

Farm & Ranch Monthly Magazine

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December 2019

Inside This Edition:
Wild Flour Lefse Class

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Wild Flour Cafe & Bakery In Alexander Hosts Lefse Making Classes



Donna Sims forming lefse dough balls for participants to roll out onto boards

Below: Participants cooking lefse dough on lefse griddles

By Anna Dragseth

When Thanksgiving and Christmas time rolls around, so does the lefse making. That is why this time of year, Wild Flour Cafe & Bakery in Alexander, North Dakota, is offering lefse-making classes to the public!

During the class, attendees will learn the step by step process of making lefse. All materials necessary for making lefse will be provided, including long wooden turning sticks, big round lefse griddles, and special types of lefse rolling pins. The cost to participate is \$30 per person. Attendees will get lefse, a t-shirt, an adult beverage, and hands-on-experience making lefse.

Lefse is a traditional soft Norwegian flatbread made with real or instant potatoes, flour, butter, and milk or cream. This Scandinavian treat is especially popular around the Christmas holidays. Many Scandinavian-Americans eat lefse primarily around Thanksgiving and Christmas.

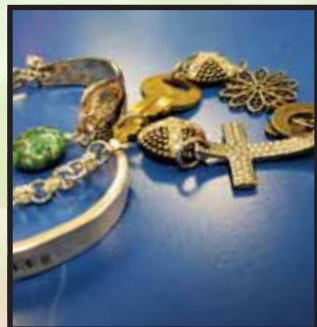
Lefse may be a simple food, but it's tricky and labor-intensive to make. When the lefse dough is made, it is rolled into logs and then cut into 4-ounce portions and rolled into balls. Then the dough is rolled out on a round board with a pastry cloth.

During the class, the "rollers" equipped with a lefse board and lefse rolling pin and cover, flatten the balls into near-perfect 14-inch circles. Next, the grillers, using a special lefse stick, pick up the dough circle and gently lay it on a lefse griddle. The finished lefse is then placed on a cloth to cool and covered to keep moist.

It is a fun experience for everyone to participate in! For more information on the lefse making classes you can visit the Wild Flour Cafe & Bakery Facebook page or give them a call at 701-828-3168.



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Presented by MSU Eastern Ag Research Center & USDA-ARS N. Plains Ag Research
Lab in Sidney, MT & The NSDU Williston Research Ext. Center in Williston, ND

Dec. 12, 2019 | 9am - 3pm (MT)

Richland Co. Fairgrounds Event Center, Sidney, MT

- Irrigated & Horticulture Programs
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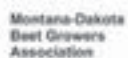
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or 406-433-2020 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2019agsummit>



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Dakota West Ag Day Coming To 4 Bears Casino & Lodge, December 10

Watford City, ND – The Dakota West Ag Day, the first end-of-the-year agriculture show for western North Dakota, debuts on December 10 at the 4 Bears Casino & Lodge in New Town. This single-day event, organized by the Dakota West Ag Day Planning Committee, features speakers addressing key topics as western Dakotans plan and prepare for the new planting year.

“This ag event will create a footprint in western North Dakota, and lay the foundation for future ag events in the area,” Amy Makeeff, planning committee member recently said of the event plans. The committee recognized a need to bring more information during this early planning time to the western ag communities

Focusing on information and education, NDSU specialists Brian Jenks and John Dhuyvetter will be discussing weed resistance in western Dakota crops and will provide a livestock update.

Rick Cabbage, a 30-year feed expert, will be presenting information on feed opportunities and Nick Dreyer with Farm Credit Services of North Dakota will cover an update on crop insurance.

Marissa Nielsen, Founder and CEO of Freedom Financial Group will discuss options for transitioning the farm and Tommy Gustfai, a commodity risk management advisor, will deliver a market update.

Access to the content-focused, informative event is free for all attendees, and includes the ability to attend all presentations beginning at 10 a.m. and continuing through 2:30 p.m. Attendees will be eligible for giveaways to be held throughout the day.

Vendors will have information available regarding products and services for local farmers and ranchers, but the primary focus, says Makeeff, will be the educational and informative opportunities focused on this part of North Dakota.

Sponsors interested in participating can contact the Dakota West Ag Day Planning Committee at 701-500-4307 for information.

Dakota West Credit Union, a gold-level sponsor of the event, expresses its gratitude to all the members who belong to the non-profit credit union headquartered in Watford City, North Dakota.

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2019 Ag Research Summit Includes New Date, Irrigated, Horticulture Sessions

As 2019 nears a close, farmers and ranchers have a lot of questions: What's the deal with this weather? What do we need to brace for next? What can be done with all that damaged grain? What about disease....white mold? Fusarium? And what about new crop options to help battle low prices...Kernza, Hemp? Can these crops be adapted here? How do we manage them, and what about markets?

These and many other questions will be addressed during the 3rd Annual MonDak Ag Research Summit to be held Thursday, December 12 at the Richland County Fairgrounds Event Center in Sidney, MT.

The summit runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is organized by the MonDak area's three ag research facilities – North Dakota State University's Williston Research and Extension Center, Montana State University's Eastern Ag Research Center in Sidney, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service's Northern Plains Ag Research Lab, also in Sidney. The collaborative program focuses on "ready to use" research findings by the more than 20 scientists employed at the three facilities who have expertise in irrigated and dryland agronomy, plant pathology, soil science, plant and insect ecology, molecular biology, weed and insect biocontrol, and much more!

Sponsors for the event include the City of Williston, Sidney Sugars, Inc., Agri Industries, Montana-Dakota Beet Growers Association, American Harvest, Inc, and Cargill in Great Falls.

New Irrigation and Horticulture Programs

This year's Summit includes a new program structure with concurrent sessions

targeting irrigated and dryland research in the morning and a new horticulture session and general ag talks in the afternoon. The latter will include a presentation on local hemp research and one by representatives of American Harvest, Inc., the new CBD oil plant being developed in Sidney.

Also featured are several guest presentations, beginning with one on current climate trends and influences, and what to expect next spring by Dr. Kevin Hyde of the Montana Climate Office at the University of Montana. Dr. Hyde will also do a lunchtime presentation on measuring and interpreting soil moisture data. He will be followed after lunch by NDSU Livestock Extension Specialist Dr. Jenna Block who will be discussing potential utilization of weather damaged grain for livestock. And, Dr. Tom Scherer, NDSU Associate Professor and Extension Engineer, will open the new Irrigation Session with a discussion of proper irrigation scheduling and machine maintenance. The afternoon concludes with a special presentation by American Harvest, Inc. CEO John Piracha. American Harvest is a hemp processing company that recently opened a plant in Sidney.

Altogether, 24 different research presentations are planned throughout the day, along with two poster sessions featuring another two dozen ongoing research projects at the three host facilities. The researchers on those projects will be on hand to answer questions regarding their work.

Research talks include:

9:05 a.m.: Guest Speaker – Dr. Kevin Hyde, Montana Climate Office, University of Montana – Monitoring Change: Now and Ahead

Irrigated Session:

9:30 a.m.: Guest Speaker – Dr. Tom Scherer, NDSU-Fargo – Irrigation Scheduling and Irrigation Machine Maintenance

10 a.m.: Tyler Tjelde – Nesson Valley Research Overview

10:15 a.m.: Apurba Sutradhar – Micronutrient Additions for Sugarbeet

10:30 a.m.: Poster Session

11 a.m.: Tyler Tjelde - Effects of Sugarbeet Factory Spent Lime on Soil Crop Production in a Crop Rotation of Wheat and Sugarbeet

11:15 a.m.: Chengci Chen – Economics and Yield and Protein Totals for Irrigated Pea Study with ARS

11:30 a.m.: Audrey Kalil – White Mold in Soybean

11:45 a.m.: Bart Stevens – Irrigated Soybean Management

Dryland Session: (concurrent with Irrigated program)

9:30 a.m.: Clair Keene – Kernza: A New Dual Use Crop for the MonDak

9:45 a.m.: Bill Franck – Pea Protein: Variety and Treatment Differences

10 a.m.: Frankie Crutcher – Fusarium Avenaceum Control in Pea from Scabby Grain

10:30 a.m.: Poster Session

11 a.m.: Brett Allen - Dryland Perennial Grass Response to N Fertilizer Application

11:15 a.m.: Tim Fine - Corn Grazing Demonstration Project

11:30 a.m.: Gautam Pradhan – Application of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Small Plot Experiments

11:45 a.m.: Meridith Miller – New Dryland Crop Varieties

Noon: Lunch with Guest Speaker – Dr. Kevin Hyde, Measuring and Interpreting Soil Moisture Data and Estimates of Plant Available Water

1:10 p.m.: Guest Speaker – Dr. Jenna Block, NDSU-Hettinger, Utilization of Weather-Damaged Grain for Livestock

Horticulture Session:

1:30 p.m.: Rojee Pradhan – Plant Propagation Workshop

2 p.m.: Bill Iversen – Outdoor Composting Techniques

2:20 p.m.: Deb Waters – Kitchen Waste Composting



11:45 a.m.: Bart Stevens will discuss Irrigated Soybean Management at 11:45 a.m. on Dec. 12 at the Richland County Event Center

2:40 p.m.: Composting Q&A

General Ag Session: (concurrent with Horticulture program)

1:30 p.m.: Tatyana Rand – Can Cover Crops Increase the Efficacy of Wheat Stem Sawfly Biocontrol?

1:45 p.m.: Tim Fine – Demonstration: NDSU Projected Crop Budget Software

2 p.m.: Poster Session

2:20 p.m.: CEO John Piracha - American Harvest, Inc. Overview

2:35 p.m.: Chengci Chen – Hemp Research at EARC

2:50 p.m.: Wrapup

Free Lunch, Door Prizes and More

A free lunch from Famous Dave's in Williston is provided for all participants. Door prizes are also planned. Pesticide and continuing education credits are pending.

Those interested in attending can preregister online at <https://tinyurl.com/2019ag-summit> or by calling or emailing Beth Redlin at 406-433-9427 or beth.redlin@usda.gov. Note, preregistration is encouraged, but not required.



Frankie Crutcher will speak on Fusarium Avenaceum Control in Pea from Scabby Grain at 10 a.m.




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MSU Extension Offers Advice On Opening A Medical Savings Account For State Tax Savings

By MSU News Service

Bozeman – Opening a Montana medical care savings account by December 31 to help with medical expenses not covered by a health insurance policy or flexible spending account can help individuals save on their state taxes, according to Marsha Goetting, a family economics specialist with Montana State University Extension.

Goetting said that individuals who have had medical expenses during 2019 that won't be covered by a health insurance policy, a flexible spending account, or a Federal Health Care Savings Account (HSA) can open a Montana medical care savings account (MSA) by Dec. 31 and cover those expenses. Individuals who deposit up to the 2019 maximum of \$4,000 can reduce their Montana adjusted gross income by that amount on their tax returns. Doing so will result in a tax savings of about \$276 on a taxable income above \$17,900.

"This is really a good deal for Montanans," said Goetting. "Yet, in past years, only 1.1% of Montanans have taken advantage of this opportunity. When I ask why, many explain they were told they were ineligible because they don't have a high deductible health insurance policy. However, you do not have to be in a high deductible health insurance plan to be eligible for an MSA. And, unlike an HSA, you can be age 65 and over and still be eligible for an MSA. Others say they have never heard of a Montana MSA. But these accounts have been around since 1997."

This income tax advantage using a Montana MSA does not apply to individuals' federal income taxes and should not be confused with the Federal Health Savings Accounts (HSA) or Federal Flexible Spending Plans (FSA), Goetting said.

If individuals do not use any of the money deposited in their MSAs during the year it was deposited, then the balance can be used for eligible medical care expenses in future years. The balance in the account continues to earn interest that is free from Montana income taxation.

"It doesn't matter if you already paid 2019 medical bills either by check, cash or credit/debit card, you can add up those eligible expenses, make a deposit by Dec. 31 and reimburse yourself from the MSA account on the same day for eligible expenses paid January through December," Goetting said.

Montana accepts as eligible expenses any that are listed in the IRS 502 publication, "medical and dental expenses," which can be found at <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p502>.

Goetting added that individuals can reimburse themselves for paid eligible medical expenses by January 15, 2020. But if an individual hasn't yet paid those bills because their health insurance company hasn't sorted out what it will pay and what the individual owes, reimbursement for those unpaid eligible expenses during 2020 may be made by the end of the year.

"MSA funds can be used to pay medical expenses for yourself, and for your spouse, parents, dependents and anyone else," Goetting said.

Individuals can reduce their Montana adjusted gross income by the total deposited in their MSA, even if they

only used a portion of that total during the tax year. Any remainder can be used for paying medical expenses in future years.

"Some Montanans have put money in their MSA every year but have not used it because they are saving the funds for long-term care expenses," said Goetting. "Others plan to use their MSA as a legacy for children and grandchildren. You can place a payable on death designation on the MSA, identifying who should receive the money after your death. Your spouse, parents and kids can then use the money for their own eligible medical expenses without Montana income tax consequences."

Parents and grandparents can also gift money to their adult children and adult grandchildren for an MSA. Whatever amount is gifted and deposited in an MSA can be taken off the adult children and grandchildren's income, Goetting said. Then the adult grandkids get the tax break, but not the grandparents.

An MSU Extension MontGuide is available to help individuals decide if they would benefit from a Montana medical care savings account. The publication (MontGuide 199817 HR) can be downloaded for free at <http://msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT199817HR.pdf>

A copy can also be obtained from MSU Extension offices or by emailing goetting@montana.edu.

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Watford City FFA Chapter Attends Nationals

By Laney Hartel, chapter reporter

Each year, in Indianapolis, Indiana, thousands of FFA members attend the national convention and expo. We left October 27 and got back home late on November 2. The Watford chapter has been fortunate enough to make the trip to Indiana every other year and the last one was in 2017, meaning this year eight of our students along with two advisors were able to travel to Indiana together.

All of us learned and experienced so many new and interesting things. We attended sessions along with 65,000 other FFA members and met new friends. Our trip also consisted of a lot of exciting activities such as segway tours, exploring the Cincinnati Zoo, going to the Indy Scream Park, and visiting the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the National FFA Center. The list just keeps going on.

The chapter was also able to participate in the National Days of Service. This is a great way to help serve people and better the world, which is a large part of who we are as FFA. The Watford chapter along with a couple of other chapters from different states were able to help clean and sort at Big Car Collaborative in Indianapolis.

This trip was truly a once in a lifetime one, to say the least. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and helped in any way to make our trip possible!



Left to right: Ms. Gunderson, Cassidy Belcourt, Isabell Boekelman, Henry Florida, Laney Hartel, Kell Helmuth, Mr. Wisness, Connor Cross, Jenna Mandler, Shayla Rolla. (Photo submitted)

Two Local Artists Exhibit Paintings At The James Memorial Art Center

Sidney, MT - The paintings of local artists, Afton Ray-Rossol and Trish Stevenson will be showcased at the James Memorial Arts Center, Williston North Dakota. The two-person exhibit opens with an Artists' Reception on December 6, 2019 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. CST.



"Head for the Hills" Oil by Trish Stevenson

"The title of the exhibit, Red Dirt Rambles, refers to the deep connection we both feel to the rural lifestyle and unique geography of the MonDak region. Living in this area, it's been natural for us to be inspired by a variety of subject matter, such as landscapes, wildlife, rodeos and rural scenes," Trish explains. The exhibit includes watercolors, pastels and oil paintings.

Growing up in Sidney, Ray-Rossol's art had strong support from her family and won her many awards. She considers her talent a gift that comes naturally. She received a full scholarship and studied art at DCC in Glendive and has exhibited her work throughout the Montana-Dakota region. Her favorite award was received in 2013 when George Strait personally chose her design for a poster that promoted 60 Number One hits for his 60th birthday. Ray-Rossol, her husband and daughter are an avid outdoors family and those outings provide endless inspiration for her artwork. She operates The GalleRay Art & Frame Studio in Sidney where she paints, conducts workshops and does custom framing. Find her "Bold West" original art and prints on Facebook and Instagram.

Stevenson grew up in a rural area west of Denver and attended the Colorado Institute of Art, which included a study trip to Europe. She has now lived in Montana



"Hereford Stare" Watercolor by Afton Ray-Rossol

for over 20 years. Her works have been featured in Western Horseman Magazine, and exhibited at the Rockwell Museum in New York, the Amerind Museum, the International Museum of the Horse, Cheyenne Frontier Days and the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. You can see more of her artwork on her website: www.trishstevenson.com, and on FaceBook and Instagram.

The exhibit continues through the month of December, 2019. The James Memorial Arts Center is located at 621 First Avenue West, Williston, North Dakota. Hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Friday and Sunday 1- 5 p.m. Closed on Saturdays.

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Many Factors Influence Corn Test Weight

How much the test weight increases as the corn is dried is variable.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Poor growing and harvesting conditions this year have North Dakota producers concerned about the test weight of their corn.

“Many factors influence the measured test weight of corn, including the physical characteristics of the kernel such as size, density, shape and surface of the kernel,” says Ken Hellevang, North Dakota State University Extension agricultural engineer.

Hybrid differences can affect test weight. As grain dries in the field or the dryer, test weight naturally increases as long as kernel integrity remains intact. Test weight increases as grain dries partly because kernel volume tends to shrink with drying, so more kernels pack into a volume bushel, and partly because drier grain is slicker, which tends to encourage kernels to pack more tightly in a volume bushel.

“Starch is heavier than moisture,” Hellevang notes. “As the moisture decreases, the kernels shrink, allowing more kernels with a higher weight to occupy a volume bushel or test weight container.”

Test Weight Increases Variable

How much the test weight increases as the corn is dried is variable. Factors such as hybrid, amount of mechanical damage during combining and “gentleness of drying” are primary factors. The test weight of corn with a high percentage of damaged kernels will increase less than corn that is hand shelled. Corn at higher moisture contents and cold temperatures likely will have more mechanical damage.

Corn dried at lower temperatures in a dryer with mixing in the dryer column generally will have a higher test weight. Grain dried at temperatures in excess of 180 degrees generally will have less increase in test weight.

“The length of time the corn is in the dryer also may impact the test weight, so corn dried from 27% to 15% moisture may have less test weight increase per point of moisture removed than corn dried from 20% to 15%,” Hellevang says. “Corn with

typical harvest mechanical damage and dried gently might be expected to have a test weight increase of about 0.25 to 0.33 pound per point of moisture removed. However, corn may not have any increase in test weight under other conditions.”

Other Influencing Factors

Other factors influencing test weight include plant stresses caused by diseases, insects, soil fertility and environmental conditions. Drought stress tends to decrease the test weight because it affects the photosynthetic process. Anything that impacts the movement of nutrients to the kernel during grain fill or degrades the integrity of the kernel can affect test weight.

The planting date also can affect test weight. Early planting helps hybrid maturity and leads to higher test weight. Studies have shown that earlier-planted corn had 1 to 1.5 pounds higher test weight per bushel than corn from the same hybrids but with later plantings.

Heat and drought stress tend to decrease test weight because they affect the photosynthetic process and reduce kernel weight. Below-normal temperatures during final kernel filling impact the photosynthetic process, resulting in less than optimum starch deposition in the kernels. Higher temperatures after physiologic maturity or the black layer tend to increase the test weight if kernels are mature.

Do a search for NDSU grain drying and storage for more information.

Leaving Corn Standing

Some producers are thinking about leaving their corn unharvested for the winter. Here are some factors Hellevang says they need to consider:

- Field drying is extremely slow during winter months and corn will dry only to about 20% moisture content, based on the equilibrium moisture content for the average monthly air temperature and relative humidity conditions in North Dakota. Corn that remains in the field during the winter may dry from 25% to 30% moisture in November and to 17% to 20% when harvested in February and early March.
- Corn losses will depend on stalk strength, ear shank attachment to the stalk, winter conditions and wildlife. Go in the field and check the corn by pushing on the stalks and pulling on the ears before deciding to leave the corn. Accumulated winter snow adds water to the soil as it melts. Plus, standing corn shades the ground, which reduces drying and may lead to wet fields in the spring, so consider harvesting the corn before the ground thaws.
- Leaving the corn unharvested may not be cost effective. Estimate propane drying costs per point of moisture removed per bushel by multiplying the propane cost per gallon by 0.02. For propane at \$1.50 per gallon, the propane cost would be \$0.03 per bushel per point of moisture removed. If corn is dried 10 percentage points, that is a cost of \$0.30 per bushel. If the corn price is \$3 per bushel, the \$0.30 drying energy cost is equivalent to a 10% (\$0.30/bushel / \$3 = 0.10 = 10%) field loss during the winter.
- The ability to plant on time in the spring could be affected by leaving corn standing.

Test Weight Increase When Drying

Adjustment added to the corn wet-harvest test weight to obtain an expected test weight after drying to 15.5% moisture.

Harvest Mechanical Damage (percent)	Harvest Moisture Content (percent)							
	30	28	26	24	22	20	18	16
45	0.3							
40	0.7	0.2						
35	1.3	0.7						
30	1.8	1.3	0.8					
25	2.4	1.9	1.4	0.9	0.3			
20	3.1	2.6	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5		
15	3.8	3.2	2.8	2.2	1.7	1.2	0.6	0.2
10	4.5	1.0	3.5	2.9	2.2	1.9	1.4	0.8
5	5.3	4.7	2.2	3.7	3.0	2.7	2.1	1.6
0	6.1	5.6	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	2.9	2.4

Affected by: Kernel Damage, Drying Temperature and Variety
Normally: ¼ to ½ lb/pt

Source: Hall and Hill

Let Stand Over Winter

- Spring (March) moisture content ≈19% to 21%
- Field losses unknown — check stalks and ear shank
- Snow accumulation 40 inches = 4 inches of water
- Spring soil condition?

Source: NDSU

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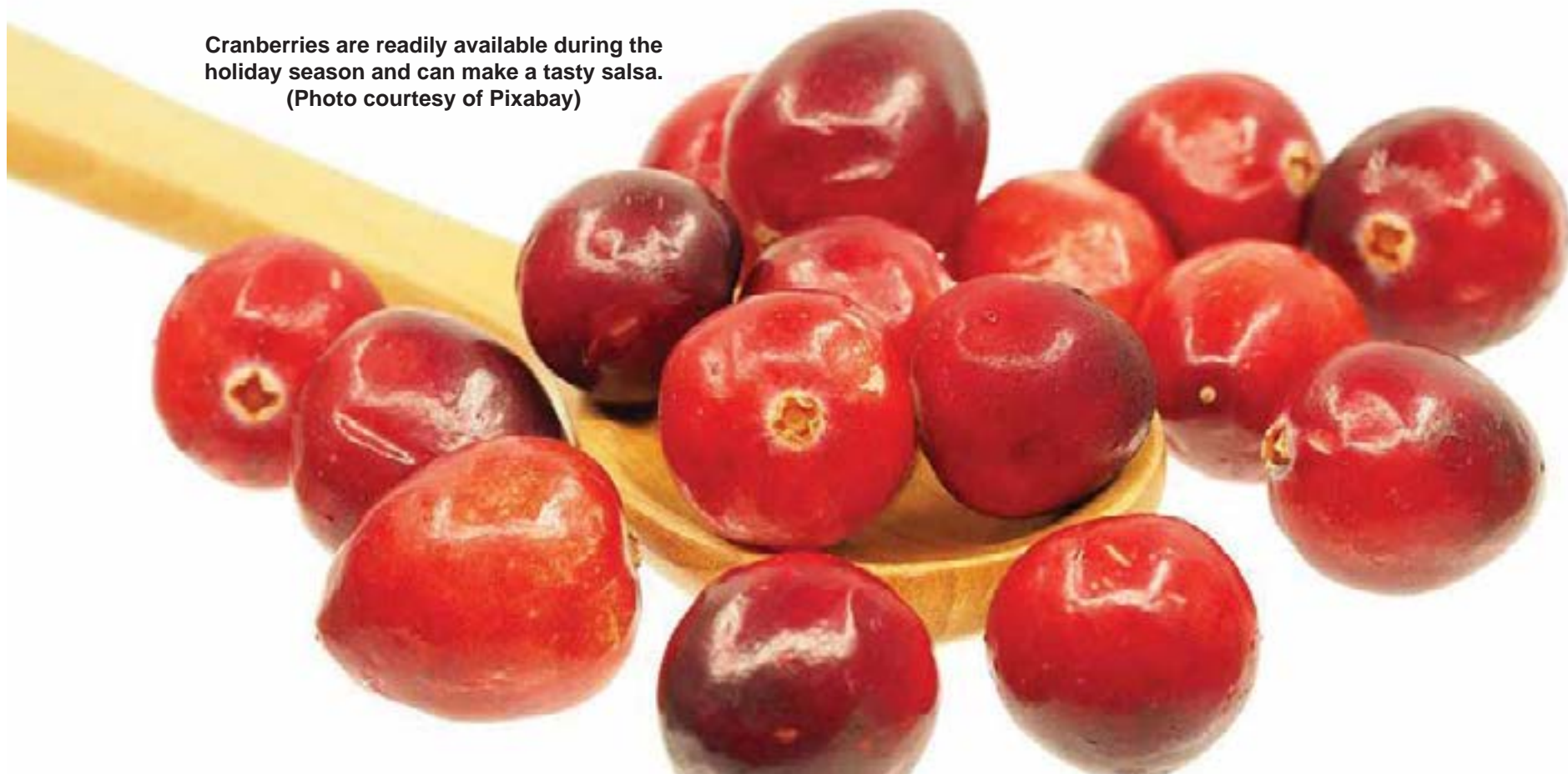
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Prairie Fare: Gift Ideas That Are Easy on the Budget and Positive for Your Health

You can opt for giving gifts that do not take a lot of space or cost a lot of money.

Cranberries are readily available during the holiday season and can make a tasty salsa.
(Photo courtesy of Pixabay)



**By Julie Garden-Robinson, Food and Nutrition Specialist
NDSU Extension**

"I've bought and wrapped gifts for myself," one of the meeting attendees said. Most people in the room nodded, especially parents.

I was among the people nodding my head.

Yes, I've wrapped a lot of holiday gifts for myself. I tend to go a little overboard in the gift-giving department for my family. As we take turns opening gifts, I quickly run out of gifts to open.

Even our dogs give me gifts.

My family has labeled me "hard to buy gifts for."

Who, me?

Yes, I have a lot of stuff already. Maybe they think I have enough stuff.

I beg to differ.

In this season of gift-giving, you can opt for gifts that do not take a lot of space or cost a lot of money.

By the way, I have a gift for many of you. Be sure to read to the end of this column. You might win a gift from us at NDSU Extension - Food and Nutrition. I promise: It doesn't take a lot of space.

Here are some ideas for useful items that promote health and/or safety.

- Food thermometers are internal temperature measuring devices that are easy to use and don't take up a lot of drawer space. Food safety experts encour-

age the everyday use of thermometers because color is not an accurate indicator of doneness. A food thermometer also helps you avoid overcooking meat and can improve the quality of your meals.

- Pedometers are step-counting devices. They can be powerful motivators as people set goals to increase their physical activity. According to a recent Stanford University study, participants who set a goal walked 2,000 steps (one mile) more than before they set a goal.

- A storm survival kit can save your life. Winter weather can be unpredictable and result in emergency situations. See the information at <https://www.weather.gov/oun/safety-winter-safetykit> for more information about assembling a survival kit.

Most of us enjoy tasty food, so here are some food-related make-it-yourself gift kit ideas. The handouts include ready-to-go gift tags with the recipe.

- "Mix It Up" is available at <https://tinyurl.com/NDSUMixItUp>. Along with Friendship Soup, the site features mixes for Homemade Cornbread, Cranberry-Oatmeal Cookies and Country Chili.

- Warm up after an afternoon of sledding with a warm beverage such as Spiced Tea Mix or Double Chocolate Peppermint Candy Hot Cocoa. Find "Beverage Mixes in a Jar" at <https://tinyurl.com/NDSUBeverageMix>.

- Quick breads make tasty brunch items for holiday mornings. How about some Cherry-Chocolate Scones or Peanut Butter Bread? See the do-it-yourself mix directions at <https://tinyurl.com/NDSUQuickBreadMix> for details.

Finally, here's your free gift opportunity. Send me an email with your name and address to julie.garden-robinson@ndsu.edu before Dec. 20, 2019, at noon Central time, and I will enter your name in a drawing for a copy of our full-color, recipe-filled 2020 "Field to Fork" calendar.

I will give away at least 20 copies, so don't think you won't have a chance to win. See <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/fieldtofork> to look at an example before you enter.

Do you want to stir up your family's taste buds this holiday season with a home-canned gift? Canning isn't only for the summer and fall seasons.

How about a jar of cranberry salsa for the person who has everything? Cranberries are readily available during the holiday season. Cranberries are rich in natural antioxidants, which have potential health benefits.

This recipe is from the University of Georgia's Athens National Center for Home Food Preservation. It was released by Elizabeth Andress, Ph.D. It goes great as a side dish with chicken or pork. Try topping a block of cream cheese with it, and serve it with crackers.

Your gift recipients probably will bring their empty jar back and ask for a refill next year.

Spicy Cranberry Salsa

- 6 c. chopped red onion
- 4 large serrano peppers, finely chopped
- 1 1/2 c. water
- 1 1/2 c. cider vinegar (5% acidity)
- 1 Tbsp. canning salt
- 1 1/3 c. sugar
- 3/4 c. bottled lemon juice
- 6 Tbsp. clover honey
- 12 c. (2 3/4 pounds) fresh whole cranberries, rinsed

Caution: Wear plastic or rubber gloves when handling and cutting hot peppers or wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before touching your face or eyes.

- Wash and rinse six 1-pint canning jars; keep hot until ready to use. Prepare lids according to manufacturer's directions.

- Combine all ingredients except cranberries in a large Dutch oven. Bring to a boil over high heat; reduce heat slightly and boil gently for five minutes.

- Add cranberries, reduce heat slightly and simmer mixture for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent scorching.

- Fill the hot mixture into clean, hot pint jars, leaving 1/4 inch head space. Leave saucepot over low heat while filling jars. Remove air bubbles and adjust head space if needed. Wipe rims of jars with a dampened clean paper towel; apply two-piece metal canning lids.

- Process in a boiling-water canner according to the following recommendations: 10 minutes at 0 to 1,000 feet altitude; 15 minutes at 1,001 to 6,000 feet altitude; or 20 minutes at above 6,000 feet altitude.

- Let cool, undisturbed, 12 to 24 hours and check for seals.

- Remove ring band and store upright. For best quality, consume within one year.

This recipe makes six pint jars.

(Julie Garden-Robinson, Ph.D., R.D., L.R.D., is a North Dakota State University Extension food and nutrition specialist and professor in the Department of Health, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences. Follow her on Twitter @jgardenrobinson)

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Longtime MSU Wheat Breeder Named AAAS Fellow



Luther Talbert stands in a field of spring wheat. Talbert has researched spring wheat varieties and plant genetics at MSU for more than three decades, and was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on November 26.

By Reagan Colyer, MSU News Service

Bozeman — Montana State University professor, plant geneticist and spring wheat breeding specialist Luther Talbert has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society, in recognition of his decades of research in MSU's College of Agriculture. The AAAS publishes the prestigious journal *Science* as well as a family of related journals.

Talbert is one of 443 AAAS members to be named fellows this year for their distinguished efforts to advance science. He is one of 19 fellows in the Agriculture, Food and Renewable Resources section, noted for his "innovative translational research resulting in great benefits to the U.S. economy and understanding of genetic phenomena of importance to global food security," according to the AAAS.

Talbert has researched spring wheat breeding and genetics in the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology for nearly 32 years. He has worked to develop dozens of spring wheat varieties and has been instrumental in making MSU-developed varieties some of the top contributors to the \$700 million Montana wheat industry. With consistent funding from competitive federal granting agencies he has also published in more than 130 papers in a variety of scientific journals.

In 2018, Montana producers planted nearly 3 million acres of spring wheat, of which about 25% was the MSU-developed variety Vida. Vida has been the most widely grown spring wheat in Montana since 2010.

The honor caps an illustrious career for Talbert, whose contributions to the fields of agriculture and plant genetics are being recognized just a month before his retirement this December.

"This job was what I envisioned doing: plant breeding to develop varieties and also having the opportunity to be a part of a university," said Talbert. "Looking back, I feel like I was part of a team. There have been a lot of great collaborators and support from the wheat growers of Montana. I've been very fortunate to have such a great group of people to work with."

Talbert also continues to teach undergraduate courses.

"Teaching has been a fun part of my job," he said. "I get to see the students come through, and it always makes me realize that the future is in good hands."

Talbert becomes one of three active AAAS fellows from MSU. The others are Regents Professor John Prisco in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences who was elected in 2006 and Robert Walker in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry who was elected in 2011.

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NDSU Extension, FSA to Host Disaster Recovery Webinar

A secretarial disaster declaration has activated several U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance programs for farmers and ranchers in North Dakota.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

North Dakota State University Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) are hosting a webinar Thursday, Dec. 5, to provide producers with information on available disaster recovery assistance.

The webinar will begin at 2 p.m. Central time.

"Because of flooding and the October blizzard which impacted growing and harvesting conditions in the state this year, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue approved a secretarial disaster declaration request for 47 counties in North Dakota," says Lindsey Abentroth, public affairs/outreach specialist in the North Dakota FSA office. "The approval of the declaration activated several USDA assistance programs for farmers and ranchers."

Producers in all 53 North Dakota counties are eligible for assistance. However, additional documentation will be required from producers in counties not covered in the declaration.

"NDSU Extension and FSA offices have been fielding questions from farmers and ranchers regarding assistance programs such as eligibility, required documentation and program deadlines," says Miranda Meehan, Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist. "We will be hosting the disaster recovery assistance webinar to help address these questions."

The FSA offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts following floods, blizzards or similar qualifying natural disasters. Available programs and loans include:

- Emergency Loan Program - This is available to producers with agricultural operations in a county under a primary or contiguous secretarial or presidential disaster designation. These low-interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses.
- Loan servicing - FSA loan customers have options during financial stress. Borrowers who are unable to make payments on a loan should contact their local FSA farm loan manager to learn about the available options.
- Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program+ (WHIP+) - WHIP+ provides assistance to eligible producers who suffered losses to crops affected by qualifying natural disasters. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible. Qualifying disaster events must have occurred between Jan. 1, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2019. In North Dakota, the WHIP+ qualifying disaster events are flooding, snowstorms, tornadoes and wildfires. Producers in a primary presidential-declared or secretarial-designated



This soybean field near Sykeston in Wells County can't be harvested. (NDSU photo)

disaster county for the qualifying disaster event are eligible. If a primary designation or declaration did not occur, the County FSA Committee can review producer documentation to show the loss was due to a qualifying disaster event. Eligible crops may be insured with federal crop insurance, NAP coverage or uninsured.

- WHIP+ML - The Milk Loss Program will provide payments to eligible dairy operations for milk that was dumped or removed without compensation from the commercial milk market because of a qualifying 2018 and 2019 natural disaster. Producers who suffered losses of harvested commodities, including hay, stored in on-farm structures in 2018 and 2019 will receive assistance through the On-Farm Storage Loss Program.

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) - This provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather or other conditions that are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. ELAP covers damaged or destroyed livestock feed that was purchased, or mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs intended for

use as feed for the producer's eligible livestock. To be considered eligible, harvested forage must be baled; forage that is only cut, raked or windrowed is not eligible. Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. ELAP also covers up to 150 lost grazing days in instances when a producer has been forced to remove livestock from a grazing pasture due to floodwaters. For beekeepers, ELAP covers beehive losses (the physical structure) in instances when the hive was destroyed by a natural disaster, including flooding, high winds and tornadoes.

- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - This offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible losses include those the FSA determined were caused by floods, blizzards, tornadoes, lightning, extreme heat and cold, or disease resulting from adverse weather. Producers are required to provide documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.

- **On-Farm Storage Loss Program (OFSLP)** - The OFSLP will provide payments to eligible producers who suffered uncompensated losses of harvested commodities, including grains, oilseeds and hay, stored in on-farm structures as a result of floods, tornadoes, snowstorms and wildfires that occurred in the 2018 and 2019 calendar years.

To join the webinar, go to <https://zoom.us/j/954766691>. You will be asked to provide your email address and name. You should log in a few minutes before the start of the webinar because it will begin promptly at 2 p.m. If you can't join from your computer, call 669-900-6833 or 646-876-9923 and enter webinar ID 954 766 691.

Participants may ask questions during this webinar. The webinar will be recorded and the recording will be archived at <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/agdisaster> for later viewing.

Additional information about assistance programs can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/recover>.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA or Extension office with specific questions.

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