



# The Greatest Generation

By Bonnie Carignan

Bonnie is a WIFE member in North Dakota

Back in September of 2008 while my husband Randy was still combining, I got off the farm to accompany my dad, Syl Metzger of Langdon, North Dakota, on the Northern Valley Honor Flight to Washington, DC. It was an amazing experience! My dad served over in Europe as a Sergeant in the 357 Regiment 90th Division during World War II and earned a Purple Heart.

The trip was planned by the Northern Valley Honor Flight Committee which is made up of about 12 people who are a good generation or two younger than the World War II veterans. They truly care about these veterans and they know exactly what these men and women did for their country and for the world. The Committee planned an unforgettable experience for the veterans and the rest of us who were along and it was nothing less than that.

I just can't say enough about all the respect, honor and appreciation that was shown to the veterans on this trip. From the moment we arrived very early that Friday morning to the moment we left late that Saturday night, there were always military personnel and volunteers to lend a hand with our luggage, walkers, wheelchairs or whatever. The soldiers in Grand Forks, North Dakota, many from the Grand Forks Air Force Base, would visit with all of us, but most especially with the veterans. And they would thank the World War II vets for their service.

Here are a few highlights from the Honor Flight. On our way to and from the airport in Grand Forks, police stopped



traffic and escorted the four buses carrying more than 180 of us on this trip. We were led by the North Dakota Patriot Guard on their motorcycles. Can you imagine the roar and the commotion through the streets of Grand Forks at 7:00 in the morning?

After boarding the plane, we were greeted by North Dakota Governor John Hoeven. He started at the back of the plane where we were sitting, and visited with every single person, but he was mostly interested in the veterans.

As the plane taxied to the runway, the Grand Forks Air Force Base Honor Guard gave a salute on one side of the plane and airport firefighters gave a water cannon salute on the other side of the plane.

When we arrived in Washington, DC, there was another water cannon salute and an Air Force honor guard. As we got off the plane, we were greeted by many more cheering volunteers from the Washington area. They sure made you feel very special!

We loaded our buses and were taken immediately to the World War II Memorial. Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota and former Senator Bob Dole were there to greet the veterans and take pictures.

Dad and I walked the whole way around the World War II Memorial. We saw the Atlantic and Pacific pavilions to symbolize the war fought across two oceans. We saw the pillars representing every state in the union, territories and District of Columbia. On each pillar is a bronze wreath of oak

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# TAMMY'S TOPICS

By Tammy Basel, SD  
National President



There is never a bad time to let the folks in Washington, DC, know what is happening out in the rural communities of our nation. There are many critical issues facing production agriculture. I recently heard a speaker who basically asked "How committed are you?" He encouraged everyone to have a line in their budget to do things like going to Washington, DC. Do not rely on the organizations that you pay membership to do all the work. Your organization needs you and we need you to come to the upcoming Legislative Conference. The agenda has been emailed and will be in this issue of the WIFeline.

All attending the Legislative Conference will be going to USDA. We have a prospective meeting with Secretary Vilsack. The Secretary has been doing a great job at hosting regional meetings like the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) meetings held all over the nation. NAIS is not a dead issue but for the time being, it may be on a back burner. Secretary Vilsack listened to the many concerns with the mandatory program. Another program the Secretary took the lead on was the "Rural Tour Renewing America's Promise". To find highlights of the tour go to the Rural Tour on the USDA website [www.USDA.gov](http://www.USDA.gov).

Dudley Butler, Administrator for Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration still has the dirt of production agriculture under his fingernails. He is an inspiring man and after listening to him you will believe WIFE has a true friend in the office. Having the family farm succeed is a passion of Administrator Butler. He really understands that for main street America to prosper, agriculture must first prosper.

Brandon Willis, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs with the Farm Service Agency, grew up as a third generation sheep rancher in Utah. Before going to work at USDA he worked in Senator Max Baucus's (D-MT) office. He is now actively involved in administrating many of the programs he helped write. Be prepared for direct answers to all of your questions.

USDA, in an effort to revitalize rural America, has created "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food". You can find more information on this impressive program by visiting the USDA website. The following is the mission statement directly from the website. "When Deputy Secretary Merrigan put out the call to USDA Agency heads for representatives to the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food team she asked for people with subject matter expertise matched by enthusiasm, and said "I need worker bees." The team that came together represents the best of the professional expertise and personal commitment that brings the USDA to Americans "every day in every way." This is a USDA-wide effort to create new economic opportunities by better connecting consumers with local producers. It is also the start of a national conversation about the importance of understanding where your food comes from and how it gets to your plate. Today, there is too much distance between the average American and their farmer and we are marshalling resources from across USDA to help create the link between

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# SUGAR CHALLENGES

By Klodette Stroh, WY  
National Sugar Chairman

**Roundup Ready:** Sugar beet farmers across America and Canada have been harvesting **sugar beets** with high tonnage (22 to 28 tons per acre) **and** with average sugar of 17 to 18 **percent for the past two years**. This improvement is credited to Roundup Ready sugar beet seed. This is a blessing to our sugar farmers. Using Roundup ready sugar beet seed has two benefits. By spraying weeds in sugar beet field in early stages, young sugar beet plants get a head start **and, also, the** elimination of field weeds leaves more nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulfur for sugar beets to grow and make more sugar. The year 2010 will be a challenge for our sugar farmers if we lose our Roundup Ready sugar beet seed.



On September 21, 2009, U.S. District Court Judge Jeffery White ruled that the USDA has to complete an Environmental Impact Statement for Roundup Ready sugar beets. USDA has to produce a more completed process than the one **the** agency completed in 2005. The sugar produced from biotech (Roundup Ready) sugar beets is exactly the same as from conventional sugar beets and sugarcane. As I said before, it has been used all over the United States already and farmers are happy with their sugar beet crops. **In April there** may be an injunction requested to prevent farmers from using Roundup Ready sugar beets. I hope our court system **acts** realistically and **helps** our nation's sugar beet farmers to survive.

**2010 sugar allotments:** The 2010 domestic allotment for sugar is set at 9,235,250 short tons raw value (STRV). Sugar cane portion is 4,215,892 STRV and sugar beet portion is 5,019,358 STRV. It is expected that all of the domestic sugar production will be permitted to be marketed in fiscal 2010 and **that** the 2008 Farm Bill will assist the **Secretary** of Agriculture to control imports except **for** the sugar imports under the North American Free Trade agreement.

**Loan Rates:** Sugar loan rates have been increased for 2010 **as** a direct result of the 2008 Farm Bill. The national average loan rate has increased by .55 cents per pound (first increase in over a decade) from 22.9 cents/lb. to 23.45 cents.

The rates are adjusted by region and are in **cents per** refined pound. The new regional rates are: Minnesota and the eastern half of North Dakota 23.41, California 24.74, Michigan 24.94, Montana, northwestern quarter of Wyoming and western half of North Dakota 23.40, Oregon and Washington 22.60, Northeastern quarter of Colorado, Nebraska and the southern quarter of Wyoming 22.58, Idaho, Oregon and Washington 22.60.

America's economy is in the red. Our current debt is over \$12 trillion. Thousands of Americans are struggling to pay their bills. Every day is a new record set for higher unemployment. Agriculture is a renewable resource and is operating in black. The fact is that the United States exports \$43.5 billion in agriculture products and **imports** \$26.4 billion in farm products, equaling a positive net trade balance of \$17.1

billion. As long as we have farmers there is hope for America to recover. Bear in mind, farmers are in partnership with God to be stewards of his land and feed his people.

## The Greatest Generation

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and wheat to symbolize the nation's industrial and agricultural strength. We saw the Freedom Wall and its 4,000 gold stars commemorating the more than 400,000 Americans who gave their lives in the war. Many quotations are carved into the granite walls. One from President Harry S. Truman reads, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices." This Memorial is truly beautiful and I cannot give it justice trying to explain it. It has to be seen to be appreciated and what a great honor and privilege I had to see it with my Dad.

One other incredible thing was to witness strangers, even young mothers with their children, come up to my Dad and other veterans and say, "Thank you. Thank you for what you did for our country!" That was so awesome to witness! All these vets, and my Dad included, would humbly say back, "We just did what we were told to do." How incredible is that!

We were then able to see the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial. Later at the banquet, we were greeted by North Dakota Senator Kent Conrad. And again, so much appreciation and honor was shown to the veterans.

Other highlights on the trip included a visit to Arlington National Cemetery where there are graves of over 300,000 people. We saw the Kennedy family graves, the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and watched the changing of the guard. From there we went to the Iwo Jima Memorial, had a bus tour of Washington, DC, and then went to the National Air and Space Museum before heading back to Grand Forks.

Before our return flight home, once again, the veterans were thanked by the pilot and co-pilot for their service and sacrifice.

When we got back to Grand Forks, we were greeted by some local groups from the Air Force Base and the University of North Dakota. We again had a police escort back to Red River High School and were given a rousing "welcome home" in the gymnasium. The bleachers were filled with family and friends carrying "Welcome Home" signs and waving American flags. An airman escorted each veteran to his seat to the sound of a prolonged standing ovation.

Many of these veterans, and my Dad included, came home from the war more than 60 years ago and it was "no big deal." No fanfares, no parades, just back to business as usual. Well, this Honor Flight was to change all that. And I saw the respect, the honor, the appreciation, and the gratitude shown to these wonderful veterans who had served in World War II. This Honor Flight well reminded them that they are a "big deal" and are "The Greatest Generation".

## Calendar of Events:

Deadline for WIFeline reports - February 25

Legislative Seminar - March 6 - 10, Washington, DC

# PUBLIC AWARENESS

By Mary Ellen Cammack, SD  
National Beef Chairman

Can we count our chickens (beef) before they are hatched (consumed)?

Chad Gregory, senior vice president of the United Egg Producers, spoke in Willmar, Minnesota, recently. He quoted a German farmer, "Don't let what happened to us happen to you." Ten years ago, Europe exported more beef than anyone in the world. Germany's egg industry consisted of the latest technology. Now Europe is the largest importer of beef and 65 percent of the eggs that German citizens eat are also imported. According to Gregory, organizations like the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), want to make money off animal welfare issues. HSUS is the force behind the California ban on keeping laying hens in cages and gestating sows in crates and behind efforts in many states to change animal agriculture and United States-based food production. No state has enacted legislation to ban housing laying hens in cages; however, HSUS has helped to pass ballot initiatives in Florida, Arizona and California. Gregory said, "Voters are uninformed, they don't know where their food comes from." He predicts that California, our nation's fifth-largest egg producer, will be put out of the egg business by 2015 because of the cage ban. Consumers are buying and consuming more eggs now than ever due to the bad economy.

Americans spend 7.2 percent of their disposable income on food, compared with 10 percent spent in the United Kingdom and Canada and 24 percent in Mexico. Those consumers expect food safety, which can be measured, and appropriate animal welfare.

Livestock producers must be responsible to increase public awareness of how meat animals are produced. Dr. John Deen, associate professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota, works with veterinarians and producers on animal welfare. "Very few things are as complex and culturally involved as the food we chose to eat." Deen said.

Showing up and spending time talking to consumers at fairs, farm tours and interpretive centers gives producers the opportunity to connect with the consuming public, who usually have no connect to agriculture other than their daily food, is very significant. Producers need to highlight that they are the caregivers to the animals and validate consumer concern to the images in published videos of animal abuse and neglect. We can then offer expertise on how to remedy those situations.

(Source: Gretchen Schlosser, West Central Tribune, Willmar MN)

My article is not exclusively beef, but I firmly believe we must become more actively involved with our American consumer and therefore chose to use this information. I also plan to add interesting web sites for readers to checkout. This site: [www.beefbasis.com](http://www.beefbasis.com) was just launched in January and is an outstanding tool for planning our beef marketing for 2010 and beyond. Many opportunities exist to expand



our education within production agriculture, either by seminars, symposiums, organizational memberships, etc. but it does require effort on our part to do it!!! Participation also strengthens our tools to communicate effectively with the consumer.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE IN DC

Tours and meals during the tours will be included in the registration price. There will be a White House tour on Tuesday morning. Social security numbers are required 30 days in advance to go on this tour. Melinda Sorem is collecting this information so please give her your number if you wish to go on the tour. Please remember to make appointments with your Congressman and call to confirm the appointment before you leave home. There will be no time on Monday to make confirmation calls.

### Sunday March 7:

7:30 a.m. - 10:30 BOD

10:30 a.m. Leave for National Cathedral

1:00 p.m. leave for Mount Vernon tour

[www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org)

7:00 p.m. show in Kennedy Theater

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/>

**Shear Madness** is the comedy whodunit that lets the audience solve the crime! Set in present-day Georgetown, *Shear Madness* engages locals and visitors alike as arm-chair detectives to help solve the scissor-stabbing murder of a famed concert pianist who lives above the Shear Madness unisex hairstyling salon. The show combines up-to-the-minute improvisational humor and a mixture of audience sleuthing to deliver a unique performance each night. *Shear Madness* has been running in the Kennedy Center's Theater Lab for over 20 years, giving more than 9,000 performances and is the second longest play in the history of American Theater (its sister production of *Shear Madness* in Boston is #1.)

### Monday March 8

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. USDA

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Senate Briefing

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. House Briefing

6:00 p.m. Pizza Party

### Tuesday March 9

7:30 a.m. White House Tour

Hill Visits in afternoon

5:30 p.m. Reception to Honor Clete Boykin and Kathryn Hill

## ADDRESS CHANGE?

If there is a change in your address, please call or email the EDITOR rather than mailing it. - Phone 701-563-4560 or email: [mkouba@ndsupernet.com](mailto:mkouba@ndsupernet.com)

## LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

The Legislative Seminar will be held at the Capital Hill Hilton on March 6-10 in Washington, DC. Get your plane and hotel reservations if you plan on attending it.

# SHEEP PREDATORS

By Tammy Basel, SD

The American Sheep Industry (ASI) recently held its annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. As a sheep rancher and National WIFE President I was able to attend. It was a very intense and informational meeting.

One of the committee meetings was about building the sheep numbers in the U.S. According to USDA-NASS, 81.5 percent of sheep operations own 99 head of sheep or less, and own 21.2 percent of the sheep inventory while 3.1 percent of the sheep operations own 47.6 percent of the inventory. ASI conducted a survey among its members to try and better identify what it would take to increase sheep production in the United States. Some respondents could not increase herd size because of off-farm jobs.

One of the identifiable problems for sheep numbers is predators. Coming from Western South Dakota, I think of a predator as a coyote. A coyote-kill is not pretty especially when the pups are learning to kill or are killing for fun. Some groups have put the perception out that predators kill the weak and old when in reality coyotes like the fat healthy lamb. Coyotes can only kill or harm one animal at a time yet before they are done or by the end of the season they are taking double-digit percentages of sheep. The other type of predator is worms which can affect the whole flock. Worms can put small holes in the pelt of the animal so pelts have no value. In today's market a good pelt will bring close to \$5.50. Worms can be devastating to weight gain and the health of the lamb. Sheep operations that fight four-legged predators and those that fight internal predators have a lot in common. Operations that have four-legged predators are continually losing ways to fight them, such as leg-hold traps that are banned in some states. Traditional wormers are not working on controlling worms and there is a need for new wormers. The process to get new pharmaceuticals approved is long and expensive. Sheep are a minor species and the money is not there to get new drugs to control worms.

Guard dogs have been used successfully to help control predators. A guard dog in many people's minds is the pit bull or a vicious dog that watches over an illegal drug operation. Those are a vastly different type of dog than the Great Pyrenees which is used to guard sheep. New terminology is being used for dogs like the Great Pyrenees and it is Livestock Protection Dog. A Livestock Protection Dog and a herder were watching over some sheep on a Federal Grazing allotment and at the same time there was a mountain bike race. A lady left the designated trail and rode by the sheep. The Livestock Protection Dog was doing his job and she got bit. She received 60 stitches and sued. There is a danger of Livestock Protection Dogs not being allowed on Federal Grazing leases. The sheep industry has been at the table to find common ground to be able to continue using this powerful tool. Of utmost importance is if you use Livestock Protection Dogs you should see what your state laws



say about vicious dogs. If your state has a vicious dog law and you have a Livestock Protection Dog that bites someone, your insurance may not cover you.

## Tammy's Topics

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local production and local consumption."

Additionally, WIFE will be working on many other important issues like Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) and the WTO case with Canada. Not only is COOL facing a tough battle on the WTO legal fight but it still is having problems with some loopholes in the rules of the law. Please take some time to investigate how meat is being labeled in local stores.

WIFE will be hosting the pizza party at 1302 Longworth again this year. Last year's party was an amazing success. We served 50 pizzas and every member in attendance was busy conveying the WIFE message. These are just a few of the reasons WIFE needs members to attend the Legislative Conference this year. Many of our guests at the pizza party understood agriculture, but many did not know that the members of WIFE are the people who grew the wheat for the pizza crust, or milked the cows for the cheese on the pizza.

We will be honoring two great friends of WIFE by making them honorary WIFE members. Clete Boykin and Kathryn Hill are women who have gone above the call of duty to assist WIFE in many ways, and are very deserving of our appreciation.

It will be great to see many of you in Washington DC to do the important work of WIFE

## SYMPATHY

Judy King, a long time New York WIFE member, past president and dear friend of many, passed away on January 15, 2010. Judy leaves behind her husband, Jim, five children and several grandchildren. Our condolences go to all of the family. Cards may be sent to Jim King, 122 State Highway 67, Saint Johnsville, New York, 13452.

### Membership Information:

Yes, send me information about becoming a member of WIFE. I am interested in the grassroots organization.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Send above form to the  
**National Membership Chairman**  
**Alice Fairfax - 27248 Goodwill Chapel Rd.**  
**Sedalia, MO 65301**

# THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

By Donna Bolz, NE  
National Transportation  
Chairman



Rural transportation has traditionally meant cars and pick-ups, highways and Greyhound buses. However, while the intercity buses are fewer and farther between, that doesn't change people's needs to get from place to place. Most people have cars and trucks, but some elderly or disabled people can no longer drive and, with gas prices going up, some unemployed and lower-income people can no longer afford to drive much.

In rural America, where the percentage of people over 65 years of age is expected to triple, getting around can be challenging and more transportation alternatives are needed. The upcoming federal transportation reauthorization legislation should provide room for new ideas and mobility solutions. Congress can help provide rural Americans with better access to government and medical services, education, jobs and visits with friends.

Modern, fast, comfortable and convenient higher-speed intercity rail service would help rural transportation access. Most people think about high-speed rail as linking big Midwest cities, but carefully chosen stops along the way can provide important new transportation services for rural residents. The fast trains shouldn't have a lot of stops, which would make them into milk runs. However, there will likely be stops in places like Bloomington and La Crosse and Watertown, Wisconsin. For example: the planned new high-speed rail service between Chicago and St. Louis should stop in Springfield. There are 15 counties in Illinois with more than 700,000 people within a 50-mile radius of Springfield. High-speed rail service would provide these residents with better access to Chicago, St. Louis and other cities in between. Scheduled shuttle buses between outlying rural towns and the Springfield train station could make this rail service more accessible for meeting rural mobility needs.

According to an economic study conducted for nine state Departments of Transportation, the new Midwest high-speed rail network can create 57,000 permanent new jobs across the region, produce more than a \$1 billion in additional household income and spur almost \$5 billion in private new development near Midwest rail stations. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee proposes to invest \$50 billion in general revenue funds over five years to support high-speed rail development across the nation. The full Congress will soon address transportation infrastructure and funding issues. High-speed rail development is a key opportunity for rural America, not just for the big cities.

Advanced software, communications and GPS technology have enhanced scheduling for urban bus systems and air taxis. This type of scheduling technology and Internet service can also be applied to make rural transit shuttle services more efficient, predictable and coordinated for moving

people from place to place. Imagine a flexible transit service in which rural riders could call or e-mail a dispatcher asking to be picked up in a certain timeframe. The software program determines the most efficient routes, timing and coordination for drivers shuttling among passenger pick-ups and drop-offs. Although this may be more challenging and less time-certain in spread out rural areas than in more dense urban areas, modern software scheduling technology can make these shuttle services work better. This would especially be helpful for elderly and disabled rural residents who cannot drive.

The federal Section 5311 Rural Public Transportation Program provides \$400 million to \$500 million annually to support rural transit and infrastructure development, and about \$8 million is allocated for the Section 5311(b)(3) rural transit technical assistance and training program. Innovative pilot programs for on-demand rural transportation services should fit well.

It's time for new ideas for better rural transportation.

## EAJA

By Darcy Dressler, ND  
National Legislative Chairman

The Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) was designed to help protect the ordinary citizen against government misconduct. It was to provide legal fees for poor individuals and small public interest groups. However, it has now been abused by non-profit organizations for the purpose of environmental litigation. Some of these non-profits have yearly budgets that exceed \$50 billion and yet the EAJA is paying their legal fees. For example, Wild Earth Guardians received \$140,000 from the federal government in a grant and yet they sued the government 241 times. The Natural Resources Defense Council received \$4 million from taxpayers and turned around and sued the government 488 times. You add in the Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Club and there are over 2000 cases in nine years. These environmental groups are receiving grant money from the federal government to operate and are in turn suing the federal government and recovering their legal fees--sometimes up to \$650 an hour.

There are two major sources for money for these fees. One source is the "Judgment Fund", which is a line-item appropriation by Congress. However, there is a database to track the payment of these fees. The other source is that the "losing" litigant government agency must take the legal fees from their budget but there is no tracking of these payments from the agency's budget. This is money that could be well spent in other areas.

The Forest Service paid EAJA fees in 44 cases from 2003-2005 and only nine of these plaintiffs were not environmental groups. Billions of federal taxpayer monies have been spent on these legal fees. However, there are no checks and balances in place to show the taxpayer where this money is going and to whom it is being paid.

[www.WIFeline.com](http://www.WIFeline.com)

# TRADE OFFICIALS

By Ruth Laribee  
National Trade

According to industry sources the Obama administration is adding some new faces to USDA to deal with trade. John Brewer, as an Associate on the Global Security/Threat Finance team in the consulting firm of Booz Allen Hamilton, worked on assignments for their patrons which included Departments of Treasury, Defense, Justice and Home Security. His international finance knowledge plus an Economics and Political Science background is reported to be essential to create larger trade opportunities with other countries. Brewer's new position will be the Administrator of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).



The new Deputy Under Secretary for the Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service will be Darci L. Vetter. Vetter has dealt with negotiations on agricultural trade and was Director of Sustainable Development and Director of Agricultural Affairs for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representatives. Her educational background is in Public and International Affairs.

Janet Nuzum will become the Associate Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service. Nuzum has held positions as a Staff Member for the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade and as a Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman Cal Dooley. She was employed as Vice President and General Counsel for the International Dairy Foods Association and later became Vice Chairman and Commissioner to the U.S. International Trade Commission ruling on trade practices.

Ann Tutwiler will become the Global Food Security Advisor to Secretary Vilsack.

Trade talks between the United States and New Zealand are to begin in March. Other countries included are Australia, Brunei, Chile, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. Former agreements with New Zealand (NZ) gave their farmers a much larger access to the U.S. dairy industry by allowing them to export more NZ cheddar cheese. Dairy imports that would harm the NZ farmer are rigidly opposed. They gave the U.S. access to export more pet food, dried onions, and fruits. Many representatives are opposed to opening the U.S. markets for more dairy imports. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) went on record opposing more dairy imports and writing to U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk "a protracted pricing crisis, an improperly crafted deal could deal a severe blow to the industry. All benefits would likely go to New Zealand and in exchange America's dairy producers and processors would face tremendous pressure and job losses, resulting in losses of billions of dollars to the U.S. dairy sector and supporting businesses."

WIFE supports fair trade for American farmers and consumers.

# MONDAK AG DAYS



During MonDak Ag Days in Sidney, Montana, Pat Torgerson, Vicki Vaira and Irene Johnson are encouraging people to sign a petition about Senate Bill 787. The bill would remove the word "navigable" from our present Clean Water Act. Once that word is removed, every state would lose control of all of their waters. WIFE opposes the removal of the word "navigable".



Treasure Box fun at Mondak Ag Days. Guests were asked to pick any key and if it is the right one to open the box, then they are the winner of the treasure inside. Names of woman and child are unknown.



[www.WIFeline.com](http://www.WIFeline.com)

# GRILLING TECHNIQUES

By Frances Rohla, NE  
National Pork Chairman

Meat science faculty and graduate students of the North Dakota State University (NDSU) of Fargo set up smokers and grills for cuts of meats of pork, lamb and beef at the Burleigh County 4-H building in Bismarck last summer. They taught the basics of grilling with various types of grills, grilling techniques, spice combinations and food safety. Over a hundred people registered for the camp, rotated among the stations and sampled meats prepared for the evening.

These kinds of camps were held around the state by David Newman, NDSU Extension swine specialist. He was teaching and tending a "slow grill" that was equipped with a smoker, gas grill and an inch-thick ceramic cooker that is called "the Big Green Egg".

Educating people, especially the young, about where their food comes from by saying "the grocery store", is not the correct answer.

Grilling with gas is great when time is short. Charcoal fire takes 20 to 30 minutes longer to bring charcoal to white/gray color that means charcoal is ready to cook. "Keeping humidity surrounding the meat is the key to tender and juicy cuts. Basting or spraying, plus grill temperature under 300 degrees, keeps the meat from becoming dry," said Noah Hall, a graduate student. The cuts of meat - (ribeye, porterhouse, sirloin, filet mignon, flatiron, and tenderloin) - are the best cuts of beef. Center cut chops are the best for grilling pork. Grilling meats should be one-inch thick and never be frozen when put on the grill.

Animal science professor Paul Berg was at another table with spices, salt, pepper, garlic, and basics, and other ingredients with rubs and marinades such as traditional, Caribbean jerky, creole, Cajun, Mexican, Southwestern, Italian, Greek or Indian flavors. Rubs and marinades are flavored with various enzymes or acids (yogurts, vinegar, wine and citrus juices).

June Kraft, Burleigh County Extension, taught food safety--preventing cross-contamination between raw meats and ready-to-eat food, keeping cold food cold and hot food hot, and also proper techniques of thawing and storing foods.

The North Dakota Pork Producers Council, North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association, North Dakota Beef Commission, Northern Plains Distributing, Inc. and Cloverdale Foods helped sponsor the camps.

Nebraska Farmer editor, Don McCabe, wrote an article saying that a person wouldn't expect anti-meat messages from the pulpit but a few religious leaders who are promoting to their congregations some talking points provided by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Wes Jamison is a professor at Palm Beach Atlantic University in Florida. He studies the anti-meat strategies of HSUS in using religion and politics to demoralize agriculture. Jamison showed videos of church leaders who cited scripture in admonishing their followers to not eat pork. Their



argument is that "God knows the worth of every animal and thus if you raise animals for profit, you are immoral in God's eyes and what anti-meat opponents call factory farms are against God". Jamison calls this far-fetched, but HSUS is relentless in its campaign.

Consumers are tired of having animal activists and environmentalists pointing fingers at agriculture so we, as agricultural folks, need to speak up for agriculture!

## NEW ZEALAND DAIRY

By Dianna Reed, KS  
National Dairy Chairman

U. S. dairy producers and exporters have urged the government to exclude any dairy-related changes in the trade relationship between the United States and New Zealand as part of a new free trade agreement between the countries.

U. S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, along with the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and the U.S. Dairy Export Council, sent a letter reaffirming their commitment to seek full exclusion of trade in dairy products between the United States and New Zealand under the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement because of the New Zealand dairy industry's unique structure and excessive degree of control over dairy markets globally and in the United States.

Kirk notified Congress that President Obama intends to enter into negotiations of a regional Asia-Pacific trade agreement known as the TPP, which would create a new free trade pact that would include seven other nations: Austria, Chile, Singapore, Peru, Brunei, Vietnam and New Zealand. The United States already has trade agreements with these countries, except for New Zealand, Vietnam, and Brunei (which is essentially a small city-state).

New Zealand is the world's largest dairy exporter, and benefits tremendously from the virtual dairy monopoly that currently exists there, whereby one company controls more than 90 percent of the country's milk production. Although an agreement that included Vietnam would offer some new export opportunities, these opportunities would not come close to offsetting the negative impact to the U.S. dairy industry being forced to compete on an uneven playing field against New Zealand.

Jerry Kozak of NMPF states that "the heightened prospect of greater exploitation by New Zealand of not only global markets, but also our domestic industry and policy would make an already uneven playing field in the global markets worse. The heavy influence on our markets will drive down dairy farmer income in America, force farms out of business, and create a ripple effect on dairy plants and other rural businesses-all at a time when our economy is slowing and unemployment is rising."

It is felt that there is only one way to deal with such a unique and monopolistic situation and that is through an equally unique response...full exclusion of all U.S.-New Zealand dairy trade.





# FOOD SAFETY

By Cynthia Thomsen  
National Health Chairman

## Need for updated food safety programs

Food recalls, such as meat, dog treats, cheese, salsa, formula and peanut butter, don't make your food any safer. We need a major overhaul of our outdated food safety (?) program with focus on preventing tainted food from reaching our local stores. Legislation to do that passed the United States House last year after the peanut panic, but meanwhile the recalls continue.

The Consumers Union will meet in Washington DC next month to plan for real reform.

Contact your senators and have them move forward with legislation concerning our outdated food safety (?) program. Imports have the same safety standards as food processed here with frequent inspection of food processing plants, although many are rarely inspected. Common sense practices are needed to eliminate sources of contamination, to test for contamination and to report the problems.

These are reforms that both Republican and Democrats support yet are stalled in the Senate. Help get the bill passed so the United States will have good food programs in place.

### About the Senior Medicare Patrol

More than 4,000 volunteers are working with the Senior Medicare Patrol, which is a nation-wide group that helps older adults understand the program and fight fraud

To get involved with your state, just go to [www.smpre-source.org](http://www.smpre-source.org) and click on your state. The toll-free number to call is 1-800-423-2449. You will be asked about your interests and describe local volunteer activities. You can give presentations to community groups for those 65 or older, work one on one as a counselor for Medicare enrollment, field phone calls, respond to complaints and concerns from beneficiaries who believe they have been victimized, or do clerical work.

The program offers extensive training, including three sessions that tell the Patrol's mission, tell about Medicare basics and finally tell how to recognize fraud and what to do about it. There is an open book assessment at the end of training where you're expected to get at least 80 percent of the 50 questions correct. This helps you know where to go to get answers. Nebraska training will be offered March 3-5 all day. The exam will be offered on March 8 at 8:00 p.m.,

Do **not** give out your Medicare number over the phone or to someone you do not know. Protect it like you do your Social Security number. Volunteers also spend a lot of time talking about ways to review medical bills to make sure Medicare beneficiaries actually receive the services for which they are being charged.

The group suggests keeping a health care diary and record doctor visits and treatments, so when you receive a statement you can crosscheck it.

Since 1997, the senior Medicare Patrol has recovered \$4.5 million in actual Medicare funds. Total savings to Medic-



aid, beneficiaries and other payers are \$101 million, according to a report by the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services. The National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association, a public-private partnership, estimates at least \$60 billion is lost to fraud each year. This helps protect Medicare for future generations.

*Source: Wall Street Journal Jan. 2010*

# MARJORY CARTER JOHNSON

Marjory Johnson of Shorter, Alabama, has been inducted into the Alabama Independent School Association (AISA) Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was designed and developed for the sole purpose of recognizing those committed individuals who made significant contributions to their school and/or the Association. There were 14 individuals selected for induction in the Class of 2009 AISA Hall of Fame from all parts of the state.

Marjory Carter Johnson is the daughter of John and Marjorie Carter of Shorter, Alabama. She grew up on a large cotton and soybean farm with two brothers (John and Gene) and two sisters (Mary Beth and Emmie). Her life has been greatly influenced by family, the rural way of life, 4-H Club activities, small community schools, and country churches.

Marjory and her husband, Ted, have been married for 42 years. They have two sons, Johnny and David, and five grandchildren.

Agricultural organizations have provided an opportunity for Marjory to contribute to the community. She has served as the County Women's Chairman for ALFA, coordinated the Princess Soya Pageant for the Alabama Soybean Association, presently serves as chapter president and state vice-president of Alabama Women Involved in Farm Economics. She is also a trustee for the Alabama Ag in the Classroom program. She has received the Outstanding Community Partners Award from the University of Alabama Rural Medical Scholars Program.

She was an elementary teacher in one of the first private schools in the state—Macon Academy. She sponsored the Spelling Bee and Science Fairs and received numerous awards for her work. Her mother had also been an elementary teacher and her father had been on the first board of directors.

She says, "In looking back over my years at Macon Academy, my job descriptions have included chief cook in the concession stand, cleaning bathrooms, mopping halls, peddling hot dogs in the concession stand, serving as PTO president, member of the Board of Trustees and a fourth grade teacher. In private school, you do what it takes to get the job done".

(Some of you may remember Marjory at earlier WIFE meetings. She has been a member of WIFE since 1978. Her mother was the WIFeline editor for many years.)

[www.WIFeline.com](http://www.WIFeline.com)

# RUST

By Lisa Goodheart, KS  
Cereal Grains Chairman



There are two types of rust found in oat crops in the United States: crown rust and stem rust. Crop losses occur when rust develops on host plants prior to grain fill. Crown rust is known to be more damaging than stem rust mostly because epidemics of crown rust occur more frequently. This disease is known to reduce yields by up to 40 percent regionally, with some individual fields being too infested to harvest at all. Crown rust develops most rapidly when weather conditions support good crop growth. Spores of the crown rust pathogen are blown into the north central region from southern states. The spores are deposited on crops either through atmospheric settling or by rain. Crown rust spores are also produced from pustules that erupt early during the growing season on diseased buckthorn bushes. Buckthorn is a common invasive weed in shelterbelts, woods and unattended homestead sites and is also a host for soybean aphids.

The rust pustules are found on leaves, leaf sheaths and panicles of oat plants, and start out as a yellow-orange color during the growing season. As the plants mature, dark colored survival spores, called telia, are produced which are much darker in color. If the disease is severe, above and below ground plant stunting may occur.

Stem rust is also found in a widespread area, but losses from this type of rust are much less than from crown rust. There are exceptions to this general statement as there have been huge crop losses in some years. Oat plants are often attacked by both types of rust pathogens. Separately, each disease may not be considered severe on its own, but increased plant stress caused from dual infections can contribute to lower yields and/or test weights. The same weather conditions that promote crown rust also promote stem rust. Fungal spores of stem rust are transported from the southern states to the north central region in the same manner as with crown rust, but the spores are also produced to a limited extent on barberry bushes. This type of bush was targeted for eradication in the early 1900s to manage stem rust on wheat, but the bush is making a comeback, especially in southern Minnesota.

Rust pathogens have the ability to overcome varietal genes for resistance. This occurs more rapidly in a region where the local plants, buckthorn and barberry, are common. Over time, oat varieties that were considered to be rust resistant when released become more and more susceptible. It is also difficult to develop varieties with resistance to multiple diseases. Growers should consider which rust presents the greatest risk for their operation when making varietal decisions.

There are several fungicide products available that are effective at controlling both rusts. Fungicides are most effective when applied on plant tissues before pathogens cause much disease. Application of fungicide may not be economically beneficial if the flag leaf and/or panicle are already heavily rusted. Managing rusts with fungicide should

be done when the flag leaf or panicle is mostly emerged and weather conditions promote infection and disease development. Fungicides are effective tools at preventing disease establishment, but are much less useful for reversing damaging effects.

# PB&J

By Jacquelyn R. Sistrunk  
National Peanut Chairman



The American penchant for avoiding elaborate meal preparations is the peanut butter and jelly (PB&J) sandwich. Invented by a St. Louis physician in 1890 as a protein supplement, peanut butter achieved wide usage during World War I, when it was included in the rations of American GIs. They popularized peanut butter and jelly. In the post-war era, the 18-second prepared sandwich made it a nationwide lunchtime staple.

In 1968, the J. M. Smucker Co. of Orrville, Ohio, made the sandwich even more labor-unintensive by combining peanut butter and grape jelly in a single container. Thus was born, Gober Grape. Baby boomers could now open just one jar for a family's peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

In 2003, Skippy created peanut butter in a tube Skippy Squeeze Stix. Welch's and Smucker's overly sweetened jellies are also in pliable squeeze containers so that peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are now made intense-free and squeeze-intensive.

Once a source of nourishment for astronauts, tube-foods meet the needs for brown-bagging parents and students. Coinciding with the growing popularity of tube foods over the last decade there has been a four percent increase in cavities found in children.

Maybe the peanut butter and jelly sandwich needs to be peanut butter and bananas to protect dental health.

## OPENINGS

There are still some chairmanships open. Some of them are Feed Grains, Oil Seeds and Energy or maybe Cotton, Dry Edible Beans, Rice, and others we have had in the past. If any member is interested they should contact President Basel.

*If you eat, you are involved  
in agriculture.*



## WIFeline

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# FLUSHING

By Jamie Spring, SD  
National Sheep and Goat Chairman

While most think of lambing as the most important phase during a sheep producer's year, the past 60 to 90 days have already had a great impact on profitability for the upcoming year. The ability of a producer to increase their upcoming lamb crop is a valuable tool, and is often achieved through a nutritional process called flushing.

Sheep are seasonal breeders and begin to cycle when the day length shortens. They have an average gestational period of 147 days or about five months. Flushing is typically most successful when instituted from 14 to 30 days prior to introducing rams and continued for the next 14 to 30 days. According to Dr. Susan Kerr, Washington State University Extension Director, flushing can lead to a 25 percent increase in ovulation rates in ewes, with an overall increase of 10 to 20 percent in lamb crop. Lamb crop (or lambing rate) is figured as the total number of lambs born divided by the total number of ewes exposed to rams, then multiplied by 100 to be expressed as a percentage. Kerr relates this increase in total lamb crop to an increase in twins born.

So what exactly is flushing? It is the process of increasing a ewe's nutritional plane, notably energy, to cause an increase in ovulation. It can be accomplished a number of different ways, be it with grain, high quality pasture, or high quality hay. If the producer chooses to increase the animal's protein intake this will also allow for an overall increase in the digestible energy available to the animal. In the typical ewe, flushing requires a one-kilogram dry matter increase per day, comparable to about one pound of grain per day. If using pasture, the key is to stay away from fresh legumes such as alfalfa or clover, as they may contain estrogen-like compounds that may interfere with the ewe's reproductive cycle. However, high quality legume hay no longer contains these compounds and works quite well.

While flushing is an important tool to the sheep producer, it does have its limits. It works better on mature ewes than ewe lambs as those lambs are typically already on a high nutritional plane for growth. It does not work as well on ewes that are already at an optimal body condition, but works exceptionally well on those that were stressed by high lactation or on poorer quality pasture. It is most pronounced during the beginning and end of the seasonal reproductive cycle and especially during off-season breeding. Yet even with these limitations, the producer can usually pencil out the additional cost and time of increased feeding as compared to increased lambing rate. Flushing seems to be viewed as a valuable management tool in operations across the board, and from coast to coast.

As this is my first article for the WIFEline, I would like to introduce myself to those I was not able to meet at the National WIFE Convention this past November. I am a native of northern Idaho and literally grew up 16 hands off the ground riding and jumping horses. I also worked in a mixed-animal practice veterinary clinic, which led me to graduate



from the University of Idaho in 2002 with a degree in Animal Science and Dairy Science. Upon graduating, I became a dairy herdsman on a progressive, registered Holstein dairy in Southern Idaho and loved it! Once I met my husband Lee, I moved to the western plains of South Dakota, where my husband is a fifth generation rancher. We have a beautiful daughter Emma who just turned two, and are expecting her sister to arrive the beginning of March. Lee's biggest hope is that she arrives before calving starts! We raise commercial beef cattle where we find that our cross of Limousine bulls on Angus and black baldy cattle finish well for us. I am the sole reason there are sheep on our ranch, but I really enjoy them. We currently have just a small flock, but with high hopes for expansion in the next few years. I also train and raise Border Collie stock dogs, as well as competing in sheepdog trials with them. As my flock is small, I take advantage of a great neighbor and our National WIFE president to work my dogs in large flock situations. Thanks, Tammy! I am looking forward to expanding my experiences and knowledge through WIFE, and thank you for the opportunity to be your National Sheep Chairman.

## PREMISES & TOWERS

By Stephanie Trask, SD  
National Property Rights Chairman

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture became the first agricultural agency in the U.S. to implement mandatory livestock premises registration. Western Wisconsin cattle farmer, Patrick Monchilovich, was convicted last fall of violating the Wisconsin law.

Monchilovich has since been granted hearing on his motion for re-trial that is set for May 18, 2010. Mochilovich was ordered by Judge Molly GaleWyrick to register his premises and pay nearly \$400 in fines. The hearing will consider Mochilovich's objections that "the plaintiff withheld relevant factual information from the court," and that premises registration is a contract, which clouds title to property and does not further the interest of livestock health.

The Monchilovich case is the second time the state of Wisconsin has taken action against a farmer for refusing to register premises. Emanuel Miller Jr., an Amish dairy farmer, was also tried last fall for his refusal to register on the grounds that it violates his religious beliefs. A decision in the Miller case is expected later this winter.

A recent study by the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory finds that wind farms have no measurable effect on neighboring property values. The three-year study examined nearly 7,500 home sales in ten communities near 24 wind farms in nine states. While much research has shown negative affect to property values caused by coal-fired power plants, transmission lines, and other permanent fixtures, the Berkeley study released in December, shows that wind turbines may be different. "That's not to say there are not individual homes or small groups of homes that have been impacted by the presence of wind projects," says Ryan Wiser, co-author of the study and project manager for the Berkeley Laboratory.



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(Note: If attending the White House Tour, please call Melinda to give her your Social Security number.)