



ALABAMA WIFE VISITS AUBURN UNIVERSITY AQUAPONICS SYSTEM



Alabama WIFE tours the fish farm



Lane, grandson of Alabama WIFE member Marjory Johnson, feeds the fish

A group of Alabama WIFE members recently visited the Auburn University College of Agriculture's aquaponics system at the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences. Their unique system combines aquaculture and hydroponics to efficiently and cost-effectively grow fish and plants. Under one of the greenhouses, large water tanks grow Tilapia in a controlled environment. As the fish are fed, they expel waste into the water. The water is then pumped into the second greenhouse where the water fertilizes vegetables using a hydroponic system. After the plants take in all the nutrients from the water that is needed, the water is filtered even more and returned to the fish tanks. This system is now being used successfully all over the world to produce an abundance of food in a very economical manner.

President's Report



By Ruth Laribee
New York

Jobless benefits bill passes Senate

that it is "more than likely" the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) study language will be included in the Farm Bill data. The process of putting forth an amendment to be brought up through a public meeting could be used to destroy COOL. It's being said that in the next week or two there could be a public hearing.

The New Year, 2014, certainly made us aware of its entrance with the storms, winds and extreme cold that will go down in history. Roads and schools closed in a large area of the United States. It is always amazing to see that the Farmers Almanac got it right again by using an old formula for forecasting the weather.

The Farm Bill is expected to be passed in January as the House and Senate Conferees are determined to get the task done. Jess Peterson of the United States Cattleman's Association reported

There is not a lot of time left as the House will be in session until January 10, 2014, January 13-16 and 27-29. The Senate will not be in the week of January 20. Sometimes it gets done quickly, though, like in 2008 so call your representatives and make your comments. If you don't know the number of your representative call the switchboard in Washington, DC at (202) 224-3121, tell them the name of your representative and your call will be forwarded to that particular office. The Farm Bill should not contain any language on COOL.

The Senate vote on unemployment benefits passed. Members from the House are saying they won't pass the bill unless there is a way to pay for it. Several ideas have been suggested but information from Farm Policy noted that some House Democrats have suggested using savings from the Farm Bill to pay for the unemployment extension. That idea was not included in any of the Representatives' talks on ways to pay.

Both in meetings and in several articles, it's being reported that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have overstepped their authority. They are changing the definition of small farms and classifying farms now as commercial grain handlers. Letters have been written by representatives to Labor Secretary Perez.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Convention speaker focuses on impact of weeds to U.S.

Dr. George Beck, Professor of Weed Science at Colorado State University, spoke to WIFE at the annual convention in Denver. His first statement was "The government is not broken—it's just hard to make it work." It was a statement echoed by the audience.

Dr. Beck works mainly in extension. He reminded us we caused the evolution of weeds. They just took advantage of what we did to the land. In other words, one person's use of his property influences the use of that property by the next person. Beck placed the cost of invasive species to America at \$120 billion annual and to the global world \$1.4 trillion, which is 5 percent of the global economy.

The control of invasive weeds alone cost the U.S. \$35 billion annually in losses and control measures. It was not a surprise to the farmers in the crowd that the greatest cost is from crop weeds, coming in at \$27 billion annually.

WIFE has long pointed to the use of chemicals to keep up the lawns and gardens in the city as a source of unregulated

pollution but Dr. Beck suggested agriculture should thank the turf business because many of the tools ag uses were first developed for turf use. Turf weeds have a \$1.5 billion annual impact.

Dr. Beck mentioned the negative impacts on weed management due to litigations, such as those using the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA). He compared the control of evasive species to a patchwork quilt—it is not coordinated. Research for invasive species control is not well coordinated. 500 billion dollars were spent last year through the grants.gov website. Dr. Beck thought that should be sufficient funding if the money was applied to research.

The largest Federal agency working with invasive weed management is the Bureau of Land Management with 35 million infested acres. A total of 49 million government acres are infested with invasive weeds now. Of these only 1.6 million are being treated and restored (1.1 percent). The problem worsens as 5.8 million acres are added annually (12 percent more). In

order to make any progress, 15 percent would need to be treated and restored annually. Over a ten-year period 39 percent of infested acres could be restored.

Action that is coming out of Congress is one specie at a time. This approach just is not working. Dr. Beck sees a need for a borderless federal/state/private collaboration.

In 2009, the Western Governors Association started Healthy Habitats Coalition (HHC) which is a coalition of state organizations interested in conservation of the nation's natural resources and economic interests by advocating for management of invasive species. HHC seeks appropriations that assist public and private land and water management personnel with on-the-ground management resources.

HHC is also pushing a bill to Congress that would send money to states, depending on federal acres. Although the economic situation has put the bill on hold, Dr. Beck requested WIFE put pressure on Congress to make the control of invasive species a priority. He reminded us "Congress responds to what Americans demand."

Cereal Grains Report



By Jean Wach
Nebraska

Genetically modified crops surrounded by pros and cons

how the GMO wheat was recently discovered in an Oregon field. It did not die when it was sprayed.

Several countries cancelled their wheat import orders until it was proven that the wheat was not contaminated. In fact 26 countries have entirely banned GMOs due to concerns that they are too dangerous.

There are many pros and cons to GMO crops. Genetic engineers modify crops to make a better crop. Many of the traits they look for include drought tolerance, insect resistance, and rapid growth. GM crops would also save and conserve our environment by not having to use dangerous chemicals and not having to put as much water on the crop. Nowadays, in order to have a good crop yield, producers must use extreme amounts of water.

For people in the Midwest, the majority of the water used comes from the Ogallala Aquifer. Without conserving the resources, the Ogallala Aquifer is

slowly decreasing by a rate of 9 percent since 1950. GMO crops are a new invention that would solve these problems.

Another benefit would be that some plants are a natural bug repellent, such as the marigold. This can be bred into other plants as well making a new plant that would repel bugs without having to use a harmful chemical to do the job.

Although GM crops have so many positive benefits, there also comes a few negative. People believe that GMO crops are dangerous due to the different genes that could be infected from different plants. Many people believe that when you take the gene out of one plant that many people are allergic to, such as a peanut, and put it into another plant, the new plant will still have the peanut allergy and could cause allergic reactions.

Not only can the GMO affect some people, some scientists blame GMO crops on the deaths of many insects that pollinate crops. In one study in the book "Nature," pollen from the genetically modified crop released a dangerous toxin which destroyed many butterfly caterpillars. The crop was doing its job by killing the harmful bugs and keeping them from the plant, but it also caused harm to the insects that are good and beneficial to the environment.

Yes, genetically modified crops can be dangerous but the risks are small compared to the problems of starvation in the world, the likelihood that poisonous chemicals invade our waters, and farmers stressing to supply enough food for the nation in the seasonal time they are given. Genetically modified crops will be the topic of conversation in the world for years to come (World Hunger Statistics, Food Safety News, Genetically Modified Crops and Food Security, Landon Swedberg).

The main topic discussed in the cereal grains caucus at the National WIFE Convention was that two of the largest wheat organizations are endorsing genetically modified (GM) wheat. The difference between feed grains going almost totally genetically modified and GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) cereal grains is the fact that feed grains are mostly fed to animals while a lot of the cereal grains are made into food for people.

A potential problem with GMO crops is the difficulty of killing volunteer wheat if the plants are Roundup tolerant. A lot of wheat is now raised no-till. The stubble is sprayed with Roundup and the ground is not worked. This is

WIFE 2014 Commodity & Topic Chairs

Beef

Whitney Klasna

Cereal Grains

Jean Wach

Dairy

Kay Zeosky

Sheep & Goats

Gwen Cassel

Specialty Crops

Jacquelyn Sistrunk

Sugar

Klodette Stroh

Natural Resources/Private Property/Water/Endangered Species

Alice Parker

Rural Life/Farm Finance Communication/Tax/Health

Donna Bolz

Trade

Pam Pothoff

Homeland Security

Marlene Kouba

Energy

Barbara Broberg



By Kay Zeosky
New York

Dairy Report

Inspections hope to prevent accidents

Upstate New York dairymen will have to meet higher standards beginning October 1, 2014.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has decided to begin random inspections to try to prevent farm accidents and deaths. Local workshops are being held to identify hazards common to dairy farms. A similar inspection program was started by OSHA in Wisconsin in 2012.

Until this time, dairy farms were only inspected if a safety or health-related complaint was received. Inspections will only be permitted on farms that employ 11 or more employees and/

or have established a temporary labor camp during the past 12 months. OSHA does not have the authority to inspect farmworkers' living conditions. That will be done by the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Divisions.

All tractors manufactured after 1976 now have roll-over protection, but some other changes will be made. Manure lagoons must have protected barriers to avoid machinery-related accidents. A sink eye-wash station must be situated where corrosive chemicals are used, and warning signs must be posted anywhere employees might be harmed, to name a few.

Everyone wants to avoid farm accidents and hopefully these rules help. Everyone can remember people who have been victims of avoidable farm accidents. Many occur on small farms but with any luck this is just the first part of

these changes. One would suppose the plan will grow in the future to include smaller dairies and more regulations.

One problem that has surfaced at some meetings is that OSHA inspectors are often accompanied by advocacy groups on their visits. One local farm was visited by the Workers' Center of Central New York that advocates for the rights of undocumented immigrant farm workers. They have no authority to visit, but are hard to evict. This farmer thinks that such people should be dealt with by OSHA since they created the liability. It shouldn't be the dairy farmer's duty to call the police.

Others complained that like most OSHA farm regulations, many things are subject to interpretation. If you want more information regarding our local meeting, check out the following website: <http://wdt.me/o5UVNf>.

30 Years of FAED

The Foundation for Agricultural Education and Development (FAED), the scholarship and grants arm of WIFE has just celebrated its 30th year of trying to improve the profitability in production agriculture through educational efforts.

FAED originated in 1983 as a 501(c) corporation with a goal to educate and inform the general public about the importance of agriculture and its relationship to the welfare of the national economy.

Thirty-three scholarships have been awarded to young women entering an agricultural field. The first scholarship given out was worth \$150. The scholarship's value was quickly increased to \$500. Starting in 2014, the scholarship will be valued at \$1000. Originally, only one scholarship was awarded. Three scholarships will be offered in 2014. Past scholarship winners hail from Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Texas, New York and Colorado. WIFE encourages women entering their first or second year of college to apply. The rules and scholarship forms can be obtained at WIFeline.com or from WIFE state organizations. They will be available for 2014 by January 1.

FAED also offers a grants program for educational activities by WIFE at either the state or national level. This program has awarded 36 grants over the years. Each grant has a value of \$500.

A variety of topics have been covered by FAED grants including everything from town meetings to farm safety, ag placemats and commodity promotion programs to radio shows, farm puppet shows and wheat and weed projects. All of these activities were fully funded from within the WIFE organization, with the help of the FAED grant. To help finance scholarships, FAED holds a silent auction at each convention. The Board of Directors of FAED wishes to thank the states for their donations and ALL who bid for their part in making the scholarship program possible.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FAED!

Rural Life Report



By Donna Bolz
Nebraska

At the time of writing this article, it is the Holiday season. It is a time of giving. Across America, rural communities face big challenges as economies change and populations shift while government resources and subsidies decline.

As you read this you will see that even in uncertain conditions, the rural community is there to help in a big way.

A recent article talks about the “farmer philanthropist.” Farmer philanthropy is as old as the Bible. For years people have been helping with barn raisings and neighbors have been helping neighbors at harvest time.

In today’s world, farmers donate a lot of time and money to individuals and causes. The 2011 Iowa Farm and Rural Life poll, operated by Iowa State University, indicates that 89 percent of the 1200 farmers polled had donated money to a charitable cause the previous year and 80 percent had volunteered their time. This compares to 70 to 75 percent of the general population.

One of America’s most famous farmer philanthropists is Illinois’ Howard Buffet whose foundation, the Howard G. Buffet Foundation, has spent more than \$300 million on food security projects. He partners with ADM and Monsanto to sponsor a program called Invest an Acre, which fights hunger in American

Farmers, ranchers donate more per capita than most

Farming communities. Funds for this program come from the sale of grain, with the money donated to the cause.

We don’t all have the funds to be a Howard Buffet but we can donate our time to FFA chapters, 4-H clubs etc.

It is believed that religion plays a big part in the charitable giving. Churches are the social backbones of many rural communities and churches by nature are charitable organizations. Many churches also have outreach missions that get congregations involved in other charitable work. In many cases, giving back is a learned activity, a family tradition, which is learned from parents and grandpar-

ents.

One example is found in the National publication from Shickley, Nebraska, which is where several WIFE members live. Leaders in Shickley generated 150 local gifts for their new community fund endowment, all from a town of only 379 people.

As you go about your day-to-day activities think about how you can help someone. As everyone knows, the need is there year round. It seems you get as much from helping with a cause as the person receiving the help does. Go out and make a difference. Do you volunteer? It would be interested to hear from you about your volunteer experiences.

Transportation Report

Americans driving less

New evidence suggests that Americans are driving less. Data from the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and the Census Bureau shows a decline in per capita driving is occurring in U.S. cities. The drop occurred in 54 of the 74 cities collecting good driving data. The study shows urban Americans drive 7.6 percent fewer miles today than in 2004.

The analyses found that many of the urban areas studied saw increases in use and development of public transportation. It also showed the increased use of bicycles for commuting.

Data from the Federal Highway Administration states cumulative

driving for the first nine months of 2013 is up 0.4 percent over the first nine months of 2012.

Senior analyst Phineas Baxandall of U.S. PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) says, “We can expect another year of declining driving per person. This will be the eighth year in a row of decline after six decades of almost constant annual increases in per capita driving.”

With that being said, if demand is down and production is up (Bakken Oil) why isn’t the price of gasoline decreasing faster?



By Pat Torgerson
Montana

Sugar Report



By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

Mexican imports mean lower prices for sugar producers

Hopefully Congress will either pass an extension of current law or cobble something else together and there will be some positive resolution toward a sensible Farm Bill.

In the meantime, the first payment to beet farmers this year will be \$33 per ton as compared to the state average of \$87.70 per ton in the 2011-2012 harvest years.

The sugar program will be on the table this year mainly because of excess sugar imports under the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) Mexico sugar provision. Excess sugar coming into the U.S. breaks the 2008 Farm Bill provision of the sugar program. This means lower sugar prices for American farmers. The U.S. sugar program guarantees farmers a stable profit while the crops coming in from

Mexico can be sold for less since there is no profit protection. Sugar prices will remain low as long as sugar is being imported from Mexico, into this country.

Does Mexico produce enough sugar to satisfy Mexico's consumption and export sugar into the U.S. market? The North American Free Trade Agreement has very serious flaws. American lawmakers have to be vigilant about excess import of commodities coming into the U.S., which threatens the livelihood of American farmers.

Farming is our first industry and America's backbone; it feeds us, clothes us and gains us friendship with needy and hungry people of foreign countries.

Editor's Note: At press time, both the Senate and the House have their own versions of the Farm Bill but no agreement has been made.

At the time of writing this report, the U.S. Congress has not reached an agreement to approve or renew a Farm Bill. If there is no Farm Bill by the end of the 2013, as the law dictates, the farm program will operate under permanent law of the 1949.

Permanent farm law requires that the Secretary of Agriculture set the dairy price support level at 75 percent to 90 percent of parity. The November parity price for milk was \$49.60, meaning the support price (if parity held at that level in December) would be \$37.20.

Van Hoose speaks to future of Farm Bill

Todd Van Van Hoose, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs of Co-Bank was the keynote speaker when Women Involved in Farm Economics held their national convention in Denver in November. He explained to the women from across the nation the circumstances affecting the passage of a new Farm Bill.

Mr. Van Hoose has followed the preparation of six farm bills. The first problem with finishing this Farm Bill, according to Van Hoose, is that Washington really is not working very well together right now. He reminded the audience that "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and thinking you will get a different outcome." Van Hoose thinks there is very little incentive for the two parties to work together to finish a Farm Bill.

Even though the House Agriculture Committee is bi-partisan, it could not get enough support on the floor to pass a bill. Van Hoose said redistricting has caused solid Republican and solid Democrat districts

where candidates from the far right and the far left are elected, leaving Congress with very few members in the middle. These are the members who, in the past, would work out a compromise.

The latest polls shows Congressional approval ratings for Congress are down to 9 percent. Van Hoose called these as only "family and friends."

The Farm Bill mandatory spending baseline for 2013-2022 is \$969 billion with nutrition making up \$772 billion of that. Agriculture itself represents a small portion of the "Farm Bill".

The 2002 Farm Bill cost \$241 billion but the new proposal is almost a trillion dollars. Van Hoose did not think this could be called "savings."

Van Hoose stated that progress is being made by the Conference Committee with the Dairy Security Act in the agriculture part and that SNAP in the nutrition part has the biggest problems to overcome before a final agreement can be made.

Van Hoose expressed concern that, as programs are tied to production through crop insurance, more World Trade Organization (WTO) challenges will be made. He is concerned that some of the revenue products will not be considered WTO compliant.

On the other hand, Van Hoose thinks the Conference Committee will come to an agreement before the end of the year. To prevent a negative vote in either chamber, Van Hoose thinks the Farm Bill will be added to a final end-of-year compromise package.

Van Hoose ended urging everyone in agriculture to speak up to tell the world about the importance of agriculture. He is concerned that agriculture does not have the political clout to ever pass another Farm Bill.

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Trade Report



By Pam Potthoff
Nebraska

U.S trade deficit showing negative effects on economy

The United Nations has declared 2014 the International Year of Family Farming.

Let's put U.S. trade with China in perspective: China's import/export surplus with the world is approximately the same size as America's deficit with China alone. In other words, the U.S. buys too much stuff from China.

Work continues on both the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Both have more emphasis on public issues, environmental and labor issues than previous trade treaties. That's not to say special-interest businesses are not trying to weaken rules to further their own personal agendas.

Japan is still trying to use the TPP to protect its small farmers who they claim depend heavily on strong protections. Japanese markets offer the greatest potential gains for U.S. agriculture exports. Those markets have remained more protected than others in the region, both by tariffs and by other non-tariff barriers. For example, Japan's rice tariffs can be more than 700 percent.

President Obama has announced his intention to nominate Darci L. Vetter, a Nebraskan, for chief agricultural negotiator with the rank of ambassador, a position in the Office of the United States Trade Representative. She was responsible for facilitating the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), as well as participating in the World Trade Organization's Doha Round negotiations. Vetter is a strong advocate for farmers but seems to be part of the "all trade is good trade" crowd. This will be an appointment to watch.

In the meantime, the European Union (EU) will require labeling of fresh, chilled and frozen meat of pork, poultry, sheep and goat to show origin as well as where animals were reared and slaughtered, a move it said will allow consumers to make a more informed choice. This implementation will start in April of 2015. Similar rules already exist for fresh

beef meat. Isn't that what is trying to be done in the U.S.? The EU produces 20 percent of the world's pork, 12 percent of its poultry and 11 percent of its beef, based on data from the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organization.

In a recent report, CropLife America found that more than 40 percent of U.S. agricultural commodity exports - including soybeans, grains, tree nuts, fruits and groundnuts - could be blocked by upcoming changes in the European Union Plant Protection Regulation. The blockages could cost Americans \$4 billion in exports to the EU, in addition to exports of crop protection active ingredients. Such actions would imperil the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, CLA said.

The USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) announced in December the sale for non-food uses (mainly ethanol production) of its entire remaining sugar inventory - 79,750 short tons—for \$8.2 million. CCC acquired 296,500 short tons of sugar on October 1 in lieu of cash repayments on its remaining 2012 crop year sugar loans. The sugar loan forfeitures were a result of record domestic production, record sugar imports from Mexico and world prices falling below U.S. price support levels for the first time in several years. The loan rate for the sugar was 20.9 cents per pound; USDA sold it for 2.6 cents.

Worldwide intellectual property patent filings grew at their fastest pace in almost two decades in 2012. China outpaced all other countries for both the number of filings and the rate of growth, according to the United Nations agency charged with protecting inventions, trademarks, industrial designs and copyrights.

Colombia is removing all trichinae risk-mitigation requirements on U.S. pork. They will recognize the U.S. as "negligible risk" for trichinae and require that all pigs whose meat is intended for export be part of the Pork Quality Assurance Plus program. This step should boost U.S. pork exports to Colombia.

One good reason for returning production to the U.S. from countries where there are fewer pollution controls would be the improvement of the world's environment. Most developing countries, like China and India, lack governmental capacity to monitor manu-

facturing or enforce environmental standards. Manufacturing practices in less-developed countries are less efficient than in the U.S. and other developed countries. Because pollutants can travel long distances, they can enter the environment and food chain in other countries, creating a negative impact worldwide. Manufacturing should be brought back to the U.S.—not only for jobs, but also for a better environment.

Foxconn, a Taiwanese electronics contract manufacturer to many U.S. tech giants, will spend \$30 million on a new factory in the Harrisburg, PA, area that will employ up to 500 people, according to state officials. The company will also give \$10 million to Carnegie Mellon University as part of a strategic research and development partnership with the Pennsylvania College. The money will go toward research and education in the fields of robotics and advanced manufacturing.

What the WikiLeaks leak revealed was that Fast Track combined with the TPP was not so much a mechanism for getting things through the Congress quickly and efficiently, as it was a mechanism for getting around the Congress. The leaked chapter was about intellectual property. Large, multi-national corporations whose patent and copyright portfolios convey a degree of monopoly rights they would like to extend and strengthen have largely captured the negotiations.

The U.S. Congress and the legislatures of the other countries involved in the negotiations have been kept in the dark about what is actually being discussed and what trade-offs are being made. But this is not the case for more than 700 "cleared" advisers to the U.S. negotiators. Mostly from major corporations, these advisers are privy to the negotiating texts and, at least in the case of the United States, provide the bulk of the information and proposals on which the negotiations are based. It appears the non-transparent TPP talks are being used to make an end run around the Congress and the parliaments and publics of many countries to achieve far reaching special rights in the guise of free trade.

WIFE opposes Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) (Policy, p.33 #12). Trade treaties ought to be subject to normal debate and amendment so the public can actually achieve

Trade: Continued on Page 9



By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota

Homeland Security Report

EPA restrictions move lead production overseas

Brandon Judd, president of Homeland Security's National Border Patrol Council, told a House committee on Nov. 20: "For the most part, when discussions on border security arise, the conversation tends to focus on the southwest border. In no way do I want to detract from the importance of securing the southwest border, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention the ongoing threat of the nearly unguarded northern border to the safety of the American public. The U.S.-Canada border extends for about 5,500 miles, and there are more than 120 land points of entry — not to mention vast stretches of open prairie along the border. The northern border is ripe for the exploitation of not only alien and drug trafficking, but also for facilitating the illegal entrances of terrorists and those that would do this country harm. If we selectively limit manpower to current locations with high volumes of illegal crossings, all we have really achieved is shifting the point of illegal entry to a different location."

As of October 8, 2012, the United States Border Patrol had captured deportable aliens from 142 countries for an unofficial total of 384,788. The largest number came from El Salvador with 22,168; Ecuador with 2,289; Dominican Republic with 1,044; Guatemala with 36,204; Honduras with 30,204; and Mexico with 286,766.

The Doe Run Company's lead-producing plant in Herculaneum, Missouri is being forced to close after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required it to spend up to \$100 million on upgrades. Doe Run, the last primary lead smelter in the United States, has been around since 1892 but closed on December 31. The Obama administration's new extremely tight air-quality restrictions have led to the end of lead as the primary metal in bullets, making ammunition much more expensive and less accessible and leaving America no choice but to turn to overseas operations to produce lead bullets.

Starting in 2014, all ammunition sold to civilian gun owners in America will have to

be imported, a result of a crackdown on sulfur dioxide and lead emissions and accompanying harsh EPA regulations. This seems to go along with the U.S. military and Homeland Defense recently purchasing large quantities of ammunition. The battles over contamination ended in numerous lawsuits. One of them singled out the EPA and forced the federal government to revise the national air pollution standard for lead.

Doe Run made significant efforts to reduce lead emissions from the smelter, but in 2008 the EPA issued new National Ambient Air Quality Standards for lead that were 10 times tighter than the previous standard. Whatever the EPA's motivation when creating the new standards, the increasingly restrictive regulation of lead is likely to affect the production and cost of traditional ammunition. California Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill that will ban lead ammunition for all hunting in California.

The Center for Biological Diversity has tried multiple times to get similar regulations at the federal level by trying, and repeatedly failing, to get the EPA to regulate conventional ammunition under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Thus you can own all the guns you want, but if you can't get ammunition, you are out of luck.

The result is that all domestically mined ore will have to be shipped overseas, refined and then shipped back to the U.S. Not only will ammunition be even harder to get, the demand and the process of supply will cause the price to skyrocket even more. There is an excellent chance that the market will be changed so that all ammunition has to be purchased from the government, instituting an ammunition registration.

Statistics released in mid-December show 24,668 "unaccompanied alien children" were placed last year in the care of the federal agency that, by law, is responsible for them. That's nearly double the number from 2012.

A federal judge in Texas claimed earlier this month that the Department of Homeland Security has been delivering children smuggled across the U.S.-Mexico border to their illegal immigrant parents. In June 2012, the administration decided to give a reprieve to young illegal immigrants who came to the U.S. as children.

Critics say these policies send a clear message south of the border that the rewards of trying to cross into the U.S. outweigh the risks.

Most of the minors come from Central America -- largely Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. They are supposed to be entered into immigration proceedings but in some cases minors were reunited with their parents. Most of the children are housed through a network of federally funded care centers but in 2012 Lackland Air Force Base in Texas was used to house dozens of children.

Some come by the drug cartels which play a big role in human smuggling rings. Some of the children can petition for legal status. According to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, those seeking asylum or who can demonstrate they were abused or abandoned by their parents in their native country can be eligible.

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- Florida, Texas, and Hawaii Sugarcane Growers
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In-Kind Contributors

- Miller/Coors
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Natural Resources Report



By Alice Parker
Washington

Endangered species and water issues top 2014 agenda

Water issues and the Endangered Species Act are on the front burner again for 2014. These two issues keep coming back to raise their ugly heads.

The Endangered Species Act is now 40 years old and was passed and signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1973. The law has been successful in calling the attention to species that have nearly become extinct.

As an example, the gray wolf and the black-footed ferret are two species that were on the list in South Dakota. Now there are hundreds living in the state and these species are creating problems for ranchers and farmers.

The Federal Register Notice of December 23-27 announced three new species that are being listed. They are the Wyo-

ming Greater Sage Grouse, the Yellow Billed Cuckoo and the South Central California Coast Steelhead. For more information and to submit comments on the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse go to www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programslanning/ammendments/sage-grousehtml. For information and to make comments on the California Steelhead go to http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/salmon_steelhead/recovery_planning_and_implementation/south_central_southern_california_coast/south_central_southern_california_salmon_recovery_domain.html.

Water Rights continue to be an issue in every state. The debate in Montana and the current water rights grab in Western Montana is a perfect example and lessons can be learned from it.

The Hellgate Treaty of 1855 states in Article I that "The confederated tribes of Indians hereby cede, relinquish and convey to the United States all their right, title, and interest

in and to the country occupied or claimed by them, bounded and described as follows, to wit."

Article I of the Montana constitution reads: "All provisions of the enabling act of Congress, as amended and of Ordinance No. 1 appended to the constitution of the state of Montana and approved February 22, 1889, including the agreement and declaration that all lands owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control the Congress of the United States, continue in full force and effects until revoked by the consent of United States and the people of Montana."

The "trust land" within the reservations is federal land under the absolute jurisdiction and complete control of Congress. The Hellgate Treaty secured the right to take fish in common with the citizens of the Territory without having a water right. Otherwise a group of Montana citizens could get a water right to protect their favorite place to fish.

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the benefits of free trade.

Two major trade treaties are currently being negotiated: The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Trade Promotion Authority affects both. Please see the December WIFeline Trade Report for more information on these two treaties.

Using new estimates of changes in two-way trade between the U.S. and the EU under the agreement reveal TTIP is projected to result in a growing U.S. trade deficit with the EU and the loss of at least 71,000 additional U.S. jobs.

U.S. trade with Mexico after NAFTA has cost the United States nearly 700,000 jobs through 2010. The U.S. has lost 2.7 million jobs through 2011 due to growing trade deficits with China. The Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) has resulted in the loss of more than 40,000 U.S. jobs. U.S. trade treaties have not been good for U.S. jobs, especially in manufacturing.

"The U.S. economy last year was 4 percent smaller because of the trade deficit. Just to drive the point home... if we had balanced trade last year, the economy would have been 4 percent larger than it was," said Michael Stumo of the Coalition for a Prosperous

America.

Now that America is importing most of the ingredients in our prescription drugs and the majority of the foods we eat, it's important to look behind the label. It may or may not tell consumers where the products come from. Prescription drugs may be coming from Communist China. Drug research in China has fallen under a cloud since 2006 because 13 of the top 20 global drug makers have set up research and development centers in China, leaving big questions as to the safety of drugs.

China's purchase of pork producer Smithfield Foods Inc. for \$4.7 billion has U.S. officials concerned about how this could affect the safety and availability of heparin. That's an important blood thinner derived from pig intestines that is widely used in U.S. heart surgeries and kidney dialysis. Smithfield is the world's largest pork producer, with 46,000 employees in 25 states, and is a major supplier of crude heparin, which is already stressed and could soon be in short supply. In 2007 and 2008, nearly 150 people suffered serious reactions and 94 people died after being treated with contaminated heparin.

Mysterious canine illnesses and deaths have been linked to jerky treats from China,

and two manufacturers pulled leading brands off their shelves. Dog lovers are warned that many jerky treats say "product of the USA" but that label merely means they were packaged in the U.S. while the ingredients are Chinese. Federal officials said the current outbreak sickened 3,000 dogs and 10 cats and killed about 600 canines.

Chickens raised and slaughtered in China will be on U.S. grocery store shelves next year. The USDA notified China in September that four of its processing plants have been cleared to begin processing chickens from the U.S. and then sell them in the American market.

The China Bee Products Association claims that half of all honey sold in China is fake.

Australia blocked a three billion Australian dollar (US\$2.7 billion) bid by U.S. agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland Co. for local grain handler GrainCorp Ltd. on national interest grounds. The deal would have left 60 percent of wheat shipments from Australia controlled by three companies (ADM, Glencore Xstrata PLC and Cargill Inc.). In the meantime, the U.S. government saw no reason why Smithfield should not be sold to China. Go figure.

WIFE Updates

Applications for FAED/Sheila Massey Memorial Scholarship available

The Foundation for Agricultural Education and Development (FAED) is pleased to announce the FAED/Sheila Massey Memorial Scholarship, available for the first time in 2014. The Massey Scholarship will join the Marilyn Spiker Memorial Scholarship in providing opportunities for outstanding young women interested in careers in agriculture to finance their education.

Three scholarships will be offered in 2014. Each scholarship will have a value of \$1000 (\$500 for first semester and \$500 for second semester). All women studying an ag or ag-related course of study and entering their freshman or sophomore year in 2014 are eligible to apply.

Applications will be available online at WIFeline.com or from FAED scholarship chairman Melinda Sorem, 26561 NW 208 Road, Jetmore, KS, 67854, shortly after the first of the year. Each WIFE state will be responsible for selecting one applicant to submit to FAED by April 1, with the final selection made in April by the FAED Scholarship Committee.

Don't forget to pay your dues for the 2014 membership year! Please send \$40 to Shana Baisch at 323 Road 300, Glendive, MT 59330. Questions? Call Shana at (406) 365-4133

CONGRATS TO OUR 2014 OFFICERS AND AREA DIRECTORS!

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