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Possibly on the Horizon**

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Canola field owned by VS Inc.  
(Submitted by Steinbeissers)

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# Seed Crushing Plant Offers New Possibilities

By Katelynn Sponheim

North Dakota leads the United States canola production, with Montana following in third place. Canola oil use extends far beyond the kitchen and includes farmed fish feed, especially salmon, and biodiesel. Omega 3 canola, a new and exciting breed is, per Nuseed's website "the world's first plant-based omega-3 and will help relieve the pressure on our oceans to supply this essential nutrient. One acre of omega-3 canola produces as much DHA as 10,000 one-kilogram fish. Nuseed is partnering with contract growers to supply aquafeed and nutrition markets." Currently, the closest seed-crushing plant for omega-3 canola is in Redwing MN. Mark Erickson, Buckshot Seeds co-owner, is hoping to change that.

Buckshot Seeds, a dealer of Gold Standard Seed, was awarded an APUC (Ag Products Utilization Commission) grant from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture to use towards a feasibility study. His goal is to determine if a seed-crushing plant would be successful in the western North Dakota, eastern Montana area. This would benefit canola and soybean producers, encouraging them and others to grow more of both. Sunflowers and safflower producers would possibly benefit from the plant as well, as the company interested in installing one would create a very versatile operation, capable of crushing multiple varieties.

The current goal of the plant is to process 75% canola and 25% soybeans. The resulting oils would be shipped, most likely by railcar, to countries that farm fish. Norway, Argentina, and Chile top that list, but with BNSF being a mostly East to West rail line, Norway would be the most likely recipient. With considerations to shipping needs, the proposed location is in the Marley Crossing area, near Trenton. Savage Industries Transload facility in that location would aid in transport, making the plant's success even more likely.

Seed crushing comes with a rich by-product, a meal that is high in fat and perfect for feeding out cattle and pigs. In an area rich in cattle producers, the plant would serve a dual purpose, both purchasing and providing product. Soybeans have already replaced sugar beets in many fields, and canola would be a strong contender with a crushing plant nearby. As Erickson said, "Farmers are pretty adaptable folk," and he feels the plant would make a strong positive impact on local growers and provide new employment positions. The feasibility study is due to be finished by Thanksgiving, and so far, response to the project has been favorable.



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# Keith Steinbeisser Memorial Livestock Judging



**Novice Individual (L to R): 3rd - Kinsey Nagle, 2nd - Makena Balducke and 1st - Clancy Marshall.**



**Novice Team 1st Place (L to R): Makena Balducke, Aspen Nagle, Kinsey Nagle and Clancy Marshall.**



**Senior Individual (L to R): 3rd - Grace Ones, 2nd - Marett Schieber and 1st - Cooper McNally.**



**Senior Team 1st Place (L to R): Cooper McNally, Maddie Schieber, Marett Schieber and Quaid Marshall.**



**Junior Individual (L to R): 3rd - Molly Miller, 2nd - Nevaeh Rupprecht, and 1st - Lalya Dice.**



**Junior 1st Place Team (L to R): Ted Jeffers, Kadem Johnson, Lucy Jeffers and Layla Dice.**



**FFA Individual (L to R): 3rd - Hailey Goroski, 2nd - Lindsey Johnson and 1st - Chasyn Arneson.**



**FFA 1st Place Team (L to R): Chasyn Arneson, Lindsey Johnson, April McCad and Beau Chase.**

# Livestock Judging Results Oct. 1

## Novice

### Teams:

1st: Richland County Novice #1: Kenzie Nagle, Makena Balducke, Clancy Marshall, and Aspen Nagle

2nd: Richland County Novice #2: Brynlee McNally, Peyton Denowh, Kree McNally, and Oliver Becker

### Individuals:

1st: Kenzie Nagle / Richland County Novice #1

2nd: Makena Balducke / Richland County Novice #1

3rd: Clancy Marshall / Richland County Novice #1

### Top Reasons:

1st: Oliver Becker / Richland County Novice #2

Quaid Marshall

2nd: Richland County Seniors #3: Shelsey Brandvold, Grace Ones, Maziee Kirby, and Mariah Bauer

3rd: Richland County Seniors #2: Danica Denowh, Chase Bierley, Julie Emeline, and Trevor Jeffers

### Individuals:

1st: Cooper McNally / Richland County Seniors #1

2nd: Marett Schieber / Richland County Seniors #1

3rd: Grace Ones / Richland County Seniors #3

### Top Reasons:

1st: Cooper McNally / Richland County Seniors #1

## FFA

### Teams:

1st: Plentywood FFA #1: Chasyn Arneson, Lindsey Johnson, Beau Chase, and April McCabe

2nd: Dawson FFA #1: Ashton Smeltzer, Connley Hoagland, Jordyn Trangmoe, and Ariana Hoff

3rd: Dawson FFA #2: Addie Quinn, Koby Granmoe, Connor Brophy, and Hailey Groski

### Individuals:

1st: Chasyn Arneson / Plentywood FFA #1

2nd: Lindsey Johnson / Plentywood FFA #1

3rd: Hailey Groski / Dawson FFA #2

### Top Reasons:

1st: Lindsey Johnson / Plentywood FFA #1

### Adults

### Individuals:

1st - Misty Donnelly / Carbon County

2nd: Sierra Osborne / Plentywood

3rd: Luke Miller / Carbon County

## Juniors

### Teams:

1st: Custer County/Richland County: Layla Dice, Kamden Johnson, Ted Jeffers, and Lucy Jeffers

2nd: Carbon County: Harleigh Donnelly, Nevaeh Rupprecht, Molly Miller, and Mabel Donnelly

3rd: Richland County Juniors #2: Felixe Becker, Beau Becker, Kendal Vitt, and Gavin Schieber

### Individuals:

1st: Layla Dice/Custer County/Richland

2nd: Nevaeh Rupprecht / Carbon County

3rd: Molly Miller/Carbon County

### Top Reasons:

1st: Nevaeh Rupprecht / Carbon County

## Seniors

### Teams:

1st: Richland County Seniors #1: Cooper McNally, Marett Schieber, Maddie Schieber, and

# Lambert 4-Her Donates Hog To School Lunch Program



Brynn Spinner cuddles one of her hogs. (Photo submitted)

**By Dianne Swanson**

Brynn Spinner, Three Buttes 4-H Club, recently donated her back-up hog to the Lambert school lunch program. She said that Scotty Huft, Badland's Water Works, was so generous when he purchased her hog at the Richland County Fair that she did not need the money so she decided to donate the extra animal.

Spinner is 13 years old and has been a 4-H member for two years, with hogs and horses as her projects. Her favorite parts are going to the fair, hanging out with friends, and raising hogs. At home with her mom Jessica, dad Jim and an older brother and sister, Brynn prefers to be outside riding horses, moving cows, raising her hogs, and generally helping with whatever needs to be done. At school, she is a member of the Lambert volleyball team.

Lambert's head cook Leanne Evenson is delighted with the donation. Once it is processed into bacon and sausage, the pork will be used for hot breakfast, which is served five days a week. She called the donation awesome. "The Spinner family is awesome all the way around," she said. Spinner is grateful for all the help she has received with her projects.

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# More Industries May Be Coming Soon To MonDak Region

By Jaymi Mozeak

A group of Richland County leaders met with Rich Garman, North Dakota Department of Commerce Economic Development and Finance director on Friday, Sept. 29. He had good news for the MonDak region.

Five different industrial companies are looking into building a facility in north-western North Dakota.

Cerilon, a company based out of Alberta, Canada, whose facilities generate premium-quality, cleaner-burning transportation fuels, synthetic base oils, and specialized products, according to their website, [www.cerilon.com](http://www.cerilon.com). The company wants to put a 14,000 barrel-per-day facility near Trenton, ND, that will use natural gas which is abundant in the region to create high-value products. It will produce clean-burning transportation fuels, synthetic base oils, and specialized products.

Another advanced biotechnology company will be converting methane gas into a biodegradable material. This facility could also potentially locate their plant near Trenton, as well.

Well Spring Hydro, a processed water refining company, is evaluating the potential to locate a facility near Trenton to refine production water from the oil field and extract the caustic soda, hydrochloric acid, calcium chloride, and lithium from it.

Two sustainable aviation fuel companies are also evaluating the possibility of locating in western North Dakota. One facility is evaluating the potential of locating near Trenton. This facility will be an oil seed crush plant having the ability to crush both canola and soy. The output of this plant would be Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

Another company is evaluating the possibility of building east of Fairview. This facility will utilize sugar beets as a feedstock and then convert that output to (SAF).

None of the businesses discussed are 100% certain, and there are many drivers affecting the ultimate decision to build or not to build. Of those listed, Garman stated that Cerilon is currently probably the furthest along in their design and permitting processes. It was also noted that Cerilon will be planning an open house in Trenton in early November 2023.


Being from a county that recently lost a coal mine, power plant, and sugar beet plant, a few of the attendees asked why the businesses were not looking to put plants on the Montana side of the border. Garman said, "There are three things that are driving most of these industries' decision to locate in North Dakota, policy, primacy, and geology." While northeastern Montana, mostly, shares the same geology, it is the primacy and policy that is often times the deciding factor for these businesses. Many of these businesses will rely on the ability to capture and sequester carbon dioxide. With this ability, these companies can claim the \$85/ton of CO2 credit currently being offered by the Federal Government. North Dakota is one of only two states that has primacy for permitting CO2 sequestration wells (Class VI). This means that the state can site and permit wells whereas most of the other states rely on the EPA to do that siting and permitting. North Dakota can usually permit a sequestration well in under a year whereas the EPA generally takes many years to accomplish this permitting process. Policy is another area that North Dakota prides itself on the "Innovation over Regulation" mindset. North

Dakota prides itself on moving at the speed of business, allowing companies to get projects done much sooner than some other states.

All five companies are in regard to bioproducts, green and sustainable energies, they will all be in North Dakota, and those that come to fruition will not be completed for at least three years; still, the addition of industry is a boost to businesses in the surrounding areas no matter a person's political leanings, or the state the industry is in.

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# Farmer's Choice Expands to Sidney Area

By Katelyn Sponheim

With the Sidney and surrounding communities bereaved of their sugar beet industry, many farmers have looked to corn and soybeans to fill the gap. To soften the learning curve, Farmer's Choice, McClusky, ND, is bringing their expertise in those products to Sidney.

Duane Peters, Sidney, former Sidney Sugars agronomist, will represent Farmer's Choice in Sidney. He wants local farmers to know that "we are here to help". They have purchased the former Trans-Systems building at 1120 E. Main St. and will be open to the public soon. Farmer's Choice is owned by farmers and the seed and products are tested at irrigated farms in North Dakota. Their motto, "We trust it in ours, you can trust it in yours". is something founder Steve Knorr is passionate about. He started Farmer's Choice five years ago with the goal of offering products that were tested and had proven results in the state, rather than continuing a cycle of trying untested products offered by sales staff to experiment in his, and others, crops.

Since starting Farmer's Choice, Knorr has rapidly expanded the business. They offer a range of goods and services. Seed, biologicals, enzymes, sugars, nutritionals, chemical, fertilizer, and expertise in their application to different operations will all be available at their storefront in Sidney. The seed they offer comes from one of the four seed breeding companies left in the world, with Golden Harvest being their most popular brand. As a 5th generation farmer, he brings over 20 years of experience with irrigated corn and beans in North Dakota to the table, and has staffed his company with farmers and agronomists just as dedicated to serving

farmers as he is. They are currently seeking to hire several more agronomists for the Sidney location, and look forward to adding their expertise to our agricultural community.

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# Montana State Plant Science Research Explores Protein Distribution In Barley

By Reagan Cotton, MSU News Service

Bozeman – Protein content in wheat and barley crops can influence everything from the plant's effectiveness as livestock feed to the clarity of beer brewed with the crops. Research in Montana State University's College of Agriculture is seeking to identify exactly which plant enzymes control this critical crop value.

Andreas Fischer, Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology professor, is using recent funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to fill what he calls a foundational gap in plant science knowledge. The work could ultimately find applications in the development of new grain varieties, an area in which MSU is a regional leader.

Fischer's work focuses on plant senescence, the process by which maturing plants break down at the end of their annual life cycle.

"We see it every fall when the leaves go from green to yellow," said Fischer. "What we see there is really the loss of green leaf pigment, chlorophyll, which is being degraded."

As leaves age, plants break down chloroplasts, where chlorophyll and most leaf proteins are located. Through that process, they release a large amount of nitrogen. That nitrogen can then be transported and repurposed into the growing grains of the wheat or barley plant. Fischer's exploration will examine the first step in the process to identify which enzymes in the plant are responsible for releasing nitrogen from chloroplast proteins.

"We've known for most of the last century that proteases are the enzymes that degrade proteins," said Fischer. "But plant genomes encode something like 700 or 800 proteases, and we only know what a small fraction of those are actually doing in the plant."

Fischer's project, which will be supported by a USDA NIFA grant of just under \$650,000, continues previous work that narrowed down the number of potential proteases to about six. It is one of 22 projects around the nation funded by a \$12 million initiative focused on plant production.

Using a method called transcriptomics, Fischer and collaborators at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel have identified proteases that are activated when barley leaves begin degrading chloroplasts and accessing stored protein. With the new funding, they will genetically turn some of those enzymes off to see if that interrupts the timing and extent of protein redistribution.

"If we know which proteases are important, we can search through barley germplasm and maybe find naturally occurring instances in which that enzyme is not present or is more or less active, which can help adjust seed protein content," said Fischer.

"At some level, it's very basic science, basic plant biology, that we just don't understand very well."

"Being able to breed wheat and barley varieties with higher or lower protein content would help MSU continue its long history of meeting producer needs through plant breeding," said Fischer. Barley with higher protein, for instance, is often better for livestock feed, while barley with lower protein content is better for malting and brewing.

**Montana State University plant science and plant pathology researcher Andreas Fischer inspects barley in a greenhouse. (MSU photo by Marcus "Doc" Cravens)**



MSU's grain varieties have historically proven popular with Montana growers. According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, MSU's Vida spring wheat was the state's leading variety last year with more than 600,000 acres planted, while Warhorse, another MSU variety, was the leading winter wheat variety at more than 350,000 acres.

Hockett, released in 2008, was the second most popular barley variety in Montana, while Haybet and Haxby led the forage and feed categories, respectively. All three are MSU-developed barley varieties. Refining existing lines and developing new ones means that the university can continue serving grain producers by providing them with the varieties that best suit their geographic area and production purposes, and Fischer said the current project will help to further advance variety development.

"The analytics might take a year or two, and then we can start testing experimental barley lines to see if we have the expected results," he said. "Figuring out these proteases might be another screw we can turn to tune the system a bit more."

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# MFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet Competition; Discussion Meet Provides Competition, Knowledge, And Polaris Ranger

Submitted by Rebecca Colnar, Ag NewsWire

Bozeman—The Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee encourages any voting Farm Bureau member ages 18-35 to compete in the Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet, which takes place Thursday, Nov. 9 during the MFBF Annual Convention in downtown Billings. The winner of the Discussion Meet will receive the keys to a new Polaris Ranger, and an expense-paid trip to participate in the national Discussion Meet held during the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention January 2024 in Salt Lake City, UT. In addition to the YF&R Discussion Meet, the Collegiate Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet Final Four will take place late afternoon Friday, Nov. 10.

The Discussion Meet contest is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each competitor. It is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic and is an excellent way for young people to learn more about agricultural issues.

Last November, Mark Boyd, a rancher from Alder who serves on the MFBF YF&R Committee, was the thrilled winner of a Polaris Ranger, donated by participating Polaris dealers in Montana. He also gleaned the opportunity to compete for a Ford truck in the American Farm Bureau Discussion Meet in January 2023 in Puerto Rico.

The young rancher explained his Polaris helped him on the ranch. “The Ranger has been a great machine,” Boyd said. “I’ve loaded a toolbox in it and worked on irrigation equipment in the spring, loaded plumbing parts and tools in the back to work on stock water systems, hauled many 50-pound bags of salt and mineral to various pastures throughout the summer, along with fixing fence and checking cattle.”

He noted that the Ranger donation from Montana Polaris Dealers has increased the level of competition and interest in the MFBF Discussion Meet, which has resulted in increased attendance in the state convention by young Farm Bureau members.

“I believe it has also increased overall involvement of young farmers and ranchers in our organization,” he said. “Shiny toys up for grabs are a great way to raise interest. I believe this has given Polaris additional brand awareness in the Montana ag community, as well, which they deserve for being so generous for the past nine years.”

Boyd had competed in the Discussion Meet five times before winning in 2022 and encourages other young farmers, ranchers and young folks interested in agriculture to jump into the competition.

“I think with each competition you learn and improve. I would encourage YF&R members to continue to compete and study each year. The more familiar you are with each question, the more natural it is going to feel to discuss that question in a committee setting,” he explained. “Every discussion is different and if you’ve studied and prepared, not only will you do well, but you’ve increased your knowledge on an agricultural subject.”

For Discussion Meet questions, visit [www.mfbf.org/Programs/Young-Farmers-Ranchers](http://www.mfbf.org/Programs/Young-Farmers-Ranchers). For questions and information about the Young Farmers & Ranchers program, contact Sue Ann Streufert, 406-587-3153, [sueanns@mfbf.org](mailto:sueanns@mfbf.org). Be sure to follow Montana Farm Bureau on Facebook and Instagram.

Thanks to these participating Polaris dealers for supporting our Young Farmers and Ranchers: Beaverhead Motors – Dillon; Bliss Cycle – Conrad; Basecamp Gallatin – Bozeman; Basecamp Billings – Billings; Helena Cycle Center – Helena;



**Alder Rancher Mark Boyd won the Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet in November 2022 and received the keys to a Polaris Ranger. (Submitted photo)**

Kurt's Polaris – Seeley Lake; Lewistown Honda & Polaris, Lewistown; Redline Sports, Inc – Butte; Riverside Marine & Cycle – Miles City; Russell Motorsports – Missoula; Sports City Cyclery – Great Falls.

## 2023/2024 YF&R Discussion Meet Questions

1. Production agriculture requires a lot of capital. Young farmers and ranchers face challenges gaining access to the capital they need to start or grow their operations. What tools are currently available, and what new programs could be introduced, to help young people access financial resources—and make sound financial decisions—to run their farms and ranches?

2. Working with elected officials in all levels of government is critical to advancing public policy that supports farmers and ranchers. How can Farm Bureau help elected leaders better understand the challenges of the agriculture sector and the importance of supporting the financial viability of America's family farms and ranches?

3. What is sustainable agriculture and how can Farm Bureau help farmers and ranchers access market-based solutions that advance sustainability goals without restricting their ability to stock America's pantries, help feed a growing population and maintain farm profitability?

4. Farmers and ranchers across the country are diverse in not only the goods they produce, but also, in the ways they raise and market them. The Farm Bureau's role is to broadly represent all producers. How can our organization further welcome and engage diverse agricultural communities and cultivate dynamic future Farm Bureau leaders?

5. Agriculture uses water for everything from growing crops, raising livestock and moving products to and from farms and ranches. Water issues are often hotly debated, are unique to each region and can pose significant challenges to growers. How can Farm Bureau help address water management challenges and seek long-term solutions for farmers and ranchers?

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