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# High Tunnels

See Page 14

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**September**  
**2016**

Photo courtesy of Kyla Splichal.

**Farm & Ranch  
Monthly Magazine**

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PO Box 1207 • Sidney, MT 59270 • 406-433-3306



# 2016 A Challenging Year For Beet Growers



**By Dianne Swanson**

It has been an interesting and challenging year for Sidney Sugars, Inc. and area beet growers.

Most recently, a breach in Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project's main canal south of Sidney stopped irrigation water from Intake downstream. Cofferdams installed by Franz Construction and LYIP returned water to the Savage area, with approximately 5400 acres able to receive water. While 13,000 acres of beet crop are affected, the largest area of concern is about 3,000 acres on gravel ridges and sand bars between Sidney and Fairview.

Sidney Sugars agricultural manager Duane Peters offered high praise to both LYIP and Franz Construction for their heroic efforts to repair the canal breach. "They've been really good with progress reports. If everything goes well, there should be water by the end of the week," he said. General manager Dave Garland also praised both entities. "We were out there yesterday (August 29) watching Franz Construction workers. They were like ants, all over, getting the job done. It's amazing what the local companies have done, stepping up to get the water flowing again."

Root samples will be taken Thursday to determine the progress of the crop. Projections are for 30.5 tons, which would be slightly down from the past two years. The agriculturalists are happy with what they're seeing, with bigger beets due to a thinner stand. "It shows all of the hard work the farmers have put in this year," Peters said.

A three inch rain, which should have been great, caused a lot of crusting. Replant acres were higher, with rain, wind, and crusting all issues. The thinner stand was a result, with bigger beets. "The bigger beets are not necessarily better," Peters explained. "Sometimes the sugar isn't as good. But, with the new varieties, that may change."

All areas have had some kind of event which could affect tonnage. Hail, rain, wind, and even pipelines going through fields, will all have an impact on this year's crop.

The projected date for beginning harvest is September 26. A decision on which stations will open first will be made after this week's root samples are analyzed. Beets will also be pulled in the stressed areas to see what they look like. "Our compliments

go to the growers for all the hard work they have put in this year, and we are looking forward to a safe and smooth harvest," Peters stated.

Since campaign ended in March, Sidney Sugars employees have been busy getting ready for the next one. Raymond Carlson, operations manager, explained that there are projects every year, designed to make the operation more efficient and safer.

Concrete work was done in the beet tailings area to minimize sloppy areas. "It's a big improvement that the workers in that area will really appreciate," he said.

They are wrapping up an upgrade to the motor control center, replacing electrical gear on the beet end, making the system more reliable.

"There are always more general, capital improvements being made," Carlson said. "We're constantly adding more automation. This year we worked on the drying area, the first of a two to three year project."

More culverts have been purchased to use for storage and cooling. Those will primarily go to the Sugar Valley Station at Fairview.

A lot of work has gone into making the tare lab more efficient, a fact that everyone will appreciate, from the growers to the temporary workers who fill the lab positions each harvest.

Bottom screens in the tower diffuser, which was put in in 1998, were replaced this summer. "That was a major undertaking which previously would have needed to be done by another company. However, we have some good talent in-house and were able to do that ourselves," Carlson said proudly. The lime kiln was staring to show some concerning wear, so it has been rebricked, making it good for years to come.

One of the boilers has been retubed. "We've gotta have steam," Carlson exclaimed.

After several years of struggling to find qualified personnel, the employment picture at Sidney Sugars is pretty good. "It's nice to see some of our employees who have been around for several campaigns start to take ownership," Carlson said. Applications are up for this season, but the company is always looking for good workers.





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# Richland County Fair Grand Champions



Richland County 4-H held their annual livestock auction at the Richland County Fair in Sidney on August 5th.

Above: Tana Kostecky poses with her Grand Champion market steer purchased by Border Steel.

Right: Marett Schieber shows her Grand Champion market hog during the livestock sale. Schieber's hog was purchased by Timber Tree Service.

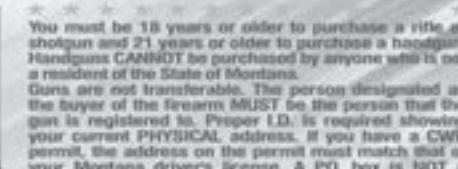




# BILL BECKS SPORTING GOODS ESTATE AUCTION

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## GUNS (Majority are New)

**RIFLES**

- **Baikal 7.62x39**, 12H18MN, lever, Single shot (no box)
- **Browning 25-06**, Hunter X bolt, Lmbd. Edition w/Bases and Rings
- **Browning 338 Win.mag**, A bolt Stainless stalker
- **Bushmaster .223(5.56)**, Carbon-15 Bf, Semi-auto
- **Bushmaster .223(5.56)**, XM-15-E2S, Semi-auto
- **Colt-Remington 22LR**, M4 Carbine, Semi-auto
- **DPMS .223(5.56)**, A-15, Semi-auto\*
- **DPMS .223(5.56)**, A-15, Semi-auto\*
- **DSA .308**, SAS56AL, Semi-auto
- **HENRY .22Mag**, H001M, Lever action
- **HENRY .22Mag**, H001TM, Lever/octagon barrel
- **HENRY 22 S/L/LR**, H001, Lever action
- **HENRY 22 LR**, H001, Lever action
- **HENRY 22LR**, Youth Golden Boy, Lever action
- **HI POINT 40 S&W**, 409STSPRIO, Semi-auto
- **H&R/NEF .243**, 582/Y43, Single shot w/scope
- **H&R/NEF 30-06**, 582-306, Single shot
- **KEYSTONE SPTG. ARMS .22LR**, Crickett (pink), Single shot
- **KEYSTONE SPTG. ARMS .22LR**, RWB syn., Single shot
- **MARLIN .22LR**, 915V, Single shot
- **MARLIN .22LR**, 925C, Bolt-Camo
- **MARLIN 22 Mag**, 882, Bolt
- **MARLIN 22 Mag**, 882 SS, Bolt-stainless
- **MARLIN 45-70**, 1895, Lever action
- **MITCHELL'S MAUSERS 8mm**, 08K of WWII Bolt
- **MOSSBERG 223**, MVP Predator, Bolt-Gray laminate
- **REMINGTON 243**, 770 Youthladies, Bolt w/scope
- **REMINGTON 30-06**, 750 Woodmaster, Semi-auto
- **REMINGTON 30-06**, 700 BDL, Bolt
- **REMINGTON 7mm Rem mag**, 700 LH, Bolt Left hand
- **REMINGTON 7mm Rem mag**, 700 BDL, Bolt
- **RUGER .22LR**, 10/22 RB, Semi-auto
- **RUGER .223**, Mini-14/S, Semi-auto
- **RUGER .243**, American, Bolt
- **SAVAGE .22LR**, MKIIGLY, Single shot Left Hand
- **SAVAGE .22LR**, MKIIG, Bolt
- **SAVAGE .22LR**, MKIIGL, Bolt, Left Hand
- **SAVAGE .22LR**, 640P, Semi-Auto
- **SAVAGE .22LR**, 640, Semi-auto
- **SAVAGE 17HMR**, 90R17, Bolt w/scope
- **SAVAGE .223**, 12 FV/Varmint, Bolt
- **SAVAGE .243**, 11 (PYX3), Bolt w/scope
- **SAVAGE 25-06**, 111 XP-Trophy, Bolt w/scope
- **SAVAGE .270**, 111XP-Trophy, Bolt w/scope
- **SAVAGE 30-06**, 111XP-Trophy, Bolt w/scope
- **SAVAGE 30-06**, 111XP-Trophy, Bolt w/scope, Left hand
- **SAVAGE 30-06**, 116 stainless (Used), Bolt w/scope (no box)
- **SAVAGE 300 Win Mag.**, 111 Trophy, Bolt w/scope
- **SAVAGE 7mm Rem mag**, 111XP Bolt w/scope
- **(2) SPRINGFIELD ARMOY .308**, (7.62x51), M1A-STD/Loaded, Semi-auto\*
- **WEATHERBY .223**, VUD-2 Vanguard, Bolt
- **WEATHERBY .300 Why Mag**, Vanguard w/scope, Bolt
- **(2) WINCHESTER .22LR**, 52 B, Bolt (new w/boxes)
- **WINCHESTER .22LR**, Wildcat, Bolt
- **WINCHESTER .243**, 70 Westerner, Bolt
- **WINCHESTER .270**, 70 Black Shadow, Bolt w/scope

## Bushmaster 50 BMG w/wheeled gun case

- **WINCHESTER .308**, 100 (used), Semi-auto (no box)
- **WINCHESTER .338**, Win Mag 70 Classic Sporter, Bolt
- **WINCHESTER .44 mag**, 94 AE, Lever action (no box)
- **WINCHESTER .32 Win**, 94, mfg 1948, Lever action (no box)
- **WINCHESTER .32 Win**, 94, mfg 1951, Lever action (no box)
- **WINCHESTER 30-30**, 94 Wells Fargo Comm., NIB, Lever action
- **SHOTGUNS**
- **BAIKAL (made in Russia) 12ga.**, 2 1/4", MP220, 20" SXS Dbl Bt
- **BROWNING 20ga.**, 3" BPS Hunter Pump
- **H&R 20ga.**, 3" SB1-250 Youth, Single shot
- **H&R 20ga.**, 3" SB1-SN2 Tamer, Single shot
- **(2) H&R 20ga.**, 3" SB1-120 Pardner, Single shot (new w/boxes)
- **H&R 20ga.**, 2 1/4"-3" 1871 LLC Pardner, Pump
- **H&R 12ga.**, 3" Topper 098, Single shot
- **LC SMITH 12ga.**, Damascus Barrels (Used) SXS (no box)
- **LC SMITH 12ga.**, Ideal Grade (Used), SXS auto ejectors (no box)
- **NEUMANN & LIEGE 10ga.**, Made in Belgium, SXS extractors (no box)
- **REMINGTON 20ga.**, 870 Express, Pump
- **REMINGTON 12ga.**, 2 1/4", 3" 870 Express, Pump
- **REMINGTON 12ga.**, 2 1/4", 3", 3 1/2" 870 Smag XCS, Pump
- **REMINGTON 12ga.**, 870 Wingmaster shotgun
- **TRUSTAR 12ga.**, 3" Raptor SA, Semi-auto
- **WINCHESTER .410ga.**, Model 37 Steel Bt 3" (Used), Single shot (no box)
- **WINCHESTER .410ga.**, 37-A, N.I.B., Single shot
- **WINCHESTER .20ga.**, 37-A, Single shot (not original box)
- **WINCHESTER .20ga.**, 1300 Compact/Speed, Pump
- **WINCHESTER 12ga.**, Model 37 Steel Bt 2 1/4" (Used), Single shot (no box)
- **WINCHESTER 12ga.**, 3" Mag 12 Duck Gun, mfg. 1957 (Used), Pump (no box)
- **HANDGUNS**
- **(2) AUSTRIA LEGACY ISSC 22LR**, M22, Semi-auto, Pink/Black
- **BENETTA 9mm**, MDA1, Semi-auto, 2-15 md mags
- **BERSA .380**, Thunder 380 Mlt, Semi-auto
- **CENTURY ARMS ZASTAVA 9mm**, M70A, Semi-auto, 2-9 md mags
- **CHARTER ARMS 44spt**, Bulldog SS, Revolver
- **(2) CHIAFFA 22LR**, 1911-229K, Semi-auto, 2Mags
- **COLT-WALTHER 22LR**, 1911 Railgun, Semi-auto
- **DAVIS INDUSTRIES 22LR**, D-22, 2-shot, Derringer
- **(2) HERITAGE MFG. 22LR**, RR22B4, Revolver
- **(4) HERITAGE MFG. 22LR & 22mag**, RR22MB6, Revolver
- **HI POINT 9mm**, C-9, Semi-auto w/holster
- **HI POINT .45 ACP**, JH9, Semi-auto
- **MAGNUM RESEARCH MR DESERT EAGLE 44**, Mag, MRDE44, Semi-auto
- **RUGER 22LR & 22mag**, NR-9L, Super single Sx revolver
- **RUGER 357 mag**, RDA-34-H Revolver
- **RUGER 44mag**, Super Redhawk/SS, Revolver
- **S&R ARMS 9 mm**, SAR K2P9, Semi-auto

- **S&G-S&UER 45ACP**, P245-45, Semi-auto, 2-6md mags
- **SAATH & WESSON 22LR**, MP-22, Semi-auto
- **SAATH & WESSON 9mm**, 5906 SS, Semi-auto USED 2-15md mags (have box)
- **SAATH & WESSON 45ACP**, 645, Semi-auto, USED 2-6md mags (have box)
- **TAURUS 22LR**, M94 SS4, Revolver
- **TAURUS 22LR**, M94 BL, Revolver
- **TAURUS 9 mm**, PT709, Semi-auto
- **TAURUS 38spt.**, 85BL, Revolver
- **TAURUS 357mag**, M66/SS6, Revolver
- **TAURUS 357mag**, M66/SS6, Revolver
- **TAURUS 40 SW**, PT24/70SS, Semi-aut
- **TAURUS 44mag**, M44CP/SS, Revolver
- **TAURUS 45ACP**, PT-1911, Semi-auto
- **TAURUS 45ACP**, PT-1911 AR Stainless, Semi-au
- **TAURUS 45LC/410**, The Judge 4510, Revolver
- **(2) TAURUS-BLEM 22LR**, M94SS A/S, Revolver
- **(2) TAURUS-BLEM 22LR**, M94BL A/S, Revolver
- **TAURUS-BLEM 22mag**, M941 SS, Revolver
- **(2) TAURUS-BLEM 38spt**, 85BL, Revolver
- **(2) TAURUS-BLEM 38spt**, 85S/S, Revolver
- **TAURUS-BLEM 45LC/410**, The Judge 4510, Revolver

## AMMO

- **38-55 Winchester Oliver**
- **Winchester Commemorative**, 2 bxs
- **32-40 Winchester: John Wayne**
- **Commemorative**, 5 bxs
- **50 BMG**, 10 bxs., 10 mds ea. Bx
- **22 Lft**, 50 bx., 100 mds/box
- **22 mag**, 20 bx., 50 mds/box
- **17 HMR**, 20 bx., 50 mds/box
- **222 Remington**, 2 bx.
- **223**, 120 bx., 50 mds/box
- **5.56**, 30 bx., 20 mds/box
- **22-250**, 3 bx.
- **243**, 13 bx.
- **25-35 Winchester**, 2 bx.
- **257 Roberts**, 3 bx.
- **25-06**, 13 bx.
- **260 Remington**, 2 bx.
- **264 Win. Mag**, 2 bx.
- **270**, 21 bx.
- **284 Win. Mag**, 1 bx.
- **280 Remington**, 5 bxs.
- **6mm Remington**, 1 bx.
- **6.5 Rem. Mag**, 1 bx.
- **30-30**, 30 bxs.
- **300 Win. Mag.**, 17 bxs.
- **300 Rem. Ultra Mag**, 2 bxs.
- **300 Savage**, 3 bxs.
- **300 WSM**, 12 bxs.
- **30 Carbine**, 3 bxs.
- **32 Win. Spl.**, 4 bxs.
- **270 Why Mag**, 9 bxs
- **7mm Why Mag**, 5 bxs
- **300 Why Mag**, 3 bxs
- **7 mm Rem Mag**, 17 bxs
- **7mm WSM**, 4 bxs
- **30-06 Sprg**, 53 bxs
- **338 Win Mag**, 4 bxs
- **350 Rem Mag**, 3 bxs
- **350 Winchester**, 1 bx
- **375 Winchester**, 3 bxs
- **375 H&H Mag**, 3 bxs
- **30-40 Krag**, 1 bx
- **7mm Mauser**, 2 bxs
- **8mm Mauser**, 2 bxs
- **308 Win**, 14 bxs
- **7.62X51**, 2 bxs
- **7.62X39**, 2 bxs
- **7.62X54R**, 3 bxs
- **308 7.62 Nato**, 20 bxs
- **Norma 6.5 JAP**, 2 bxs
- **Norma 7.65 ARG**, 1 bx
- **Norma 6.5 Caro**, 1 bx
- **Norma 7.7 JAP**, 2 bxs
- **308 Norma Magnum**, 2 bxs
- **17 Remington**, 2 bxs
- **218 Bee Winchester**, 2 bxs
- **25 auto**, 3 bx
- **32 auto**, 1 bx
- **32 H&H mag**, 3 bxs
- **35 Colt New Police**, 1 bx
- **30 Luger**, 1 bx
- **32-20**, 1 bx
- **32 S&W Lang**, 1 bx
- **357 Rem Max**, 4 bxs
- **357 Sig**, 4 bxs
- **357 Mag**, 17 bxs
- **38 auto**, 1 bx
- **38 Super auto**, 3 bxs
- **38 Spl**, 10 bxs, 50 mds ea.
- **38 Spl**, 4 bxs, 20 mds ea

You must be 18 years or older to purchase a rifle, or shotgun and 21 years or older to purchase a handgun. Handguns CANNOT be purchased by anyone who is not a resident of the State of Montana. Guns are not transferable. The person designated as the buyer of the firearm MUST be the person that the gun is registered to. Proper I.D. is required showing your current PHYSICAL address. If you have a CWP permit, the address on the permit must match that of your Montana drivers license. A P.O. box is NOT a physical address.

All firearm transfers will be done through an FFL dealer and all Federal, state and Local laws apply.

In the event the buyer needs or wishes the firearm be shipped to their local FFL dealer, shipping and any other additional costs involved with the transfer will be the responsibility of the buyer and arrangements must be made with their local FFL dealer.

All firearms purchased at this auction will be returned to Beck's store on Main Street in Poplar where the gun registration will be completed and phoned in for a background check. Only after this process is verified by NICS that we can proceed will the firearm be turned over to the buyer.

If there are any questions regarding what is considered proper I.D. or have other questions about the sale items you may phone Royal Beck at 406-650-8411.

## ICE FISHING

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- **(2) Jiffy 10" STX-PROII**, gas
- **Jiffy 10" Pro-4**, Propane
- **5ifty ice auger accessories:**
- **(2) Portable Ice Houses**
- **Ice Saw**
- **Ice Chisel**

## MISC. ITEMS

- **Scopes and mounts for AR-15**, SPS, AK47
- **Numerous gun magazines for AR-15**, M-16, AK47, Mak-90, SXS
- **Numerous gun magazines for various Rifles, shotguns and handguns**
- **Many Rifle scopes**
- **Several sets of binoculars**
- **Winchester Spotting scopes**
- **Gun cleaning kits and supplies**
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- **Nylon holsters**
- **Nylon gun cases**
- **Reloading supplies**
- **Game Bags**
- **Targets**
- **Russian Ammo pouches**
- **Weaver Bases**
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- **Scope covers**
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- **And numerous other items**



**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** Beck's Sporting Goods Store has been on Main Street, Poplar, MT for many years. It started with Pat Beck's Dad, (Roy Richards) approximately (90) years ago. Bill Beck passed away and his wife will be liquidating this business. There is a very nice selection of mostly new rifles and hand guns, as well as, lots of ammo. This is a sale you will not want to miss! Hope to see you on September 24! Rick



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## SALE SCHEDULE

Wed, Sept. 7.....	All Class Cattle Sale - 9:00am
Wed, Sept. 14.....	All Class Cattle Sale - 9:00am
<b>Wed, Sept. 21 .....</b>	<b>Feeder Special - 9:00am</b>
	Customer Appreciation BBQ - 12:00pm
Wed, Sept. 28.....	All Class Cattle Sale - 9:00am
Wed, Oct. 5 .....	All Class Cattle Sale - 9:00am
Wed, Oct. 12 .....	All Class Cattle Sale - 9:00am
<b>Fri, Oct. 14 .....</b>	<b>Horse &amp; Sheep Sale 12:00 pm</b>
Wed, Oct. 19 .....	All Class Cattle Sale - 8:00am
Wed, Oct. 26 .....	Feeders Special Only Sale - 8:00am
Sat, Oct. 29 .....	Bred Cattle & Weigh Ups - 9:00am
<b>Wed, Nov. 2 .....</b>	<b>Feeders Special Only Sale - 8:00am</b>
	Featuring Vitt Influence Calves
Sat, Nov. 5.....	Bred Cattle & Weigh Ups - 9:00am
Wed, Nov. 9.....	Feeders Special Only Sale - 8:00am
Sat, Nov. 12.....	Bred Cattle & Weigh Ups - 9:00am
Wed, Nov. 16.....	Feeders Special Only Sale - 8:00am
Sat, Nov. 19.....	Stock Cow & Bred Heifers Special - 9:00am
Wed, Nov. 23.....	NO SALE - Happy Thanksgiving
Wed, Nov. 30.....	Feeders Special Only Sale - 8:00am
Sat, Dec. 3.....	Bred Cattle & Weigh Ups - 9:00am

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# The Montana Department of Agriculture held a Roundtable Discussion in Sidney to Access Area Needs



Agricultural Development and Marketing Officers (L – R) Marty Earnheart, Steph Hystad, and Treston Vermandel with the Montana Department of Agriculture held a public round table discussion on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the MSU Extension Office in Sidney. The purpose of the meeting was to determine how development and marketing strategies could benefit agricultural businesses in the area.

By Meagan Dotson

Agriculture Development and Marketing Officers Marty Earnheart, Treston Vermandel, and Steph Hystad with the Montana Department of Agriculture held a round-table discussion in Sidney on Monday, Aug. 22nd.

The discussion, which was open to the public, is one of many being held across the state; the officers wanted to hear feedback from those involved in local agriculture to determine area strengths and needs. The purpose of the Agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau is to assist agricultural businesses in setting and meeting goals. Some of the successful programs implemented by the agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau include Farm to Institution Programs, Food and Agriculture Development Centers, and 1:1 matching Growth Through Ag grants.

The biggest concern of local residents continues to be the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation’s weir diversion project that has been put on hold due to a lawsuit filed by the Defenders of Wildlife and the Natural Resources Defense Council against the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Bureau of Reclamation, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Other concerns included high freight costs, as the BNSF Railway which runs along the high line hauls everything except coal, and therefore shipping grain must compete with all other goods transported along the lines. It was mentioned that many grain elevators can’t ship spring grain and those that can store it are charging \$.10/bushel to store it on the ground. Rural water projects were also discussed; these rural water projects remain on the state and federal waiting lists despite attempted progress by local officials over the last 10 years.

Any business that is interested in more information about the Agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau, and how they can help, may visit their website at [www.agr.mt.gov](http://www.agr.mt.gov) or call 406-444-9126. Richland Economic Development is also able to assist those who are interested in applying for grants and they can be contacted at 406-482-4679.

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# MSU Researchers Spread The Buzz About Bee Viruses

**Michelle Flenniken studies honey bee pathogens under a microscope in her lab in the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology. (MSU photo by Kelly Gorham.)**



**By Marshall Swearingen for the MSU News Service**

BOZEMAN -- Researchers at Montana State University have published an informational paper in a scholarly journal summarizing what's known about the role that viruses play in honey bee health.

Co-authored by Michelle Flenniken, assistant professor in the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology in MSU's College of Agriculture, and two MSU graduate students, the article, "The buzz about honey bee viruses" was published Aug. 18 in the journal PLoS Pathogens, which publishes "outstanding original research and commentary that significantly advances the understanding of pathogens and how they interact with their host organisms," according to the journal website.

The article's release came two days ahead of National Honey Bee Day, which was declared in 2010 by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to further awareness of the important role that honey bees play in the food system and the threats the pollinators face, including from pathogens such as the viruses studied by the Flenniken lab.

"This is an exciting time in honey bee virology," the authors write in the paper, adding that the study of bee viruses is "a rapidly growing field currently in its infancy."

More than a dozen viruses circulate within and between honey bee colonies. Several viruses can be transmitted among multiple bee species, including bumble bees, and some viruses are carried by parasitic mites, for example, Varroa destructor.

Honey bee colony losses have averaged 33 percent annually since 2006, increased from a historic average of approximately 12 percent. There are multiple factors, including chemical exposure, lack of quality forage and pathogen prevalence and abundance that impact honey bee colony losses. Flenniken said colonies afflicted with Colony Collapse Disorder, which accounts for approximately five percent of annual losses but is poorly understood, have a higher prevalence of certain viruses.

"We know that certain viruses correlate with poor colony health and colony losses, but the specific viruses differ depending on location and other variables," said Flenniken. "There's not one virus that's always the culprit."

According to co-author Alex McMenamin, a doctoral student in MSU's Depart-

ment of Microbiology and Immunology in the College of Agriculture and College of Letters and Science and a member of the Flenniken lab, new technologies are opening frontiers for bee pathogen research.

Until very recently, researchers have only been able to study the impact of viruses on bees at the macroscopic level, McMenamin said.

"Now, we can study individual viruses and their interactions with individual honey bee cells," he said. "We can look at all the genes that are expressed or 'turned on' when a bee is infected with a virus," Flenniken added.

Eventually, pinpointing the molecular behavior of bee viruses and the bees' immune response could help researchers understand the specific role those pathogens play in the complex equation of colony deaths, as well as develop management strategies to boost colony health.

Flenniken and the other co-authors, which includes Department of Microbiology and Immunology doctoral student Laura Brutscher, were invited to write the review paper as part of a special series that the PLoS Pathogens website calls a "living collection of short, educational, and highly useful articles."

John Sherwood, head of MSU's Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology, said Flenniken and her collaborators are at the forefront of research into honey bee viruses.

"There is a lot of concern about honey bee colony collapse, but it's been a very difficult puzzle to solve," Sherwood said. "What's unique about Michelle's work is that until recently there has been relatively little research on the viruses [that may be key pieces of the puzzle]."

Publishing an article about bees in a journal that covers immunology, virology and microbiology is another illustration of how the study of pollinators is branching out beyond the fields of entomology and ecology, Flenniken said.

"Researchers from multiple disciplines are talking to each other about pollinator health," she said, "and are pressing forward to address some of the important questions in bee biology."



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## The Doctor is in...

The following specialty providers will be seeing patients in Williston at the Trinity Community Clinic - Western Dakota in September.



Amanda Weidler, FNP-C  
Cardiology

**Sept. 8th**

For an appointment  
call (701) 857-7388



Emad Dodin, MD  
Cardiology

**Sept. 8th**

For an appointment  
call (701) 857-7388



Diane Bigham, DO  
Urology

**Sept. 12th**

For an appointment  
call (701) 857-7396



Aaron Albers, DPM  
Foot & Ankle Specialist

**Sept. 12th & 26th**

For an appointment  
call (701) 857-3584



Erdal Diri, MD  
Rheumatology

**Sept. 13th & 27th**

For an appointment  
call (701) 857-7495



Mark Noel, DO  
Ear, Nose and Throat

**Sept. 15th**

For an appointment  
call (701) 857-5986



Jericca Maxson, AuD  
Audiology

**Sept. 15th**

For an appointment  
call (701) 857-5986



Robert Fischer, MD  
Ear, Nose and Throat

**Sept. 19th**

For an appointment  
call (701) 857-5986



Tricia Nechodom, AuD  
Audiology

**Sept. 19th**

For an appointment  
call (701) 857-5986

**Pacemaker Clinic  
Sept. 28th**

For an appointment  
call (701) 857-7388



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• Breads & Rolls • Other**

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Recipes must contain at least ½ cup granulated, brown or powdered sugar & be servable in tasting portions. **Recipe must be included.** Winning recipes will be published. Only entries in disposable containers will be accepted. **Containers will not be returned.**

**"Make It With Sugar" Registration Blank**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Categories: (Check all that apply)

☐ Cake ☐ Cookies ☐ Pies ☐ Candy ☐ Breads & Rolls ☐ Other

**Mail To: PO Box 1207 • Sidney, MT 59270**





# Milton Rosseland ESTATE FARM AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016 • 9:00 A.M.



## FARM EQUIPMENT

- 2007 Challenger model MT865B, C-18 engine (510 hp), GPS, Radar, 5-valve hydraulic Trimble CFX750, 36" belts, 59 per GPM pump, 32 front weights, 3217 hours
- 1998 Challenger model CH65E, CAT 10.3L engine (310 hp), Trimble EZ steer 250, GPS, Radar, 30" belts, 3990 hours
- JD 8630 4-wheel drive Tractor
- JD 5020 diesel Tractor & Degelman Dozer
- JD 4840 diesel Tractor, 3 pt. PTO & 3 hyd., & Westendorf Frontend Loader w/bucket & grapple
- Case 1175 Tractor, 3 pt. PTO, w/ Dual Frontend Loader
- Concord 52' Air Seeder, model 3000 w/tank
- Flex-i-coil 44' Toolbar
- 12' Toolbar
- MF 32' Toolbar & Harrows
- Degelman Harrows, (6) 6' & (2) 4' sections
- Krause 28' Disc
- (3) JD LZ1010 Drills
- Drill Hitch
- 6' Bush Hog
- JD 13' Disc, model 360
- JD 70 Tractor w/Farmhand Loader & hay attachments
- JD A Tractor
- 5-bottom Plow (old)
- Parker Grain Cart, model 6600

## HOUSEHOLD & MISC.

- Wood Drop Leaf Table w/4 Chairs
- Portable RO Machine
- Humidifier
- 4-door Dresser w/mirror & shelves
- Reloading Table & Reloader

## SEMS, TRAILERS, TRUCK & SPRAYER

- 2001 Peterbilt 379 Semi, w/CAT C156NZ engine, 425 hp, w/Eaton Fuller 18-speed transmission (300,000 miles on engine overhaul & new turbo)
- 1989 Peterbilt 377 Semi, 3406B CAT engine, 425 hp, w/Eaton Fuller 14-speed transmission
- 1971 Kenworth Semi, w/ Cummins NTC 290 engine, 16-speed transmission
- (2) 1989 Wilson Hopper Bottom Grain Trailer w/electronic traps & tarp, (1) 41' and (1) 43'
- 1973 Corn King Hopper Bottom 38' Grain Trailer
- Schipper 44' Cow Trailer, 3-compartment, straight deck, w/ new oak floor
- Fruehauf 40' Hay Trailer
- Road King 20' Gooseneck Trailer
- Tandem Axle Drill Trailer w/hydraulic stand
- Low Boy 40' Trailer, triple axle
- (2) Low Boy Ramps
- JD Combine Trailer
- 1000 gallon Water Tanker
- 1966 Ford 850 diesel dump Truck
- 1950's Chevy 6500 Truck w/steel box & stock rack
- 1951 Intl Winch Truck, gas
- 2006 Ford F250 Super Duty, Lariat, 4x4 Pickup, 4-door, power stroke diesel, 75,250 miles
- 1992 Ford F250 XLT diesel extended cab Pickup, 5-speed
- 1974 GMC 1/2-ton 2x4 Pickup
- 1970's Chevy 1/2-ton Pickup, body only
- Flex-i-coil 65XL pull-type Sprayer, 100' booms, 1500 gallon tank
- 1987 Cadillac Seville North Star Car, 20,000 miles on new engine
- JD Pickup Sprayer, model 335

## COMBINE, AUGERS, TANKS & BINS

- MF 760 Combine
- Honeybee 42' Draper Header w/ Lexion attachment
- Westfield 10"x80' Swing-a-way Auger w/ hydraulic lift
- Sakundiak 40' Auger w/motor
- Wheatland Transfer Auger
- 50' PTO Auger
- Speed King 6"x40' Auger
- Feterl 6"x25' Auger
- 6"x30' PTO Auger
- Speed King 6"x35' Auger w/gas motor
- 4"x15' Auger w/electric motor
- Drill Fill Augers
- (2) Lode King Double Hopper Bottom Tanks w/ hydraulic augers
- Feterl Grain Cleaner
- (2) Pickup Fuel Tanks
- 6000 gallon Fuel Tank w/stand
- 5000 gallon Diesel Fuel Tank
- 1000 gallon Fuel Tank
- 500 gallon Fuel Tank
- 300 gallon Fuel Tank w/stand
- Exxon Gas Pump
- 1500 gallon Water Tank
- 500 & 800 bushel Bin (homemade)
- Electric Bin Dryer w/fan

## HAYING & LIVESTOCK

- (55) Bales of Old Grass Hay
- MF 20' Draper Header Swather
- MF model 656 hydro-Swather w/header
- New Holland model 116 hydra-swing 16' Swather
- Vermeer 605 Super F Big Round Baler
- 21' Truck Hay Rack
- JD 5-wheel Hay Rake
- (2) Wetmore Grinder/Mixer, model 858
- Harsh Mixer Wagon
- 5 pt. Creep Feeder
- 10' Hay Feeder
- (2) 29' Metal 1/2 tank Calf Shelters
- (6) Round Bale Feeders
- (2) Rectangular Cow Feeders
- (20) Tire Cow Feeders
- Loading Chute
- Beef Master Squeeze Chute
- Powder River Alley Way (3-sections)
- (3) Sections of Guard Rail
- Misc. Portable Corral Panels
- Plastic Water Troughs

## DIRT EQUIPMENT

- CAT 830 4-wheel drive Tractor w/Army 18 cubic yard Scraper
- CAT D7F w/Dozer & Ripper
- Galion T-500 Road Grader (needs engine installed)
- Wagner W117 Tractor & 12-yard hydraulic Scraper
- Sheepsfoot Dirt Compactor
- Backhoe Frame
- Road Grader Gas Tank

**LOCATION:** From Circle, MT- Turn at Big Sky Lumber, take Highway 252 N for 11.5 miles (Horse Creek Rd)  
**OWNER:**  
**WANDA 406-485-3503**  
Lunch will be available.

## ATV, MOTORCYCLES, SHOP & MISC.

- Arctic ATV
- ATV Sprayer Attachment
- 2004 Honda V-Twin 1300CC Road Bike, fully dressed
- Honda XR250
- Honda Trail 90
- JD Snow Blower, model 826
- JD Tiller
- Hobart Welder/Generator
- Miller 20th Century Welder
- Space Heater, diesel
- Beckett Steam Cleaner
- Engine Stand
- (8) 11R24.5 Semi Trailer Tires (new)
- (2) Proto Toolboxes
- Proto Toolbox for Pickup
- Many Proto Tools & Wrench Sets
- Porta Power
- Metal Band Saw
- Milwaukee Chop Saw
- Angle Saw
- 3/4" Socket Set
- Large 5 hp. Air Compressor (nearly new)
- Cherry Picker
- Hydraulic Service Jack
- Hydraulic Floor Jack
- Hydraulic Post Pounder
- (2) Acetylene Welders
- Finishing Sander
- Belt & Hand Sanders
- Router
- Heavy Duty Sander/Grinder
- Belts, Hoses, Tarp Straps
- Tire Rims
- Assorted Oil
- Pullers, Hand Saws & Grinders
- Chains & Chain Boomers
- Auger Motors
- 5th wheel Hitch Base
- 3 pt. Hitch (for JD 4840)
- 4-Wheeler Grass Seeding Atch. (new)
- Wheelbarrow
- Air Tank
- Water Pump
- Hydraulic, Jacks, Rams, Cylinders
- Post Hole Diggers
- Ladder
- (12) REA Poles
- (10) Sucker Rod
- 10' & 12' Culvert 18" diameter
- Misc. Woven Wire
- Metal Irrigation Dike Gate
- Crisafulli Irrigation Pump & Pipe
- (6) Tractor Tires (2/w rims)
- Pickup Box Cover



**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** Milton was a very well-known farmer and dirt mover in McCone County. This will be a large auction sale. The newer equipment has been kept inside. There are many items too numerous to mention, as well as a large variety! Don't miss this auction! See you on October 1st at 9:00 a.m! Rick



# RK



**Rick Kniepkamp**

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# Cutbacks Impact the WREC by About \$200,000 Annually

**By Meagan Dotson**

In February of 2016, it was determined that there would be a 4.05% budget cut impacting state agencies, including the Williston Research and Experiment Center (WREC); it was later determined in August that there would be an additional 2.5% budget cut. This is an approximate \$200,000 annual loss for the WREC.

The cutbacks are a result of oil and gas prices being down, as well as low commodity grain prices.

"My plan is to continue with the research implemented this season to completion because we've made major investments with our current projects. We've been asked by the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a 90% budget for the next fiscal year which will impact the amount of research we can do," commented WREC Director Jerry Bergman. "It's a matter of prioritizing. What we've done to date is to leave positions in both our Dry Land Research Program and our Horticulture Research Program unfilled, and then there are operational cuts."

State agencies across North Dakota are feeling the affect of statewide funding cuts as oil prices drop and the economy shifts.

"I'm an optimist and my hope is that oil prices will rebound so that these budget cuts won't be so severe, or permanent," concluded Bergman.



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# Russian Olive Removal and Restoration Workshop set for Sept. 12-13 in Miles City

We don't often think of trees as weeds or "conflict" species, particularly in this part of the country, but Russian olive's rapid spread along the Yellowstone River and other riparian areas in recent years, has made it a pariah to many. Its dense canopy has displaced many native plants along the river and its long and prolific thorns have regularly impeded access to the water's edge by wildlife, livestock and recreationalists, alike.

For others, the arrival of this cold-hardy, deep-rooted, ornamental tree to the U.S. in the late 1800s, proved a godsend for conservation programs in semi-arid areas, particularly in the northern plains. Today it remains a favorite of many rural residents in eastern Montana and western North Dakota, where it is commonly found in farm and ranch shelterbelts/tree rows, where other trees have proven difficult if not impossible to grow. Proponents of the tree also point to the shelter and food it provides local wildlife, particularly pheasants and other birds feeding on its seeds.

The Jekyll-and-Hyde nature of the tree and the need to address its increasingly invasive potential along rivers and streams led to the establishment of a long-term, multi-agency study at the USDA-ARS Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory in Miles City, MT in 2011. The researchers were tasked with identifying options for successfully removing the tree along the river bottom, but also examining the impacts of that removal on local wildlife, insect diversity and soil health. Five years into that effort, researchers are sharing what they've learned so far in a special Russian Olive Removal and Restoration Workshop to be held September 12-13 at the Miles City, MT lab.

This event provides the public an opportunity to learn about successful removal and restoration techniques developed under the study, as well as learning more about additional, related research still underway, organizers said.

The event is being sponsored by USDA-ARS in Miles City, the Northern Great Plains Section of the Society for Range Management, and the Miles City Chamber of Commerce. Five SRM education credits are available for those participating. Pesticide points are still pending.

The activities begin Monday, September 12 at 1 pm with a series of afternoon talks on Russian olive and the research project, ending with a BBQ supper at 6 pm.

Speakers and topics include:

Peter Lesica, Botanist, author and affiliate faculty at the University of Montana, "History and Ecology of Russian Olive in Montana"

Sharlene Sing, Research Entomologist, U.S. Forest Service ~ "Russian Olive and Wildlife"

Melissa Maggio-Kassner, Montana State Biocontrol Coordinator ~ "Application of Biocontrol for Rangeland Weeds"

Erin Espeland, Research Plant Ecologist, USDA-ARS, Sidney, MT ~ "Russian Olive Removal and Restoration"

The workshop continues Tuesday morning, September 13, at 8 am with a field tour of removal and restoration research sites as well as demonstrations of the following: Russian olive removal with a tree shear, cottonwood planting and transplanting of other trees



and shrubs. Participants will also view recovery results in study plots five years after successful removal of Russian olive. The workshop concludes Tuesday at noon.

There is a \$10 registration fee to cover the cost of the Monday meal. Those interested are asked to register for the event by Wednesday, Sept. 7, if possible, but should feel free to inquire about possible registration after that deadline as well.

To register, contact Jennifer Muscha, at 406-874-8223 or Jennifer.Muscha@ars.usda.gov, or mail your name(s), address, organization (if applicable) and the number of people attending to Jennifer Muscha at 2218 Kinsey Rd., Miles City, MT 59301, along with a check made out to "Northern Great Plains Section" at \$10 per person.

Also, please feel free to contact Jennifer with any other questions regarding the workshop.



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# High Tunnels Can Extend the Growing Season for Specialty Crops



**Cucumbers growing up a fence trellis; these are grown vertically to save on space as well as promote straighter fruit. Photos courtesy of Kyla Splichal.**

**By Meagan Dotson**

Horticulture Research Specialist with the Williston Research and Extension Center (WREC), Kyla Splichal has been working with the North Dakota Department of Ag Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The experiment consists of growing specialty crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, delphiniums, snapdragons, lisianthus, and dahlias in a high tunnel structure versus outside.

The project was first discussed in late 2014 by Splichal with WREC, and Esther McGinnis, Extension Horticulturist, and High Value Crop Specialist Harlene Hatterman-Valenti both with NDSU Fargo. In the spring of 2015, the group applied for an Expanding Local Specialty Crop Opportunities in North Dakota grant and was awarded the grant in October of 2015.

A high tunnel is essentially a low-tech greenhouse, or large cold frame. Unlike a greenhouse it is heated only by solar radiation, and because it has more area inside, it retains heat more effectively than a small cold frame, or low tunnel. Each end is a solid wall and two layers of high-grade thick plastic form the sides with a blower that circulates the air in between; the double layer plastic provides better insulation, and can better withstand wind, cold, and hail. The plastic sides are set on a thermostat that rolls them up as high as four feet for ventilation. The 26' x 96' structure was ordered from Rimol Supply Company out of New Hampshire, with the total cost of supplies and shipping tallying between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

The three main objectives for this project are to compare common varieties of



**The summer staff and Nesson Valley staff the day of planting. Pictured from left to right: Ron Hunt, Kyra Candee, Rojee Pradhan, Samantha Schmoker, David Schmidt and Kyla Splichal.**

traditional high tunnel crops, evaluate varieties of cut flowers, and establish an information hub for local producers-this includes the Facebook page that was created through this grant North Dakota High Tunnels.

The benefits of growing in a high tunnel are primarily an extended growing season, but also include protection from the elements and a potential for growers to get their products to market sooner. Splichal hopes that they will be harvesting as long as late October or early November, and plans to begin planting in March or April of 2017.

There are two other locations in North Dakota where high tunnels are being utilized for this project including Dakota College at Bottineau and the Dale E. Herman Research Arboretum in Absaraka.

There were nine different varieties of vegetables planted in four replications within the high tunnel as well as outside next to the structure.

"I'm seeing better looking produce from the high tunnels; the plants are looking more robust and the flowers are much cleaner than the ones planted outside," commented Splichal.

Splichal plans to continue the project into the fall of 2017, and research from 2016 will be published in the WREC's Annual Report and on their website, [www.ag.ndsu.edu/willistonrec](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/willistonrec) early next year. For more information on the WREC's high tunnel, visit their Facebook page at North Dakota High Tunnels.





A block of snapdragons. Photos courtesy of Kyla Splichal.



The high tunnel including the outside trial and water storage tank that is used to irrigate.



The high tunnel planted in early June; planting was delayed until construction of the high tunnel was complete.



The outside flower trial.



# RETIREMENT FARM AUCTION

**OCTOBER 8, 2016 • SATURDAY 10:00 A.M.**

## TRACTORS

- **JD 8850 4-wheel drive Tractor**, 24.5x32 new tires, PTO, 500 hours on fresh overhaul, 6700 total hours
- **Allis Chalmers 8550 4-wheel drive Tractor**, PTO, 20.8x38 tires, 5170 hours
- **Allis Chalmers 7580 4-wheel drive Tractor**
- **2008 Case IH 165 MFWD Tractor**, Puma 2700 hours w/L760 Frontend Loader w/bucket & grapple
- **Allis Chalmers 7020 Tractor**, power shift, dual PTO, 3 pt, 8800 hours w/Ezee-On Frontend Loader
- **Allis Chalmers 7045 Tractor**, power director, dual PTO, 3 pt, 7580 hours
- **Allis Chalmers 7060 Tractor**, PTO, 3 pt w/Ezee-On Frontend Loader, model 2225
- **Allis Chalmers 7080 Tractor**, PTO, (3) hydraulics, 7100 hours



## FARM EQUIPMENT

- **Flex-i-coil Air Drill**, model 5000, 9" spacing w/1610 pull between Cart
- **Flex-i-coil 47' Chisel Plow**, model 800
- **JD 28' Disc**, model 330
- **JD 22' Disc**, model 230
- **Geysler 22' Chisel Plow** (old)
- **Geysler 28' Chisel Plow** (old)
- **Morris 36' Rodweeder**
- **Tyler 4-ton PTO Fertilizer Spreader**
- **Rock Picker**
- **Farm King 3 pt, 8' Snow Blower**
- **(2) Front mount Snow Plows**
- **Flex-i-coil model 60 pull-type Sprayer** w/90' booms



## COMBINES, AUGERS & BINS

- **Gleaner L3 Combine** w/platform
- **(2) Gleaner L2 Combines** w/platforms
- **(3) Gleaner Pickup Platforms**
- **Gleaner Combine** (for parts)
- **Sakundiak 8"x45' PTO Auger**
- **Westfield MK130 Swing-a-way 71' Auger**
- **Westco 10"x51' PTO Grain Auger**
- **Wheatheart 10" hydraulic transfer Auger**
- **Walinga Grain Vac** (old)
- **(2) Friesen Hopper Bottom Bins** w/Air
- **(3) Friesen Hopper Bottom Bins** (1- 2500 bushel & 2- 1400 bushel)



## HAYING, LIVESTOCK & FUEL TANKS

- **2005 Case IH WDX1202 Windrower** w/18' Platform, 900 hours
- **Hesston 6450 Windrower** w/21' Draper Platform
- **Challenger model RB56 Big Round Baler** (nice)
- **New Holland BR780 Big Round Baler**
- **1979 Ford F600 Feeder Truck**, 4x4, 5-speed w/Harsh Mixer Box
- **Farmhand Tub Hay Grinder**, model 6650
- **Bearcat Grinder/Mixer**, model 1260
- **New Category 3 pt, 5' Rotary Mower**
- **Donohue Swather Trailer**
- **(2) JD 3800 Forage Harvesters** (old)
- **Portable 20x20 Farrowing Shed**
- **Approximately 100 Portable Cattle Panels**
- **Powder River Cow Chute**
- **Powder River Loading Chute**
- **(7) Arrow Front 30' Hay Feeders**
- **Hasting Water Tanks** (3-10', 3-9', 3-8')
- **50 Steel Posts**
- **(2) Rolls of Barb Wire**
- **(3) Fuel Tanks** (1-1000 & 2- 500 gallon)

## TRAILERS, TRUCKS, PICKUPS & FORKLIFT

- **1987 Merritt 48' Cattle Pot Trailer**
- **1984 Merritt 48' Cattle Pot Trailer**
- **(2) Belly Dump Trailers** (1980 & 1981)
- **48' Reefer Trailer** (set up w/spraying tanks, motor & pump)
- **(2) 1969 Ford Tandem Twin Screw Trucks**, 391 engines, 5 & 3 transmission (1-20' Box, 1-18' Box)
- **1994 Ford Truck** w/Man Lift
- **1993 Ford Truck**, no bed (for parts)
- **1989 Ford Digger Truck** w/Altec
- **1984 Ford diesel Pickup**, 4x4, manual transmission & Pickup Sprayer
- **1983 Ford Pickup**, 4x4, auto
- **1979 GMC Pickup**, 4x4, 350 engine, auto
- **Ford Windstar Car** (for parts)
- **1993 Toyota 5000# Fork Lift**



**LOCATION:** From Culbertson, MT—Take Highway 16 North for 14 miles to Froid, turn right on Highway 405 for 9 miles, turn North (left) on Road 1012 for 2 miles, turn right 2/10ths of a mile.

**OWNER: JESSE WHEELER**  
406-963-7025

*Lunch will be available.*



## AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:

Jesse has decided to retire from farming and will be offering his full line of equipment at auction. There is a nice variety of farm and livestock equipment. There will be very few small items at this auction, so don't be late. Hope to see you Saturday, October 8th!  
**Rick**

All information is from sources deemed reliable, but is not guaranteed by the Seller or the Auctioneers. Offering is subject to error, omission, and approval of purchase by owner. We urge independent verification of each and every item submitted to the satisfaction of any prospective buyer. It is every potential bidder/purchaser's sole responsibility to accomplish his or her due diligence in whatever manner he or she deems advisable. Announcements made sale day take precedence over any printed materials. The property sells "As is-Where is." RK Statewide Auction Service and its auctioneers are acting solely as auctioneers for the seller.



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**Rick Kniepkamp (406) 485-2548 or cell (406) 939-1632**



# Registration Open for the 2016 Young Ag Leadership Conference

**Submitted by Rebecca Colnar AgNewsWire**

Registration is now open for the 13th Annual Young Ag Leadership Conference (YALC). This exciting, one-of-a-kind conference takes place September 30-October 2 at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls. YALC is a collaborative effort between ten of Montana's agricultural organizations, offering attendees a chance to discuss current ag issues, take part in various workshops, meet with industry leaders and network with fellow young people who live Montana agriculture. Anyone ages 18-40 who is interested or involved in agriculture is encouraged to attend.

The weekend kicks off on Friday with exciting area Ag industry tours. This optional excursion will depart the hotel at 12:30 p.m. and return in time to join the rest of the incoming attendees for the social at 6 p.m. Friday evening offers Sarah Bohnenkamp, a Millennial Leadership Coach, who is going to help you "nail your unique brand of leadership" and help get participants ready for Saturday's full schedule of workshops, entrepreneur spotlights, and networking opportunities. During Saturday's breakfast, Darrell Stevenson will wake everyone up with his keynote, "Going Global with Beef Genetics." Participants will choose from an expanded slate of workshop topics including everything from using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) on your operation to changes in the Veterinary Feed Directive rule and how to overcome generational differences in the workplace. Saturday's luncheon will feature an insightful and inspiring talk called "Our Leadership Journey" by Dan Manella of Cherry Creek Radio, which will be followed with more workshops and the never-before-offered Entrepreneur Spotlights. We'll hear about what it took to start a small business from scratch from Parker's Hangover Tonic, Electric City Coffee w/ Prairie Heritage Farms, and Pink Spurs & Co.

Saturday festivities wrap up with dinner and a dance at Centene Stadium. The event concludes with "What Do Our Customers Really Want From Us" from Carrie Mess, AKA Dairy Carrie, on Sunday morning. The conference is put together by a committee of representatives from each of the following: Montana Agri-Business Association, Montana Wool Growers Association, Montana 4-H Foundation, Mon-

tana FFA Foundation, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Montana Farmers Union, Montana Grain Growers Association, Montana State University College of Agriculture, Alpha Gamma Rho Alumni, and the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

The cost of registration is \$40 for the entire conference, with all meals provided. After the pre-registration date of September 23rd, fees increase to \$50. To register, go to [www.mfbf.org](http://www.mfbf.org) or contact Jesse Wallewein at (406) 450-3429 or [mtwga@outlook.com](mailto:mtwga@outlook.com).

## Department's Hay Hotline Available for Producers Short on Hay

### Listings of Hay For Sale and Available Pasture Online

With severe and extreme drought expanding throughout the state the Montana Department of Agriculture wants to remind folks that the Hay Hotline is available to producers as an online tool to connect buyers and sellers of hay and pasture.

The department maintains the Hay Hotline as a service to the agricultural industry, making it available with the expectation that all buyers and sellers will treat each other in an equitable and lawful manner. Visit the online tool at [agr.mt.gov/agr/Producer/HayHotline/](http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Producer/HayHotline/).

The Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the department, visit [agr.mt.gov](http://agr.mt.gov).



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# MSU Scientist, International Team One Step Closer To Producing Higher Quality Durum Wheat

**By Denise Hoepfner, MSU News Service**

Hikmet Budak, Montana State University's first Montana Plant Sciences Endowed Chair, is among an international team of scientists that is now one step closer to producing durum wheat that boasts a higher protein content and grain quality.

The 14-member team announced in a July 6 press release that it has successfully sequenced and mapped the genome, or complete genetic code of durum wheat. Durum wheat is a close relative of the widely grown bread wheat and is the source of semolina, the key ingredient in pasta.

Using a sequencing technology developed by genetics company NRGene, the sequencing and mapping of the durum wheat genome took just a few months and has provided researchers with the complete list of genes and their locations for the cereal crop, Budak said.

Budak, who hailed the achievement as "exciting news for MSU and Montana" said the data is the first step to understanding which genes are present in the durum wheat genome and harnessing this knowledge to produce higher quality Montana durum wheat lines and cultivated varieties known as cultivars that will also enjoy increased resistance to pests, environmental stress and disease.

The scientists will now work to refine and assemble the sequence. Because the durum wheat genome is extremely large, about four times the size of the human genome, it can only be sequenced in pieces. Using the genetic map, the team will reassemble the sequence to produce a whole genome assembly, a high quality, ordered and completely assembled sequence for each of the 14 durum wheat chromosomes that will act as a guide, or "reference sequence" for further wheat studies.

Budak said it will likely take two years to create this reference sequence and make the data available to the public. Once available, he said, the data will provide a much-needed boost to durum and bread wheat research.

"The lack of a high-quality genome sequence was a roadblock to conducting genomics-based wheat improvement studies, even with the availability of advanced genome engineering and editing technologies," he said.

Budak said that the reference sequence will provide MSU researchers with the means to identify and characterize the desirable genes in Montana's existing cultivars and use them to develop high-yielding "elite" cultivars with traits desirable to Montana producers.

And, the reference sequence will be used to develop new Montana durum wheat lines, which Budak estimates will take five or six years. It will also be useful in helping to identify the genes in existing Montana wheat lines so growers will know the genetic traits of the wheat they're currently producing.

Budak, an internationally recognized plant geneticist, contributed to the mapping by identifying and also editing the durum wheat genes using the genome editing system known as CRISPR. Currently, his group is also working on using these newly discovered genes to improve the micronutrient quantity, protein content and stress resistance of the wheat.

Budak is a member of the faculty in the MSU Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology

in the College of Agriculture. He joined MSU after a national search for candidates for the Montana Plant Sciences Endowed Chair that attracted top cereal scientists from around the world. The idea for the position began as an idea of the Montana Grains Foundation as a way to help Montana's wheat farmers stay sustainable and remain competitive. More than 60 Montana grain producers and several agribusinesses around the state partnered to support the endowed chair.

"This is why I was brought here and this is a great start to paying back the farmers, growers and stakeholders who funded my position," said Budak, who came to MSU from Sabanci University in Istanbul, Turkey. "What they put in, they will get back eventually by way of wheat lines. That's my longer term goal to have one wheat genotype, or line, that is going to be great for Montana agriculture."

Along with MSU and NRGene, members of the international collaborative research network who contributed to the research are The Council for Agricultural Research and Economics, the National Research of Italy, the Crop Development Centre of the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Tel Aviv, the University of Bologna and the IPK Gatersleben.

The research builds upon the earlier success by the scientists in sequencing the bread wheat genome in 2014 and subsequent production of the bread wheat genome assembly in January 2016.

Durum wheat currently represents 14 percent of wheat grown in Montana. Annually, more than five million acres of wheat is harvested in Montana, representing a market value of nearly \$1 billion, according to 2015 figures provided by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Last year, MSU completed an agreement to license more than 700 developmental lines of durum wheat to Montana-based Northern Seed, LLC. MSU-developed varieties account for more than 43 percent of Montana's winter wheat crop and more than 31 percent of the state's spring wheat.

**Hikmet Budak, MSU professor and Montana Plant Sciences Endowed Chair in the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology, is seen here on Friday, July 8, 2016, at the MSU Post Farm in Bozeman, Montana. Budak recently collaborated with a team of international researchers on sequencing the genome of durum wheat, a staple ingredient in pasta. MSU Photo by Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez**







### Photo Credit Acknowledgement

The photos provided in the August 2016 Ag Roundup on the front page (the photo above), page 4, and page 8 were taken by Dr. Clair Keene with the Williston Research and Extension Center.

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