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## 4-H FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The Richard and Nancy Spiegel Family of Formosa, Kansas, was honored as the 2010 Kansas 4-H Family of the Year on June 3 in Manhattan.

Richard and Nancy Spiegel met as students at Kansas State University when Richard was a senior studying agronomy and Nancy was a freshman in dietetics. Richard also was in the U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), so when he graduated and was commissioned into the service, the couple married and moved to Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska.

Following Richard's service, the couple returned to his family farm in Jewell County, where they began raising their family of three children—Vicki, Judy and Steven. As their family grew, the couple learned more about research-based educational opportunities in 4-H.

Richard had no previous experience with 4-H but Nancy had been in the Flying Fingers 4-H Club in Wheaton, Illinois, as a young girl. When daughters Vicki and Judy joined the Formoso Willing Workers 4-H Club in 1968, at the time, Nancy and Richard had no idea how 4-H would so positively impact their family. Later, Steven also joined the club.

In addition to the learning in various projects, Nancy cited the opportunities for youth to learn about leadership and practice it as one of the biggest benefits of participating in 4-H programs.

"Learning to be more responsible for yourself and others, and setting goals and working to achieve them are valuable life lessons that are very much a part of 4-H programs," said Nancy.

"Mentoring is also one of the strengths of 4-H programs", said Nancy, who noted that, while younger children typically listen to and learn from older youth enrolled in the same project, the older youth also can learn from teaching the younger members.

Richard, who was known as a progressive farmer, shared his skills in agronomy and land management with youth and others within the community. Nancy served as a community

leader and county project leader who shared her interest in horticulture as a mentor and coach to 4-H youth in the county. She logged hundreds of hours prepping 4-H—horticulture judging teams.

The couple continued their support of 4-H programs long after their children had completed their 4-H careers. Although Richard died in 2007, Nancy has continued as a 4-H volunteer.

Vicki Spiegel O'Connor of the Kansas City area, is a parent to daughters Jennifer and Katie, and remains an advocate for youth development.

Judy and her husband, Stephen Francis, live in Wilmington, Illinois, and are parents of two grown children, Carrie and Chris, who had been members of the same 4-H club as their father. The two have earned numerous leadership and citizenship awards in 4-H and recently honored their mother, Judy, by establishing the Judy Spiegel Francis Leadership Award to be given annually to honor leadership and citizenship demonstrated by a Jewell County 4-H member in Kansas. The family also co-wrote grant applications to Kraft Foods and the National 4-H Council to reinforce and expand a community food pantry. In 2006 they were awarded the Illinois State 4-H Family Spirit Award—the third family to receive the award.

Judy and Stephen have continued to provide leadership to youth and families, including being leaders of the Wesley 4-H Club. Stephen serves on the county extension council, has been on the state advisory committee, the Will County 4-H Foundation, and president of the Illinois 4-H Foundation. Judy leads an annual food drive that typically nets about a ton of food.

Steven Spiegel, the youngest of the Spiegel's three children, and his wife Janelle (Railsback) Spiegel and their three sons, Zachary, Ryan and Jacob, of Formoso, are currently in the Jewell County 4-H programs. Steven and Janelle practice the leadership and citizenship they learned in 4-H by

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# TAMMY'S TOPICS

By Tammy Basel, SD  
National President



The Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) advisory committee met this June in Kansas City, Missouri. The advisory committee provides advice to the Administrator of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration with respect to the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards. I am a member of this committee and represent WIFE. When the advisory makes recommendations they are taken seriously by the administration and at the next meeting there will be an in-depth review of recommendations taken from the last meeting.

Recently GIPSA published a proposed rule on the Federal Register as required by the 2008 farm bill that would provide significant new protections for producers. "Concerns about a lack of fairness and commonsense treatment for livestock and poultry producers have gone unaddressed far too long," said Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This proposed rule will help ensure a level playing field for producers by providing additional protections against unfair practices and addressing new market conditions not covered by existing rules."

Many comments about increasing consolidation and vertical integration in the livestock and poultry marketplace and shrinking farm numbers were relayed to Secretary Vilsack during his Rural Tour series. "For instance, there were over 666,000 hog farms in 1980, but only roughly 71,000 today. In the cattle industry, there were over 1.6 million farms in 1980, but only roughly 950,000 today. In the hog industry, producers received 50 percent of the retail value of a hog in 1980, but only 24.5 percent in 2009. For cattle, producers received 62 percent of the retail value of a steer in 1980, but only 41.5 percent in 2009. In the poultry industry today, a grower makes 34 cents per bird, while the processing company; however, on average makes \$3.23 a bird."

## Continued from page 1

giving back to their community. Steve is assistant fire chief for the Formoso Fire Department, member of the Rock Hills School Board including two years as president and has also been a member of his church's board. Janelle is a Sunday school and vacation bible school teacher and secretary for the Formoso Public Library Board.

Nancy Spiegel has previously earned numerous awards, including a Kansas 4-H Alumni Award, which was presented in 1992. In addition to her work with 4-H youth development, she has been active in community organizations, including Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE), in which she served as national treasurer for several years. She assisted in establishing the Jewell County Resource Council and in drafting its application for 501(c) 3 nonprofit status. She has also been active in the Formoso PRIDE Program, city-wide tree-planting efforts, Extension council, Meals on Wheels, Courtland Methodist Church, and more.

Congratulations to all of the Spiegel family for work well done! We wish you well in future endeavors.

# WIFE SUPPORTING MEMBERS CONTRIBUTOR LEVELS

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## WIFeline

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# SOYBEANS

By Phyllis Howatt, ND  
National Oilseeds Chairman

The soybean is a species of legume native to East Asia. It is an annual oilseed plant that has been used in China for 5,000 years primarily to add nitrogen into the soil as part of crop rotation.

The soy plant's height varies from below 7.9 inches up to 6.6 feet. The pods, stems and leaves are covered with fine brown or gray hairs. The leaves have 3 or 4 leaflets per leaf and are 2.4 to 5.9 inches long, and 0.79 — 2.8 inches broad. The self-fertile flowers are borne in the axil of the leaf and are white, pink or purple. The leaves fall before the seeds are mature. The fruit is a hairy pod that grows in clusters of 3-5 and each pod is 1-3 inches long but usually contains 2-4 seeds.

Soybeans come in various sizes and in many hull or seed coat colors, including black, brown, blue, yellow, green and mottled. The hull of the mature bean is hard, water resistant, and protects the germ from damage. If the seed coat is cracked the seed will not germinate. The scar, visible on the seed coat, is called the hilum (colors include black, brown, buff, gray and yellow) and at one end of the hilum is a small opening in the seed coat, which can allow the absorption of water for sprouting. Seeds such as soybeans contain very high levels of protein. They can undergo drying and yet survive and revive after water absorption.

Oil and protein account for about 60 percent of dry soybeans by weight, protein at 40 percent and oil at 20 percent. The remainder consists of 35 percent carbohydrate and 5 percent ash. Most soy protein is heat-stable which enables soy food products requiring high temperature cooking, such as tofu, soymilk and textured vegetable protein (soy flour) to be made. For human consumption, soybeans must be cooled with "wet" heat in order to destroy the trypsin inhibitors (serine protease inhibitors). Raw soybeans, including edamame (a preparation of baby soybeans in the pod that are boiled in water with salt and served whole), are toxic to humans, swine, chickens, in fact all monogastric (single-chambered stomach) animals.

Soy foods are a source of high-quality protein which provide health benefits that may prevent or treat certain chronic diseases such as obesity, blood pressure, and heart disease. They are also used for menopause to help protect bones from becoming weak and brittle. Eating more soy foods that are high in fiber, low in fat and high in phytochemicals may help to reduce cancer risks in breasts, prostate and colon. The soybeans can produce at least twice as much protein per acre than any other major vegetable or grain crop. The oil is used in many industrial products including oil, soap, cosmetics, resin, plastics, inks, crayons, solvents, and clothing.

The main producers of soy are the United States, Brazil, Argentine, China and India.



# WHEAT CONDITIONS

By Lisa Goodheart, SD  
National Cereal Grains Chairman

For Kansas farmers waiting to get their wheat harvested, the rains are frustrating. The lack of drying time can result in loss of quality and yield. When mature wheat kernels become wet, they plump up. When those kernels finally dry, the outside of the wheat berry cracks and it takes fewer wheat kernels to fill a bushel, which means there is a decrease in test weight. The condition of the wheat berries has little impact on milling or baking quality, but can result in dockage at the local elevator.

The wheat price is already lower this year, due to a current inventory of U. S. wheat that totals more than one billion bushels and record wheat production by countries that historically have not grown wheat. The demand is for wheat with a protein content of 12 percent or better and current conditions are not conducive to high protein wheat production.

Conditions are even worse in the northern U. S. and in Canada. High rainfall totals in Canada's spring wheat growing regions have prevented farmers from planting wheat and hundreds of thousands of acres of soybeans and canola have been flooded. All those unplanted acres could take three hundred million bushels of wheat off the global wheat market, which is unfortunate for the farmers, but fewer wheat acres will help with the oversupply.

There is a bright spot in all of this gloom. Brazil has agreed to suspend that country's pending tariffs against U.S. imports, which gives the U.S. hope that it can supply Brazil with ample quantities of low-protein wheat. Brazil planned to impose \$820 million in tariffs against U.S. imports, starting June 22 as a result of winning a 2005 World Trade Organization decision against the U.S. on a dispute over cotton subsidies. They agreed to suspend the tariffs while the two countries attempt to resolve their dispute through provisions of the 2012 farm bill.

Brazil is one of the five largest importers of wheat in the world, and is an important customer for U.S. hard red winter wheat, which is a key component for bread and pastry products. Argentina, which also supplies wheat to Brazil, is expected to have a short supply which provides an opportunity for the U.S. and Canada to fill that need. By suspending the tariff, Brazil has the opportunity to buy U.S. wheat at basis levels not seen in the past 30 years.



## Calendar of Events:

Deadline for WIFeline reports — July 25  
National Convention — November 17-20

### 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**

# RENEWABLE ENERGY

By Marlene Kouba

Leaders of the 25x'25 Alliance released a 32-page analysis on June 30 that details the advances made by the renewable energy sector since the Alliance was formed in 2004 toward meeting 25 percent of the nation's energy needs with renewable resources from the land by 2025.



The report's findings come from the leading renewable energy sector groups in the country and government agencies such as Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration. The report shows that:

- Renewable energy produced in the United States between 2004 and 2009 grew by about 23 percent;
- U.S. renewable energy consumption at the end of 2009 was 8.3 percent of total energy consumption, up from less than 6 percent in 2004;
- Ethanol production tripled in the last five years with 10.8 billion gallons produced in 2009, while biodiesel production climbed in 2008 to almost 700 million gallons;
- Biomass power generates 15 million megawatt hours of electricity annually on and off the grid, while biogas recovery systems produced 374 million kilowatt-hours of useable energy in 2009;
- The electricity generating capacity from wind facilities has grown 429 percent since 2004, with total generating capacity now over 35,000 megawatts;
- Solar production capacity for both thermal and electricity generation has grown 41 percent since 2004. Some 40 megawatts of solar energy were installed off the grid in 2009;
- Geothermal production capacity has increased 7 percent since 2004 with 3000 megawatts of currently installed capacity from 77 power plants. With 152 projects in development, there is potential for up to 100,000 megawatts being online by 2025;
- Hydroelectric power has remained constant since 2004, but with facility upgrades and dam retrofits, could increase as much 23,000 MW by 2025;
- And energy efficiency, which is the option of first choice in a 25x'25 renewable energy future, has met 75 percent of the United States' new demand for energy since 1970 through increasing the efficiency of buildings, machinery and appliances.

The report emphasizes that while much has been accomplished, the need to make the transition to a new energy future is even more vital now than it was when the vision was adopted in 2004. The coalition has grown from a roomful of advocates to include nearly 1,000 partner organizations, and the 25x'25 Vision has received the endorsement of dozens of governors and a multitude of state legislatures. A key achievement in the growth of the movement towards a 25x'25 clean energy future was the congressional adoption of the 25x'25 Vision as part of the wide-ranging Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Read Smith is co-chairman of the National 25x'25 Steering Committee. Fellow Steering Committee co-chairman Bill

Richards said, "While adding new revenues to rural communities, reducing our dependence on foreign oil from unstable regimes and reducing emissions and other forms of pollution from conventional energy sources, the 25x'25 Vision also creates new opportunities for farmers, ranchers and foresters."

Women Involved in Farm Economics was one of the first members of this Alliance. (See page 2 in your policy books.)

## ALABAMA WIFE

Alabama WIFE made a visit to retiring Dr. Richard Guthrie of Auburn University on June 2, 2010. Dr. Guthrie was Dean of the College of Agriculture.



(Pictured are Betty Gottler, Marjory Johnson, Dr. Guthrie and Mary Ann Sheppard)

## BYLAWS

By Ardyth Anderson

The following changes to the bylaws were submitted to the committee and will be voted on during the convention.

1. Article X Area Directors. Section 1  
There shall be at least two (2) Area Directors. Directors shall live in the area they represent.
2. Article X Area Directors. Section 1  
There shall be no more than two (2) Area Directors. Directors shall be nominated from an area not currently being represented by the President of the Association.
3. Article XI Executive Committee. Section 8  
Anytime a quorum of Executive Committee members are on a conference call, minutes shall be taken and read at the next Executive Committee meeting or conference call.

## 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)

# SUGAR PROGRAMS

By Klodette Stroh, WY  
National Sugar Chairman

The sugar program has proved its creditability and positive influence on America's economy. History has taught us a very valuable lesson, as I recall when the United States had to ration the sugar supply during World War II. It was a hard lesson to learn as we depended on foreign sugar at that time. Ration leaders of our country then decided to setup a way to prevent the U.S. consumer from ever being in need of foreign sugar again. Their plan helped give rise to the modern-day sugar industry, which is even more important today as foreign countries eye the global sugar supplies to fuel ethanol programs.



With full support of U.S. sugar farmers, Congress overwhelmingly passed another farm bill in 2008 that gave American sugar producers a chance to survive. It provided the USDA with an additional tool to manage excess supplies caused by imports — a standby sucrose-ethanol program that could also help reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil at a minimal cost to taxpayers. During the next three years the Farm Bill also phased in a four percent increase in the U.S. support price, the first such increase since 1985. It seems our modern sugar program reduces our dependency to foreign sugar and foreign oil.

House Agriculture Committee members had been on a three-week tour across the country listening to farmers' opinions of the upcoming Farm Bill. They have been hearing praise from Idaho and Wyoming sugarbeet farmers as well as Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. Over 1.5 million tons of sugarcane is produced by the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers--160,000 tons of raw sugar and 60,000 tons of molasses. The company is a grower-owned cooperative with a \$12 million payroll and an operating budget of more than \$32 million. The House Ag Committee's Chairman Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN) gave the sugar policy a positive endorsement for future 2012 Farm Bill hearings. Rep. Peterson said, "The sugar policy is working exactly as it is supposed to. I don't foresee big changes in sugar," during a May 3 field hearing in Fresno, California.

Congress designed a sugar policy that is working to the considerable benefit of consumers and at zero cost to taxpayers and is giving the remaining American sugar farmers a chance to survive. Sugar beet and sugar cane farmers have backed this positive action by farmers located in different areas. For example: More than 8,000 Texas jobs are tied to sugar and the local sugar mill accounts for 11 percent of the Rio Grande Valley's agricultural output.

In Wyoming, area growers and grower-owned companies produce 13 percent of U.S. sugarbeet production and support 1,500 full-time factory and seasonal jobs. Sugar pumps \$1 billion into Idaho's local economy, supporting 7,000 jobs. Nationwide, 146,000 jobs and \$10 billion in economic activity are underpinned by a strong sugar policy.

The sugar program has proven its positive effect on the U.S. economy and history can be a reliable witness to our

claim. Sugar beet, sugarcane and corn sweetener industries will assist America to rely on U.S. grown sugar and oil.

# SHIPPING RATES

By Donna Bolz, NE  
National Transportation Chairman

Montana wheat farmers will see a rate hike for their 2010 crops. They already pay more to get their grain to market than farmers just about anywhere else. BNSF Railway is increasing its rates beginning August 1 by 2 1/2 cents per bushel on its 110 car and 48 car trains. Smaller trains will see a 4 1/2 cent per bushel increase according to the Montana Grain Growers Association. BNSF is increasing its rates system-wide.



Lola Raska, head of the Montana Grain Growers Association, said mediation between her group and BNSF prevented the higher rate increase for the 48 car trains. "Talks with the railroad also led to an exemption for shipments headed to the markets that the state is trying to develop in the eastern United States," she said.

The grain growers association and the Montana Farm Bureau last year inked a first-of-its-kind agreement with BNSF that allows growers to challenge shipping rates. This has not stopped the prices from rising. Montana's wheat and barley production makes up a third of the state's economy at \$1 billion a year. The majority of the wheat is shipped by rail to Portland, Oregon, for export to the Pacific Rim countries like Japan and Taiwan. About 95 percent of the states rail freight transportation is controlled by BNSF.

Out of the five states that ship the most wheat by rail, Montana shippers pay the highest rates. In 2006 Montana shippers paid an average of \$32.74 per ton of grain to the railroad. North Dakota shippers paid \$32.26 per ton, South Dakota shippers \$31.58 per ton, Nebraska \$27.27 per ton and Kansas \$25.53 per ton. Shipping rates vary across Montana, depending on location and the size of the train. April rates for wheat ranged from a low of 70 cents per bushel to a high of \$1.40 per bushel, which is between \$2,800 and \$4,750 per rail car. These charges are passed on to farmers by the grain elevators that purchase their wheat.

"One case has gone through the new dispute resolution process to the growers' satisfaction which resulted in lower rates charged from a grain elevator near Shelby," states Lochiel Edwards, a wheat farmer and member of the grain grower's association. But Montana Attorney General Steve Bullock said the agreement has not kept down the rates and further reform is needed. "This should include removing antitrust exemptions that the railroads have operated under since the early 1980's," Bullock said. He is leading an effort by a group of states asking the federal government to repeal these exemptions.

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

# GIPSA RULES

By Mary Ellen Cammack, SD  
National BEEF Chairman

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) posted proposed rules on June 22, 2010, on the Federal Register. Comments will be accepted until August 23, 2010. Below is a small portion of the proposed changes from 37 pages on <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-14875.htm>



This link will take you directly to the document posted on the Federal Register and give instructions for comments.

The Proposed new Section 201.212(a) and (b) would prohibit packers from limiting sellers' choices by excluding sellers who meet the packers input needs, forming unjustifiable exclusive agreements with select sellers, and limiting packer-buyer ties to a single packer.

In general, the prohibited behaviors are used to apportion territory or restrain commerce as a mechanism to exert market power to effect lower seller prices. About a dozen packers in the United States slaughter more than 100,000 head of cows and bulls and potentially could be affected by the regulation.

In a recent procurement practice review, GIPSA identified 180 livestock auctions where one buyer bought cull cattle for more than one packer. Most of the packers reviewed would not accept cattle from more than one buyer at any one sale, regardless of whether the buyer was a dealer, commission agent, or employee.

To the extent that firms are engaged in activities that these regulations would specify as violations of the Packers and Shipyards (P&S) Act, the adjustment cost increasing the activity will correspond to the inability (or reduced ability) to exercise monopsony power (several sellers but one buyer). GIPSA notes that many of these activities are currently considered violations of the P&S Act and, as such, will not require additional cost to comply. To GIPSA's knowledge, this activity is restricted to cull cattle procurement and GIPSA does not believe that the costs associated with ceasing to exclude other sellers will result in a large cost to the industry. In markets that will support additional buyers, those new buyers will now be able to purchase and sell cattle to packers in situations where exclusive agreements previously prevented them from competing. Any cost of compliance to packers and existing buyers would thus be primarily due to increased prices they might have to pay due to more competitive markets. Benefits are the prevention of monopsonistic conduct and greater market access for producers.

Proposed new Sec. 201.212(c) would prohibit packers from purchasing, acquiring, or receiving swine or livestock from another packer or packer-affiliated companies. Packer-to-packer acquisitions have historically been restricted to purchases from other packers of "off" animals that did not fit with the other packers' specifications but were procured in a larger lot of animals. The practice was primarily restricted

to hog packers. Since 2006, GIPSA has observed that the practice has been expanded considerably and GIPSA believes it to be contributing to significant price distortions. In one instance, the price distortion was almost three percent of the reported base price for hogs. These price distortions in the swine negotiated cash market have larger price effects than just the cash market as many contracts including formula pricing often refer to the reported base price.

The cost of compliance with the proposed regulation would be localized to packing companies and their affiliates, which would be less able to exercise their market power and pay lower, non-competitive prices to producers. The benefits of a more fair and competitive market, resulting from this rule, are expected to exceed the compliance costs of the regulated entities. In Sec. 201.212(c)(i), we are proposing that packers be afforded the opportunity to apply to the Administrator for a waiver from the requirements of Sec. 201.212(c) in the event of catastrophic or natural disaster or an emergency. The recognition of exigent conditions (such as fire damaging a plant resulting in a packer needing to liquidate committed procurement) and waivers based on those conditions would minimize costs related to packer-to-packer sales based on efficiency reasons.

## HEALTH ISSUES

By Cynthia Thomsen, NE  
National Rural Health Chairman

Food: The Food and Drug Administration reports these 10 foods account for almost 40 percent of contaminated food outbreaks since 1990: 1. Leafy greens, 2. Eggs, 3. Tuna, 4. Oysters, 5. Potatoes, 6. Cheese, 7. Ice cream, 8. Tomatoes, 9. Sprouts, 10. Berries.



Health Insurance: Starting in 2011 your W-2 tax form from your employer will be changed to show the value of whatever health insurance you are given by the company. You will be required to pay taxes on a sum of money you have never seen. This is how the government will buy insurance for the 15 percent that do not have insurance. This is only part of the tax increases.

## CONDOLENCES

WIFE Chapter 124, Kiowa County, Colorado, was very saddened at the loss of one of its members. Fannie Murdock, 81, passed away on February 6 after a long bout with cancer. Fannie was a long-time member of WIFE, serving in many capacities and in other organizations in her community. Most recently, she was treasurer of our WIFE chapter.

Fannie is survived by her husband, Bucky, four children, eleven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Fannie will be greatly missed by her family, our WIFE members and our communities. Our condolences goes to the family and if anyone wishes to send cards, mail to Bucky Murdock and Family, 18560 CR 67, Sheridan Lake, CO. 81071.

# AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

By Rayola Dougher

(Rayola was a speaker during the June Board of Directors meeting held via conference call on June 12. She is the Senior Advisor for the Institute.)

In the immediate aftermath of the spill the American Petroleum Institute (API) formed two task forces of industry experts to identify both short-and long-term issues related to offshore equipment and offshore operating practices.

Those two task forces have already reported their initial findings and recommendations to the Department of Interior, which incorporated them into its report to the President on May 28. Since then, we've created two additional task forces that will focus on subsea well source control and another on spill response and cleanup. As an industry, we are continually reviewing our practices and improving where necessary, all areas of operation, especially in light of this tragedy.

While understanding and correcting the causes of the Gulf of Mexico accident is essential, we are concerned about the impact of the President's decision to halt all Gulf of Mexico deepwater drilling for at least six months. It could lead to even more hardship for workers and families along the Gulf Coast who have already been hit hardest by the oil spill. The state of Louisiana, for example, estimates that the suspension will result in a loss of 3,000 to 6,000 in-state jobs over just the next couple of weeks and potentially more than 20,000 Louisiana jobs over the next year or so. Overall, as many as 42,600 workers could lose their jobs over the next six months just by leaving platforms idle.

We are also concerned about proposals to increase the liability cap on the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. This is a fund that was created in 1990 under the Oil Pollution Act. It is funded exclusively by a per barrel tax on the oil industry, not by taxpayers, and it currently has \$1.6 billion dollars in it. The Act requires that the party responsible for a spill must pay for all the cleanup costs, but beyond that they are liable for \$75 million in damages. After that the fund pays for the damages. There were Hill hearings last week on this issue. Some in Congress propose raising the cap to \$10 billion or even eliminating it altogether. API testified that raising the cap to \$10 billion could push all small, medium, and even most of the major integrated companies out of business in the Gulf. Our concern was reinforced by witnesses representing the insurance industry who said that they simply can't cover \$10 billion in insurance.

The United States gets about 80 percent of our oil from the Gulf. They have had deep wells in the Gulf for at least 30 years. BP has already given states more than \$75 million. Tar balls come naturally from the ocean floor and some come from boats. Hurricanes have not damaged any deep wells. Carrying oil on ships is more dangerous than drilling in regards to spills. BP had been ready to announce that they had found the biggest source in the Gulf when the well exploded.



In closing, our industry is focused on continuous safety improvements. We remain committed to providing the energy our nation needs, keeping jobs and revenue at home while enhancing our energy security.

## DEMAND FOR MILK

By Dianna Reed, KS  
National Dairy Chairman

In recent market research, done by the U.S. dairy industry, it shows that there is a growing number of consumers who care about the health and environmental impact of the products they buy. As a result, this study shows there is a growing demand for products made responsibly. This presents a huge opportunity for the dairy industry to continue to show how it is producing its products in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy provides a forum for the entire dairy industry to work together pre-competitively to address barriers and opportunities to foster innovation and increase sales. The Center conducted an analysis of existing consumer attitudes toward sustainability and combined it with the center's own research. The conclusion is that consumers care more than ever about the environmental impact of the products they buy and that they may buy more of those products they feel are environmentally friendly.

Unfortunately, most consumers don't know enough about dairy's heritage of environmental stewardship. According to a study completed in 2009 by Cornell University, the dairy industry has reduced the carbon footprint of its products by 63 percent over the last 60 years--thanks to production efficiencies, nutrient management and other improvements. Also, the University of Arkansas Applied Sustainability Center estimates that only two percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. are attributed to the dairy industry.

Consumer decisions to purchase milk are still driven mainly by other more traditional factors. Research indicates that most people still buy milk because they like its good taste, find it comforting and believe it is a healthy choice that helps their kids grow strong bones and helps meet their daily recommendations for vitamins, mineral and protein.

If consumers continue to believe these things and also come to understand that dairy is an environmentally friendly choice, their dairy consumption may increase. Consumers welcome news that the dairy industry is continuing to find more ways to conserve resources, such as energy and water, recycling manure into fertilizer and renewable energy.

Positive stories of the industry's sustainability efforts will help make dairy products more relevant and meaningful to today's consumers.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

Mark your calendars for the national convention which will be held in the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223 Mullowney Lane, Billings, MT, 59101-6391, (406) 248-7151. The dates of the convention are November 17th - 20th. Reservation forms will be available later.



# PORK TARIFFS

By Frances Rohla, NE  
National Pork Chairman

"A free trade agreement (FTA) between the United States and South Korea would be an economic benefit for the U.S." says Korean Economic Affairs Minister Jong Hyn Choi.

Choi spoke during the 2010 World Pork Expo in June. The FTA was signed by the U.S. and South Korea in 2007, but has been waiting approval from the U.S. Congress.

If Congress would sign this free trade agreement, it would and could create 9,000 jobs in the pork industry and add \$10 a hundred weight to the pork producer.

Even though the U.S. has a 25 percent tariff on frozen pork products and a 22.5 percent tariff on fresh or chilled pork products, selling 103,000 metric tons of pork is valued at \$215 million of export tariff products to South Korea.

If the free trade agreement isn't signed by Congress soon, South Korea will buy less pork from the United States and buy more pork from Chile and other countries even though the U.S. pork is better quality and cheaper. The free trade agreement by Chile was signed and it will go into effect by 2014.

Korea has already signed with five countries with free trade agreements and nine more are in negotiations.

National Pork Producers Council's Vice President and Counsel for International Affairs, Nick Giordano says that pork producers can be competitive with great products, yet we can't compete with tariffs. Tariffs are taxes and we need to cut them to make it simpler. It comes down to this—do you want to stimulate the economy? Then you have to get rid of the taxes if we want to be part of the game.

"Free trade agreements are being discussed with Korea, Columbia and Panama. If Congress passes FTA, exports would double in the next five years," Giordano said.

Many WIFE members go to a grocery store or locker and buy their pork by the pound across the counter. We used to raise our own pork, so we just loaded a pig and took it to the local locker and had it processed. I ordered a pig from a pig producer and he delivered it to my locker for processing. My pig weighed 250 pounds at \$63.00 a hundred is \$157.50. This is what it cost to have it processed:

Slaughter	\$35.00
Processing	81.88
Curing bacon	7.80
Slicing	2.60
Sausage, seasoning	<u>2.00</u>
	\$129.28
Cost of hog	<u>157.50</u>
Total cost	\$286.78

We had it cut into pork steaks, roasts, pork chops, fresh loin steaks, and ribs. Bacon was put into one pound packages and three chops in a package. This also was wrapped in freezer plastic and then freezer paper and frozen for 12 to 24 hours. The lard was ground but the pig didn't have much

fat so was nice and lean as I got only one-half gallon of lard after rendering and a few cracklings from the lard for my crackling biscuits.

I was going to can some of the pork but my butcher forgot and didn't leave out any for that purpose. Oh, well, better luck with the next pig! This will last us nearly a year, but there is also beef, chicken, deer meet, and some fish in between to vary our menu.

(Source: High Plains Journal)

## RESOLUTIONS

It is the responsibility of each National Commodity/Topic Chairman to review all sections in the Policy Booklet that pertain to her Commodity/Topic. Any statement the chairman thought should be deleted, clarified, etc. should have been sent in writing to the Resolution Chairman, Cindy Cruea, by July 1. All members are encouraged to review the booklet and suggest editorial or clarification changes to the respective Commodity/Topic Chairmen.

States should submit resolutions as prescribed by the Procedure Manual, use extra caution not to duplicate resolutions and make the "therefore, be it resolved" portion of the resolution complete and relevant.

1. Delegates from the Association submitting a resolution shall be prepared to explain resolutions.

2. Resolutions must be written to conform to a national situation. State names and reference must be removed. Resolutions pertaining only to state issues should not be submitted.

3. Resolutions must be written in proper form. If not in proper form the committee may reject the resolution.

## ESTATE TAX

The estate tax law sunset in January 2010; however, Congress may enact some legislation this year to reinstate the death tax but if not, it will revert to previous rates.

You can participate in the "Put Death Taxes to Rest" campaign. One of the most influential tools is a personal story. If you are willing to share how the estate tax has impacted your family, send it to your senator. The death of a loved one often requires the remaining family to make some hard decisions. When the deceased is a farm or ranch owner, those decisions may determine the future of the operation.

Please share this information with your friends, family and neighbors. It is important to get many emails to your senator.

## U.S. DEBT

Are you wondering how much our national debt is, how much interest we owe, how many are unemployed, number of federal workers, the trade deficit, cost of bailouts, Medicare, Social Security, etc.? Check out this website and you will see many numbers change constantly as you watch: <http://www.usdebtclock.org/>

**WIFE promotes all  
agricultural commodities.**

# CHEESE LEGISLATION

By Ruth Laribee, NY  
National Trade Chairman

In the past I have reported numerous times about Geographical Indicators (GIs). The term stands for a region or specific place used to describe an agricultural product or food product originating in that region or specific place and possessing a reputation, specific quality or trait.



The European Union (EU) is fervently speeding up the process in an effort to “claw back,” meaning take back, their claims to cheese names such as Feta, Parmesan, Romano, Ricotta, Provolone, etc. At this time, they have not included Cheddar, Edam, Mozzarella, Brie, Gouda and others. Little attention, actually almost a complete dismissal, had been given to this problem until now. This, despite recorded information and titanic concerns written and talked about by the Dairy Trade Coalition for several years.

Now this is suddenly an enormous concern to the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC), International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA), National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), plus the Australian Dairy Council and Dairy Companies of New Zealand. These groups are finally getting the picture of how the GI's will impact U.S. exports and imports. People want the real thing and those products will be sold here while lowering the quantities of our U.S. products that are sold. The companies alerted U. S. Trade Representative, Ron Kirk, and his New Zealand and Australian counterparts that the EU's move to “claw back” the dairy GIs would restrict the widespread use of many common European cheese names worldwide. Capitol Hill observers were surprised by the sudden distress on the issue by the United States groups, given that USDEC, IDFA, and NMPF have dismissed warnings raised about dairy GIs in past trade policy debate for several years. Cheese makers reported that this will affect everyone from the largest producers to the “mom and pop” cheese makers.

Congress has been called upon to authorize the Food & Drug Administration to identify countries with inadequate food safety systems and to ban imports from those countries. A report by the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council said the FDA needs to have more resources, be better organized, and needs to adopt a broad risk-based approach that focuses on preventing food safety hazards rather than reacting to outbreaks. It is to look for tougher import inspections and more rejections in response to FDA criticism about its ability and effectiveness as the nation's food safety watchdog.

Beijing has now reserved over 390,000 acres of land and is rapidly developing bio-breeding technology in agriculture to build up what they call “Agricultural Silicone Valley” and a seed planting capital. They are working towards fewer imports.

Brazil has a crop expansion of 23 percent. Julio Bestini, CEO of Agrifirma, speaking to 400 people in New York City,

which included managers from hedge funds, investment bankers, mutual companies and pension funds, stated that the many investors and big dollar investments could accelerate Brazil's agriculture. Bestini stated that all this attention was a new phenomenon (trend) for a global agriculture. Bunge Global Agribusiness Group is Brazil's largest exporter, a major soybean processor and fertilizer retailer. The company is looking into the venture of raising sugar cane. Why invest in global farming? Some say the areas such as Africa, Eastern Europe and South America offer more reward.

It's reported that the United Kingdom (UK) is looking to increase the Value Added Tax (VAT) and that the United States exporters could pay a 20 percent tax being raised from the existing 17.5 percent tax. Just like many countries they are looking for extra dollars to give some added support to their economy.

*(Sources: USTR, Peoples Daily Online, Milkweed, Washington US Trade, CPA)*

## JUNE BOD MEETING

Modern technology helped with the June Board of Directors meeting on June 12. To save time and money for everybody during a busy month, the meeting was held through a teleconference call. This is the first time this has been attempted on a national scale.

A business meeting was held as usual. There were 35 members representing nine states on the call.

There are extra priority brochures and policy books for anyone who wants them.

Nominations chairman Vernice Balsdon read the list of nominees for the various offices. Numerous ones are still vacant but anyone can run for any office. They will now need to be nominated from the floor during the convention with chapter and state endorsements in place.

Bylaw chairman Ardyth Anderson read the bylaws she had received. (They are printed elsewhere in this paper.)

No chairmen reports were presented as they would be printed in this edition of the WIFeline. Some gave updates. Dairy chairman Diana Reed is watching legislation. Dry edible beans chairman Diane McDonald stated that excessive moisture is preventing planting of many crops in her area. Sugar chairman Klodette Stroh said Mexico is sending sugar to the United States and NAFTA now overrides the Farm Bill.

A guest speaker was Rayola Dougher from the American Petroleum Institute. She gave an update as to what was happening with the oil spill in the Gulf and their part in it. (Read portions of her speech in this issue.)

Sheila Massey said New Mexico received a letter from Mexico saying armed guards are needed in inspecting cattle in counties along the border. WIFE supports New Mexico in their efforts. A cell tower in the mountains works and is the only method of communication for some but a few want it removed. All nationalities are coming across the border and most have criminal records. She told about some of the incidents involving the illegal immigrants. Secure the border!

Raffle tickets will be sold on a gun plus other prizes and winners will be drawn during the convention.

The convention will be held in Billings, Montana, on November 17-20.

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## FAED SCHOLARSHIP



Jayne Balsdon, daughter of Paul and Lana Balsdon and granddaughter of George and Vernice Balsdon all of Osna-brock, North Dakota, has been awarded a \$500 Scholarship from the Foundation for Agriculture Education and Development (FAED). This scholarship was available to any woman entering the first or second year of college in technical or specialized training studies. Jayme will be attending the University of North Dakota with plans to enter the medical field. The cooperating organizations share a commitment to agriculture and education. Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) members work together to improve profitability in production agriculture through educational, legislative and cooperative efforts. In 1983, they formed the Foundation for Agriculture Education and Development to inform the general public about the importance of agriculture and it's relationship to the welfare of the national economy.

## 2010

## May Prices vs. Parity

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Parity</u>
Barley-bu.	\$ 3.93	\$ 10.20
Beans-cwt.	\$ 30.00	\$ 70.30
Canola-cwt.	\$ 16.20	\$ 39.80
Corn-cwt.	\$ 3.41	\$ 9.08
Oats-bu.	\$ 2.04	\$ 5.95
Potatoes-cwt.	\$ 7.95	\$ 20.30
Soybeans-bu.	\$ 9.28	\$ 22.40
Sunflower-cwt.	\$ 15.20	\$ 45.10
All wheat-bu	\$ 4.39	\$ 14.60
All beef cattle	\$ 96.50	\$249.00
All hogs-cwt.	\$ 62.30	\$135.00
Lambs-cwt.	\$119.00	\$281.00

What is parity? The Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1938 states that the parity price formula is average prices received by farmers for agricultural commodities during the last ten years and is designed to gradually adjust relative parity prices of specific commodities. Just think what farmers could do if they actually got the prices in the parity column! No government intervention would be needed and small towns would prosper once again.