



Volume 35

September 2012

No. 8

China replaced by Canada as top importer

According to the United State Agriculture Department (USDA) in its recent Agricultural Trade Outlook report, the U.S. will have record levels of exports in the next year. Despite the drought that has gripped much of the nation's agricultural lands, higher crop values will mean higher exports for the country.

In the August outlook report, the USDA predicts that exports next year will exceed \$143.5 billion. In 2011, the U.S. recorded a record \$137.4 billion in exports. Since 2009, agricultural exports have increased 50 percent, according to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

"Today's export forecast marks indication of an historic achievement for America's farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses," a Vilsack statement said. "Even with tough odds due to extreme weather, U.S. agriculture is now poised for three consecutive years of record exports, smashing all previous records and putting America's agricultural sector on pace to achieve President Obama's goal under the National Export Initiative of doubling exports by the end of 2014. These exports will support more than 1 million jobs in communities across the country."

Exports to China will fall \$500 million, according to USDA estimate. China imported \$21 billion in U.S. agricultural products in 2012, but that number will fall due in part to higher commodity prices.

Canada is expected to import \$21 billion of ag products in 2013, which is an increase of about \$1 billion over the

previous year. The U.S. will in turn import \$23.1 billion in agricultural products from Canada in 2013, according to estimates.

The USDA report estimates that Mexico will purchase \$19 billion in U.S. agricultural goods, which is about the same as 2012.

Total exports are expected to reach \$136.5 billion, according to the USDA report. The report gives higher grain commodity values the credit for the high export figures. However, meat exports are expected to be lower in 2013.

"Exports of livestock, poultry and

dairy products are forecast marginally lower as declines in dairy, pork and poultry outweigh growth in beef," USDA stated.

Agricultural imports are expected to continue their rise. According to the USDA, ag imports will reach a record high of \$106.5 billion in 2012 and rise to \$117 billion in 2013. In 2011, agricultural imports were just \$94.5 billion, which was a record high at that point. Despite the soaring import levels, the trade balance for agricultural products will actually decrease from \$42.9 billion in 2011 to \$30 billion.

Kronberg wins scholarship

Roberta (Bobbi Jo) JoNae Kronberg was one of three winners of the \$500 Marilyn Spiker Memorial Scholarships for 2012 offered by the Foundation for Agricultural Education and development (FAED) and Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE).

Bobbie Jo is the daughter of Carl and Holli Jo Kronberg from Forbes, North Dakota. She attended the Ellendale High School and graduated in May 2012. Bobbi Jo is attending North Dakota State University in Fargo with pursuing degrees in Agricultural Economics and Communications and minors in Extension Education and Community Development.

Other winners of this scholarship are Larissa Wach of Nebraska and Paige Bacon of New York.



Bobbi Jo Kronberg

President's Report



**By Deb Dressler
North Dakota**

North Dakota in November sounds inviting after a long, hot, dry summer

Greetings from southwestern North Dakota. As of this writing most small grains are harvested and the row crops are rapidly maturing. In the Great Plains this year was the earliest harvest on record. Trees are turning color and dropping leaves prematurely out my window today.

Every once in a while, a weather-related event is so widespread, so devastating, it has potential to affect people thousands of miles from where it occurred. The current drought in the United States has the potential to be such an event.

The breadbasket of America is literally burning. To raise awareness about the severity of the situation and importance of strong farm policy, the National Crop Insurance Service (NCIS), a coalition of the nation's crop insurance companies, has taken to facebook and Twitter to host a 90-day photo contest featuring real drought photos.

The group has asked farmers and ranchers across the country to submit photos portraying the severity of the drought. They don't have to be pretty—just real. Interested parties should follow NCIS on Twitter and facebook to upload photos and vote on favorites.

The new USDA mandate that school lunch programs back away from breads, cereals, and meat to allow for more fruits and vegetables in the diet is of great concern to agri-

cultural producers and parents alike. The national school lunch program blames bread and meat for the nation's obesity problem. The program establishes a 100 calorie range between an 80-pound student and a 200-pound student. Schools will lose their lunch funding from the federal government if found in non-compliance when comparing number of calories purchased to the number of students enrolled.

Make plans to attend the National Convention November 15-17 to be held in Bismarck, ND. With the hot, dry weather this summer, doesn't November in ND sound inviting?

The U.S. House of Representatives on Aug. 1 voted to extend the current tax code for another year. This includes keeping the estate tax, known as the death tax, at its current level of 35 percent for estates worth more than \$5 million per individual and \$10 million per couple. If Congress fails to act by the end of 2012, the death tax will revert to a \$1million exemption level at a 55 percent rate.

Go tell your story. Remember the servicemen and women who so bravely protect our many freedoms in America. Thank a farmer and rancher for supplying a safe abundant food supply. Happy Labor Day.

AT&T launches campaign to stop texting while driving

Recently, AT&T announced a new initiative for their existing "It Can Wait" no texting while driving campaign: September 19th's "No Text On Board—Pledge Day." This day is when AT&T will aim to collect as many pledges as they can from drivers who will commit to no longer text while driving.

This pledge drive is to bring awareness to, and cut down on, the number of accidents and deaths caused by drivers who are distractedly texting while they are in control of a vehicle. According to results from an AT&T survey, over 77 percent of teens have seen their parents text and drive, and 75 percent say it is "common" among their friends to do the same. With over 100,000 auto-

mobile accidents each year, any effort to decrease this dangerous activity is needed.

This push from AT&T's "It Can Wait" campaign makes one stop and think, is a text message, email or Facebook update worth the risk of losing your life, or endangering the lives of others?"

It is important to remember that nothing should take precedence over one's safety, which is why we encourage you all to visit www.itcanwait.com and take the pledge, pass it on to your friends, and do what you can to help eliminate texting while driving for good.

The next time you get a text or email while driving, remember: It Can Wait.



**By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota**

Energy Report

Efficiency standards could be costly

Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA) and Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA) introduced the "Hydro 2.0 Act" which would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to utilize revenues from new power production at existing sites to upgrade the efficiency of dozens of dams and improve their environmental performance before looking to build new dams. The Bureau of Reclamation is currently the largest water provider in the nation, and second largest producer of hydropower nationally. Operating 348 reservoirs, Reclamation oversees a total storage capacity of 245 million acre-feet of water. An acre-foot of water is 325,000 gallons or enough water for a family of four for a year. The agency estimates that just a one percent efficiency improvement in the 58 dams under their control could produce 16.2 megawatts of additional power at all times, resulting in extra power that is worth approximately \$5.7 million annually. Upgrades to 10 of those dams could also deliver another 67 megawatts of electricity to American homes and businesses.

The Department of Energy's budget calls for a 29 percent increase in funding for renewable sources but \$92 million in cuts for clean coal projects which affects all states producing coal. Currently lignite coal mines in North Dakota produce about 30 million tons annually and is turned into affordable electricity at nearby generating stations. Lignite is turned into natural gas and various byproducts including fertilizers. About 82 percent of the state's electricity comes from coal while the remainder comes from the Garrison Dam or renewables such as wind turbines. A ten cent per ton tax on lignite is used for research and development or about \$3 million annually.

There is about 351 billion tons of lig-

nite coal in western North Dakota with 25 billion tons economically mineable. The area consumes about 29 million tons per year. The coal industry is ranked number 5 in the state behind agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and oil—it had been number 4 until the oil business pushed it down. The state is also seventh in the nation for electricity affordability at 6.64 cents per kilowatt hour while the national average is 10 cents. The state also has the lowest cost for natural gas in the nation at \$8.05 per million cubic feet (MCF) with the national average at \$10.80. America used about 66 billion cubic feet in 2010 while Hawaii paid \$55.00 per MCF. North Dakota produced 620,848 MCF per day last year.

American automakers don't sell diesel cars in the United States, but that will change in 2013 when General Motors plans to offer a diesel version of the Chevy Cruze. Diesel sales could have an impact on hybrid cars to some extent. Analysts say it's highly unlikely American diesel car sales will ever catch up to Europe. But even if sales triple, diesel fuel prices probably won't be significantly affected. The U.S. currently produces more diesel than it uses, exporting more than a million gallons a day. The diesel Volkswagen Passat gets an average of 32 miles per gallon for city driving and about 46 mpg on the highway. According to recent sales figures, about 2 percent of all new car sales in the U.S. are diesel. Although diesel fuel costs an average of \$4.07 per gallon, about 7 percent more per gallon than gasoline, diesel vehicles are about 30 percent more efficient.

Iraq has given Russia's oil giant, Bashneft, rights to drill for oil in the southern part of the country. Russia now has three oil companies in Iraq and will get \$5 per barrel. Iraq is trying to build up its energy sector. Its daily production is three million barrels a day but they want 10 million a day by 2017.

In 2010, the total budget for electric utility customer energy efficiency pro-

grams was \$4.6 billion, about a four-fold increase from the \$1.1 billion spent on such programs just a decade earlier.

Trinidad's state-owned petroleum company, Petrotrin, said it discovered 48 million barrels of crude oil off the island's southwest coast. It is their biggest discovery in a decade and is located in 60 feet of water.

A wrecked Brazilian ship that sank in 39 feet of water is trapped in ice and spilling about 2,100 gallons of oil in Antarctica near the Brazilian naval base with no hopes of containing the damage until winter ends in October.

Oil drilling will be allowed near Desolation Canyon, a national historic site near Vernal, Utah, despite objections from environmentalists. The Bureau of Land Management is the nation's biggest landlord, controlling 248 million acres, including nearly half the land in Utah. In the past nine years, the field office has approved an average of 555 new oil and gas wells a year, nearly three times the number in the previous decade.

The U.S. offered South Africa up to \$2 billion in loans to fund renewable energy ventures involving American companies, a top official said in mid-August, a potential boon for both the electricity-hungry nation and U.S. business interests. The 18-year loans will be funded out of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the government's vehicle for promoting U.S. export sales by providing low-interest loans for services and goods produced by American industries. The funding could be applied to a variety of projects, including wind, solar and thermal power. Companies that could benefit from the funding include General Electric Co., Santa Monica, Calif.-based SolarReserve LLC, and Siemens AG. South Africa, the continent's biggest economy, has seen its growth slowed in part due to an ongoing electricity crisis as public utility Eskom struggles to meet demand. Boeing Co. could provide aircraft to South African Airways.

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By Jacquelyn Sistrunk
Alabama

Specialty Crops Report

Rain needed across the country

cloudy conditions in some areas and lack of moisture in others caused planting to be delayed. Regardless of when the acres were planted, the challenge will be to watch closely weed control. Late planted peanuts have an extra risk of competing with weeds for moisture in hotter, dryer

conditions. Horsenettle, lambs quarters, pigweed, and cocklebur seem to flourish regardless of lack of moisture.

It's heartbreaking to see crops burn up from lack of rain, wild fires, or 100 degree heat, but farmers will prevail and plant again next year.

George Washington Carver tried to cross a wild peanut relative with a domestic peanut variety but was unsuccessful. Recent biotechnology has made breeding of wild and domestic peanuts more common. Using DNA and genomics, the peanut seeds now planted produce a plant resistant to leaf spot and spotted wilt. Thanks to the wild peanut plant, modern seeds produce hardy plants that are drought resistant.

Drought, hail storms, and floods have made slim "pickins" for farmers all over America. Carolina peanut growers, both North and South, planted a record number of acres this spring. However, cool, wet, and

Efficiency standards are costly

Continued from Page 3

There is a debate over the impact of the federal Renewable Fuel Standard. The policy has driven U.S. corn crops to record harvests since its implementation, an increase driven mostly by producers responding to market conditions enhanced by ethanol production. Even with the wide falloff in yield and acreage expected this year because of the drought, the U.S. corn crop is estimated to be the eighth largest on record. And USDA has been keeping records for more than 100 years. The price of corn in this drought year could likely be driven even higher without the RFS, because there would be significantly less corn planted, and much less produced under these drought conditions.

A group of 18 House freshmen are requesting immediate extension of the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for American wind energy. The PTC only applies to projects that succeed in putting electricity on the grid. It will expire December 31 in spite of helping to establish an industry that now employs 75,000, unless Congress extends it. The PTC has not been allowed to expire since 2005, when President George W. Bush signed it into law as part of the Energy Policy Act. There are now nearly 500 American manufacturing facilities making parts for the industry and wind turbines now contain more than 60 percent domestic product.

On August 28, the administration an-

nounced that it had finalized new fuel efficiency standards requiring that cars will get nearly 55 miles per gallon and save Americans \$1.7 trillion in fuel costs resulting in an average savings of more than \$8,000 a vehicle by 2025. However, what is real for consumers now is the \$2,000 per vehicle added cost that the new fuel standards will impose. That figure comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the EPA. For years, statisticians have warned of the deadly effect of increasing corporate auto fuel economy standards (CAFE). The National Academy of Sciences said last August that CAFE contributes to between 1,300 and 2,600 traffic deaths per year with half of the deaths attributed to small car collisions with light trucks/sport utility vehicles. USA Today calculated that the "size and weight reductions of passenger vehicles undertaken to meet current CAFE standards had resulted in more than 46,000 deaths." CAFE fuel standards clamp down on the production of larger, more crashworthy cars. Analysts from Harvard to the Brookings Institution to the federal government itself have arrived at the same conclusion: CAFE kills.

About 1,000 compressed natural gas fueling stations are available in the nation with only half open to the public. Many major corporations, including AT&T, UPS, and WalMart have been converting some of their fleet delivery trucks to natural gas as have some government agencies.

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By Pam Potthoff
Nebraska

Trade Report

Trade imbalance with China continues

Lower domestic crop quality and higher prices of local output helped fuel a 41 percent surge in China's grain imports in the first half of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011, the state-run China Daily newspaper reported in July.

China currently imports about 7 percent of all the new cars sold in the country each year. In 2011, China imported approximately 1 million passenger vehicles, up 28 percent from a year earlier. According to a study by iCET, a joint U.S.-China research institute with offices in Beijing and Los Angeles, the imported vehicles averaged 23.3 miles per gallon, while domestically produced vehicles averaged 32.7 mpg. In other words, American-made automobiles need to increase fuel efficiency to effectively compete in the Chinese market. (DTN)

U.S. beef imports through June were 19 percent higher than year-earlier levels. Imports were stronger from Australia, Brazil, Uruguay, and Mexico thus far in 2012, but U.S. imports from Australia have posted the largest gains at 76 percent higher year over year. This year, 28 percent of total beef imports came from Australia. Expanded beef imports come at a time when U.S. cow herds are being liquidated due to the extreme drought. Explain that, if you can.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced it has determined that Japan is free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The move clears the way for resumed imports of whole cuts of boneless beef from Japan. The determination went into effect Aug. 17.

Part of the work of USDA agencies, including APHIS, and other federal part-

ners is to prevent and remove unwarranted barriers to trade, saving and securing American jobs and businesses.

The president of the Canadian Meat Council suggests making U.S. Country of Origin Labeling voluntary would end a trade dispute involving the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Last month the World Trade Organization Appellate Body upheld a November 2011 Dispute Settlement Panel ruling that U.S. Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling discriminates against imported livestock and is inconsistent with U.S. trade obligations. The U.S. now has 15 months to bring the legislation into compliance or face retaliatory tariffs.

The cotton industry has a new program called "traceability" that allows consumers to trace the origin of cotton products back to the original U.S. cotton field and farmer.

For years, the U.S. has accused China of keeping its currency undervalued to help Chinese exporters, although it hurts competitors elsewhere. But a new study by three researchers says Beijing has used a far more obscure tool to manage trade: fiddling with the level of tax rebates, which can greatly boost or reduce the profits of Chinese exporters.

The U.S. had a \$295 billion trade deficit with China last year. Almost all of it was in manufactured goods. This has a huge influence on U.S. unemployment figures.

The ENFORCE Act would address fraudulent evasion of antidumping and countervailing duty orders. The bill just passed out of the Senate Finance Committee on a voice vote. Currently, an industry can file a trade complaint against foreign suppliers for trade law violations; win the case; achieve the imposition of antidumping or countervailing duties; and then see the foreign products keep streaming in without enforcement of those orders. Foreign suppliers often engage in fraudulent labeling or transshipping the product through a third coun-

try to conceal the products' origin. The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency has the obligation to enforce the duty orders, but often does not. The ENFORCE Act requires CBP to do its job.

The Manufacturing Alliance for Productivity and Innovation (MAPI) just released a report entitled "The U.S. Trade Deficit in Manufactures and the Chinese Surplus Continue to Rise in 2012, But at Very Different Paces".

Key findings:

- The Chinese trade surplus in manufactures rose by 24 percent in the first half of 2012, following 23 percent growth in 2011 and 27 percent in 2012; a calendar 2012 \$817 billion surplus is projected;
- The U.S. deficit rose by 7 percent in the first half of 2012, down from 12 percent growth in 2011 and 24 percent in 2012; a calendar 2012 deficit of \$495 billion is projected;
- The two imbalances are connected by the extremely lopsided bilateral trade, with U.S. imports from China more than six times larger than exports; in the first half of 2012, the U.S. deficit with China rose by \$13 billion, compared with a \$15 billion increase in the global deficit;
- The \$169 billion three year increase in the U.S. global deficit, from 2009 projected to 2012, resulted in a 700,000 to 1.4 million trade-related loss of American manufacturing jobs, including 130,000 to 260,000 jobs in 2012.
- The \$500 billion annual U.S. current account deficit— principally the result of the trade deficit in manufactures — as well as the budget deficit, have thus been financed in large part by foreign central banks buying U.S. Treasuries.

Quote of the month: The U.S. free trade policy is like selling the cow to buy milk. Let's keep our manufacturing "cow." Buy American.

Water, Private Property, Natural Resources, and Endangered Species

Report



By Alice Parker
Washington

The House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee held a field hearing in Pasco, Wash., on H.R. 6247. Chairman Doc Hastings of the Natural Resource Committee and Chairman Tom McClinton of the Subcommittee on Water and Power facilitated the hearing. Both Congressmen are opposing the efforts to remove dams in their areas all in the name of fish survival.

H.R. 6247 declares that hydropower is renewable, and accounts for seven percent of the electricity generated in the Nation and avoids 200 million annual metric tons of carbon emissions. (Hydropower accounts for 70 percent of electricity generated in Washington State and is the source of reliable renewable energy for millions of American Families across the country) H.R. 6247 also states that existing Federal and non-Federal hydropower facilities are subject to litigation, judicial orders and regulations that seek to diminish hydropower and that is in the Nation's economic and environmental interest to protect existing hydropower resources and promote new development.

The legislation will require more transparency on costs related to federal fish and wildlife laws and regulation impacting federal hydropower facilities. The provision directs each Power Marketing Administration to estimate and report such costs to their firm power customers on a monthly basis.

Thirty percent of my total monthly power bill goes for costs related to fish recovery and survival. My Public Utility District (PUD) has spent \$35 million on a fish slide to send smolts around the

Washington holds hearing on HR 6247

dam as they continue their journey out to the sea. Tom Flint a Commissioner for the Grant County PUD testified they are in the process of installing fish friendly turbines and generators that will be more efficient and will boost generation capacity by 12 percent and with fish passage survival rate of 97 percent. The rate payers are bearing the costs of these improvements made to accommodate the fish recovery and survival.

Jim Sanders, General Manager, Benton County PUD testified "At times it is hard to believe that we have to defend the economic and environmental benefits of the dams-but we do."

Kara Rowe, Affairs and Outreach Director for the Washington Wheat Growers testified about the importance of dams to navigation and transportation. "Breaching dams will put up to 700,000 more trucks on the highways and increase greenhouse gas emissions. Hundreds of thousands of jobs are tied directly to the rivers system and American agricultural system would suffer consequences affecting every American citizen."

H.R. 6247 prohibits federal funding from being used to remove, breach or study the removal or breaching of any hydropower dam unless explicitly authorized by Congress.

- It prohibits federal funding to organizations that have engaged in dam removal or hydropower-decreasing litigation against the federal government.
- Addresses burdensome costs and regulation imposed by the Interior and Commerce Department on licensing and re-licensing non-federal hydropower dams.
- Protects electricity transmission lines from catastrophic forest fires by allowing electricity rights-of-way on

holders on federal lands to remove insect-infested trees or other hazardous fuels within 500 feet.

H.R. 6427 needs support and bears watching as to how others amend and change its intent.

WIFE Supporting Members

VIP Membership

- AT&T
- Bayer CropScience

Executive Membership

- American Petroleum Institute
- DuPont
- Farm Credit of New Mexico
- Monsanto
- Renewable Fuels Association
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- American Bankers Association
- American Council of Life Insurers
- CHS, Inc.
- CropLife America
- Dow AgroSciences
- Florida, Texas, and Hawaii Sugarcane Growers
- U.S. Beet Sugar Association

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Membership

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- CHS Cooperative
- Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- North Bridge Communications

In-Kind Contributors

- Eastern Arizona Ag Center
- Miller/Coors
- Rauner & Associates

Sugar Report



By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

My mother believed in working hard and doing our best to benefit anyone that is involved in our life. American farmers are doing just that. While farmers in rural areas are busy growing crops to feed our nation, the U.S. Congress is writing nation's food bill or 2012 Farm Bill. There is some positive news coming out of House Agriculture Committee. Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-MN) have released the initial draft of House Committee, which indicates a strong support of no-cost sugar policy.

There have been three amendments to weaken or do away with sugar program in past few months.

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) proposed an amendment to kill the sugar program. A motion to table to kill the amendment passed, 50-46. The second amendment was submitted by Senator Patrick Toomey (R-PA) to effectively remove all of the key provisions that were added to the 2008 Farm Bill. The provision in 2008 Bill gives authority to the Secretary of Agriculture to assess sugar production and inventory in order to limit foreign sugar imports into the U.S. market. Without this provision U.S. sugar market will face oversupply and a drop in sugar prices. A dangerous situation like this will jeopardize many jobs and damage economic activity in rural America.

I commend Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Ranking Member Pat Roberts (R-KS) for their continued support of America's sugar producers. It was a tough battle for sugar leaders, but the amendment was rejected, 46-53.

The third amendment was raised by Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) to change the date when the Secretary of Agriculture can increase imports according to 2008 bill provision from April 1 to

Amendments seek to end sugar program

February 1.

The fact is that the sugar program works very well for farmers, processors and provides stability to sugar market and good price for American consumer.

Looking back at 2006 European Union (EU) situation, large candy companies like the ones that are currently lobbying against the sugar program were lobbying to reform EU sugar policy. They succeeded and we are seeing the result today. Totally 83 EU sugar mills have been closed, leading to 120,000 lost jobs. Bulk refined sugar prices have increased 10 percent.

Volatile price swings and supply shortages have plagued Europe's sugar markets; and sugar policy is costing tax-

payers €1.3 billion (\$1.6 billion) a year.

Guess what? The first ones to complain about sugar prices are the large European food manufacturers that lobbied for EU sugar policy reform. Now they are desperately looking for adequate supply. EU consumers faced "an increase of 40 percent in sugar price within the last year."

The sugar program provides 142,000 jobs and has an economic impact of \$20 billion a year for the U.S. economy. We produce sugar in 18 states so we don't have to depend on unreliable foreign countries for this vital ingredient. Best of all, this success story costs taxpayers very little because sugar producers don't receive government subsidy checks.

Former WIFE president writes book about her life

By Mary Ann Sheppard

Nita Gibson has written a book about her life called "That Cotton Pickin' Woman: How One Lady Farmed Farmers, Politicked Politicians, and Made a Difference." She is a remarkable lady. Her book shows how Nita worked hard all her life. She worked from a dime store clerk to having to cut every penny through her life. She was a determined lady with many ideas that she accomplished. What a lady.

Nita became National President of Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) in 1980. I must say she was one of the best presidents WIFE has ever had.

In her book there is a section on Wearing Two Hats. This tells about her involvement in WIFE and the PIC program that she implemented with the president, the secretary of agriculture, and USDA. This was Nita's idea, and it worked for the farmers.

If you haven't read the book, you



need to get one. She has had two book signings in Lubbock, Tex. Her address is Nita Gibson, 5306 69th St., Lubbock, Texas 79424. The cost of the book is \$19.95 plus shipping for a total cost of \$26.75.

Her book can also be purchased by visiting www.thatcottonpickin-woman.com.

Rural Health, Farm Finance, and Communications **Report**



By Donna Bolz
Nebraska

Celiac disease symptoms can be vague

Celiac disease is a condition that damages the lining of the small intestine and prevents it from absorbing parts of food that are important for staying healthy. The damage is due to a reaction to eating gluten, which is found in wheat, barley, rye, and possibly oats. The exact cause of celiac disease is unknown. Celiac disease is mainly a gastrointestinal disorder.

One percent of non-Hispanic whites in the U.S., close to two million, have celiac disease but most are not aware they suffer the gluten-intolerance problem according to a new study. The results support an earlier estimate of how common celiac disease is in the U.S. and Europe the researchers say. The study also supports evidence that the condition is more rare among Hispanics and blacks.

"This one...is pretty much in line with what was shown before," said Dr. Alessio Fasano, director of the Center for Celiac Research at the University of Maryland, who was not involved in the study. Fasano said that despite how common the condition is in the U.S., he's not surprised that few people have been diagnosed with it.

"The symptoms are so vague and non-specific that it's very difficult to point to celiac disease when you have chronic fatigue or anemia or joint pain" Fasano said.

Most studies to determine how widespread the condition is have been done in Europe, so the researchers wanted to get a better estimate of celiac disease in the U.S. Dr. James Everhart, at the National Institute Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, along with colleagues at the Mayo Clinic and in Sweden, used data

from a large ongoing national study of health and nutrition.

About 7,800 people participated in the celiac study, and gave a blood sample that was tested for signs of the immune response to gluten that characterizes celiac disease. The researchers, who published their study in the American Journal of Gastroenterology, found evidence of celiac disease in 35 people, 29 of whom were not aware of their sensitivity to gluten. Six of the 35 people with celiac disease were not white. Everhart says that based on the number of non-whites in the study - 4,368 - having just six test positive illustrates that celiac disease is rare among non-whites.

"I think we confirmed the clinical suspicion that this is largely a condition found among non-Hispanic whites in this country," he told Reuters Health. In the study, 55 people reported that they followed a gluten-free diet, although only six of them tested positive for celiac disease.

Based on his clinical experience, Fasano said there are a number of people who choose to abstain from gluten not for medical reasons, but for other perceived health benefits.

"They believe, right or wrong, that gluten is not good for them," he said. Although awareness of celiac disease has increased in the U.S., the study shows that few people are aware that they may have it themselves.

"This is a big issue," said Everhart, and the study does not lay out a clear path for trying to identify more people suffering with the disease.

"Screening everybody is not the way to go," said Fasano. Celiac disease can develop at any age, making it difficult to know when to test people who don't have symptoms.

"If you don't have symptoms, it's hard to say that identifying you as having this condition is going to do a lot of good at this point. That's for studies to determine," said Everhart.

Everhart and his colleagues are continuing the survey to gather more numbers showing which groups of people appear to be most at risk of celiac disease, and whether the health of people with celiac disease is different from those without it.

Thank you to Marlene Kouba for forwarding me this information.

FAED Dues

The Foundation for Agricultural Education and Development (FAED) is an organization, which strives to educate and inform the general public about the importance of agriculture and its relationship to the welfare of the national economy. FAED administers grants that are consistent with the goals of the foundation.

Members of Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) formed it in 1983 because of a strong commitment to education and agriculture. It has awarded grants to WIFE chapters and associations to assist with educational projects that promote agriculture.

The Marilyn Spiker Memorial Scholarships were created through cooperative efforts of FAED and WIFE and offered to women who will begin first or second year college.

Now is the time to renew your membership or become a member in FAED. The Membership schedule dues, which are tax-deductible, are as follows:

Individual	\$5.00
Family	\$10.00
Supporting	\$25.00

For more information, contact Phyllis Howatt at howphy@utma.com.

National Candidate Profiles

Ruth Laribee

New York

Nominee for President

Hello, my name is Ruth Laribee. For 42 years my husband Glenn and I owned and operated a dairy farm here on the East Road in Lowville, New York. The 245 acres here on the home farm and 100 acres of tillable land a half mile away is now being used for crop farming, growing alfalfa, silage and high moisture corn and produces excellent yields.

I have four children, two daughters-in-law, two sons-in-law, 10 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. About five years ago our son Larry built a home and barn and then started a small registered beef operation. I am always invited to come and help out anytime!

Since 1981 I have served on the Lowville Town Board as Councilwoman, being elected again three years ago for a four year term. I serve as secretary on the Mountain View Prevention Board, an educational organization with staff that goes into the schools working with the students to prevent alcohol and substance abuse. I serve as lector in St. Peter's Church. I served two terms on the national Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

In 1980 I joined WIFE and have served as State Dairy Chairman and State Trade Chairman. I served as National Dairy Chairman, National Trade Chairman and as National Area 111 director. I am currently National Vice President.

Agriculture and WIFE are important to me. WIFE is made up of different commodities that bring about many different issues, but working together we do make a difference. Together we have one common goal, and that is to better the life of our American farmers, ranchers and consumers. This last year has brought new challenges, learning experiences and the privilege to serve as the National Vice President.

This year as a candidate, I am asking you for the privilege and honor of serving you as National WIFE President.

Shana Baisch

Montana

Nominee for Treasurer

I am once again running for National WIFE Treasurer. I have served for two years as treasurer and enjoy the job. My family and I ranch in the Badlands of Eastern Montana. We run a commercial mostly black Angus herd of cattle. We also have a small side business of taking people out dinosaur fossil hunting on the ranch. Our two sons have recently returned home from serving in the Marines so we are enjoying their help and involvement in the ranch. Continuing and promoting our nation's agriculture business and our way of life is near and dear to my heart.

Linda Newman

Montana

Nominee for Vice President

I'm Linda Newman and would like your vote for the office of 2012 National WIFE Vice President.

My husband, Dean, and I, along with 2 of our daughters and their families, lease a 43,000 acre ranch in central Montana on the Missouri River. We have a cow calf livestock operation and also raise winter wheat and hay.

Our family has been in farming and ranching for generations, so obviously we are very passionate about our rural way of life and the importance of production agriculture to help feed the world population. It seems that we wake up every day to a new challenge that threatens to undermine our ability to keep afloat in rural America--i.e. floods, drought, hail, snowstorms, fires, environmentalists, government bureaucracy, insects, diseases in animals and plants, high input costs, market instability, etc., just to name a few!

I believe WIFE does a great job of addressing adverse issues that come up, and I am proud to be a member and to have an input of possible solutions for our stressed farmers and ranchers. So, I would like to be your Vice President in 2012 to help continue this important job that all of those brave farm and ranch wives started back in 1976 when Women Involved in Farm Economics was born!

Sheila Massey

New Mexico

Nominee for Secretary

Our family farms in the bootheel of New Mexico in the southwestern corner of the state and in southeastern Arizona in Cochise County. We produce corn, oats, and alfalfa hay under center pivot irrigation.

We have three married children and seven grandchildren who are the light of our lives. We are very fortunate that we are able to work with most of them on a daily basis here on our farm in Animas.

I joined WIFE in 1978 and assisted in chartering the Animas chapter. I have held officer positions on the chapter, state and national level. I served as national president in 1998 and 1999. I currently hold the position of National Area II Director.

I appreciate the confidence that has been placed in me in past years as I have served this organization as an officer, and I hope to have your continued support and confidence. I would like to serve WIFE in the capacity of National Secretary. I held this office many years ago and I know I am capable of fulfilling the responsibilities that accompany the position. I am asking for your support and your vote!

National Candidate Profiles

Marlene Kouba

North Dakota

Nominee for Area 1 Director

My husband, Richard, passed away in 2005, but I continue to live on our farm in southwestern North Dakota on the edge of the oil activity. We have nine children and 22 grandchildren.

I joined WIFE in 1981 and have been active on the state level since that time and on the national level since 1991 by holding various positions as an officer and chairman. I am currently state secretary/treasurer/editor and my term as national energy chairman is expiring this fall.

I was chairman of the ND State Health Council for three years and am now its secretary. I am also active in church, community and political organizations. My hobbies include genealogy, writing and oil painting.

Over the years I have missed only a few national WIFE meetings. Therefore, I know what has happened in WIFE and would like to help chart its future. I have the time, interest and the commitment to be your next Area 1 Director. Your vote and support would be appreciated.

Mary Ellen Cammack

South Dakota

Nominee for Area 1 Director

Randy and I have been married for 36 years, have four grown children, and continue to raise cattle in western South Dakota, east of the foothills and the Black Hills. In addition to my National and State WIFE memberships, I am a class VI graduate of South Dakota Ag Rural Leadership, serve as a SD State 4-H Leaders Assoc. Director, and serve as a director of the Western Jr. Livestock 4-H Show (celebrating its 75th year this October). I also am a member of the Rapid City Ag Chamber Committee that is very active in communicating ag issues with the consumer and general public.

I previously served as beef chair for WIFE and resolutions, and believe that I have the organizational skills and communication/technology skills to effectively serve National WIFE as Director of Area I. Production agriculture is my life, and I am passionate about promoting and serving this industry.

Cathy Scherler

Colorado

Nominee for Area 2 Director

Cathy Scherler was raised on a farm in Southwest Oklahoma. She learned how to drive a tractor when she was six years old.

She and her husband, Burl, moved to southeastern Colorado in 1973. They raise winter wheat, oil sunflowers, grain sorghum and corn on their dryland farm near Sheridan Lake. They also sell agricultural chemicals, hybrid seed and certified seed wheat.

Burl and Cathy say the best crops they ever raised were their two children, Lynn and Christi. They have four grandchildren with another on the way.

WIFE has been Cathy's favorite farm organization since she helped organize the Kiowa County WIFE Chapter back in 1980. She has served in leadership positions on the chapter, state and national level. She currently serves as President of the Colorado WIFE Association. She served as the National WIFE Publicity Chairman in 1986 and 1987.

If elected she will do her best to represent WIFE to the best of her ability. She feels that communication and education are very important to WIFE members as they strive "to tell their story". She would appreciate your support and vote.

Alice Parker

Washington

Nominee for Natural Resources Chair

Alice was born and raised on a farm. She and her late husband, Ivan (Ike), bought their first farm in 1954 in eastern Colorado. They made the change from dryland farming to irrigated farming when they moved to the Royal Slope, Washington, area in 1965 and developed their farm. She still owns and lives on the farm that she, Ike, and their children, Perry, Sue, and Karla developed.

She believes in the need to develop an understanding among agricultural producers, food processors, governmental agencies, other industry interests and the general public that our food supply (agriculture) is vulnerable to terrorism, natural disasters and other emergency situations.

Alice always has been an advocate for agriculture and in 1977 helped organize Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) in Washington State. She served in numerous offices and served as national president of WIFE in 1988-89. She served as president of the Washington Agricultural Council in 1990-91.

She served as executive secretary for the Columbia Basin Development League for 18 years. Her duties included organizational planning, building membership, and providing outreach to interest groups that have negative and positive positions about the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project and agriculture in general.

National Candidate Profiles

Sue Krentz

Arizona

Nominee for Beef Chair

My name is Sue Krentz. I live on the Krentz Ranch in Southeast Arizona. I am applying for the position of Beef Chairman.

I have three kids. Andy and his wife, Amanda, and son, Axton, live in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Kyle and her husband, Brandon Guteirrez, and children, Robert and Madyson, live in Green River, Wyoming. I am a widow as my husband Rob was murdered on the ranch in 2010 with our dog Blue. Our middle son, Frank, lives and works on the ranch with my brother-in-law Phil, his wife, Carrie, and son, Ben.

The Krentz ranch has been owned by the family since 1907. We run a crossbred cow calf operation and have a forest permit and state land lease and private property.

We live about 30 miles north of the Mexico border and have issues with the border.

I have always been involved in agriculture and have lived in the San Barnidiono Valley most of my life.

I welcome any kind of suggestions for the articles because I do know that there are concerns that may be different. I am very concerned about endangered species, forest fire policy, water and herd health issues to name a few. This past year I felt that one big red flag was the child labor laws. As they control land use and then the workforce, they end up controlling productivity. For now it seems they have backed off, but I would keep a watchful eye on this issue.

Thank you for your support.

Jacquelyn Sistrunk

Alabama

Nominee for Specialty Crops Chair

Jacquelyn Sistrunk of EH Sistrunk Farms, Society Hill, Alabama, is a member in good standing of Big Hungry Chapter of Alabama WIFE. I have been married to my husband, Edward, for 45 years. We own a 4,200 acre farm producing timber, cattle, and hay.

We have two sons, Harris and Blair, and a daughter, Melanie. Our son Harris row crops about 1,000 acres. Over the years he has planted wheat, cotton, peanuts, brown top, crimson and arrowleaf clover, and soybeans.

Since I have experienced good times and bad with each of these crops, I feel qualified to chair this commodity. I would appreciate your vote.

Donna Bolz

Nebraska

Nominee for Rural Health Chair

A farm girl at heart would best describe me. I live in Lincoln, Nebraska, and work for a contractor for the Department of Homeland Security.

I strongly believe in family farming and the way of life. My brother is a farmer and my father was a farmer. Being a WIFE member has given me the chance to learn many things and meet some caring, dedicated women.

Volunteering is an important part of my life. My hope someday is to be able to volunteer full time for various organizations.

A fun thing I do in the summer is work a second job at the local 1/3 mile dirt car racetrack. I enjoy working with people and the sound the cars make relaxes me. I have enjoyed writing the articles for Rural Life and would like to continue this.

Pat Torgerson

Montana

Nominee for Transportation Chair

I am running for Transportation Chairperson because I think what is happening in freight rates affects agriculture very much and is interesting.

With the closing of rail livestock and single car grain shipments, local ag producers now must rely on trucks to move their commodities. Railroad consolidation to 52 car unit trains has made for railroad efficiency and local agriculture inefficiency. A lion's share of local agriculture expenses and time is now spent on transportation. Plus, today's agriculture must now compete with coal and oil for availability of rail cars and track time.

I have been a WIFE member since it began. I have served wherever needed. I enjoyed being RBL's chapter president for many years and Montana state president.

Ken and I have raised two children, Beth and Lewis. We are amazed at how smart and beautiful our four grandchildren are.

We have sold some of our farm to a young couple who rented it for six years. We are retired but still very much interested in seeing ag families survive.

A vote for Pat will make me a better WIFE member by making me stay involved.

National Candidate Profiles

Klodette Stroh

Wyoming

Nominee for Sugar Chair

My husband Rick and I live and farm in Powell, Wyo. Rick was raised in Powell and I grow up in Tehran, the capital city of Iran. Rick and I met in Powell while I was attending Northwest College.

We have always been a team, and we worked together and planned to farm someday. We had been saving since the day we were married for such opportunity, and in 1989 our dream came true when we had the opportunity to purchase some land and acquire contracts. Today we farm close to 2,000 acres of beans, corn, sunflower, and malting barley as well as hay for our cattle. Rick and I make the perfect team because not only does he love to farm, but he is very knowledgeable about crop production.

I am very good with finances, so I am in charge of the farm's finances. I enjoy research, so I have learned a great deal about the history of agriculture in the United States through my personal research; thus, I have become an advocate for American farmers and U.S. agriculture. I have been involved with lawmakers and as the WIFE national sugar chairman. I have traveled to Washington, D.C., to represent our farmers on several occasions. In 1997 I was elected as water commissioner for Shoshone Irrigation Project, the largest Federal Project in the State of Wyoming.

I have met so many loving and caring ladies through the WIFE organization that work tirelessly to promote and educate agriculture in the United States. It has been the greatest honor for me to serve America's agriculture side by side with our dedicated WIFE ladies to represent American farmers and fight for our country's prosperity.

Pam Potthoff

Nebraska

Nominee for Trade Chair

My husband Harold and I, with the help of our daughter Jennifer and her family, run a diversified farm called Coyote Canyons in Southwest Nebraska.

We market our wheat and corn through local elevators. We are fortunate to have numerous outlets for our grain so the competition for pricing is good. We sell our livestock mainly through a local auction barn. It is the only sale barn within 40 miles of our farm, but we could truck our cattle farther, if necessary.

Even though we market locally, we are aware of the importance international trade plays on our farming operation. In order to make wise planting and marketing decisions, I try to keep up on international events, including weather, trade policies (both here and with our trading partners), farming events and crop progress in countries competing with us for exports, supply/demand reports, and financial situations.

This has led to an interest in international trade policies that I wish to share with the members of WIFE as your Trade Chairman for 2013.

I represent WIFE on the Board of Directors of the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA). Meetings are by conference call and every meeting I come away with more trade information.

I thank WIFE for allowing me to represent WIFE and the opportunity to broaden my knowledge on trade issues.

I hope you have learned from my articles this year and would appreciate you sharing trade information with me as I may miss something important to you. I would appreciate your vote for 2013 Trade Chairman.

Gwen Cassel

New York

Nominee for Sheep/Goats Chair

Most who have known me for the last 30 or so years know that I have been busy in the sheep and goat world for those years and several before owning and raising my own animals.

Coming into livestock through my working dogs, Border Collies and livestock Guardian Dogs, I have actively raised sheep, lambs and goats as meat animals, and have been active in the world of self-marketing of lamb and lamb products, along with the world of intensive grazing for the feeding of small ruminants.

Currently I am managing and taking care of a flock of 550 ewes and their lambs for a friend on a leased farm northwest of Syracuse, NY. The ewes are a hair sheep breed developed in Maine known as Katadins. These sheep do not need to be shorn as they shed their undercoat in the spring and through the summer. Since

meat is the primary product from sheep in the U.S., this change in breeding and the resultant lack of need for hiring shearers has removed a cost for this flock.

I am active in promoting small ruminants as an alternate farm product, especially in our grass rich areas here in the east, close to many ethnic populations who especially seek lambs from medium size sheep and goats, a preference for farmers here in the east. I also spend much time tracking the entire sheep industry in the U.S. Traditional European families who were the main consumers of lamb products such as roast lamb, or the specialty restaurant serving tender lamb chops are no longer the only customers available to this industry. Families have discovered how so many cuts from a lamb or goat can be available for cooking on the grill or cooked in a crock pot. Leg of lamb can be cut into lamb steaks, and good shoulder of lamb makes excellent stew in the winter.

I am convinced that lamb and goat products will continue to be a growing farm industry with only small accommodations in the industry. Understanding the customer, whether you sell directly or through a buyer, is key to success.

National Convention Registration

Women Involved in Farm Economics 36th Annual Convention **Bismarck, North Dakota** **November 15-17, 2012**

Preconvention meetings will be held on November 14, 2012

Hotel

Best Western Doublewood Inn

1400 E. Interchange Ave.

Bismarck, ND. 58501

Phone: (701) 258-7000 Fax: (701) 258-5353

ROOM BLOCK CODE WIFE

Room Rates \$95 plus tax \$8.55

Specify if you prefer main floor rooms no elevator

Registration & Hotel Reservations Deadline: Oct. 30, 2011

Return to:

Diana Adam

9601 42 ST SE

Minot, ND 58701

email: dadam@srt.com

Phone: (701) 833-0535

Registration:

Member: \$150.00

Spouse/Guest: \$135.00

Make checks payable to: WIFE Convention

Member Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

National Position: (specify) _____

Please check all that apply:

National Officer () Office position _____

National Commodity/Topic Chair or Standing Committee Chair () Specify: _____

State President () BOD Delegate () Member () Guest () HOW ()

Check if roommate needed () Special diet required: _____

WIFE Membership and Dues

Article V, Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be held by individuals involved or interested in agriculture, regardless of race, color, sex, creed, or national origin who subscribe to the objectives of WIFE. Membership shall be:

A. Regular:

1. Any individual who is a member of a chapter and pays annual state (where required) and national dues.
2. All regular members shall have one (1) vote.

B. Member at Large:

1. An individual, in an organized state not affiliated with a chapter, who pays annual state and national dues.
2. An individual in an unorganized state who pays national dues.
3. Members at-large may attend meetings as observers. Observers, with permission, may speak but shall not vote.

C. Honorary:

1. An individual chosen in recognition of outstanding service to WIFE and approved by the Board of Directors.
2. Honorary members may attend meetings without a vote.

D. Supporting Member:

1. An individual or a business that makes financial in-kind contributions to WIFE.
2. Supporting Members may attend meetings without a vote.

Article VII, Dues

Section 1. Dues shall be established by the membership at the annual WIFE convention. Notice shall be required in advance of the annual convention in order to change dues and must be submitted in accordance with other amendments and bylaws. Anyone running for office shall have their dues paid before the National Convention. (See Article XIX).

Section 2: Dues shall be payable by January 1.

- A. Dues shall be sent to the national treasurer and postmarked by January 1 or the member's name shall be removed from the roll, with all membership privileges revoked until such time as membership dues are paid.
- B. Members running for office shall have their dues paid before the national convention.
- C. In order for a member to hold an elected or appointed position, the member's respective state must be current on WIFE's annual assessments.



WIFeline
a publication of
WOMEN INVOLVED
IN FARM ECONOMICS
Published monthly except June and November

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