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WREC Field Day Edition

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WREC & EARC Field Days Set for July



By Anna Garcia

Williston and Sidney have held annual field day tours for many years to showcase their involvement and research with agriculture. It is now that time of year where research centers are planting seeds in the ground and getting ready to present new ideas and studies to the public.

The Williston Research Extension Center (WREC), located 4.5 miles west of Williston, will be hosting their annual Dryland Tour on Wednesday, July 13. Registration will start at 3:30 p.m. followed by the tour at 4 p.m. The tour will include NDSU Extension specialists and researchers discussing several topics. The event will conclude around 8 p.m. CT.

The WREC will also be having a Nesson Valley Irrigation Tour that will take place Thursday, July 14 at 8:30 a.m. and conclude with a meal at noon. Nesson

Valley is located 23 miles east of Williston on Highway 1804. For additional information, contact the WREC at 701-774-4315.

The MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center Irrigated Farm Field Day is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12. It is located one mile north of Sidney. The field tour will begin at 9 a.m. MT. There will be several featured speakers and topics discussed at this event. If you have any questions, call EARC at 406-433-2208.

Topics discussed at these field days are yet to be decided on. All producers, industry representatives, extension educators, research staff, and anyone interested in learning about agricultural research is encouraged to attend. Come out and see the impact scientific research conducted at local research labs has on modern agriculture.

99th Annual Wolf Point Wild Horse Stampede July 7-9

Marvin Brookman Stadium Wolf Point, Montana

The Wolf Point Wild Horse Stampede will celebrate its 99th year July 7, 8, 9, 2022 in Wolf Point hosted by the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit 2020 Medium Rodeo of the Year committee along with the many dedicated Stadium committee and community volunteers.

RAM and Cinch Jeans & Shirts PRCA Rodeo action will be held each evening at 7 p.m. July 7th & 8th and Saturday July 9th.

Other events and festivities set for the 99th weekend celebration include the "Wagons & Wildflowers" 2-day parade, carnival, Cowboy Church, street dance following Friday rodeo, the famous Catholic hamburger stand on Main Street,

TETWP Stampede Roundup Golf Tournament Thursday & Tough Enough to Wear Pink Night, Museum pancake breakfast, event calcutta each night pre rodeo and Wild Horse Race Calcutta, Kids Stick Horse Rodeo hosted by Miss Rodeo Montana and Art in the Park.

Wolf Point Wild Horse Stampede tickets available June 22 by calling 406-653-1770 or stop in at the Main Street ticket booth in Wolf Point. For more information or for possible schedule change contact The Wolf Point Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture at (406) 653-2012 wolfpointchamber@gmail.com, www.wolfpointchamber.com

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Williston Research Extension Center Field Days Set

NDSU research scientists will highlight their work at the WREC field days, set for July 13 and 14.



Field day attendees will have an opportunity to see the on-site dryland, horticulture and irrigation research being done at the WREC.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Field Days at North Dakota State University's Williston Research Extension Center (WREC) are set for July 13 and 14.

The annual dryland agronomy and horticulture field day will be held Wednesday, July 13, at the center, which is 4.5 miles west of Williston on U.S. Highway 2. The event begins with registration at 3 p.m. Central time.

The dryland crops tour starts at 4 p.m. NDSU research scientists will highlight their work. NDSU President, David Cook, and Greg Lardy, NDSU vice president for agricultural affairs, will attend the field day. Topics will include:

- Weed control update
- Chickpea planting date study
- Livestock update
- Cropping systems: After drought
- Cropping systems study: Soil and water discoveries
- Cropping systems
- Evaluating black gram and guar under dryland conditions of the MonDak region

A concurrent horticulture program starts at 4 p.m. in the Ernie French Center for those interested in flowers, gardening and fruit/vegetable production. Program topics will include:

- Would You Plant a Bee Lawn?
- All-American selections, flowers and vegetables
- Summer lawn and garden tips

A free steak and lamb dinner for attendees will follow the completion of the tours.

The irrigation field day will be held on Thursday, July 14, at the WREC Nesson Valley Irrigation Research and Development Farm 23 miles east of Williston on North Dakota Highway 1804. Topics will include:

- Nuseed canola
- Lime study
- Variety trial updates
- Weed control updates
- Irrigated soybean trial
- Evaluating black gram and guar under irrigated conditions of the MonDak Region

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the irrigated crop tour will begin at 9 a.m. The day will conclude with a noon luncheon sponsored by area businesses.

For more information, contact Violeta Hobbs at 701-774-4315 or violeta.hobbs@ndsu.edu.

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Dr. Kalb To Give Summer Lawn & Garden Tips After WREC Field Tour July 13

By Anna Garcia

After the Williston Research Extension Center's Dryland Field Tour, Dr. Tom Kalb will be presenting information on how to maintain an attractive lawn and a flourishing garden.

Dr. Kalb is an Extension horticulturist and horticulture educator at North Dakota State University. He received his Ph.D. in horticulture at Virginia Tech.

NDSU scientists have researched several ways on how to best manage your lawn and garden. Weeds are one of the most troublesome factors to a garden and yard. Homeowners may see a variety of broadleaf weeds, with dandelions being the most common, throughout their landscape. To get rid of these weeds, homeowners may have to spend money on broadleaf herbicide, but other forms of weed control can be implemented.

General nonchemical control of lawn weeds include mowing high, postponing dethatching and power raking until the grass is growing actively and weed seed germination would be at a minimum, avoiding feralization when grass is dormant, and hold off irrigating as long as you can in the spring. If you do use herbicide, try and avoid "revenge spraying," which is over applying the herbicide in an attempt to kill the weeds faster. And if you want to kill weeds with chemicals, without spending a bunch of money, do it when weeds are most vulnerable, which is in mid- to-late September.

For healthy and fruitful gardens, make sure vegetables are in a sunny spot, planted in a stable place where they are blocked from harsh winds. If your garden has poorly drained soil, plant your vegetables in a raised bed or raised row for improved drainage – this will prevent root rot and will interfere with root growth. Another factor to making sure you have a healthy garden is to make sure your soil feeds your plants. If you have nutrient-poor soil, you'll have weak, unhealthy plants. It is best to mix in plenty of organic matter to help your plants grow.

For more information and advice on how to take care of your lawn and garden this summer, attend Dr. Kalb's talk at the WREC Dryland Field Day, July 13.



Photo submitted

Buttery and Pollinator Gardens Presentation at WREC Horticulture Field Day Tour July 13

By Anna Garcia

NDSU Extension Horticulturist, Dr. Ester McGinnis, will be presenting information on butterfly and pollinator gardens via Zoom starting at 4 p.m. CT at the WREC Horticulture Field Day Tour.

Dr. McGinnis will discuss bee population, relevant species of flowers, and how to plant and maintain a bee lawn while still maintaining lawns that meet community standards.

She said, "The bee populations are decreasing nationally. One of the contributing factors is the lack of flowers to provide nectar and pollen for the bees. NDSU Extension is promoting the planting of small bee lawns to provide nutritious forage for bees."

Dr. McGinnis hopes that people will learn how to plant more bee friendly gardens.

"People have psychological barriers to planting pollinator habitat because they are afraid of bees. I find that people frequently confuse bees and those pesky yellow jackets. Our bee pollinators are much less aggressive than the yellow jackets that are attracted to our soft drinks and food in late summer."

Dr. McGinnis is the director of the NDSU Extension Master Gardener Program. She received both her M.S. and Ph.D. in applied plant sciences at the University of Minnesota. Her research areas include evaluation

of native plants, pollinator plants, and rain garden plants.

She says having a healthy bee population is very important for producers that grow vegetables and fruits. "Many horticultural crops require or greatly benefit from bee pollination."

Examples include apples, cucumbers, and tomatoes. In addition, North Dakota is the national leader in honey production. Bee health is very important for our region.

The main mission of her project is to educate as many people as possible about pollinator decline and what individuals can do to make a difference.

"Different aspects of our project include promoting milkweed habitat for monarch butterflies, evaluating the best bee lawn mixes for our region, and recommending pollinator-friendly plants for ornamental gardens."




Dr. Ester McGinnis (Photo submitted)



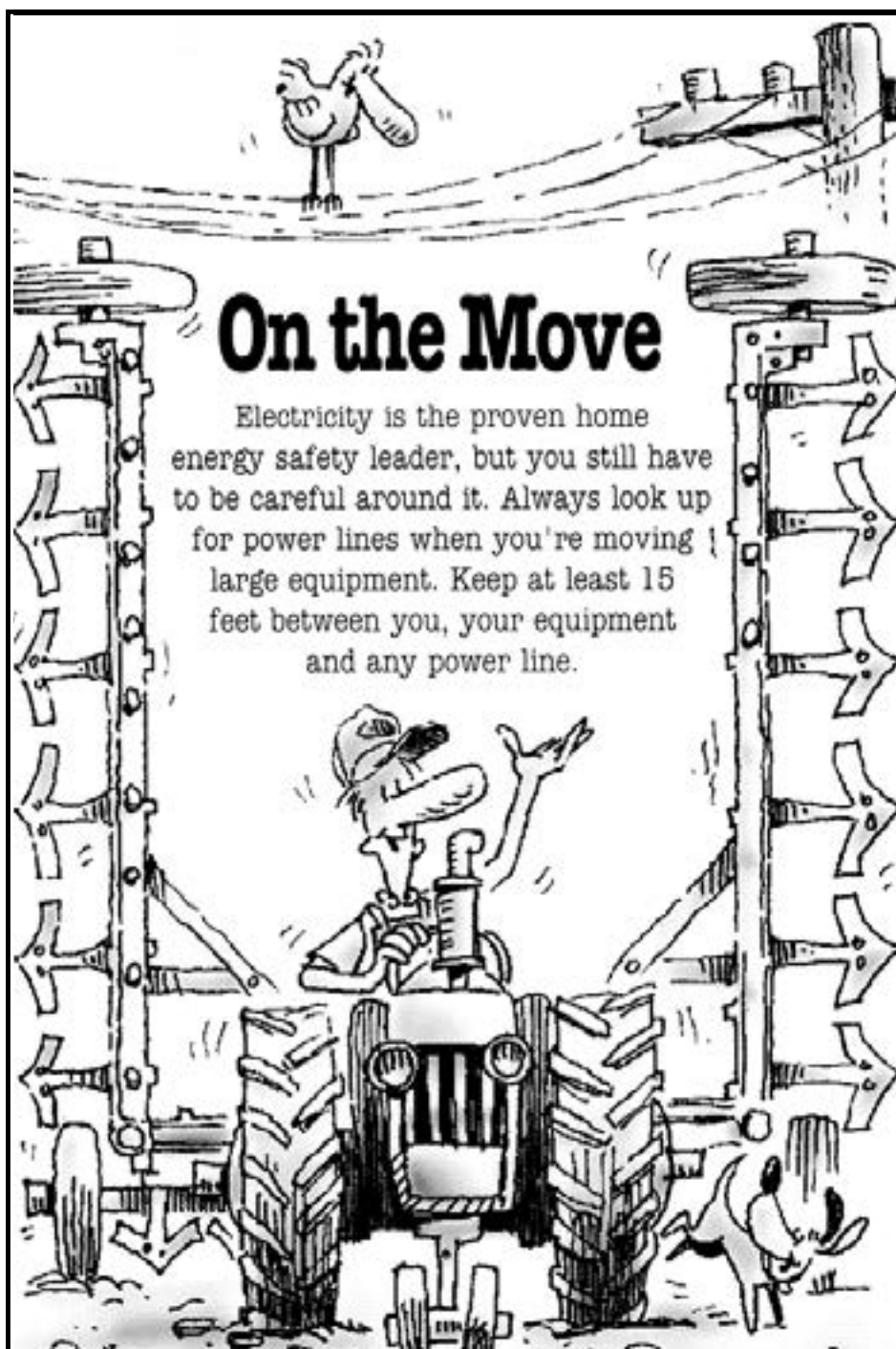
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Attend the WREC Dryland & Horticulture Field Day, July 13 & Nesson Valley Irrigated Tour, July 14

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Lime Vs. Soil Acidity Presented At Irrigated Field Day Tour, July 14

By Anna Garcia

Chris Augustin, Dickinson Research Extension Center (DREC) soil scientist and director, will be presenting information on the DREC's soil acidity study at the Irrigated Field Day Tour, July 14.

Augustin along with staff at the DREC conduct the soil acidity study on small sections of North Dakota farmer's fields. The study entails applying lime on acidic soil and analyzing the effect it has on the soil pH.

The study starts once a participating farmer seeds an acidic field. DREC staff then go to the field and place hoops on certain areas and collect soil samples outside of the hoop and apply varying amounts of lime to the inside of the hoop.

When the crop is ready to be harvested, the research crew goes back out to the field to hand harvest the hoola hoop section. The following fall, the team goes back and samples soil within the hoop to see what the lime did to that soil.

In 2021, the team performed the experiment with 0, 1, 2, 4, and 8 tons of lime.

They worked with 11 North Dakota producers that had farmland south and west of the Missouri River and even as far east as Williston and Steele.

Performing the study around the state allows the team to account for a huge variable of soils and climate.

"I am actually analyzing 1,200 soil samples that we have been doing research trials on for the past year," he added.

The team will be doing the study a little differently this year, applying .5, 1, 2, 4, 8. ton of lime.

"We are doing this to account for some of those lower application rates. What we are seeing is a pretty good response with how much is applied and how that affects soil pH."

Farmers who deal a lot of with soil acidity are encouraged to attend Augustin's talk at the Nesson Valley Irrigation Tour.

"Soil acidity is a big soil health issue that has come to the forefront in the past 4-5 years, and we are trying to figure out how much lime is needed to remediate these soils."

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Annual Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament Scheduled July 11

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture will be hosting their Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament to celebrate the farming and ranching culture. The golf tournament will be held Monday, July 11 at the Sidney Country Club with breakfast and registration starting at 7:30 a.m. and tee time at 9 a.m.

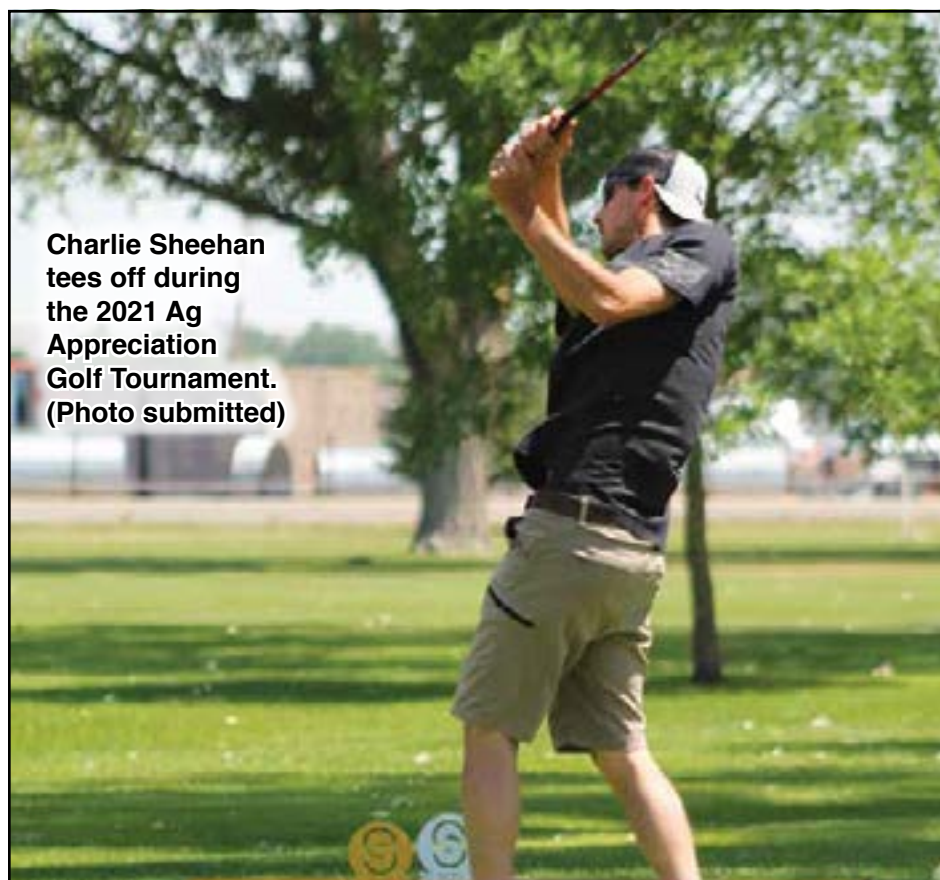
The tournament is a four-man scramble, pairing farmers and ranchers with local business people. Area businesses are encouraged to sponsor a hole, team or cart. The tournament wraps up about 4 p.m.

"We hope to draw about 150 people from the agriculture industry to this golf tournament," says Kali Godfrey, Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture executive director.

There are still opportunities to sponsor this great event at different levels. Some of those opportunities include: Team Sponsor, \$250; Hole Sponsor, \$150; and the Cart Sponsor, \$100. Prize Sponsors are recognized at the closing ceremony. Any prizes may be donated by businesses to be given away at the end of the tournament.

A special thank you to our Partner Sponsors of Kraken Oil and Gas and Dasinger Oil Companies; as well as to the agriculture committee for planning this event.

Businesses interested in sponsoring are encouraged to call 406-433-1916 if you have any questions.



**Charlie Sheehan
tees off during
the 2021 Ag
Appreciation
Golf Tournament.
(Photo submitted)**



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WREC's Chickpea Planting Date Study Covered At WREC Dryland Field Day, July 13



By Anna Garcia

Dr. Audrey Kalil, WREC Plant Pathologist, will be sharing information on the WREC's chickpea planting date study and the plant pathology research program at the WREC Dryland Field Day, July 13.

"The focus of my talk will be a chickpea planting date study, where we are evaluating three planting dates for their effect on early seed soil-borne disease, Ascochyta blight severity, yield and seed protein," said Dr. Kalil.

She leads both basic and applied research programs focused on management of plant diseases on the economically important, highly diverse crops in western North Dakota.

Along with this work, she has several ongoing projects to improve disease management in pulse crops, mainly focused on root rots of peas and lentils and Ascochyta blight of chickpeas.

This will be the WREC's second year conducting research on the chickpea planting date study. The study is being replicated at the Hettinger REC and North Central REC in Minot along with three locations at Montana Ag Experiment Stations. The effort in Montana is being led by Dr. Frankie Crutcher, MSU EARC Plant Pathologist. It is funded by the Northern Pulse Growers Association. The research team plans to repeat the study in 2023 to confirm their findings.

With the chickpea planting date study, researchers are comparing an early May planting date to the last plant date to qualify for full crop insurance for chickpea (May 20) and a date five days later.

"If we find that delayed planting beyond May 20 does not significantly reduce yield, and perhaps has a beneficial effect on disease management then there is the potential to request that the date get pushed back. Currently, the last plant date is the same for all of North Dakota and all of Montana. Given the huge range in growing conditions within this area, we hypothesize that results may differ based on trial location," explained Kalil.

**Above:
Last year's
chickpea
planting date
study**

**Right:
Ascochyta
blight (Photos
submitted)**



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Monitor Moisture Content Of Rain-damaged Hay

Hay that has been rained on will suffer dry matter losses, losses in energy content and tends to have a bleached color with a loss of soluble vitamin content.



If hay remains wet for a period of time, or if moisture content is not down to the proper level prior to baling, heat damage can occur. (NDSU photo)

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Weather conditions this spring and summer and much needed rainfall have lifted North Dakota out of drought conditions. Temperatures have been mild with a lot of cloudy and overcast days.

These conditions have been great for forage growth, but they have been less than ideal for hay drying and curing, says James Rogers, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension forage crop production specialist at the North Central Research Extension Center, Minot.

“Over the past few weeks, hay harvesting has begun with cereal rye and perennial cool season grass hay being harvested,” says Rogers. “The first cutting of alfalfa also has begun.”

In some parts of the state, rain has fallen on hay that was still curing in the field. Hay that has been rained on will suffer dry matter losses, losses in energy content and tends to have a bleached color with a loss of soluble vitamin content.

Dry matter losses tend to be higher in legume hay compared to grass hays due to the tendency of higher leaf shatter in legumes, says Rogers. Protein content will change little as a result of rain damage unless a large amount of leaves is lost.

An issue that can occur with rain-damaged hay is the possibility of mold development. If the hay remains wet for a period of time, or if moisture content is not down to the proper level prior to baling, heat damage can occur. Hay that has been rained on in the field will suffer losses in dry matter and nutrient content but can still be made into a quality product with a little extra handling, Rogers advises.

“Getting hay that was rained on dried down to the proper baling moisture as soon as possible is essential for salvaging the hay,” says Rogers. “Leaving hay in a windrow where it was cut until it is completely dry can smother recovering plants underneath the windrow leading to weedy or thin strips across the field.”

It is important to move or spread out the windrow to improve hay drying. Hay that was cut into a narrow swath then rained on needs to be spread out and fluffed back up to get air flowing through the windrow to stimulate drying. A hay tedder works well for this. If a rake will be used to roll wet hay over, make sure the ground where it will be moved is dry. If not, hay that is dry on top but rolled over to wet ground will wick moisture back into the dry sections.

Try to be as gentle as possible when working with hay that has been rain damaged to avoid leaf shatter as rain damaged hay tends to be a more brittle than hay that has not been rain damaged.

Check moisture content of hay prior to baling. Hay with a lot of volume may appear dry on the outside but still have damp areas in the middle of a windrow, causing problems later after the bale has been made.

Finally, it is very important to test hays that have been rained on for nutrient content. Rain-damaged hay will have lower nutrient content compared to a hay harvested at the same maturity stage that has not been rain damaged.

“Rain-damaged hay can still be a good product,” says Rogers. “It is important to know how good it is prior to feeding, and the only way to do that is with a hay test.”

Buffalo Trails Day Is Here Again, July 9-10



Buffalo Trails Day is a celebration of the old and the new in Epping, ND and the surrounding area. (From Buffalo Trails Day Facebook page)

By Jaymi Mozeak

The Buffalo Trails Museum, Epping, will celebrate the 56th Annual Buffalo Trails Day July 9-10. There are lots of activities planned this year.

Saturday, July 9 will start at 9 a.m. with the vendors opening and a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament next to the museum. "Jump N Fun" opens at 1 p.m. in the south lot of Epping Lutheran Church and the Falcon Brothers will begin playing in the park. The Eagles Nest Cornhole Tournament starts at 2 p.m. and at 4 p.m., food trucks will open on Main. Mayor Bemis will take his place in the dunk tank near the pavilion at 5 p.m. Ted and Keri will perform at the Main Street Pavilion at 8 p.m.. There will be fireworks at dark, weather permitting.

On Sunday, July 10, the Annual Pancake Breakfast at the pavilion starts at 8 a.m. The vendors open at 9 a.m. and the Epping Lutheran Church Services start at 10:30 a.m. "Jump N Fun" opens at 11 a.m. along with the silent auction at the pavilion. A parade will be held at noon along Main Street. The Williston Cowboys will begin playing in the gazebo at 12:30 p.m. There will be a Tug o' War on Main between the Epping and Ray Fire Departments at 1 p.m..

The museum will open for tours and Below Zero Nubians will open on Main Street. The 3rd Annual Paul Sagaser Car Show will also start on Main. The winners of the various contests and competitions will be announced at 2 p.m. Last of all, the car show winners will be announced at 3 p.m.

Since 1966, the Buffalo Trails Museum has been preserving the history of western North Dakota. They started Buffalo Trails Day to bring attention to the museum and everything they have to offer. The organizers of Buffalo Trails Day need volunteers for door watchers, runners, people to assist with vendors, and many other positions. Those wishing to join the vendors are to contact Sarah Baker, 406-679-6335. Wishing to be part of the cornhole tournament contact the Eagles Nest, 701-859-9261, and those wishing to enter the car show should contact Lane Thompson, 701-770-3281. For more information or to volunteer please contact Shelly Alexander, 701-570-7899.



Buffalo Trails Day in Epping is a celebration of the history of Epping and the surrounding area. It includes a parade, vendors, contests, and music. (From Buffalo Trails Day Facebook page)

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The Richland County Fair & Rodeo is Almost Here



This year's fair theme is "Cowboy Boots & Buckin' Chutes". (Submitted photo)



Above right: One of Richland County's most anticipated events, the fair and PRCA rodeo brings people from far and wide to compete and attend in Sidney. (Photo by Brian McGinnis)

By Jaymi Mozeak

The Richland County Fair and Rodeo is not too far away. All the rip-roaring fun that Richland County has been waiting for all year long will be Aug. 3–6 and it is right around the bend.

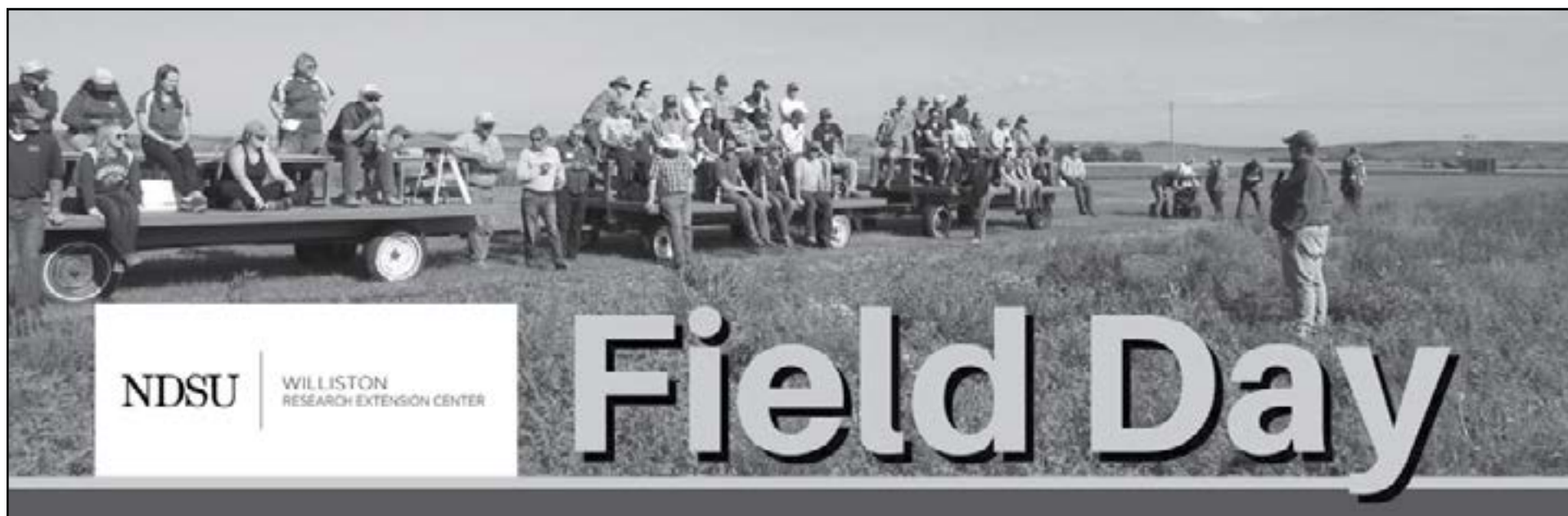
Chase Rice is doing the Saturday night concert with special guest, Casey Donahew. According to www.iheart.com, Chase Rice grew up in North Carolina listening to Garth Brooks and other singers who reshuffled and updated country music into something more in line with pop in the 1990s. Rice first came into the public's eye in 2010, when he was a contestant on the TV show "Survivor: Nicaragua"; he eventually finished second and started releasing albums and singles once he left the show. In 2019, Rice appeared as a guest on the reality show "The Bachelor", playing a private concert for bachelor Peter Weber and his date, Victoria Fuller, whom Rice had previously dated. The drama-laden episode aired in Jan. 2020, just as the singer released his next album.

According to his website, www.caseydonahew.com. Casey is a favorite on the local Texas music scene. He has 21 #1 singles and is a nationally hot touring act who consistently sells out venues all across the country. Chase Rice and Casey Donahew will be playing the main concert on Saturday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m. Early bird tickets are \$60 for reserved seats and \$55 for general seating. The week of the fair, prices go up to \$65 for reserved seats and \$60 for general seating.

The PRCA rodeo will be presented by Brockman Rodeo, LLC, a locally owned stock company, both nights. According to the fair book they have been providing the livestock for Richland County's Rodeo since 2009. Thursday will be Heroes Night and sponsored by Kraken Resources. Friday is Tough Enough to Wear Pink night and sponsored by Mid-Rivers Communications, Duane and Sherry Mitchell, Sidney Health Center Cancer Care, White Claw, and Prairie Electric. Early bird tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. The week of the fair adult tickets goes up to \$17.

North Star Amusements will be the carnival this year again. They originate in Bridger, MT and travel throughout Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota during the spring and summer. In the fall and winter, they go to Arizona. They are offering prepaid wristbands for unlimited rides per day for \$25 each while supplies last.

There is much much more to see and do with the food, vendors, exhibits, free concerts, and performances. There is sure to never be a dull moment at this year's fair. Fair buttons are \$5 this year and can be purchased at the fair office as well as the tickets for the events. For more information and times for the Richland County Fair and Rodeo can be found on the Richland County Fair Website, www.richlandcountyfairandrodeo.org, or the fair office can be contacted by phone at 406-433-2801 Monday-Friday. The Richland County Fairgrounds are in Sidney MT, 2118 W Holly St.



NDSU research scientists will highlight their work at the WREC field days, set for July 13 and 14.

The annual dryland agronomy and horticulture field day will be held Wednesday, July 13, at the center, which is 4.5 miles west of Williston on U.S. Highway 2. The event begins with registration at 3 p.m. Central time.

The dryland crops tour starts at 4 p.m. NDSU research scientists will highlight their work. NDSU President, David Cook, and Greg Lardy, NDSU vice president for agricultural affairs, will attend the field day. Topics will include:

- Weed control update • Chickpea planting date study • Livestock update • Cropping systems: After drought
- Cropping systems study: Soil and water discoveries • Cropping systems • Evaluating black gram and guar under dryland conditions of the MonDak region

A concurrent horticulture program starts at 4 p.m. in the Ernie French Center for those interested in flowers, gardening and fruit/vegetable production. Program topics will include:

- Would You Plant a Bee Lawn? • All-American selections, flowers and vegetables • Summer lawn and garden tips

A free steak and lamb dinner for attendees will follow the completion of the tours.

The irrigation field day will be held on Thursday, July 14, at the WREC Nesson Valley Irrigation Research and Development Farm 23 miles east of Williston on North Dakota Highway 1804. Topics will include:

- Nuseed canola • Lime study • Variety trial updates • Weed control updates
- Irrigated soybean trial • Evaluating black gram and guar under irrigated conditions of the MonDak Region

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the irrigated crop tour will begin at 9 a.m. The day will conclude with a noon luncheon sponsored by area businesses.

For more information, contact Violeta Hobbs at 701-774-4315 or violeta.hobbs@ndsu.edu.

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Protect Cattle from Heat Stress

Being proactive is the best way to deal with heat stress in cattle.



This feedlot steer is experiencing heat stress. (NDSU photo)

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Extreme temperatures are expected to hit many parts of North Dakota this week, increasing the potential for heat stress in cattle, warns Karl Hoppe, North Dakota State University livestock systems specialist.

"One day of heat stress is uncomfortable, but two or more days back to back without night cooling can be deadly for livestock," says Hoppe.

"Signs that animals are trying to regulate their internal body temperature include an increased respiration rate, increased heart rate and increased panting," says Gerald Stokka, NDSU Extension veterinarian. "Once cattle start to pant, some heat stress has occurred."

"If cattle are already experiencing severe heat stress, it may be difficult to help them recover," cautions Zac Carlson, NDSU Extension beef cattle specialist. "Being prepared and implementing an action plan can minimize the impacts of heat stress on animal performance during the upcoming periods of heat and will avoid death losses in severe cases."

Hoppe, Stokka and Carlson recommend farmers and ranchers take the following steps to protect cattle from heat stress:

- For pasture cattle evaluate conditions of water supply and ensure plenty of high-quality drinking water is available.
- The amount of water livestock need depends on the type of animal and stage of production, with requirements often doubling during hot weather. The general

estimates of daily water intake for beef cattle when the temperature is 90 F are as follows:

- Cows - 18 gallons for nursing calves; 15.3 gallons for bred dry cows and heifers
- Bulls - 20 gallons
- Growing cattle - 9.5 gallons for a 400-pound animal; 12.7 gallons for a 600-pound animal; 15 gallons for an 800-pound animal
- Finishing cattle - 14.3 gallons for a 600-pound animal; 17.4 gallons for an 800-pound animal; 20.6 gallons for a 1,000-pound animal; 24 gallons for a 1,200-pound animal

- Identify animals that are most susceptible to heat stress. They include feedlot animals closest to the market endpoint, very young and very old animals, and those with dark hides. Additionally adult cattle and yearlings that have experienced respiratory disease early in life or post weaning will be at greater risk.

- Be aware of the increased risk of "summer pneumonia" in suckling calves following heat stress. Early signs include calves off by themselves, a drooped ear, rapid respiration and dams with full udders. Consult your veterinarian for confirmation of the diagnosis and treatment options.

- Develop an action plan to deal with heat stress.

- Know when to intervene. A combination of factors, including temperature and humidity,

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Livestock Update At WREC Field Day

By Anna Garcia

During the Williston Research Extension Center's Dryland Field Day Tour, Williams County Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension Agent, Kelly Leo will be providing a livestock update.

"I will be visiting about water testing for TDS and monitoring for cyanobacteria blooms. I will also briefly discuss forage testing of annual forages such as sorghum-sudan grass, forage oats, forage barley or any other annual forages that pose a risk for nitrate accumulation," said Leo.

Additionally, she will touch on some of the programs that are still available for water development, weed control and forage through multiple agencies. If time permits, she may discuss mineral needs of the cow herd as well.

Leo helps area producers find a solution to crop and livestock questions. She specializes in range and pasture management as well as noxious weed management.



Photo submitted

Protect Cattle From Heat Stress...

(Continued from previous page)

drives heat stress.

An action plan should include the following:

- Give each animal access to at least 2 inches or more of linear water trough space in a pen. This means that in a pen with 200 animals, you need to have 400 inches (33 feet) of linear water space. More space is needed during times of heat stress as all of the cattle desire to be close to cool water. If your cattle have access to only small water troughs, add temporary space for additional water access during the summer.

- Evaluate your water supply lines and ensure you have sufficient water pressure and flow capacity to keep troughs full during times of peak water consumption.

- Move the animals' feeding time to late afternoon or evening. This will allow rumen fermentation to take place during the cooler night temperatures, and it will increase the cattle's lung capacity during the hotter daytime temperatures.

- If feeding once daily, consider moving feed delivery until the afternoon. If feeding multiple times daily, consider feeding a small meal in the morning and a larger portion of the diet later in the afternoon. Decrease the amount of feed offerings during and for several days after heat stress.

- Provide adequate air movement. Remove unessential wind barriers (portable wind panels, equipment, weeds and other objects) to promote better air movement. Having mounds in pens gives cattle more elevation and possibly access to a microclimate with more wind.

- Cool the ground and the cattle gradually. Sprinklers cool the ground cattle are lying on as much as they cool the cattle. Set up sprinklers well in advance of anticipated heat stress because cattle take time to adapt to changes. Use the sprinklers during mildly hot days so cattle become accustomed to the sights, sounds and the cooling effects of the sprinklers. An alternative to sprinklers is running a hose into pens to wet the ground where cattle will be lying. Run the sprinklers or wet the ground before the day's peak temperatures.

- Be aware of the droplet size of water coming from the sprinklers. The goal

is to have large droplets of water. A fine mist likely will make the pens even more humid and contribute to greater heat stress. When cattle are in severe heat stress, soaking the animal with water may be necessary for survival.

- Provide shade if possible.

- Add light-colored bedding (straw or corn stalks) to reduce the temperature of the ground on which cattle are lying. Apply bedding to the tops of mounds and other areas likely to have wind. Also, wet the bedding before or shortly after putting it out.

- Control flies as much as possible because hot cattle tend to bunch together and flies will add to the stress of hot days.

- Do not work cattle during temperature extremes. If working cattle is absolutely necessary, keep working time as short as possible, use calm-animal-handling techniques to minimize stress related to handling, and consider running smaller groups through the facility or into holding pens. Provide sufficient water in holding pens. Get started as early in the morning as daylight will allow. Do not work in the evening after a heat-stress day; cattle need this time to recover. Reconsider the necessity of working cattle during these periods; postpone or cancel some working events.

- Pay attention to long- and short-term weather forecasts and have a copy of the temperature-humidity index chart readily available. Determine the potential risk threshold and be prepared, even if the risk is several index units away.

"Also, remember that interventions causing animals distress or to cool extremely rapidly could have disastrous consequences," Stokka says.

The United States Department of Agriculture has a heat stress forecast tool available at: www.ars.usda.gov/plains-area/clay-center-ne/marc/docs/heat-stress/main/.

For more information from NDSU Extension, see publication AS1615 "Dealing with Heat Stress in Cattle" available at www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/publications/dealing-heat-stress-beef-cattle-operations.

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