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Remembering Sheila Massey



Sheila was a leader. She was a dedicated, devoted, positive, strong, kind and loving person. WIFE benefited from her unique and special talents. When there was something to be done Sheila stepped up to the plate. Through the years she held positions of Energy Chairman, Area Director II, Second Vice President, Vice President and President. She served on standing committees, was Secretary and served on the Foundation for Agricultural Education and Development (FAED) Board. Sheila loved people and everyone respected and enjoyed working with her. For the WIFE Washington legislative seminars Sheila did the Congressional invitations to the pizza party, Taste of WIFE and the itinerary to meet with sponsors. She made many friends with WIFE sponsors. With her positive attitude, great smile and organizational gifts, she left her legacy on our organization. Sheila was a vital part of WIFE. We are a family and Sheila was part of that family.

--Ruth Larabee, National WIFE President



President's Report



By Ruth Laribee
New York

Proposed Farm Bill faces resistance and potential changes

A Farm Bill providing Agricultural regulations for farmers, ranchers and consumers should not be so complicated. The continuation of adding amendments to an already burdened bill greatly slows down the process thereby possibly bringing it to a halt, which it did. The Farm Bill was rejected by a House vote of 195-234. It's reported that Representatives who were already on board to vote "yes" changed their vote to "no" because of two amendments they could not agree with. The first amendment was by Representative Robert Goodlatte (R-VA) which would remove the Dairy Stabilization Act. The second amendment was by Representative Steve Southerland (R-FL) that would authorize states to call for able-bodied people to look for work or volunteer for charitable organizations to qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP).

The agricultural producers now have to wait to see what will happen to the many necessary sugar, livestock, dairy and crop insurance programs, to name a few. With the weather not cooperating and being so dry in some areas that acres of crops didn't make it or so wet in other areas that planting never happened puts the producers in dire straits. They need to know now whether finalized programs in the Farm Bill will help or hinder them in their mission to feed the people of the United States and world.

There are several first time Representatives in the House and some in part of their second term who have never voted on a Farm Bill. A 2010 census reports only thirty-four of the 435

congressional districts are more than fifty percent rural. More than half the districts are at least eighty-six percent urban.

Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader (D-NV), stated he will not pass another temporary Farm Bill. According to news sources, Representative Frank Lucas (R-OK), House Agriculture Chairman, said they will try again to get votes for the Farm Bill but that it could be tougher this time.

The current Farm Bill on a one-year extension would expire September

2013.

Fast-track, which was allowed to lapse in the President George Bush administration, is on the radar screen again. President Obama is set to work with Congress to win the fast-track negotiating authority. It allows trade deals to move through Congress without amendments. Without fast-track authority trading partners are more disinclined to make compromises if they believe a trade deal negotiated by the administration will later be changed by Congress.

A Thank You from Scholarship Winner Larissa Wach



Thank you WIFE for your support of higher education in the agricultural industry! It is much appreciated and I thank you for the financial assistance that this scholarship provides me personally.

This fall I will be a sophomore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in Agribusiness with a minor in Entrepreneurship. Growing up on a farm, I have a passion for agriculture instilled in me that I want to utilize in my future career. I plan to return to a rural community like the one I was raised in and run a faith based, family-owned farming operation. As the years go by, I will continue to network with leaders in the agricultural industry. Whether I am on the farm, working for an agricultural business, or managing my own business, I want to be a leader for American and global agriculture as an advocate for the industry I am most passionate about. Along with that, I plan to volunteer in my community and invest in young individuals' lives as a way to give back to organizations like WIFE that have made an investment in my life.

The future of American agriculture will be what my generation of individuals shapes it to be. Throughout generations, organizations like WIFE have supported farmers and their families as they persevered through the trials, tears, and joys of agriculture life. The same determination will continued to be carried on through my generation of agriculturists thanks to your support of the agricultural industry.

Thank you again for your continued support of students' pursuing careers in agricultural. Your care for higher education in the agricultural industry will continue to make a difference both now and in the future.

Beef Report



By Sue Krentz
Arizona

Help by supporting the Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention Act

THE CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION ACT, HR 1345, needs our support. It will help all ranchers and land owners in the long run. The bill was introduced by Representative Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and is also endorsed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Public Lands Council, (PLC) and the Arizona Cattlegrowers Association (ACGA). It is so important you get the exact information and call your Senators, Congressmen and women in Washington DC , I asked Andy Grosseta if I could share his testimony with the members of W.I.F.E.

The wild fires are already starting in California, New Mexico and Arizona. In Arizona we had huge devastating fires and many of our friends and neighbors actually lost their homes. It is vital you take this to your associations and request their support. Once you read Andy's testimony you will understand how important this is for the future of public lands grazing in the west.

CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION ACT PROTECTS PRODUCERS AND PRESERVES OUR NATIONAL FORESTS

By Andy Grosseta, President, Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Past President of NCBA and PLC Member

As an Arizona rancher and President of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, I am all too familiar with the devastating effects catastrophic wildfires have on livestock producers in the West. Fire is a natural occurrence that is beneficial when it happens on healthy forests, where it removes excess debris and allows more sunlight and nutrients for upcoming

growing seasons. Back before the forests became overcrowded and under-grazed, old timers in many areas used to strike a match and start a blaze behind them as they rode out with the last fall gather. But after four decades of mismanagement of our federal forests, catastrophic wildfire--the kind that burns so hot it kills the microorganisms in the soil-- is the order of the day. This new kind of fire is doing lasting harm to forest ecosystems and western communities. When catastrophic wildfire breaks out, there are no winners--not the watershed, not the wildlife, not air quality, not the rural communities and not the taxpayer.

Today I testified before the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, asking Congress to provide commonsense solutions to prevent catastrophic wildfires. Representing the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the Public Lands Council (PLC) and ACGA, I voiced strong support for H.R. 1345, the Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention Act of 2013. H.R. 1345 was introduced by Representative Paul Gosar (R-AZ) to address the threats to forest health, public safety and wildlife habitat presented by the risk of wildfire, including catastrophic wildfire, on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The legislation would expedite forest management projects--timber thinning and livestock grazing-- relating to hazardous fuels reduction, forest health and economic development.

Here's what I told the Subcommittee: Wildfires burned over nine million acres in 2012 with a suppression price tag of almost \$2 billion. This doesn't count any of the costs associated with restoration or loss of property. It has become all too clear from the millions of charred acres across the West that the planning process currently in use by federal agencies is woefully broken. They plan, study and consult--then get litigated by radical anti-logging,

anti-grazing "environmental" groups who are often taxpayer-funded. Then they're forced to plan, study and consult again. The vicious cycle continues. As a result, livestock grazing has been reduced on BLM lands by as much as 50 percent since 1971, while the timber industry has been all but destroyed over the last 30 years--all almost entirely due to federal laws and regulations and predatory environmental groups. Meanwhile, our forests and their precious natural resources go up in smoke. Over two-thirds of the land managed by the federal government is now at risk of catastrophic wildfire. The impacts on those whose livelihood depends on public lands--such as livestock producers--are tremendous. For example, southeastern Oregon's 2012 "Long Draw" fire, the biggest Oregon burn since 1865, spanned over a half-million acres and claimed hundreds of livestock. One family lost a third of their 300-head cow-calf operation. Montana's "Ash Creek" fire claimed roughly 400 cows and calves belonging to one ranching family. Ranching families across the West saw the same fate. Of course, we will never know the losses that resulted from the stress endured by the cattle that survived. But perhaps the biggest cost was forage loss for tens of thousands of cattle, all in just one fire season. This is only a continuation of a trend. In 2011, ACGA reported that major fires impacted at least 100 ranching families, who had to find new pasture for approximately 10,000 head of cows and 8,000 head of calves. Ranching families cannot sustain businesses under these conditions. The impact to the ranching community can hardly be measured. Across the West, hay is in short supply. Thousands of miles of fence and countless corrals and water improvements must be rebuilt. Thousands of head of displaced livestock have had to be shipped to temporary pastures. Unfortunately, dry conditions are expected to persist, delaying the recovery of burned area. I won't be surprised if many generational

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By Donna Bolz
Nebraska

Rural Life Report

Remembering safety can reduce chance of farm-related accidents

Inhaling dust is a big environmental hazard. Hog producers of a generation ago didn't work in confinement barns and they didn't spend all day with the pigs. Components from dust in the swine barn slows down the cilia, the tiny hairlike projections that protect nasal passages and other parts of the respiratory system.

Working in confined settings on steep terrain with augers, agricultural chemicals and unpredictable livestock, on top of and inside grain bins are risk factors that aren't overcome easily.

Farmers are responsible for more acres than in the past. When you have more to do, you are sometimes in a bigger hurry. This can lead to more accidents.

Roger Hoy, director of the tractor testing lab at the University of Nebraska Lincoln said there was a new problem to contend with also--boredom. Before we had all these computers, farmers would actually drive the tractors. Now because of global positioning system, for a good portion of the time, a farmer is only there in case something goes wrong or to turn the tractor around at the end of a row.

Part of the injury evidence accumulated in the agricultural safety center in Omaha points to the absence on farms and ranches of safety standards enforced in ag business settings.

Farmers work alone and nobody likes someone telling them what to do. Many times they take a risk.

Another hazard is driving farm machinery on public roads. Thousands of highway accidents involving farm machinery occur each year even though farm equipment is marked with a slow moving vehicle emblem. Drivers often grow impatient with farm equipment operators or have difficulty anticipating the intentions of operators driving farm machinery on rural highways.

Researchers also have documented an increase of skin cancer among farmers who work in the sun for prolonged periods without the benefit of protective clothing or sun screen.

Farm children are at special risk from farm-related accidents. Most of the 200 plus deaths among children on farms result from being innocent bystanders or passengers on farm equipment. Starting to work early on the farm without adequate training can lead to more injuries.

Farm safety is something we all need to think about as we go about our day-to-day activities.

The headline in a recent Lincoln Journal Star tells it like it is, "The Most Dangerous Job, Farming. The NU Med Center Works to Make Farming Safer."

Most of us probably know someone who has been injured while farming. My Grandfather got his hand caught in a corn picker and lost all this fingers.

Risto Rautiainen, director of the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health at the NU Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska says the statistics show a decrease in fatalities nationally from 3,300 in the 1960's to 550 in 2011. Risto says he isn't happy with the decrease, "No, I think we need to make a lot more progress."

Omaha is the newest of nine regional centers that recently earned praise from an independent review that cited them as a low-budget, high-impact way to make the lives of farm and ranch families safer.

In Nebraska, 15 to 20 people die in farm accidents every year. This number doesn't just involve machinery accidents.

A guy named Rod had an unpleasant encounter with an Angus cow. "Just last spring, I was tagging a baby calf," Rod says, "and the cow got behind me and knocked me through a barbed wire fence".

Tractors with rollover protection, shields on moving machinery parts and growing safety awareness are among the reasons the number of deaths and injuries are declining. While many tractors now have rollover protection there are still older tractors, some from as far back as the 1930's and 1940's, that are still being used.

2013 WIFE Officers

President

Ruth Larabee
7639 East Road
Lowville, NY 13367
(315) 376-2644 EST
grlarabee@hotmail.com

Vice President

Linda Newman
24728 DY Trail
Winifred, MT 59489
(406) 462-5583 MST
dlnewman@3riversdbs.net

Secretary

Sheila Massey
PO Box 70
Animas, NM 88020
(575) 548-2420 MST
masseyfarm@vtc.net

Treasurer

Shana Baisch
323 Road 300
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 365-4133 MST
jsbaisch@midrivers.com



By Jacquelyn Sistrunk
Alabama

Specialty Crops Report

Weather volatility has major impacts on crop production

Greenhouse gases, rising sea levels, melting polar caps, more intense and less frequent storms, higher temperatures, climate change. Fact or Fiction?

The National Climatic Data Center reports, the annual average temperatures in the US has risen from 51.49 degrees Fahrenheit in 1960 to 55.32 degrees Fahrenheit in 2012. Weather patterns are becoming more variable. So what does this mean for US crop production?

Each plant has an optimum

growing temperature. Pollen is very sensitive to high temperatures. Low-humidity causes pollen survival to diminish rapidly.

Since pollination is one of the most sensitive aspects of a corn plant's life cycle, corn plants add leaves and tassel more quickly. The more time corn is exposed to higher temperatures, the less efficient the plant is. It grows more quickly, becomes a smaller plant, and does not yield as much. Increased weed, insect and disease pressure affects yield. Crop diversity is also affected. At one time farmers could rotate up to four or five crops. With climate change, rotational crops will be lim-

ited to corn and soybeans.

Since climate change happens in fractions of a degree over time and man's life spans are minuscule, most farmers seem little concerned. Those who are concerned are practicing no-till conservation to preserve moisture in soils of drier regions. Research and development of corn and soybean varieties are becoming paramount to the future of farmers. Residue of no-till helps reduce soil evaporation rate by 50% to 70%, allowing plants more water to be used.

Weather volatility has always been a concern beyond our control, but intense rainfall and drought seem to rate more than ever.

Dairy Report

Artificial sweeteners should be labeled

The International Dairy Foods Association and National Milk Producers Federation have petitioned the Food and Drug Association (FDA) to allow any "safe and suitable" sweeteners in milk and 17 other dairy products, including condensed milk, evaporated milk, all types of cream, egg nog, half and half, and yogurt.

Dairy products have always been touted as pure and wholesome. Do dairy farmers really want to give up that image? I realize that many products on the market, including ice cream, are labeled "no sugar" but the

way this proposal is written the only way to discern whether these products contain artificial sugar or not is to read the ingredient list on the package. That seems unfair to me. I know people who are allergic to several types of imitation sugar. I believe if consumers feel strongly about imitation sweeteners, those buyers would tend to avoid all dairy products rather than read the ingredient panel every single time they pick up an item. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics strongly opposes the proposal and urges the FDA to re-

fuse the petition on the grounds that it is not necessary. We are told that Diabetes is on the rise and if these organizations believe they have a market for sugar free products, let them make the public aware by labeling the items conspicuously in every single case.



By Kay Zeosky
New York



By Pam Potthoff
Nebraska

Trade Report

Meeting with trade representative brings insight and information

Ecclesiastes 1:9 reads “There is nothing new under the sun.” They might have been talking about U. S. trade policy.

On May 16th I went to Omaha and met with U.S. Agriculture Trade Representative Ambassador Isi Siddiqui. There were about 25 people in attendance including representatives from the Nebraska Congressional Delegation, producer checkoff boards, other farm organizations, bankers and Farm Credit Services (where the meeting was held).

The Ambassador began with an overview of ag trade. He mentioned that ag exports have set records for the last three years and that more than 3 million people are in ag trade. From 2010 to 2013 the U.S. has exported one-third of all ag production. Obama wants to double trade exports during his second term in office.

The Ambassador seemed quite pleased with how ag was being treated in this treaty but thought the treaty should address non-market access and protectionism on some products. Neither of these has been adequately addressed in other treaties. He is concerned Japan will not stand up to the comprehensive, high-standards of TPP.

The Ambassador mentioned the issues to be considered in the Atlantic Treaty. These include hormones in beef, GMO’s and feed additives. This treaty would remove tariffs at different levels, depending on the sensitivity of the product.

Some countries (primarily the Eu-

ropean Union) want certificates of sustainability for ag products. This could be achieved by putting a conservation requirement into the Farm Bill. The issue of Russia’s opposition to ractopamine in livestock feed was discussed. The United States is looking at options to reconcile the problem. One solution would be to produce non-ractopamine products here. At this point, Codex approves the use of ractopamine. Therefore, Russia is out of line with WTO standards by refusing meat from animals that have eaten ractopamine.

I was surprised to learn that none of the imported cars are flex-fuel. He did not see a solution to the problem.

The April 15 edition of TIME has an excellent article on page 35 about a Chinese company, Huawei, that is rising quickly in the telecommunications industry. The story points out the implications for national security when a foreign company (possibly financed by the Chinese government) supplies major components or actually owns a part of the U.S. telecommunications system. At this point, no major U.S. cell phone provider uses Huawei-made hardware in its networks. The article is a good read.

China’s Shuanghui Group is planning to purchase Smithfield Foods, the industrial leader in the production of ractopamine-free pork. The US must approve the sale. A group of Senators are calling for China to open its market to U.S. meat exports before the deal is approved.

Russia has moved to impose penalty duties on imported agricultural machinery—combine harvesters and harvester modules—for a three-year

period; a move observers note violates the spirit of the WTO, where Russia has just joined. Russia imported an average of \$316 million worth of U. S farm equipment annually between 2008 and 2010. Russia is the fourth largest importer of U.S. made agriculture equipment.

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By Barbara Broberg
Montana

Energy Report

This is the perfect time to fix that 'squeaky wheel'

There is a movie about a famous horse. The movie story line shows a horse stable. When the gate in the stable is opened, there is a "squeek" sound. The stable shown is sophisticated. It doesn't seem realistic that the gate squeaks in the well maintained environment presented. You realize (and are momentarily jolted from the interest of the moment) that the squeak was added to embellish the drama of what is beyond the gate.

The saying about the squeaky wheel getting the attention comes to mind. Mothers and grandmothers comment that they did NOT oil the door or the bicycle at certain times because it gave an audible positioning system to a child's movements. The energy saving there was on the person seeking to care about the child!

Today we have a lot of lubricants to work with: oil, silicone spray, graphite powder, teflon, grease, synthetic lubricants, and WD 40 for instance. The purpose of all of them is to make work easier. Work is the movement and lack of friction to accomplish the task.

On the Mobil Oil website, www.mobile.com, there is a character called "Looble." Looble is the website's way of asking what lubricants are to be used in a particular piece of equipment. Looble is a man icon. It is a new format to get the right lubricant in the right place on a specified time schedule. Looble kind of humanizes the huge load of information out there--MUCH specialized equipment needing just the right stuff to allow the machine to work.

Today the message to you is to think about saving a little energy by oiling your 'squeaky' door or gate. Give

your lawn mower or sewing machine a little ease by getting out your owner manual to do recommended maintenance. Or, if the owner information is long gone, the computer can help get the right information even if you have no idea where the owner's guide has disappeared to...talk about energy saving! Just enter the item name or numbers into your search engine. It is amazing what you can learn about your machine including hot tips from other people who own the same item.

Try silicone spray on the home's window casings if you open and shut them alot...or look up your window brand and see what they want you to

use.

It is summer. Maybe you don't want to take the Compressed Air and Gas Institute tutorials at www.cagi.org to keep your air compressors in top condition... maybe you do!

Maybe you want to know how to make industrial grease. I do. Look for it in a month or two...

Maybe you want to know the name of the movie I mentioned earlier. dunno but maybe "Seabiscuit" or "Secretariat." Happy Summer!

Hey WIFE, be great at making the choice between being a squeaky wheel or being the right person to smooth things out.

WILDFIRES: Continued from Page 3

operations are forced out of business when faced with the cost of finding alternative pasture.

For far too long we have allowed outside interests and bureaucratic paralysis to dictate the management of our nation's forests. The Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention Act of 2013 gets to the heart of the problem. It will put hard deadlines on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis so that grazing and thinning projects on high-risk areas can go forward. It would also reduce threats to endangered species by streamlining consultation in high-risk habitat areas. It would require the agency to evaluate the impacts of endangered species listings on hazardous fuel loads in forests and require that species recovery plans and critical habitat designations include catastrophic fire risk assessment analysis. Through stewardship contracting and "good neighbor" authority measures, it will encourage free-enterprise solutions and state collaboration, which are essential to reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire.

Wildfire doesn't wait for endless de-

liberation, and in high-risk situations, neither should we. Given the current status of our economy and the huge size of our debt and deficits, two things should be clear to all of us: first, that processes need to be put in place to allow us to save our forests; and secondly, we cannot count on the federal government to single-handedly clean, thin and properly manage our forests. The states and the local citizens must play a role, and we must no longer allow the regulatory process to be abused by those who simply do not want us to live and work on the land. The only way we are going to be able to properly manage the fibers and forage in our abundant forests is with private investment from the timber and ranching industries--which will also provide us with food and fiber. We will know we're on the right track when we see wood mills in rural western towns again and every federal grazing allotment with the capacity for livestock is being grazed. Our rural communities will see increased jobs and economic activity--and our forests will be safer and healthier.



By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

Sugar Report

Looking at the history of U.S. sugar could ensure its future

United States Congress shouldn't ignore sugar history. To ensure America's freedom is to study our past history. This country learned a good lesson years ago. Sugar history shows us that after 40 years, when the U.S. Sugar Act expired in 1974, the world price skyrocketed to 60 cents a pound. American consumers suffered. Then it dropped to three cents a pound and forced many sugar beet and cane farmers out of business but consumers found no saving in their food prices.

To protect the taxpayers from high sugar prices and the insecurity of supply, Congress included a sugar program in the 1981 Farm Bill. It stabilized the price at a reasonable level and assured American consumers and giant sugar users, such as candy, cereal and soft drink makers, a reliable and high quality supply of pure natural sugar.

The fact is 110 foreign countries subsidize their sugar industry. Actually American sugar cane and sugar beet producers compete with foreign treasuries. I would not call this situation a fair-level competition between U.S. sugar producers and foreign sugar producers. As you can see sugar has become one of the most heavily subsidized and therefore distorted markets in the world. The present U.S. sugar program gives stability to the U.S. sugar prices and ensures plenty of sugar on our grocery shelves.

Studying sugar history and its economic role while taking Brazil into account is very fascinating to me. Brazil has become a rich and powerful country by supporting their agriculture sector. Sugarcane was brought to Brazil by Portuguese colonists five centuries ago. By 1525 Brazilian sugar was being exported to Portugal. Between 1580 and 1640 Bra-

zil became the world's largest exporter of sugar. It was then overtaken by the British West Indies and, later, by the Spanish Caribbean islands. Today it is again the world's premier sugar exporter. In 1970 Brazil produced 80 million metric tons (MMT) of sugarcane with which it made 5.1 million tons of sugar (of which 1.2 were exported) and 168 million gallons of ethanol, practically none of which were exported. In 2012-2013 Brazil will have harvested some 595 million tons of sugarcane, producing 38 million tons of sugar (of which 24 will be exported) and 6.2 billion US gallons of ethanol (of which 0.7 billion gallons will be exported). Brazil is now the world's largest sugar producer and the second largest source of ethanol. Supplying nearly 50 percent of internationally-traded sugar, it is also the largest exporter of ethanol (most of which goes to the United States).

Beyond sugar, Brazil supports its agriculture in general through a wide array of programs and this support has grown considerably. Because of the dispersion and complexity of public subsidies it is impossible to precisely measure support by product. However, the sugarcane in-

dustry benefits from many of these programs. Brazil's 2012-2013 federal budget for agriculture amounts to \$68 billion, 85 percent of which is to be paid out as loans. But the combination of subsidized interest rates, soft lending terms, debt forgiveness and rescheduling as currently practiced means that a large portion of those credits should rightly be considered a subsidy.

American sugar beet and sugar cane producers don't receive any subsidy from U.S. government. The sugar program was constructed by Congress to ensure an adequate supply of homegrown sugar and local jobs in rural areas. Certainly Brazil is a giant in sugar. But to say that Brazil's economic fortune is because of its excellent farmland, efficient farmers and wise managers is wrong: as history indicates government has played an essential and powerful role in the Brazilian sugar and ethanol industry's rise and continues to do so today. I am very proud of my America and I wish the U.S. Congress valued our agriculture sector and sugar industry as Brazil's government does.

America is already more dependent on foreign suppliers than most would think. Trade deals have forced the United States to be the second biggest sugar importer in the world—imports account for approximately one-quarter of the market—and low prices in past years forced 33 U.S. sugar facilities to close between 1996 and 2008. Agriculture has been the stepping stone for this great country's fortune. America can easily overcome the huge budget deficit. We can easily payoff this nation's debt by following America's founding fathers' wisdom. Presidents like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodor Roosevelt knew the blessing of having good farmers in our country. We have to make sure the 2013 Congress supports U.S. agriculture sector. History is a wise teacher and if we look back and learn from our past mistakes we will prosper from this great teacher.

WIFE 2013 Area Directors

Area 1

Mary Ellen Cammack
14720 Home Place
Sturgis, SD 57785
(605) 347-4197 MST
flyingcranch@blackhills.com

Area 2

Cathy Scherler
21899 Co. Rd 59
Sheridan Lake, CO 91071
(719) 729-3367 MST
cscherler@fairpoint.net



By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota

Homeland Security Report

DHS looking to buy more ammunition and weapons

The new immigration bill is about 1100 pages with numerous amendments that have been passed or defeated. There is so much extra in it that it might be better to just enforce the laws we already have. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is spending more and more on pricey hollow-point bullets for law-enforcement officers—even as it plans to enforce furloughs and other cuts on Customs and Border Protection employees due to sequestration. The DHS plans to buy more than 1.6 billion rounds over the next five years for training and on-duty purposes. It is unclear how many of the total rounds sought would be hollow-point but a recent solicitation specifically called for 360,000 rounds of hollow-point bullets. One order has a ceiling of up to 750 million rounds which DHS said allows “flexibility over the next 5 years for training of over 90 federal agencies.” A separate 5-year department-wide contract allows the purchase of up to 450 million rounds of duty ammunition. During 2012, DHS purchased nearly 94 million rounds of ammo for use across the department. Ammunition is used in training and firearms re-qualification activities in addition to everyday duty among over 100,000 officers and agents. (DHS)

The U.S. House of Representatives voted on June 5 to limit the amount of ammunition the Department of Homeland Security can purchase and stockpile. The amendment blocks funds to buy ammunition until the department submits to Congress a report on its ammunition usage and purchase history. The rest of the 1.6 billion rounds of ammunition the department wants would be purchased by Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE). ICE’s ammunition requests in the last year included 450 million rounds of .40-caliber duty ammunition and 40 million rounds of rifle ammunition a year for as many as five years which totals 200 million rounds. The amendment must still be approved by the House of Representatives and then reconciled with a Senate measure. (FoxNews)

A DHS bid shows that the DHS recently put out an offer to purchase 7,000 full-auto “assault weapons” to be used inside the USA. However, there is no specific “assault weapon”—it is just a title. This is all on top of the 1.6 billion rounds of ammunition the U.S. government has already stockpiled. This contract has a maximum ceiling of \$9,800,000. The plan is to provide up to 7,000 NATO personal defense weapons throughout the life of this contract to numerous DHS components. They seem to want to disarm the people while arming the government agents. That way, the people can be forced at gunpoint into doing almost anything the oppressive government demands. DHS is using our taxpayer dollars to purchase thousands of full-auto weapons for their own agents. Why do they need them? (NaturalNews)

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) requires all citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda to have a passport or other accepted document that establishes the bearer’s identity and nationality to enter or depart the United States from within the Western Hemisphere. The travel requirements make up the DHS’s Initiative. These changes are the result of the 9/11 Commission, which Congress passed in 2004. Air travel requirements now require all travelers to present a passport or secure travel document when entering the United States by air.

The DHS has been working with states to enhance their driver’s licenses and identification documents since June 1, 2009. Michigan, New York, Vermont and Washington are issuing these enhanced drivers licenses. Enhanced drivers licenses include a vicinity Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip that will signal a secure system to pull up your biographic and biometric data for the Border Patrol as you approach the inspection booth and a Machine Readable Zone or barcode that the officer can read electronically if RFID isn’t available. The top 39 land ports of entry, which process more than 95 percent of land border crossings, are equipped with RFID technology that helps facilitate travel by the individuals presenting the necessary documents. (DHS)

The FBI has already gained access to driver’s license photos for residents of Nebraska, Illinois, South Carolina, Utah, North Carolina, Delaware, Texas and other states to hunt for suspects in criminal investigations. The FBI is authorized to search state databases, which include images and personal information for potential matches. There are an estimated 30 million cameras recording Americans already. The agreement says the FBI will keep the photo images and information about the person identified as the “most-likely candidate” and “destroy” other gallery photos and details. The information involved may identify persons, whose information is protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

The FBI is now being sued about its development of a vast biometric identification database. It references the “Next Generation Identification” system, which reportedly aggregates fingerprints, DNA profiles, iris scans, palm prints, voice identification profiles, photographs and other identifying information. (WND)



By Jean Wach
Nebraska

Cereal Grains Report

Crossbred 'superwheat' could boost production and be the future of farming

A "superwheat" created by British scientists could increase crop yields by up to a third. In one of the biggest potential advances for farming in a generation, researchers have cross-bred modern wheat seed with ancient wild grass species to produce a more resilient, productive crop. Researchers at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) said the new "superwheat" could be combined with current varieties to boost drought tolerance, disease resistance, as well as their yield. In early field trials, the new crop was 30 per cent more productive than conventional wheat and could be available to farmers as soon as 2019. The process of producing the synthetic "superwheat"

is similar to selective breeding and does not use genetic-modification. It could also spell good news for the consumer with increased production promising to keep down prices for bread, biscuits and pasta. Britain is set to become a net importer of wheat for the first time in more than a decade after last year's terrible weather. Farmers fear the trend will continue next year, due to planting difficulties and seed shortages. Earlier this month, it emerged that different advertising companies will no longer be able to carry a logo stating products contain "100 percent British Wheat" due to sourcing difficulties.

The chief executive and director of NIAB said modern cultivated wheat is the result of a cross between durum and goat grass that likely occurred in the Middle East 10,000 years ago. The Cambridge-based team selected early wheat and grass varieties from seed banks across the globe and cross-bred them for maximum potential. "This

year our crop had a 30 percent better yield, which took us a bit by surprise," said Dr. Barsby. "Although it is in the early stages, we are very optimistic. In the past decade, our wheat yield had started to plateau off and we needed another increase in productivity to meet demand. It is about finding novel characteristics from the original ancestors of wheat and breeding them to make them as productive and resilient as possible." Dr. Barsby said the technique involved breeding selected species of wheat and grass, and that no GM-technology was involved. "You can sometimes become too focused on one technology like GM and not look at other techniques that can bring you similar success," she said. "Over the next 50 years the world needs to grow more wheat than has been produced in the 10,000 years since agriculture began. Increased production will help keep future prices down. We want to be able to feed ourselves and the rest of the world."



By Janell Roe
Nebraska

Feed Grains Report

U.S. divided on GMO labeling debate

Although labeling genetically modified crops (GMO's) failed to pass in the Senate, Connecticut and Maine have taken it upon themselves to pass legislation requiring the labeling of foods containing GMO's. A majority of farmers that responded to a Farm Journal poll do not

want GMO labeling. The added labels could hinder interstate commerce and force the national government to step in and create a uniform labeling program.

A recent poll by the Farm Journal asked farmers if they agree, disagree, or are not sure about the labeling of food made with GMO crops. Most farmers, 65%, disagree with consumers and think that GMO labeling is not needed. That leaves 18% that believe labeling is needed and 17% that are not sure. Matt Bogard, an ag economist at Western Kentucky University, believes that the added labels would mislead consumers into believing

that GMO products aren't healthy (Agweb.com, June 2013).

Currently, the FDA does not require the labeling of GMO products because their tests have proven these crops and products to be safe. Opponents to the FDA's ruling have decided to bypass the national ruling and try a more direct approach by going state to state. Other states like Vermont, Hawaii, and Washington are also facing this same legislation. If several states decide to adopt this new law, the government will be forced to step in and create a uniform set of laws for all of the states (Agweb.com, March 2013).

GMOs: Continued on Page 11



By Alice Parker
Washington

Natural Resources Report

Working group formed to provide input on Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) continues to create problems for the Natural Resource industries (including agriculture).

In April the House Natural Resource Subcommittee on Water and Power held an oversight hearing entitled "Federal Impediments to Water Rights, Job Creation and A Local Perspective." The hearing focused on federal laws and recent Obama Administration actions, like the 'Blueways Order,' designed to undermine state water law and locally driven watershed protections and recreation.

Subcommittee Chairman Representative Tom McClintock (R-CA) stated "There has been a torrent of complaints from multiple Western States of federal laws and federal officials usurping long-established water rights in a manner that threatens entire sectors of their economies including agriculture, ranching, tourism and municipal water supplies. We've heard of a pattern of conduct by federal agencies that seems abusive, high handed and contrary to the proper role

of the government as envisioned by the Founders. This pattern evinces a design to assert federal control over the water resources traditionally reserved to the states under a time honored doctrine that recognized and protects property rights of water users."

Litigation stemming from the Endangered Species Act has also undermined state water rights. William E. West Jr., General Manager of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority of Texas, said "his agency has been forced by the filing of a citizens' suit under the ESA, to spend an enormous portion of its available resources to defend the water rights it holds that is needed to develop new supplies. The States' water resources must be shared for many uses, including population growth, agricultural productivity, environmental needs and economic development."

Conservation District Supervisor from the Shoshone Conservation District in Wyoming, Russell Boardman, stressed the importance of local conservation efforts when comparing to the Interior Secretarial Order on Blueways. That such trails collectively be considered in a National Water Trails, a "Congressional Working Group" has been formed to examine the ESA from many

angles. The Representatives in the Working Group are: Doc Hastings (R-WA); Cynthia Lummis (R-WY); Mark Amodel (R-NV); Rob Bishop (R-UT); Doug Collins (R-GA); Andy Harris (R-MD); Bill Huizenga (R-MI); James Lankford (R-OK); Blaine Lutkemeyer (R-MO); Randy Neugebauer (R-TX); Steve Southerland (R-FL); Glenn 'GT' Thompson (R-PA) and David Valadao (R-CA).

Congressman Doc Hastings stated that the "Working Group is an opportunity to build upon the Committee's work last year and have a fair, honest conversation and review the current law. We've brought together members from all parts of the country in order to get a broad range of input and perspectives. We want to hear from states, local community leaders, farmers, ranchers, environmental groups, property owners and businesses--everyone who cares and has an opinion about how the law impacts their lives and how it might be improved. We all support the goal of wanting to preserve, protect and recover key domestic species. 40 years after it was signed into law and 25 years since it was last renewed by Congress, there can be recognition there are ways this law can be improved and made to work better for both people and species."

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The Dormant Commerce Clause can be used to help fight protectionist efforts that are made by the states.

Protectionist efforts may try to stimulate the local market by outlawing outside products; this type of effort will be overturned by the Dormant Commerce clause. This clause can also be used to combat state laws that interfere with interstate commerce but the benefits of interstate commerce must outweigh local benefits. The one exception to this clause is if a law is in place for health and safety regulations. If a law is in place to protect

the states residents' health then it will not matter if this law impedes interstate commerce (Agweb.com, March 2013).

States that pass GMO labeling regulations will, in all probability, impede interstate commerce. The passing of this legislation will cause food companies to package GMO products separately and label these products based on their destination. Opponents of this legislation are willing to fight the Dormant Commerce Clause believing that the health and safety clause will fall in their favor. Whether for or against, all of this will most likely

push the national government closer to creating a uniform labeling requirement (Agweb.com, March 2013).

Connecticut and Maine are the first states to pass legislation requiring products containing GMO's to be labeled. Several other states are in the midst of making this decision as well. A recent poll by the Farm Journal shows that a majority of farmers are against labeling GMO products. The passing of this law will most likely impede interstate commerce and enforce new packaging regulations on companies.

WIFE Updates

SAVE THE DATE for the NATIONAL WIFE CONVENTION!

**DENVER, COLORADO
NOVEMBER 21-23, 2013**

Tentative Schedule

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Evening: FAED Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20--Pre-Convention Meetings

Morning: Executive/Budget and Finance Meetings

Noon: State Presidents /Nominating Committee Meeting

Afternoon: Resolutions Meeting--all members encouraged to attend

Evening: Dinner on Your Own

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Morning: Convention Opens, FAED Silent Auction Begi

Noon: FAED Luncheon

Afternoon: Convention Reconvenes, Commodity/Topic
Caucuses

Evening: Dinner/Speaker

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Morning: Convention Reconvenes, Resolutions/Policy Book

Noon: Luncheon

Afternoon: Group Tour

Evening: Dinner during Tour

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23


Morning: Convention Reconvenes, By-Laws and Procedure
Manual

Noon: Luncheon/Speaker

Afternoon: Convention Reconvenes, Development of 2014
Priorities

Evening: Banquet, Installation of Officers, Entertainment, Live
Auction

----Read the WIFEline for More Information----



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Erin Slivka, Editor
6074 PN Bridge Rd
Winifred, MT 59489
(406) 462-5474
eslivka@mtintouch.net

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US POSTAGE PAID
GLENDAVE MT
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Shana Baisch
323 Road 300
Glendive, MT 59330

