



Farm & Ranch Monthly Magazine

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March 2019



Inside This Edition:
**66th Annual National
Hard Spring Wheat Show**

66th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show Scheduled for March 11th-13th



Fifth graders at the 2018 Bread Fair.

By Anna Dragseth

The 66th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show will take place at the Raymond Family Community Center in Williston, March 11th - 13th.

The National Hard Spring Wheat Show is a free event, with the purpose to inform local farmers about the latest information on agricultural projects and research. "We strive to bring the newest information to the area, as sometimes learning the latest agricultural information requires many hours of travel. Northwestern North Dakota and Northeastern Montana have a different growing area and season than other parts of the state, so it is nice to have an event in the area related to how farming is done here," said Williams County 4-H Program Coordinator, Danielle Steinhoff.

This year there will be 13 featured speakers. Steinhoff said, "There will be all new speakers and topics! We are quite excited for the lineup for this year. Something that will be a great learning experience is Tuesday evening, we will be having a Hemp Agronomy presentation."

On Monday, March 11th, there will be a Bread Fair where area 5th graders will be learning how to make bread hands on.

On Tuesday, March 12th, there will be ten agricultural researchers and specialist presenters. Starting at 8:00 a.m. CST Dr. Adam Akyüz, North Dakota State Climatologist and professor of Climatological Practice at North Dakota State University (NDSU), will give a Weather Outlook talk; including his research dealing with climate change impact on growing seasons, the adaption of agroecosystems to climate change, and drought assessment and impact in North Dakota. Next, Dr. Bryon Parman, NDSU Agricultural Finance Specialist, will be speaking about farm financing, loans, and lending. At 9:45 a.m., Dr. Dave Ripplinger, NDSU Bioproducts



Attendees at the 65th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show.

and Bioenergy Economics Specialist, will be discussing how to manage financial stress. After a trade show break, Mark Jirik, Director of the Northern Crops Institute (NCI), will be discussing updates about the NCI. At 11:00 a.m., NDSU Extension Soil Specialist, Dr. Dave Franzen, will be presenting a Nutrient Management Recommendation Overhaul Talk. Then after lunch, Dr. John Nowatzki, NDSU Agricultural Machine Systems Specialist, will be discussing how Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Technology makes farming more efficient. At 2:00 p.m., Doug Landblom, Dickinson Research Extension Center's Beef Cattle Specialist, will be giving a presentation on methodologies to integrate crop and beef cattle systems to identify the complementing holistic potential that may exist using alternative grazing-based production approaches. Corey Paryzek, Williams County Weed Control Officer, will be speaking about noxious weed management at 3:15 p.m. Next Dr. Frayne Olson, NDSU Associate Professor and Crop Economist, will discuss a grain market outlook. Then at 6:45 p.m. Jeff Kostuik, Director of Operations Central Region (MB and Eastern SK), will be presenting a talk about international hemp genetics and agronomy.

On Wednesday, March 13th, at 9:00 a.m. there will be an introduction to the Design Your Succession Plan. After that, there will be Commodity Group Update, Awards Lunch, and entertainment provided by Folk Music Artist of the Badlands, Jessie Veeder. Concluding the event, Levi and Crystal Neuharth, farmers and ranchers from Pierre, South Dakota, will be giving a presentation about rangeland management.

For more information on the 66th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show, call the Williams County Extension Center at (701) 577-4595.

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Crystal and Levi Neuharth to Present “Farming for the Future with an Eye on Soil Health”

By Anna Dragseth

Levi Neuharth, Vice Chairman of the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, and his wife Crystal Neuharth will be speaking at the 66th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13th.

“We are going to share experiences on our family operation, Prairie Paradise Farms, and how we are “Farming for the Future with an Eye on Soil Health.” We will go through the five principles of soil health and how each of them have helped us. We embrace a holistic approach to sustainability by focusing on our environmental impact as well as economic stability and human safety. We want to help people better understand the importance of soil and how it can be lost so quickly. We live in a world where quick solutions are often thought of, but when it comes to rebuilding organic matter/topsoil, it takes long term solutions. So, we need to think about what we are doing to the soil and how we can help rebuild it and keep it healthy,” explained Crystal Neuharth.

The Neuharth’s, manage about 2,300 acres of cropland and 3,000 acres of grass in west central South Dakota. They also custom graze cattle that enter their operation.

They manage their operation by using the five principles of Soil Health: First, Minimal Soil Disturbance - They want to disturb the soil as little as possible so that they aren’t destroying the soil structure. “We want our soil to breathe and infiltrate water. We have been No-Till farming since 1993,” said Neuharth.

Second, Diversity in Plants and Animals – They want to grow a variety of crops and keep a diverse crop rotation. Diverse crop rotation helps control disease, weeds, and pest issues. Also, different plants have different root systems so they can bring up different levels of nutrients to use. “Our Soil Food Web likes a diverse diet just like we do. We can survive off of eating the same single thing every day, but to remain healthy, we need a balanced diet. Animals are also very important to help cycle the nutrients. When you can have multiple species, they each have different plants they prefer, and you can get a better more even graze on your plants, they complement each other. If you look around at a native area, Mother Nature is incredibly diverse in the plants that grow and the animals that are in the environment. She has been successful longer than anyone,” noted Neuharth.

Next, Living Roots – The easiest food for soil organisms comes from the roots of living soil. Plants feed the soil, and the soil feeds the plants. Having living plants also means that the plants are capturing energy from the sun and moving it into the soil.

Soil Cover – Covering the soil prevents evaporation, prevents erosion, helps with water infiltration and provides habitat for soil organisms. It also helps with weed suppression and keeping the soil cool on hot days. Our goal is to keep old crop residue covering the soil until new crop canopies.

Lastly, Integrate Livestock - This is the last principle the Neuharth’s use on their cropland. “We haven’t been able to get livestock onto all our cropland, but we are working towards it,” said Neuharth. Livestock returns nutrients to the soil rather than take them somewhere else in straw or forage bale. They help cycle nutrients to feed the soil. Grazing cropland can give your grass a break and provide later season grazing. “We have been rotational grazing (dividing larger areas into smaller ones)



Crystal, Levi, Kaydee (3 yrs), Johnathon (10 yrs), Justin (8 yrs). Photo submitted.

with our crop and grassland. It helps spread the animal impact more evenly making sure every area has seen livestock,” said Neuharth.

“When we made the shift to better our soil health we started with No-Till, Diverse Crop Rotations, and Soil Cover. After maintaining those for several years, we learned about the importance of living roots as much as possible, and so we adopted that idea of cover crops. We will be adding livestock to our cropland. Water can be a challenge when we are on our crop and hay land, but that is where we are working currently. All of the principles are extremely important; however, I may lean towards soil cover to be one of the most successful. If we don’t have our soil covered, erosion and evaporation can take place. Without organic matter and topsoil, you have nothing, but dry thirsty unproductive dirt,” noted Neuharth.

The past few years Neuharth’s have been growing full-season cover crops, which is their cash crop for that field for the year. “With crop prices as low as they are it helps us spread risk and build our soil health. In our cover crop mixes we try and have six to ten different species so whatever conditions Mother Nature gives us something should grow, and the species can complement each other,” said Neuharth.

The Neuharth’s primary goal is to be as profitable as possible by keeping their input costs as low as they can while growing a quality product in a sustainable way. They explained that it is not their goal to produce the highest yield, but to have better margins for profit. Neuharth said, “We want our soil to be resilient, healthy, and profitable for generations to come.”

Neuharth said, “Learning from other experiences have helped us see things in a new way and help us create new ideas to try at home. We hope sharing our story can help someone see things differently and create new ideas of their own to try on their farm.”

Schedule of Events

NATIONAL HARD SPRING 66th
NDSU's Best of the Best
WHEAT SHOW

Join Us At The Raymond Family Community Center

March 11th – 13th
(1002 11th St W • Williston, ND)

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Eagle Country


Hours:
Mon-Fri:
 8am - 5pm
Sat: 9am - 1pm

Monday, March 11th — **Bread Fair for area 5th graders**

Tuesday, March 12th — **Doors Open**
 7:30am.....
 8am.....
 9am.....
 9:45am.....
 10am.....
 10:30am.....
 11am.....
 12pm.....
 1pm.....
 2pm.....

..... **Welcome:** Williston Mayor Howard Klug
 **2019 Weather Outlook:** Dr. Adnan Akyüz
 **Farm Financing, Loans & Lending:** Dr. Bryon Parman
 **Managing Financial Stress:** Dr David Ripplinger

..... **BREAK**

..... **Northern Crops Institute Update:** Mark Jirik

..... **Nutrient Management Recommendations Overhaul:** Dr. Dave Franzen

..... **Lunch:** \$10 Qdoba Steak & Chicken Hot Bar

..... **UAV Technology:** John Nowatzki

..... **Incorporating Forage Mixes for Haying & Grazing Into Crop Rotation in the Semi-Arid Region of Western North Dakota:** Doug Landblom

..... **BREAK**

..... **What It Costs To Control vs. What It Costs If You Don't Control:** Corey Paryzek

..... **What Is Palmer Amaranth?:** Dr. Clair Keene

..... **Grain Market Outlook:** Dr. Frayne Olson

..... **Supper:** Famous Daves Georgia Chopped Pork Sponsored by Williams County Farmers Union

..... **Hemp Agronomy:** Jeff Kostuik

WEDNESDAY, March 13th — **Doors Open**

7:30am.....
 7:45am.....
 9am.....
 10:30am.....
 11am.....
 11:30am.....
 12pm.....
 2pm.....

..... **Free Ag Appreciation Breakfast:** Sponsored by American State Bank

..... **Design Your Succession Plan Introduction:** Dr. Carrie Johnson, Ashley Ueckert & Dan Folske

..... **BREAK**

..... **Commodity Updates**

..... **International Wheat Markets:** Kurt Haarmann

..... **Awards Lunch:** Music Entertainment by Jessie Veeder

..... **Farming for the Future with an Eye on Soil Health:** Levi & Crystal Neuharth

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Palmer amaranth can grow to be 6 to 8 feet tall. (NDSU photo)



Problematic Palmer Amaranth to be Discussed at 66th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show

By Anna Dragseth

On Tuesday, March 12th at 3:45 pm, Dr. Clair Keene, Area Extension Specialist in Cropping Systems at the Williston Research Extension Center, will be informing attendees about the problematic weed, Palmer Amaranth at the 66th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show.

Palmer Amaranth, a relatively new and very aggressive type of pigweed, has become increasingly problematic for North Dakota farmers. In the early summer of 2018, it was discovered in McIntosh County in south-central North Dakota and now has been found in five different counties within North Dakota.

This weed originated in the desert region of the United States, then spread to the Mississippi Delta before invading Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota, as well as other states. It can grow up to two to three inches per day and reach a total height of eight feet. One single plant of Palmer Amaranth can produce up to one million seeds, and it emerges throughout the growing season. Heavy infestations of these weeds can significantly reduce yields of crops. So far it has been reported to reduce yield up to 91% in corn and 79% in soybeans. Palmer amaranth is also extremely difficult to control because it is prone to being resistant to many herbicides.

Palmer Amaranth seeds can spread with almost anything such as farming equipment, wildlife, water, and wind. In other states, seeds have been found in native seed mixes used for pollinator or wildlife habitats and in potting soil and hay. It is important that the public is aware of this weed because of the threats it poses to the production of agriculture. For more information on this weed, plan to attend Dr. Keene's presentation.

Welcome to the
**66th National
Hard Spring
Wheat Show!**

**March 11-13, 2019 at
the Raymond Family
Community Center
1002 11th St W.
Williston, ND**

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WEDNESDAY – March 20

9:00 a.m. Doors Open / Visit Exhibits
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Free Breakfast
10:45 p.m. Program Announcements / Recognition
11:00 a.m. ***Speaker – Dan Colacicco***
Economic Consultant
American Sugar Alliance
12:00 p.m. Free Hot Dog Lunch / Visit Exhibits
5:00 p.m. Doors Close

Thursday – March 21

9:00 a.m. Doors Open / Visit Exhibits
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Free Breakfast
10:45 p.m. Program Announcements / Recognition
11:00 a.m. ***Speaker – Dan Colacicco***
Economic Consultant
American Sugar Alliance
12:00 p.m. Free Hot Dog Lunch / Visit Exhibits
3:00 p.m. Doors Close



Dr. Dan Colacicco

Dr. Dan Colacicco is an economic consultant to the American Sugar Alliance specializing in federal grower support programs. He spent 36 years at USDA, including 20 years providing economic and policy analysis for the Farm Service Agency's sugar, dairy, and honey programs.

During the last 14 years of his USDA career he was responsible for the administration the domestic sugar program as the Director of the Dairy and Sweetener Analysis Group. He was responsible for the regulations and implementation of the domestic sugar program, which includes the Sugar Loan Program, Sugar Marketing Allotment Program, Sugar Payment in Kind Program, Feedstock Flexibility Program, and the sugar information collection system.

Prior to his commodity work, he was a conservation analyst and helped develop the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve Programs. His agricultural experience includes picking pineapple on Lanai, Hawaii, where he went to prep school. Dr. Colacicco received a B.S. in Economics and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Maryland. He resides in Annapolis, Maryland, with his wife and any of his five children that need a place to stay.

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2019 Weather Outlook

Tuesday, March 12 at 8 a.m.

Dr. Adnan Akyüz

North Dakota State Climatologist

Dr. Akyüz earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Atmospheric Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1988 and 1994 respectively. He also holds a B.S. degree in Meteorological Engineering from Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey. In his former positions, Adnan was the Missouri State Climatologist for eight years in Columbia, Missouri. He is currently active with research topics dealing with climate change impact on growing seasons in the Northern Plains, adaptation of agroecosystems to climate change, drought assessment and drought impact in North Dakota.



Dr. Adnan Akyüz

Farm Financing, Loans and Lending

Wednesday, March 12, 9 a.m.

Dr. Bryon Parman

NDSU Extension Agricultural Finance Specialist

Dr. Bryon Parman is the Agricultural Finance Specialist with NDSU Extension. Dr. Parman's programs focus on whole farm and agribusiness financial structure, farm financial risk management, investment analysis, machinery cost assessment, land values and rents, farm financial record analysis, farm financial trends and income tax management. Dr. Parman earned his master's degree in economics with a specialization in agricultural real estate and finance from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and his doctorate in agricultural economics from Kansas State University.



Dr. Bryon Parman

Nutrient Management Recommendations Overhaul

Tuesday, March 12, 11 a.m.

Dr. Dave Franzen

NDSU Extension Soil Specialist

Dr. Franzen received his BS, MS, and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana, IL. He completed his Ph.D. in 1993, with his thesis addressing field variability of P, K, and soil pH in two Illinois fields. Prior to his Ph.D. he served 18 years as an agronomist and manager in the retail fertilizer business in East Central Illinois. Dr. Franzen joined the NDSU faculty in June 1994. He provides educational programs on soil and soil fertility topics to extension agents and specialists, industry professionals, farm producers and the public. He presents his material using meetings, field tours, written material, radio, TV, video and internet resources. He also performs applied soils research projects, which are relevant to North Dakota producers.



Dr. Dave Franzen



**March
11-13**

**Raymond Family
Community Center
Williston, ND**



Managing Financial Stress

Tuesday, March 12, 9:45 a.m.

Dr. David Ripplinger

NDSU Extension Bioproducts and Bioenergy Economics Specialist

David Ripplinger is the Bioproducts and Bioenergy Economics Specialist with North Dakota State University Extension, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics and Director of the Bio-Energy and Products Innovation Center (BioEPIC) at North Dakota State University. He has been the co-chair of the NDSU Extension Farm Stress Team since 2017.



Dr. David Ripplinger

Northern Crops Institute Update

Tuesday, March 12, 10:30 a.m.

Mark Jirik

Director of Northern Crops Institute

Mark Jirik is the Director of the Northern Crops Institute, a four state collaboration based at NDSU in Fargo dedicated to expanding markets and value added agriculture. Mark grew up on a dairy farm in Mahanomen, MN and received his BS in Agricultural Economics from North Dakota State University and his MS from the University of Illinois. Upon graduating, Mark worked for Cargill for 17 years working in merchandising, commodity training, and commercial management throughout the United States and Australia.



Mark Jirik

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UAV Technology

Tuesday, March 12, 1 p.m.

John Nowatzki

NDSU Extension Agricultural Machinery Specialist

Mr. Nowatzki coordinates the NDSU Extension agricultural machine systems educational program. Subject matter areas include agricultural machinery selection and operation, precision agriculture, conservation tillage technologies, agricultural chemical application technology, and remote monitoring applications to farming. Nowatzki regularly delivers education presentations on various precision agriculture topics including farm data management, unmanned aircraft systems, LiDAR applications, variable rate fertilization of field crops, and sprayer boom section control.

What it Costs to Control vs. What it Costs if You Don't Control

Tuesday, March 12, 3:15 p.m.

Corey Paryzek

Williams County Weed Officer

Known locally as the Farm Service Agency manager for Williams County, Corey retired from that position a year ago, after 31 years. Corey has a BS degree in Animal Science and Agronomy from North Dakota State University. Corey has returned to his roots in dealing with weeds as the Williams County Weed Officer. Corey had worked as a Crop Scout in his early career prior to ASCS/FSA. Corey is still learning of the challenges in dealing with noxious weeds, but enjoys the job dealing with weeds and the rural community.

What is Palmer Amaranth?

Tuesday, March 12, 3:45 p.m.

Dr. Clair Keene

Area Extension Specialist in Cropping Systems

Dr. Clair Keene is the Area Extension Specialist in Cropping Systems at the Williston Research Extension Center. Clair earned her Ph.D. in agronomy from Penn State with an emphasis in weed science. Clair's current research projects include herbicide evaluation, saline seep reclamation with perennial forages, and intercropping. Clair's extension work includes training county extension agents in agronomic crop management and engaging NDSU Extension with organic producers.

Grain Market Outlook

Tuesday, March 12, 4 p.m.

Dr. Frayne Olson

NDSU Extension Economist

Dr. Frayne Olson is the Crop Economist/Marketing Specialist with the NDSU Extension and Director of the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives. Dr. Olson conducts educational programs and research in evaluating crop marketing strategies, crop outlook and price analysis, and the economics of crop contracting. As Director of the Center for Cooperatives, he teaches a senior level course on cooperative business management and coordinates the Center's research and outreach activities. Dr. Olson received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in Agricultural Economics, and his MS and BS in Agricultural Economics from North Dakota State University.



**March
11-13**

**Raymond Family
Community Center
Williston, ND**



Incorporating Forage Mixes for Haying and Grazing into Crop Rotations in the Semi-Arid Region of Western North Dakota

Tuesday, March 12, 2 p.m.

Doug Landblom

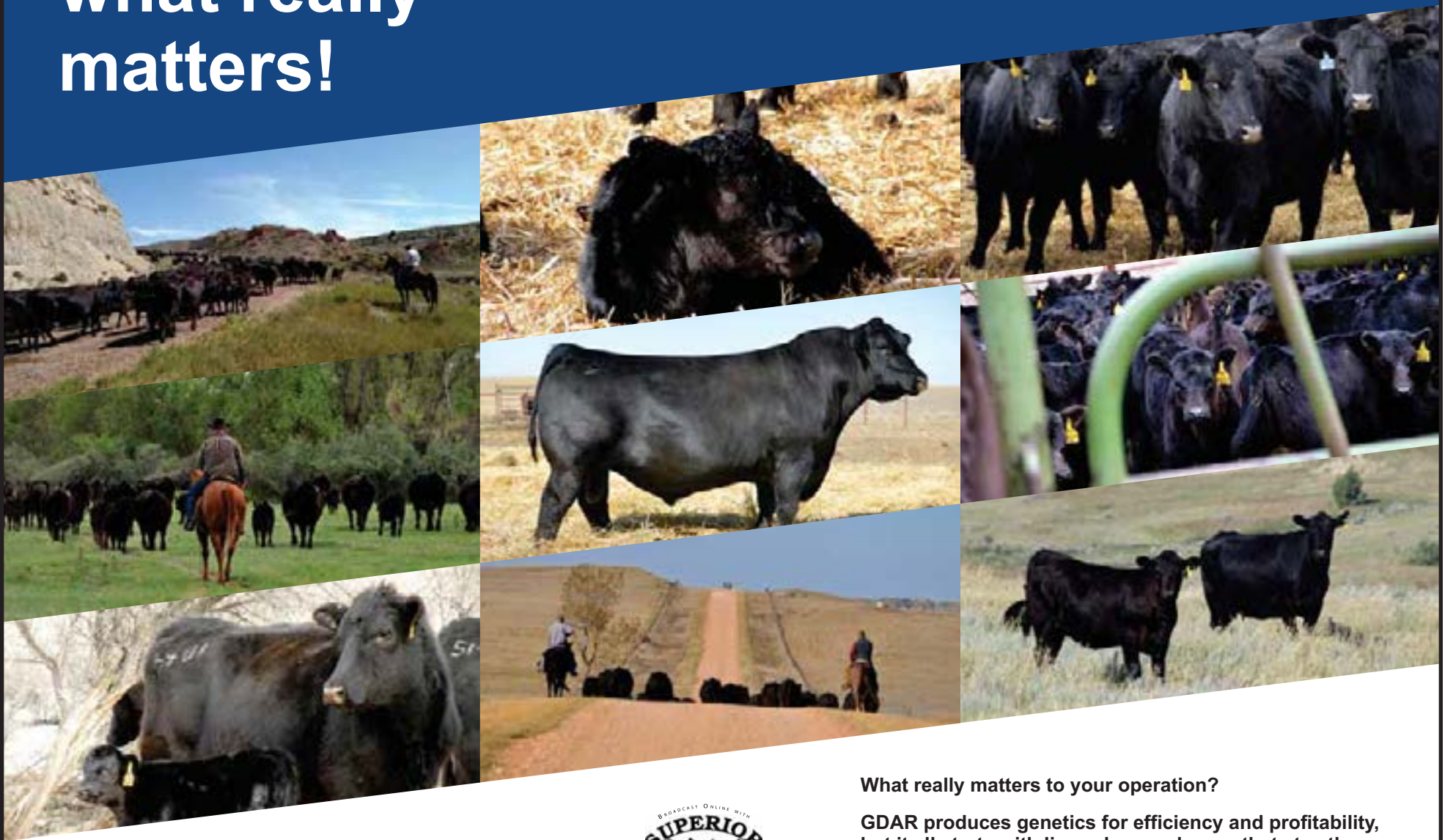
Animal Scientist at Dickinson Research Extension Center

Douglas Landblom received BS and MS degrees in Animal Science from Montana State University and between degrees; he served in the US Marine Corps, Third Marine Amphibious Force, Da Nang, Vietnam. He has worked as an animal scientist at the NDSU – Dickinson Research Extension Center since August 1974 conducting adaptive research for beef cattle, swine and horses. However, his largest research contribution has been conducting beef cattle research. His primary applied focus has spanned a wide variety of research topics ranging from reproductive management and animal nutrition to early weaning for drought management and a survey of E. coli O157 and other serotypes in cows and calves from weaning through slaughter. Drought management investigations dating back to 2003 were the forerunners for research in regenerative agriculture investigating the long-term effect of grazing within a diverse crop rotation on soil health and subsequent profitability from crops and beef production.



Doug Landblom

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Design Your Succession Plan Introduction

Wednesday, March 13, 9 a.m.

Dr. Carrie Johnson, Ashley Ueckert, Dan Folske

Dr. Carrie Johnson

NDSU Extension Personal Family Finance Specialist

Carrie Johnson is the Extension Personal and Family Finance Specialist, Assistant Professor at NDSU. Carrie has worked in Extension Education since 2009, prior to that she was a financial aid counselor. She received her Bachelor's Degree (English for Information Systems) from Dakota State University, Master's Degree (Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis in Family Financial Planning) from South Dakota State University, and Ph.D. (Family and Consumer Science Education) from Iowa State University. Carrie is also an Accredited Financial Counselor.



Dr. Carrie Johnson



**March
11-13**

**Raymond Family
Community Center
Williston, ND**



**Ashley Ueckert
Golden Valley Extension
Agent**

Ashley is a native of Sherwood, ND and grew up on a cattle and small grain operation. She attended North Dakota State University where she received a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. She has been the NDSU Extension Agent in Golden Valley County since 2006. She and her husband Cody ranch alongside his parents as the fourth generation to be on the place. They have one son who is eight.



Ashley Ueckert

**Dan Folske
Burke County Extension Agent**

Dan Folske has been the NDSU Extension Agent in Burke County since 1989. He grew up on a farm and beef cattle operation in Slope County and received a BS in Animal Science from North Dakota State University. Dan and his wife Kathy live north of Bowbells where he operates a small beef cattle herd. He is active in the community and is an EMT with the Bowbells Ambulance.



Dan Folske

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MONDAK



AG DAYS & TRADE SHOW

A Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Event

March 7-8 2019

Richland County Fairgrounds
Event Center
Sidney, Montana

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Trade show features more than 40 booths!

- 8:00 am Trade show opens
- 9:00 am *"Understanding the MT Department of Ag Industrial Hemp Program"*
Ian Foley, Hemp Program Coordinator, Montana Department of Agriculture
- 10:00 am *"Problematic Weeds"*
Chet Hill, Nutrien Ag Solutions
- 10:45 am *"Farm Bill/FSA Update"*
Patty McGinnis & Tammy Lyseng, Richland County FSA
- 11:15 am Break (Sponsored by Montana Farmers Union)
- 11:30 am *"Acidic Soils in Northeast Montana"*
Rick Engel, MSU Professor of Soil Science
- 12:30 pm Lunch Break (Served on-site by Sidney FFA Alumni Association)
- 1:30 pm *"Farm Insurance & Financial Planning Considerations"*
Cara Storm and Kimberly Hamlin, Farm Bureau Financial Services
- 2:30 pm *"Weather Outlook"*
Jared Marquis, UND Atmospheric Science Department

Trade Show Hours

Thu: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Fri: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Banquet:

Friday, March 8 • 6pm • Event Center

Tickets \$45 each (includes 1 drink ticket for social)
Available at: Richland Co. Extension, Sidney Chamber, SidneyMT.com,
Stockman Bank & Tri-County Implement

- 3:30 pm Break (Sponsored by Betaseed)
- 3:45 pm *"Water Use Efficiency Study on Irrigated Small Grains"*
Jim Staricka, Williston Research Extension Center
- 6:00 pm Trade show ends

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Pesticide Points Pending

- 7:00 am Sidney Chamber Breakfast (Sponsor: Advanced Communications)
- 8:00 am Trade Show Opens
- 9:00 am *"Winter Corn Grazing Study - A Virtual Tour"*
Marlin Johnston, Producer; Dave Haverkamp, USDA-NRCS; Tim Fine, MSU Ext.
- 9:45 am *"Using Technology on the Ranch"*
Smittie Smith, RanchHacks
- 11:00 am Break (Sponsored by Betaseed)
- 11:15 am *"Using Technology on the Ranch"* continued
- 12:45 pm Lunch Break (Served on-site by Sidney FFA Alumni Association)
- 1:15 pm *"Cow/Calf Operation Finances"*
John Gates, Northwest Farm Credit Services
- 2:00 pm Trade show ends
- 5:00 pm Pre-Banquet Social
- 6:00 pm MonDak Ag Days Banquet featuring entertainer Chad Prather

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Hemp Agronomy

Tuesday, March 12, 6:45 p.m.

Jeff Kostuik

Director of Operations, Central Canada, US & International of Hemp Genetics International

Jeff is employed with Hemp Genetics International as the Director of Operations for Central Canada, US and International. Jeff takes a lead role in sharing his agronomy knowledge to their HGI growing base.

Prior to the move to HGI, Jeff was the Manitoba provincial contact for hemp agronomy in his role as Diversification Specialist for Manitoba Agriculture, a role he held since hemp was legalized in Canada in 1998. Past projects have included working on national variety trials funded through the CHTA as well as working on minor use herbicide projects. Hemp research continues to be a passion of Jeff's, along with farming with his brother-in-law, producing pedigreed seed. Jeff is a director of the Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance where he currently holds the position of chair of the research committee.



Jeff Kostuik

International Wheat Markets

Wednesday, March 13, 11:30 a.m.

Kurt Haarmann

Senior Vice President of Columbia Grain

Kurt Haarmann is a Senior Vice-President and General Manager of the Grain Division for Columbia Grain International, LLC. Kurt has worked in the grain han-



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dling and export industry for over 25 years. He has experience in the full cycle of procurement; export sales, execution and operations management. He began his career with Columbia Grain in Colfax, WA in 1993 and moved to the company headquarters in Portland, OR in 1995. He traded Hard Red Winter and Hard Red Spring wheat for export from 1996 to 2014, while also managing the central hedge desk. He moved to Pacificor, LLC to become the Senior Vice-President of marketing and Wheat Product Line Manager. In July, 2018 he returned to Columbia Grain to assume his current role and lead a reorganization of the Grain Division. He has a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Washington. He has been married for 22 years, has two children in Tigard, OR.

Farming for the Future with an Eye on Soil Health

Saturday, March 13, 2 p.m.

Levi and Crystal Neuharth

Levi and Crystal got started in the business of farming and ranching through Levi's dad, David, whose operation they are currently renting located about 25 miles west of Pierre, SD. With both farms combined they manage about 3,000 acres of grass and 2,300 acres of cropland. Their family farm is called Prairie Paradise Farms and is committed to producing eggs, forage, and grain in a sustainable way that ensures resilience of their farm and resources for future generations. They farm with the future in mind so taking care of the soil and feeding it is extremely important. They embrace a holistic approach to sustainability by focusing on our environmental impact as well as economic stability and human safety. They have been No-Till since 1993 and maintain a diverse crop rotation. They strive to keep diversity in their animals and grazing habits.



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Hemp Genetics and Agronomy

By Anna Dragseth

Jeff Kostuik, director of Operations Central Region (Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan), will be speaking about hemp genetics and agronomy at the 66th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show on Tuesday, March 12th at 6:45 pm.

Kostuik will be talking about hemp seeding rates, dates, fertility, crop protection, pests, and hemp storage and harvest. He will also talk about how he grew hemp with conventional equipment used for grain. "The plant has so many uses, there is no part of the plant that cannot be marketed; the diversity of the plant always keeps agronomists on their toes," explained Kostuik.

Since 1998, Kostuik has been involved in hemp research. He studied Agriculture at the University of Manitoba and in 2012 obtained a BGS from Athabasca University. He is a Certified Crop Advisor and is a member of the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists. He is also a director of the Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance where he currently holds a position on the Research Committee.

Kostuik's experience includes being the Manitoba provincial contact regarding hemp agronomy as he was the project leader for hemp research trials in Manitoba. He was also employed as a Diversification Specialist with Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Development while working alongside the Parkland Crop Diversification Foundation.

In 2015, Kostuik obtained a job with Hemp Genetics International (HGI) where he takes a lead role in sharing his agricultural knowledge to HGI clients. Hemp research continues to be a focus for Jeff, both in Canada and abroad, determining what varieties will perform in varying conditions and climates. The company joins the global stage in working with producers and research affiliates to provide quality products as the benefits of hemp become more recognized.

Kostuik is passionate about the hemp industry and takes great pride in developing business relationships on a local, national, and international level. Along with his work with HGI, Kostuik is an enthusiastic hemp farmer working with his brother in law on their family farm producing pedigreed hemp seed.

At the 66th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show Kostuik hopes to provide agronomy advice to the farmers in attendance and try to answer all question related to hemp.

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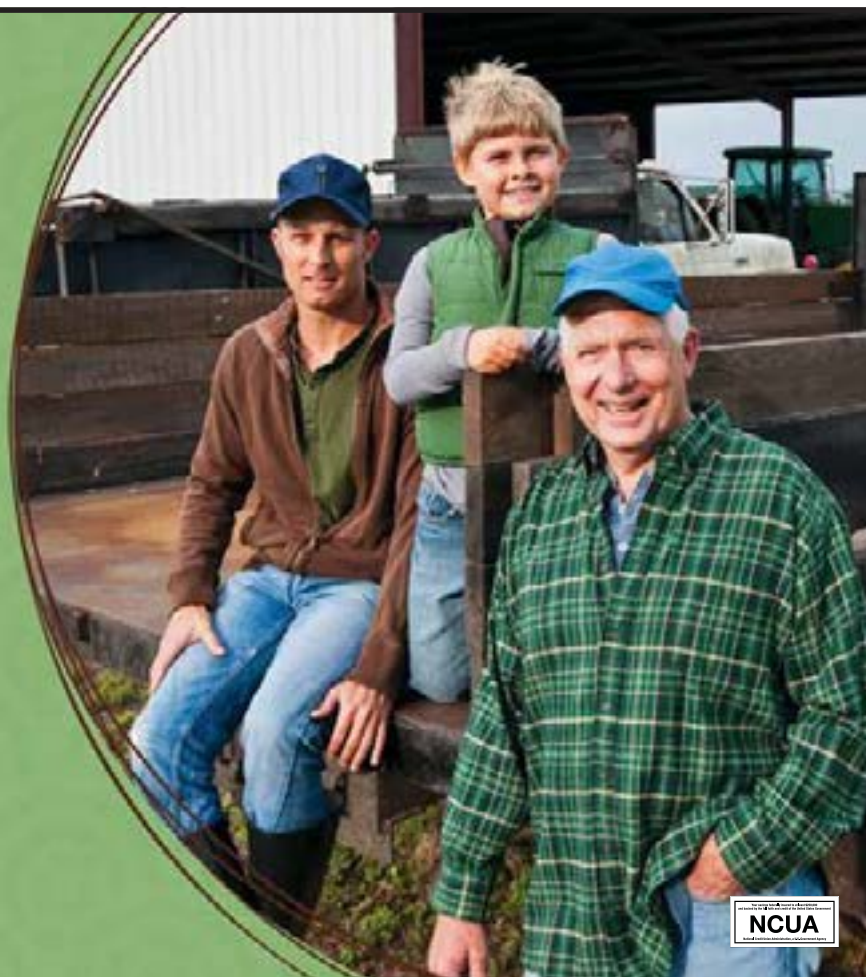
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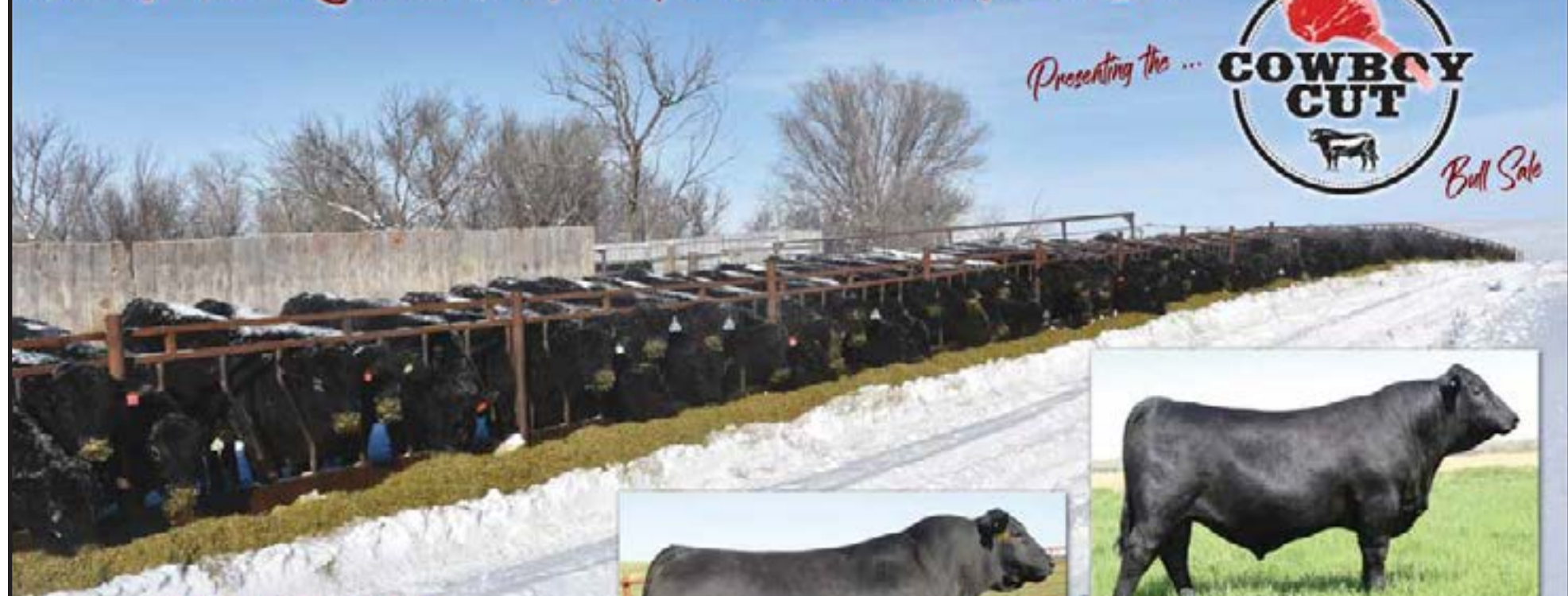
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4-H Leadership Awareness Weekend a Success

Youth participated in parliamentary procedure activities, break-out sessions and a service project, and met state and local leaders.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

This year's Leadership Awareness Weekend (LAW), a state-wide 4-H civic engagement event, was a worthwhile experience for several North Dakota youth.

"4-H LAW is a wonderful opportunity for youth to make new friends, learn how to become a strong leader and become more connected with our government," says 4-Her Marie Kraemer of Grand Forks.

She was among youth from 12 counties who participated in parliamentary procedure activities, break-out sessions and a service project, and met state and local leaders during the recent three-day program, which North Dakota State University Extension's Center for 4-H Youth Development organizes.

"One thing that stands out to me each time I attend 4-H LAW is the wonderful opportunity to spend the day at the Capitol," Kraemer says. "While we were there, we met the North Dakota governor and several legislators, as well as sat on the floor as a legislator's guest."

4-Her David Crain of McKenzie County says of his legislative experience: "I learned so much and loved sitting with my representative since I knew him."

During LAW, teams of youth also participated in a parliamentary procedure contest. The Foster County team took home the traveling gavel. The teams from Oliver and Grand Forks counties placed second and third, respectively.

"The main focus of the 4-H Leadership Awareness Weekend this year was learning about parliamentary procedure, which I believe every individual should learn and understand," Kraemer says.

Youth also participated in team-building activities and breakout sessions on topics that included leadership etiquette and vision boards. Dawn Thomsen, chaperone for a group of youth from Barnes County, reports that the youth thoroughly enjoyed LAW.

Other LAW activities included a charcoal-illustrated North Dakota history lesson from Fargo artist Steve Stark; local government and legislative panels; and information from North Dakota Supreme Court Justice Lisa Fair McEvers on careers and opportunities for youth today and in the future.

"While attending the LAW program, I was able to connect with both local and state politicians by asking questions and getting to know our representatives personally," 4-Her Faith Vasicek of Pembina County says. "I was also able to meet people from all around our state who had similar interest in government as me."

In addition, LAW youth made blankets for the LEO's (Law Enforcement Officers) Blanket Project.

"This project was started by youth in Montana as part of a Family, Career and Community Leaders of America project," says Amelia Doll, an NDSU Extension agent in Burleigh County who coordinated the community service project during LAW. "Thirty-two blankets were handed off to the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department to find their new homes from the back of officers' vehicles when officers are called out and there is a child involved in accidents or even domestic situations."

Visit the Center for 4-H Youth Development's website at <https://tinyurl.com/NDSU4-H-LAW> to learn more about the LAW program.

Right: Youth attend a North Dakota legislative session during the recent Leadership Awareness Weekend, a 4-H civic engagement event. (NDSU photo)



Below: 4-H youth make a blanket for the LEO's Blanket Project during the recent Leadership Awareness Weekend, a 4-H civic engagement event. (NDSU photo)



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Farmers, Ranchers Have Ways to Manage Stress

Controlling events, attitudes and responses can help manage symptoms of stress.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Piled-up stress can lead farmers and ranchers to develop physical or mental health issues, but they can take steps to reduce stress and create healthy ways to manage it, says a North Dakota State University Extension expert.

“Farm and ranch families often experience pressure, conflict and uncertainty, especially during harvesting and planting,” says Sean Brotherson, Extension family science specialist. “If feelings of frustration and helplessness build up, they can lead to intense family problems involving spouses or partners, children, parents and other relatives. If left unresolved, these feelings can lead to costly accidents, poor decisions, strained relationships, health concerns and risks, including suicide.”

Using strategies such as controlling events, attitudes and responses can help manage symptoms of stress, according to Brotherson.

“Farmers, ranchers and their family members and employees can learn to manage their stresses well, even during planting, harvesting or times of difficulty,” he says. “The key is to be flexible and maintain a balanced lifestyle. Make time daily to take care of yourself because your work is vital to all of us. Your health is your most important asset on your farm or ranch operation.”

To help manage stress, Brotherson suggests:

Taking control of events by planning ahead and discussing who can be available to help before key seasons arrive - Make time to set priorities so you can focus on what needs to be done today and what can wait.

Taking control of attitudes that influence you - Identify the sources of the stress you have, and which ones you can and cannot change. Shift your focus off worrying and onto problem solving. Notice what you have achieved rather than what you did not accomplish. Set goals and daily expectations that are realistic. How you view a situation is a key factor in creating or eliminating stress.

Controlling your responses to stressful conditions - Take a break when feeling stressed, and focus on relaxing your body and mind. Take three deep breaths slowly and let go of unwanted stress. Think positive thoughts, balance work and play, find someone to talk to and seek help when you need it.

USDA Farm Service Agency Reminder on Livestock Inventory Records

Montana livestock producers are reminded to keep updated livestock inventory records. These records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency can assist producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, producers will be required to provide verifiable 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. For grazing or feed losses, producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your local FSA office at (406) 433-2103 and at 2745 West Holly in Sidney, MT and visit www.farmers.gov/recover.

Brotherson encourages farm and ranch family members to get additional resources at <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/farmranchstress> and talk to trusted friends or associates, such as pastors or counselors, or call North Dakota’s 2-1-1 help line.



Drought can be stressful for farmers and ranchers. (NDSU photo)

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Water Use Efficiency Study on Irrigated Small Grains to Be Discussed at MonDak Ag Days

By Anna Dragseth

At the MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show on Thursday, March 7th, Jim Staricka, Soil Scientist at the NDSU Williston Research Extension Center, will be discussing his research project on the effects of reduced irrigation on small grain yield and quality. "This study was done at our Nesson Valley research site using overhead (i.e. sprinkler) irrigation. We investigated four different irrigation rates on each crop. I will be presenting data collected during the past nine cropping seasons," explained Staricka.

In Staricka's research project he wanted to find out how much, if any, irrigation amounts could be reduced without adversely affecting crop yield or crop quality.

In some areas of the country water supply is becoming limited, sometimes to the point that restrictions on the amount of water that can be used for irrigation have been implemented. Currently this is not a concern locally but reducing the amount of water needed for irrigation may reduce the possibility of water restrictions being imposed in the future.

"Overhead irrigation is more water-efficient and allows more fine-tuning of irrigation amounts than surface irrigation (flood irrigation). Thus, the findings of this research may be especially beneficial to farmers who have switched from flood to center pivot irrigation.

The overall project includes four different crops grown in rotation: durum, sugarbeet, barley, and potato. Tyler Tjelde and I have split up the analysis and reporting responsibilities: he does the sugarbeet and potato data and I do the durum and barley data," said Staricka.

So far Staricka has found that reducing irrigation by one-third reduced durum yields in some years but does not reduce the quality of durum or the yield and quality of barley. During his presentation, he will be discussing in more detail the magnitude of the effects observed with a one-third reduction and the effects of greater irrigation reductions.

Staricka said, "This experiment has run in its present form for nine years. That has allowed us to observe the effect of reduced irrigation amounts under a variety of weather conditions, indicating the findings are applicable under a wide range of conditions."

Staricka included that he was surprised by how small of an effect reducing irrigation by one-third had. "During the last six months I've heard researchers in other areas have found similar results, so that strengthens my confidence in our findings," explained Staricka.

This growing season, Staricka plans to repeat the study without any changes, thus obtaining data from an additional set of weather conditions.

"In the current form, the reduced irrigation amounts have been applied throughout the entire growing season. In the future (maybe starting in 2020), we hope to look at the effect of reducing irrigation amounts for only part of the growing season," said Staricka.

Staricka hopes this information is helpful to farmers in improving their water use efficiency. Water savings achieved by reducing irrigation amounts may allow farmers to expand their irrigated acreage without increasing total water demand, or it may help them comply with future water restrictions.

You can hear more about Staricka's research on water use efficiency on irrigated small grains at 3:45 pm at the Richland County Event Center located in Sidney, Montana.

MSU Extension To Offer Farm Management Workshops In Culbertson

By MSU News Service

BOZEMAN — Montana State University Extension will offer a two day farm management workshop in Culbertson at the Roosevelt County Complex, 307 Broadway on March 13th through the 14th. The workshop will begin at 9:30 am on the 13th and 9:00 am on the 14th.

MSU Extension economists George Haynes, Kate Fuller and Joel Schumacher will lead the workshops. Other contributing faculty members will include agricultural economists Anton Bekkerman, Diane Charlton and Eric Belasco; family economist Marsha Goetting; cropping systems specialist Kent McVay; beef cattle specialist Megan Van Emon; rangeland weed specialist Jane Mangold; soil fertility specialist Clain Jones; and forage specialist Emily Meccage. Additionally, Wayne Hendrickson of First Community Bank in Culbertson is going to be speaking on "What is your Banker Looking For."

The two-day workshops will cover the following topics: financial analysis and enterprise budgeting, risk management, crop and livestock production, agricultural leases, agricultural policy issues and business succession.

Participation in these workshops will satisfy the requirements for Farm Service Agency production and financial management training. There is no cost to attend, but participants are asked to register by contacting Keri Hayes at 406-994-3511 or khayes@montana.edu or George Haynes at 406-994-5012 or haynes@montana.edu.

2019 NAP: USDA Encourages Producers to Consider Risk Protection Coverage: March 15th Deadline

Montana producers have until March 15, 2019 to sign-up for FSA's Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all 2019 Spring Crops excluding spring seeded rye, speltz, triticale, wheat and mixed forage.

NAP provides a catastrophic level (CAT) coverage based on the amount of loss that exceeds 50 percent of the expected production at 55 percent of the average market price for the crop.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. If the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage for a crop in the county, NAP coverage is not available for that crop. For questions regarding insurability of a crop, please contact your local crop insurance agent. For information on whether a crop is eligible for NAP coverage, please contact your local FSA office.

The NAP service fee for all coverage levels is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interest in multiple counties. FSA will waive NAP service fees for underserved, limited resource, and beginning farmers. For questions regarding NAP, please contact your local FSA office.

For more information, visit the national NAP page at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap>.

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Calf Losses Before Birth a Concern

The normal abortion or stillbirth rate in a cow herd is 1 to 2 percent.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Abortions can be a major concern for cattle producers.

An "abortion" is the discharge of the fetus prior to the end of the normal gestation period, according to Gerald Stokka, North Dakota State University Extension veterinarian and livestock stewardship specialist. Many abortions occur within the first 45 days of conception (called early embryonic death), and the embryos or fetuses are so small that they may not be seen.

Other abortions may occur near normal calving time, and determining whether the cow has aborted or a premature birth has occurred is difficult. A stillbirth is when a full-term calf is born dead, with no obvious evidence of the cause of death.

Abortions have many causes, including physiological causes such as extreme environmental or handling stress and hormonal imbalances, metabolic problems, toxicoses and/or infectious diseases caused by protozoa, fungi, bacteria or viruses, says Brett Webb, director of the NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Abortions and stillbirths can be the result of a direct effect, such as viral, bacteria or protozoal organisms gaining access to the fetus. The fetus also may have abnormal development (congenital defects) that results in abnormalities at delivery, such as a lack of the anus opening or inside-out calf, or inherited genetic defects such as "curly calf" or "fawn calf" syndrome.

Indirectly, abortions and stillbirths can be a result of an interruption of the connection between the fetus and the dam, or the illness of the dam. The fetus receives nourishment and oxygen via the organ called the placenta. Any disruption in that process can impact the fetus negatively or result in its death, Stokka says.

Inflammation of this organ is called "placentitis." Bacterial, fungal and protozoal infections can cause placentitis. Mycotic abortions are one of the more common results of fungal infections. Moldy feeds are implicated as the source of most fungal infections.

Stillbirths can be frustrating because producers often see no indication of the cause or evidence of excessive labor. Stillbirths can result from an umbilical cord rupture, premature separation of the placenta or the placenta blocking the calf's nostrils after the delivery of an otherwise healthy calf.

Regardless of the cause, abortions may be sporadic or they may occur as "storms." The normal abortion or stillbirth rate would be 1 to 2 percent of cows in a herd. Losses greater than this are abnormal, and producers should talk to their veterinarian for assistance in identifying the cause, NDSU Extension livestock systems specialist Karl Hoppe advises. Hoppe also recommends producers to keep good records of calf and cow losses because indemnity payments may be available to offset some of the losses.

"The best chance of identifying what caused an abortion is prompt submission of fetal and placental tissues and maternal blood or serum to a diagnostic laboratory," Stokka says. "Contact your veterinarian for assistance with diagnostic efforts, sample submission and identifying management strategies to reduce the risk of future abortions."



Producers hope calves are born healthy. (NDSU photo)

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