

Fairview Staff And Students Build Strong Farm To School Program





Fairview students Tom Neu (front), Hunter Whitmus and Tristan Skov picking corn.

Danny Berry carries a armful of corn.

By Michele Seadeek

Connecting our youth with information and understanding of our local foods is the goal of the National and Montana Farm to School Programs. In 2018 staff and FFA and FCCLA students of Fairview High school decided to move forward with adopting and managing this program. The structure of Farm to School is in the program's core elements: Education, School Gardens, and Procurement. According to Montana State University's website (montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool/) detailing the program, it "enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers. Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities such as school gardens, cooking lessons and farm field trips."

Fairview High English teacher and program manager, Faith Oakland is excited for the programs growth that has occurred within this fall semester so far. The program is divided in to two classes, one each semester. In the fall Mrs. Angie Hopes, Family Consumer Science and FCCLA advisor, works with the teens on the process of harvest and processing of fresh produce as part of this program. Mr. Hardy, FFA and Vocational/Agriculture, holds his class and program in the spring where understanding planting and development processes are taught to students. Last spring Mr. Hardy donated an acre of land and seed for the participants to cultivate planting and growth of a corn crop. This past summer students volunteered to manage the crop through irrigation and monitor the development. Starting this fall semester, Mrs. Hopes is having this year's participants in the program reap the benefits of last spring's work by harvesting the corn by hand. Students are learning the processes from start to finish on producing a viable crop of food. To help fund additional projects within the program, the students and staff are selling the large quantity of corn to various local individuals and businesses. As the program grows and develops, the program managers will add additional projects that help support the core structure of the Farm to School Program. "Like a large greenhouse," says Mrs. Oakland. Last school year the program, in conjunction with Mr. Hardy's construction class, built raised beds that were placed just west of the school at the southeast corner of the relatively new track field. This area is also large enough to put up a decent sized green house to support fresh produce throughout the school year for students and empower youth to understand the efforts of local farms and benefits of local produce. Mrs. Oakland states that fund raising efforts are going on to help finance the greenhouse, gardens, irrigation drips and fruit tree projects for the upcoming semesters.

Providing local fresh produce for school lunches takes significantly more time to prepare. As a way to support the program and learn valuable skills, students in Mrs. Hopes' culinary class will be certified to work in the school kitchen for the additional prep work needed. "The school staff are strong supporters of this program," Says Faith. Part of the program educates youth in the value of an individual's role within a school and community in supporting these types of programs and way of life.

At Fairview High the Farm to School program also likes to get the community involved. Harvest of the Month and Harvest Meal invite the community to enjoy foods created by students and soon grown by students. The Share Table is where excess packaged foods are set for kids and reduces food waste. Ag Days sees farm equipment, wheat planting and grinding, and butter making happen as well farm animals, farm and production facilities tours. Farmer in the Classroom is a program provided by Josie Evenson, MSU extension agent. "One of the successes of this program is that kids learn start to finish production; where their food really comes from, how it's produced and how it's presented," says Mrs. Oakland. She is also really proud that this is a program, which once fully established, can fund itself while providing fresh produce for Fairview school meals.

Faith recognizes that many local families grow gardens or have fruit trees and have excess produce when they harvest. "Anyone can donate fresh produce to the school," states Mrs. Oakland. "The produce must be topped and washed before delivery to the school and all deliveries must be coordinated with me first to ensure as little produce goes to waste. It takes preparation to add items to the meals." If you are interested in donating fresh produce from your garden or would like to support projects, please contact Faith Oakland, Farm to School program manager at Fairview School 406-742-5265.

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Two New Winter Wheat Varieties To Be Released From MSU Foundation Seed Program

Reagan Colyer, MSU News Service

Bozeman – A pair of new winter wheat varieties soon to be released by Montana State University breeders are designed to help address two issues that plague wheat farmers across the state, sawflies and stripe rust fungus, while improving crop yields.

The Bobcat and Flathead varieties will be released this fall from the Montana Foundation Seed Program, according to veteran breeders Phil Bruckner and Jim Berg. The new varieties will be used to produce registered and certified seed through certified growers across Montana and should be available for purchase by the public between the 2020 and 2021 growing seasons. Two varieties released in 2018, Ray and Four0six, are now available for purchase statewide.

Bruckner and Berg have a combined six decades of wheat breeding expertise and have made thousands of crosses in their careers to address various characteristics of winter wheat, from maturation date to head size or resistance to a particular pest or disease.

Bobcat, they said, is the result of what the pair called a "nothing-special" kind of cross back in 2007, a blending of two solid-stemmed wheat varieties that had never been released on their own.

"There was nothing distinguished about the parents, but when they got exposed to sawfly, there were only two lines standing in the field: Warhorse and Bobcat," Bruckner said, referring to another MSU variety released in 2013.

Wheat stem sawflies bore into the stems of the wheat plant to lay their eggs, weakening the stem and often causing significant economic losses for wheat farmers. Solid-stemmed wheat varieties were developed to help combat this, though they

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trade insect resistance for yield, generally producing less than hollow-stemmed varieties. Increased sawfly resistance, along with yield improvement, is still a goal of many wheat breeding enterprises.

Bobcat stands out, Bruckner said, for having higher yields than Warhorse, which is the standard for sawfly resistance in Montana and the leading solid-stemmed variety in the state.

"Of course, it's named Bobcat, so we have pretty high hopes for it," said Bruckner with a laugh. "We wouldn't name just any variety that. You only get one Bobcat."

Flathead, the second new variety soon to be released, is named for the area where it was developed. It was bred for resistance to a fungus that has caused serious problems for wheat growers in the area: stripe rust.

Stripe rust was never much of a concern in Montana until 2008, when an epidemic wiped out an entire line of MSU winter wheat called Genou. The area around Flathead Lake and near Kalispell often sees more stripe rust than other areas of the state, which is why Flathead wheat was developed there.

Flathead comes from a cross between MSU's 2005 Yellowstone variety, known for its high yield potential, and a Washington State spring wheat that carried the two genes known to help combat stripe rust. Varieties with those two genes are impervious to all known types of stripe rust, Bruckner said.

Flathead also has the unique attribute of an earlier maturation date, a first for the MSU library of winter wheat varieties. The aim is to offer growers a catalog of seed that provides something for every need within Montana's 2 million acres of winter wheat planted each year.

"There's a lot of places in the state where early varieties are advantageous," said Berg. "Flathead has a combination of good yield, early maturity and shorter stature, and it makes a good loaf of bread, plus that stripe rust resistance."

While the variety is named for the Flathead Valley, Bruckner and Berg noted that it can be planted across the state, and since stripe rust is the most prevalent wheat rust in the Pacific Northwest region, it could fare well in surrounding states too.

Test fields of Bobcat and Flathead were harvested for Foundation Seed in late August by Dave Gettel, farm manager for MSU's Post Agronomy Farm. Having farmed for decades in north central Montana before working for MSU, he knows what to look for in winter wheat, and he was the first person to run the new varieties through a combine. True to it its purpose, the Flathead matured about a week earlier than any other variety.

"Sometimes wheat will run out of moisture before it matures, so maturing earlier often means better kernel size and quality," said Gettel. "And even though the Flathead isn't a solid-stemmed variety, the fact that it matures faster makes it another tool that can be used to fight sawflies. It threshed well and combined well, and it really finished better than the other varieties, with better test weight and better yield."

The Bobcat wheat took a few more days to be ready for threshing, and Gettel said he was pleasantly surprised. Solid-stemmed wheat can often be more challenging to thresh and put through a combine, since there is more fiber for the machine to break down. Gettel said Bobcat didn't pose the same problem.

"The Bobcat was within five bushels per acre of the Flathead in terms of yield, and it harvested pretty well," he said. "The fact that it's a better yielder than some of the previous sawfly-resistant varieties, plus the fact that it combines and threshes well, certainly makes it something I'd want to try if I was farming commercially."

Bruckner and Berg said a huge amount of support helps their team continue to work on new crosses for Montana wheat farmers.

"The Cereal Quality Lab, regional testing at nine different sites, funding from the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee and all the producers who support our program," Berg said. "We're all in this together, and their commitment has allowed us to do what we do."

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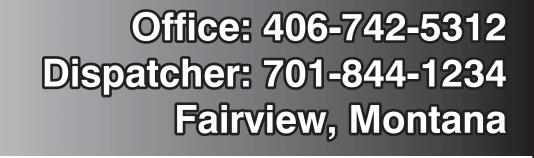
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Steer Donations Needed for MSU's Student Steer-A-Year Program

MSU News Service

BOZEMAN – Montana ranchers are encouraged to donate a steer for the benefit of the learning and development of next generation agricultural producers. Montana State University's College of Agriculture is seeking donations of steers for its Steer-A-Year program. The program accepts donated steers, monetary support and feed.

The donated steers allow students in the program to engage in hands-on learning of the beef industry. Students participate in applied learning experiences and courses such as beef cattle management, professional development in beef production systems, livestock management, meat science and livestock evaluation.

Through Steer-A-Year, students care daily for steers that Montana ranchers have donated to the university. The steers live at MSU's Bozeman Agricultural Research and Teaching, or BART, Farm, and students are responsible for everything from feeding the animals to health checks and vaccinations. Students also provide steer production data — such as average daily weight gain, carcass information when the meat is harvested and even genetic testing to the ranchers who donated them.

Hannah DelCurto Wyffels, instructor in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences and Steer-A-Year program manager, said the program has grown from eight

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to 30 steers in the last few years. The increase in donated steers has increased the number of students who are able to participate in Steer-A-Year, she said.

"The steer contributions are the basis of what we do and what we have the potential to do," Wyffels said. "Our partnership with Montana livestock producers is one that we're very proud of, because our stakeholders understand that teaching the next generation of agriculture leaders begins with important first-hand experience for our students."

Steer-A-Year students sell the steers directly to MSU's Culinary Services. Last year, students sold 30 steers to the program, and the College of Agriculture and the Montana Made Program in Culinary Services hosted a Montana Steer-A-Year beef dinner for the public in the Miller Dining Commons. The Steer-A-Year cattle are processed at Pioneer Meats in Big Timber and are used for anything from large rotisserie roasts to stews in campus dining halls and university events. One of the finest cuts, New York strip steak, is grilled at the First Meal event, when up to 4,000 new students gather for an outdoor picnic at MSU's Romney Oval.

Awards are presented to the best initial feeder steer, the steer with the top rate of gain and best carcass. Profits from sales of the steers fund student activities in the College of Agriculture. Last year, thanks to funds from Steer-A-Year proceeds, Wyffels said MSU's Livestock Judging Team competed at the National Western Stock Show in Denver; the Houston Livestock Show in Houston; and the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic in Kearney, Nebraska.

Donated steers make a direct impact on students, particularly those participating in the livestock judging team, Wyffels said.

"The funds allow judging team members to compete nationally and learn the importance of professionally representing Montana and MSU," she said. "The entire program represents agriculture from every corner: animal science education, business, economics and, finally, getting the product to the consumer."

Approximately 20 students from various backgrounds and majors in agriculture studies are enrolled this year in the Steer-A-Year course, Wyffels said. She noted that the practical learning experiences with the steers are valuable for all of those students.

Steers will be accepted between Oct. 31 and Nov. 18. For more information about the Steer-A-Year program or how to donate a steer, contact Wyffels at 406-994-3752 or Hannah.delcurto@montana.edu.



The Montana State University Steer-A-Year program is accepting donations of steers, monetary support and feed for the 2019-2020 academic year for engagement in hands-on learning of the beef industry. Steers are fed, kept and housed at the Bozeman Agricultural Research and Teaching Farm (BART Farm) in Bozeman, Montana. MSU Photo by Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez

FARM AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019 • 10:00 A.M.

LOCATION: From Circle, MT-Take Hwy 200 E toward Glendive for 3 miles, turn left on Cottonwood Creek Road for 6.7 miles. From Glendive, MT-Take Hwy 200 W toward Circle for 36 miles, turn on Road 401 for 2.3 miles, turn left on Road 405 for 4.5 miles. Lunch will be available

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- end Loader, 3,210 hours +2006 JD 7820 MFWD, 3 pt., PTO w/ JD 747 Front-end Loader w/bucket and grapple, 6,285 hours +2014 JD 328E Skid Steer, ac, heater, 920 hours +Skid Steer Pallet Forks w/extensions

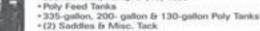
- Skid Steer Attachments (posthole digger, 96" byd tiller, stump remover, snow plow, bucket w/grapple)
 Flox-i-coil 45' Air Drill, 9" spacing, 2420 pull-between
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- engine hours, 1,358 header hours +(2) 2018 JD 560M Big Round Balers 1@4,400 bales & 1@5,100bales (1-baler w/liquid inoculate)
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- -3 pt. Bale Unroller
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- + Palco Red Cattle Chute
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- Stur-D Portable Cattle Tub & Alley
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 - *Winkle Panel Trailer w/32 Panels
 - *(80) 10' Portable Panels
 - (4) Calf Hutches
 - +(14) Stur-D Bottomless Feed Bunks
 - *(4) Stur-D Double Round Bale
 - (3) 20' Blue Bunk Feeders
 - . Sioux Bale Feeders (rough)
 - * Calf Feeders
 - *(4) Vem Portable Creep Feeders
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 2013 JD 850l Side-by-Side, cab, hear, AC, 3,000 miles
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NDSU Suggests Waiting to Make Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage Decisions

The sign-up period for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program decision under the 2018 Farm Bill has started and will run until March 15, 2020, though Andrew Swenson, NDSU Extension farm management specialist, advises producers to wait.

"Producers have the opportunity to get more clarity on prices and yields by waiting," Swenson says.

Producers have the option of selecting either PLC or ARC-County on a crop-by-crop basis within each Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm unit, whereas the ARC-Individual program option includes total crop base acres of the enrolled farms. The program election decision is for both the 2019 and 2020 crop years.

To determine payments for the 2019 crop year, both safety net options use 2019 national marketing year average prices (MYA), but the ARC-County program also uses 2019 county average yields.

The 2019 marketing year period varies by crop. The period for wheat, barley and oats is June 1, 2019, through May 31, 2020. For canola, flax, field peas and lentils the period is July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. For soybeans, corn and sunflowers the period is Sept. 1, 2019, through Aug. 31, 2020.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides an update on the projected MYA prices each month based on sales up to that point. With each month the price projection becomes more accurate.

"Yields are more difficult to project," Swenson says. "The primary source of ARC-County yields, starting in 2019, will be from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) instead of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)."

There are no estimates by RMA of county yields, and the yields used by the FSA for the ARC-County program are not published until payments are announced.

NASS county yield survey results for the 2019 crop of wheat, barley and oats are available in the middle of December whereas corn, soybeans and sunflowers yields will be published towards the end of February 2020.

These should help indicate the level of yields, Swenson adds. Also, since the ARC/PLC signup period is after harvest, producers will have an idea of yields in the county.

Producers contemplating the ARC-Individual option have an information advantage. ARC-Individual payments are determined by farm level yields, therefore producers should be able to determine 2019 crop year payments, if any, under the ARC-Individual program well before the signup decision deadline.

"Currently, PLC looks like the best option for nearly all commodities covered by the ARC/PLC program due to the drop in commodity prices in recent years," Swenson advises. "Because time is in your favor; take advantage of it to make a more informed decision."

FARM AUGION







WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16, 2019 11:00 A.M.

LOCATION: From Brockton, MT- Take Hwy 2 E for 2.8 miles, turn right on Road BIA Route 1 for 3/10ths of a OWNERS: Brad & Val Bender (406) 786-7233 or (406) 786-7234 Lunch will be available.

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- *1957 D4 Caterpillar & Dozer
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- * JD 15' 5-shank Disc Ripper, model 510
- JD 32' Toolbar, model 1610 & Bee Line Boxes
- *JD 32' Crust Buster Cultivator
- 28' Crust Buster Cultivator

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*Lathe Tools

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- = 1975 Dodge D-600 Truck, 16' box & hoist, roll-
- 1969 Dodge D-500 Truck, 16' box & hoist, 28,700
- * 1995 Dodge Ram 2500 V-10 Pickup, 4x4 (needs engine)
- 1978 GMC Pickup, 2x4
- *1965 Chevy Pickup (needs work)
- 1975 Town & Country Station Wagon
- Brandt 8"x41" Auger w/Honda GX620 engine
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- (2) Hydraulic Drill Fill Augers
- Antique 1-Way, plows, brush plow, tumble bug
- *Brockton Elevator Barrels







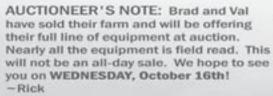






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- Prowler Camper Trailer
- + 1976 Camper Trailer
- JD 425 Garden Tractor w/60" mower
- +60" Tiller
- JD 624 Tiller
- Yardman Chipper/Shredder
- Several Push Mowers
- DR Trimmer
- *Roll-a-way Bed Frame
- Wood Bunk Bed Frames
- Old Piano
- Antique Baby Crib & Changing Table
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LYREC is accepting donations of non-perishable food items & toiletries. All donations will be delivered to the food bank. LYREC is also collecting winter gear that will be donated to the Salvation Army. Please check the dates on all food items. The food bank is not allowed to take outdated foods.

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Construction of LYIP's Concrete Weir and Fish Bypass Is Underway

By Dianne Swanson

Construction is in full swing on the fish bypass and concrete weir in the Yellowstone River, to the delight of Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project manager James Brower and the board of directors who got to see the progress first hand on Monday, September 16.

Dave Polette, project manager for Ames Construction, said he is pleased with progress so far. "It's going good," he commented.

The two phases of the project are proceeding concurrently with the fish bypass which is approximately 15 to 20% dug out. Temporary coffer dams at each end keep the river at bay while dewatering wells and pipe line the area on Joe's Island, keeping the site as dry as possible to allow the digging to continue. Ames expects that part of the construction to be completed by Spring, 2020. As dirt is removed, riprap and cobble are added to the bypass bed, with extra boulders being added at the curves, all to prevent erosion.

As the fish bypass is being excavated, a causeway is being constructed in the river to facilitate building the concrete weir. The first section of steel pilings has been driven 16' into the river bed and now awaits concrete. Since the concrete weir has been reduced to just six feet wide, additional rock will be placed between the old weir and the new to allow for a wave effect, providing better fish migration. The USACE determined that the local rock is not suitable however, so a more durable rock will need to be hauled in, possibly from as far away as Lewistown.

Ames plans to have the east side of the weir completed before they have to pull out of the river on April 15. When work resumes July 1, they will begin from the old head gates on the west side, leaving a 125 foot open channel in the middle.

With 40 to 50 workers on site, Ames is looking to hire experienced equipment operators, carpenters, welders, pile drivers and concrete workers. This is a two- year project paying Davis Bacon wages. For more information, contact the Montana Job Service in Glendive or visit www.amesconstruction.com.



Work on the concrete weir is progressing with the first section of steel pilings in place. Pictured are, back, L to R, LYIP manager James Brower, board member Dale Danielson and Ames Construction project manager Dave Polette. Front row, L to R, are board members Todd Cayko, Conrad Conradsen and Mark Iversen. Not pictured are board members Don Steinbeisser, Sr. and Tony Barone.

Joe's Island has been closed to all outside traffic or recreation for the two year duration of the project. LYIP, Ames Construction and federal agencies are working hand in hand with the Dawson and Richland County Sheriff's departments to provide additional security at the sites. Any trespass or vandalism will be a federal felony and will be prosecuted through federal courts. "We are practicing 'Catch & Keep' Brower emphasized instead of 'Catch & Release' like previous protests.

Glendive's Harvestfest & Junkapalooza Sunday, October 13

Submitted by Peggy Iba

You have a job to do when you go to the Harvestfest & Junkapalooza in Glendive at the Dawson County Fairgrounds October 13. Either enter the salsa contest or sample the salsas in a blind taste test and vote for your favorite.

There are three categories to enter: traditional fresh, traditional canned and any other, like corn or mango salsa. To enter the salsa contest Sunday, October 13 bring two pint jars or a quart container of salsa to the tables set up along the midway by the free stage at the Dawson County Fairgrounds by 11:45 a.m. If the second jar isn't used for samples, it will be returned.

People will get to taste the entries from noon to 3 p.m. with tortilla chips donated by Los Amigos and vote for their favorites by number in the three categories. Salsa should be labeled hot, medium or mild with name and phone number on the bottom of the jars.

Winners will be announced at 3:15 p.m. on the free stage when Kenny Slagsvold and friends are performing. Salsa winners in the three categories receive a certificate and \$10 cash and first runner up \$5 and of course bragging rights.

Rita and Steve Berube are chairing the salsa contest. For more information, contact them at 406-377-4403 or berube@midrivers.com. Contestants can retrieve their jars and any remaining salsa after 3 p.m.

This is just one of the activities during Glendive's Harvestfest & Junkapalooza October 13 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. as people celebrate local agriculture and the last farmers market of the season. Enjoy great vendor foods, musical entertainment and more while shopping for everything from produce and pumpkins to vintage



furniture, creative arts and home décor. People are encouraged to bring apples and containers for free use of the cider press. There's photo ops for fall pictures taken by a professional photographer. Young and old enjoy the hay rides, pumpkin patch, haybale maze and corn "sandbox." Kids 10 and under are free. Adults \$3.

Wagons and wheelbarrows will be available to haul your pumpkins and treasures to your vehicles.

Anyone interested in a booth inside, contact Dawn Torres at 406+939-4771 or outside contact the Farm to Table Store at 406-377-4285.

Ag In The Classroom Teaches Farm Safety, Food Sourcing To Area Students

Ag In The Classroom Took Place, Thursday, September 16 At The Richland County Event Center In Sidney Ag In the Classroom has been an event for several years and teaches second and third graders about farm safety, how food grows, and where it comes from. Ag committee chair Hannah Jepsen said it's an important event to have because it teaches students farm safety. She went on to add that these students are the next generation of famers and even bankers.

Tim Fine explained that they offer different projects to students each year but they're consistent in teaching farm safety. This year, students had the opportunity to try two different apples and see which one they liked best and voted on them. Another station they had allowed students to try pollen.

Several schools from the area participated in Ag In the Classroom this year. It's an event that is sure to continue to be a tradition for years to come.





FFA members explain to students where sugar and honey come from. They learned the different stages of a honey bee's life and how they make honey.



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