared towards teaching youth lifelong skills that will aid them throughout their life. One skill that 4-H members learn is how to keep accurate and detailed records. Members received recognition for their outstanding record books. The Sr. winners were: 2nd place record book- Jordan Baxter and 1st place record book- Kyle Topp. The Jr. winners were: 2nd place record book- Garrett Larson and 1st place record book- Marett Schieber.

Members receiving a plaque recognizing ten years of membership were; Taylor Fink, Brady Gorder, Bryar Lange and Garret Leland.



Lacey Nevins, Council President, presents Stephanie and Larry Hatter the Outstanding 4-H Volunteer awards.



Lacey Nevins, Council President, presents Garret Leland the I am 4-H awards.

Without the outstanding group of volunteer leaders in the 4-H program, many activities would not be possible. These leaders give up personal time to ensure that youth have the best experience in the 4-H program. Receiving the award of the Silver Clover for 5 years of service were: Amy Conlin, Brian Bouchard, Chris Torgerson, Jill Carpenter, Susan Wright and Trish Buxbaum. Receiving a Pearl Clover for 15 years of service was: Donna Coffman. Receiving a Diamond Clover for 20 years of service were: Edwin Reis and Linda Reis. Receiving an Emerald Clover for 25 years of service was: Pat Wick.

The Richland County Leader's Council also decided to give two new awards this year as well. The new awards are called the "I am 4-H" Award and the Outstanding 4-H Volunteer Award. The "I am 4-H" Award goes to a 4-H member who is an outstanding member in all aspects, promotes excellence in 4-H and personifies the true spirit of 4-H. The recipient of this award was Garret Leland. The Outstanding 4-H Volunteer Award goes to leaders who have been involved in recruitment, training, education or promotion within the 4-H program. This year Larry and Stephanie Hatter were honored with this award.

Every year the clubs have 4-H displays throughout the county to celebrate National 4-H Week. The Award for Best Window Display went to the Three Buttes 4-H Club.

Achievement Day was a big success in celebrating all the accomplishments and hard work of 4-H youth, parents and volunteers over the past year. Congratulations go out to all involved in the 4-H program.



Wendy Haugen presents Waynette Molloy and Pat Wick the Silver Spur Awards.



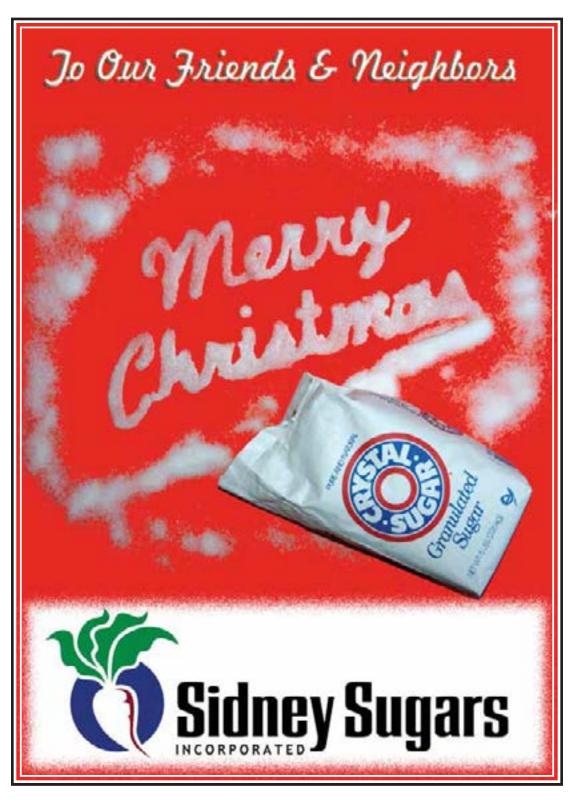
Brady Gorder presents Tayrn Hagler and Mazie Madison (not pictured Mya Jorgenson) the Brodie Gorder Memorial.



Larry and Wendy Haugen present the Brad Carnduff Memorial Saddle to Allison Lander.

Farm Service Agency Extends Voting Deadline for County Committee Elections

ND Producers Now Have Until Dec. 13 to Submit Ballots



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) North Dakota Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Aaron Krauter, today announced that the deadline to submit ballots for the 2016 County Committee Elections has been extended to ensure farmers and ranchers have sufficient time to vote. Eligible voters now have until Dec. 13, 2016 to return ballots to their local FSA offices. Producers who have not received their ballot should pick one up at their local FSA office.

"We're extending the voting deadline to Dec. 13 to give farmers and ranchers a few additional days to get their ballots in," said Krauter "I urge all eligible producers, especially minorities and women, to get involved and make a real difference in their communities by voting in this year's elections. This is your opportunity to have a say in how federal programs are delivered in your county."

FSA has modified the ballot, making it easily identifiable and less likely to be overlooked. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 13, 2016. Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2017.

Nearly 7,700 FSA County Committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of County Committee seats are up for election each year. County Committee members apply their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support, conservation, indemnity, disaster and emergency programs.

Producers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program to be eligible to vote in the County Committee election. Approximately 1.5 million producers are currently eligible to vote. Farmers and ranchers who supervise and conduct the farming operations of an entire farm, but are not of legal voting age, also may be eligible to vote.

For more information, visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. You may also contact your local USDA service center or FSA office. Visit http://offices.usda.gov to find an FSA office near you.

USDA works to strengthen and support American agriculture, an industry that supports one in 11 American jobs, provides American consumers with more than 80 percent of the food we consume, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials. Since 2009, USDA has provided \$5.6 billion in disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; expanded risk management tools with products like Whole Farm Revenue Protection; and helped farm businesses grow with \$36 billion in farm credit. The Department has engaged its resources to support a strong next generation of farmers and ranchers by improving access to land and capital; building new markets and market opportunities; and extending new conservation opportunities. USDA has developed new markets for rural-made products, including more than 2,700 bio-based products through USDA's Bio-Preferred program; and invested \$64 billion in infrastructure and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America. For more information. visit www.usda.gov/results.

Bull-buying Workshops Set

Producers will learn how expected progeny differences and DNA can help them select the right bulls.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Cattle producers will have an opportunity to learn how expected progeny differences (EPDs) can help them buy the right bulls for their operation during workshops the North Dakota State University Extension Service is holding this winter.

The Buying Bulls by the Numbers workshops will be held Dec. 9, and Jan. 20 and Feb. 3, 2017, at NDSU's Dickinson Research Extension Center. The same workshop information will be presented at the North Dakota Beef Commission offices in Bismarck on Dec. 16, and Jan. 3 and Feb. 10, 2017.

The workshops will focus on implementing EPDs and DNA in bull selection.

"Our main goal is to provide producers with a hands-on experience on how they can utilize these tools as they look at bull selection and pending purchases," says workshop host Kris Ringwall, NDSU Extension beef specialist and director of the Dickinson Research Extension Center.

The hands-on discussion is designed to help producers proactively use the data in breed sire summaries. Ringwall will help producers search breed databases to evaluate possible bull purchases using EPDs.

"There is so much information within breed sire summaries that is very useful

to help producers develop a cattle production program that fits their management system and environment," Ringwall says. "The workshop will provide insights into how producers could effectively use the numbers by actually reviewing information from catalogs."

The major outcome of the Buying Bulls by the Numbers workshop is to have producers study individual bull data to see how EPDs have or will impact their production model.

Participants can see how EPDs relate to direct traits such as weight or size. The workshops also will include discussion on how indirect traits such as milk production can offer further refinement to the selection of breeding stock.

Ringwall will present information on genomics as well.

"The genetics of the beef herd in North Dakota is wide and varied," he says. "One desired outcome of the workshops is to give producers an insight into how they can utilize genomics in their beef herds."

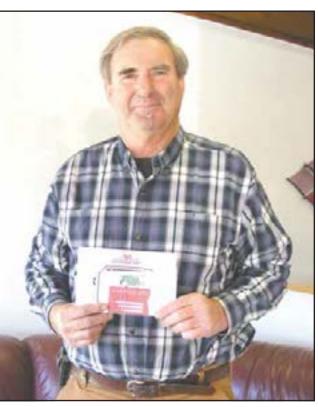
The workshop will conclude with a discussion of indexes, which are a new tool that can simplify sire selection.

The workshops are free of charge, but preregistration is required because space at each workshop is limited.

To register, send an email to lee.tisor@ndsu.edu or contact the Dickinson Research Extension Center by phone at 701-456-1105.

Producers who are unable to attend these workshops may contact their local Extension office to see if a similar workshop is being held in their area.

The Roundup's Harvest Festival Drawing Winner



Russell Carico, Sidney, was the lucky winner of \$500 in gift certificates from The Roundup's Harvest Festival promotion. Gift cards of \$100 each came from Tri County Implement, High Caliber Sports, ElectricLand, Farm & Home Supply and Saddle-up. Carico registered at Western Tire.



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