



Registration
Women Involved in Farm Economics
2007 Legislative Meeting

Radisson
 2020 Jefferson Davis Highway
 Arlington, VA 22202
 PH: 703-842-1635 - - FAX: 703-920-4033
February 25-28, 2007

Executive Board Meeting will be held on February 24, 2007

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Radisson - - Call the direct Hotel number above
 Room rate is \$89.00 plus tax Sat. & Sun. \$188.00 plus tax Mon-Fri
Deadling for reserving rooms at the negotiated rate is -- January 29th

Return to: Melinda Sorem
 26561 NW 208 Rd
 Jetmore, KS 67854
 Phone: 620-357-6346
 FAX: 620-357-6117

Deadline: **February 16**
 Cancellations: **February 19**
 Registration Cost **\$60.00**

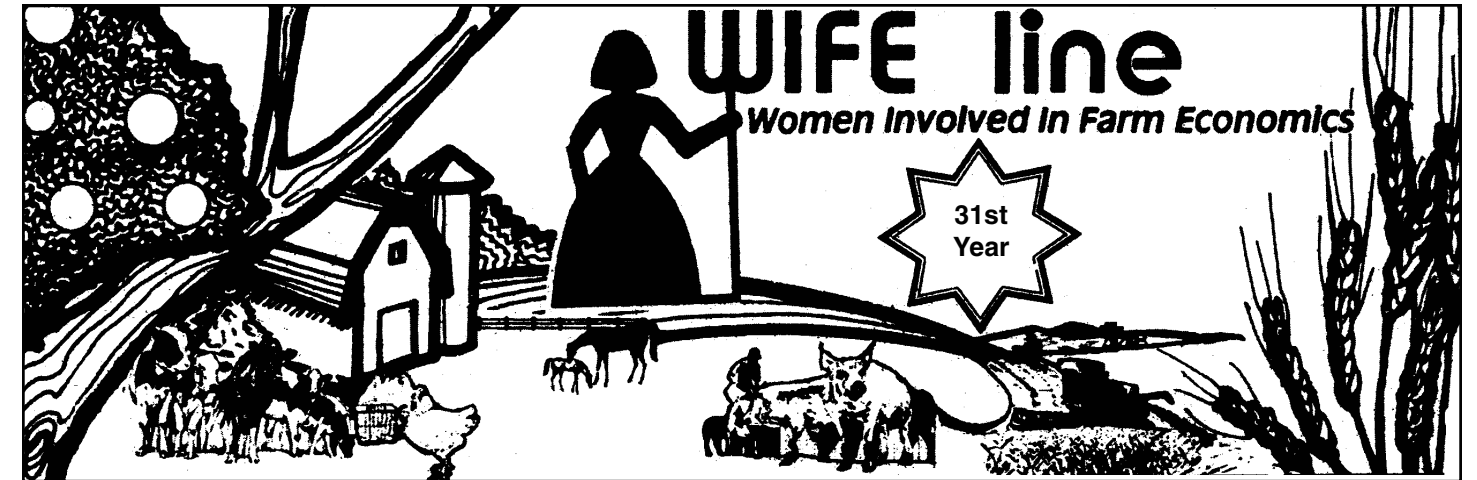
Make Checks payable to: Women Involved in Farm Economics

Member Name: _____ Special Diet Required: _____
 Address _____ City _____, State: _____ ZIP: _____ Is Roommate Needed: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____ National Position: (specify) _____
 Please Check All that Apply:
 State President () BOD Delegate () Member () Guest ()

WIFeline
 Marlene Kouba
 6160 105th Ave SW
 Regent, ND 58650

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2007 - The year to get the red ink out of agriculture.

Tribute to Colleen Mainquist

By Nancy Spiegel

For nine years Colleen manned the computers, fax machine, phone and the U.S. mail to put out WIFeline. It required diligence and dedication in her position as a volunteer editor. She has spent hours typing and retyping articles sent to her. E-mail has helped eliminate some of that typing when the articles were sent in a Word document format. She has been the official WIFE mailer as she has mailed out brochures, red notebooks, directories, policy books and press releases from her office using WIFeline's mailing permit...not to mention over 100,000 copies of WIFeline. She has kept the WIFeline under-budget for the past nine years, allowing for reduced dollars budgeted for the past six years.

Colleen grew up in Bertrand, Nebraska, the daughter of Lorena and Orvin Marquardt. Besides sharing a birthday with Pam Potthoff, Colleen says she and Pam share several similarities in their lives; she also milked cows and attended a one-room school. After she graduated from high school in Bertrand, her dad took a job as manager for the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District and the family moved to Courtland. She attended Southwestern College in Winfield. While living in Courtland she met Bob Mainquist and they were married in 1964. While Bob attended Kansas State University, Colleen had a job as secretary to the college president, James McCain.

Following college the Mainquists returned to Courtland to farm and teach school. Colleen taught for four years, teaching business courses at Cuba High School for two years and part time at Belleville High School for two years. She has run

the tractor to do fieldwork and has taken care of their sheep while Bob taught school.

They are the parents of three daughters, Melanie, Darla, and Jennifer. All three girls were very involved in school activities, such as FFA, 4-H, and church as well as community. Bob and Colleen have hosted many of the girls' friends and acquaintances at their home. They enjoy people and entertaining. She has instilled her dedication and involvement in community to her daughters.



Bob and Colleen became owners of the Courtland Journal with Colleen as editor in 1990. Colleen has always been a very involved community leader. When she agreed to take on the editorship of WIFeline her community involvement did not stop. She is active in her church circle and Bible study

group, has chaired a large Swedish supper at her church, is always involved in Courtland's Fun Day, has authored with two others a large 600-page volume of Courtland history, has been in charge of her church's recipe book, and was in the middle of plans for her church's 125th anniversary celebration. She worked in the office at the Belleville Livestock Auction for a number of years.

She, along with Bob, has cared for her mother-in-law, her father, and a couple in the community who did not have nearby family. She is a very caring person.

We wish Colleen well and thank her for all her hours of service to WIFE.

Introduction for the new WIFeline

Welcome to the new in-house-only version of WIFeline. Starting this month all corporate sponsors and elected officials will receive a shortened email version of the WIFeline, called our eWIFeline. It will contain short summaries of Commodity/Topic (C/T) articles with a link to www.WIFeline.com where the complete articles will be posted.

WIFE members with Internet access will also receive a similar shortened version. Hopefully, this will get information into the hands of members faster than relying on snail mail exclusively. The email list for WIFE members is rather sparse at this time. Therefore, if you did not receive the email version, please let President Potthoff know your email address.

Our WIFeline will now include alerts, concerns, state activities, projects and a calendar of coming events as well as the usual informative articles and reports. Of course, these will only be found in the WIFeline if you send them in for publication. Individuals, chapters, and states are urged to share with other members through the WIFeline.

If you have ideas to improve our for-member edition, please speak up. This is your organization and your newsletter!

An Overview of WIFE 2007 Positions

FARM BILL. Generally speaking, WIFE members are pleased with the current Farm Bill components, especially income support programs. WIFE has placed Farm Bill legislation as the number one priority for 2007. WIFE will continue to support a competition title; full implementation of country of origin labeling (COOL); direct and counter-cyclical payments; an energy title emphasizing domestic production; equitable, nation-wide, farmer-friendly conservation programs; planting flexibility; the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program; and continuation of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

WIFE considers the Farm Bill a contract between producers and the US Government. All programs should be funded as proposed in the original contract, regulations should be written according to the original intent of Congress not at the whim of the USDA and changes should not be made during the contract period.

DISASTER AID. Agriculture is at a crossroads. Work will begin on new farm legislation at a time when 80 percent of counties in American are faced with natural disasters, many of which are as devastating to producers of our food, fiber and fuel as a hurricane. The plight of affected farmers and ranchers outside the hurricane area has generated minimal assistance from the federal government, although the subject has received plenty of political jaw time. WIFE considers drought aid a priority for 2007 and will work to provide immediate aid for 2006 losses as well as including permanent disaster aid in the 2007 Farm Bill.

TRADE. Trade issues will influence profitability in agriculture in 2007, especially in the livestock trade where the US is having continued difficulty re-establishing beef trade with many

countries while our borders are being opened to a wider range of imports. Agriculture has historically provided stability in our balance of trade. Current trade policies that create favorable import policies without equal export possibilities have led to a negative balance of trade which shows no inclination of slowing down. WIFE supports FAIR trade policies aimed at promoting and protecting our US agriculture sector so there is always a safe, abundant, domestic supply of food, fiber and fuel. WIFE feels farm policy should be driven by what is important for American consumers and producers and should not be dictated by foreign countries.

EDUCATION. WIFE will continue to provide educational opportunities for our members, school children, consumers of our products and our legislators. Our website, www.WIFeline.com, contains articles on various topics and commodities written by WIFE members. A brief summary of those articles will be found each month in this eWIFeline.

School children will receive ag facts on bookmarks which will be distributed during March, National Agriculture Month. Members will be updated on cellulosic energy sources during a WIFE workshop in Denver in June. Also proposed is an in-depth training for officers on promoting renewable fuels production as a method of rural economic development. This training would later be presented to the membership.

WIFE will be in Washington, DC, during the last week in February to discuss issues and educate our Congressmen. Consumers will be reached through a placemat project scheduled for November.

Focus on State WIFE

Wyoming WIFE. September is our busy month when an Ag Tour is held with the Goshen County Cattle Women. This tour is for the 4th graders with about 220 students, teachers and helpers. We start the day with a tour of the local sale barn and a practice auction is held. We take the children to the fair grounds where a working sheep dog puts the sheep in pens and loads them into trailers.

We divide in groups for the other ten or eleven demonstrations we have set up.

The FFA members bring in animals for a petting area. The children can get up close and ask questions. A local sheep shearer will shear a sheep for each group—this is one of the favorite sessions. We then take them to a lady who spins the wool into yarn and explains how she gets different colors and effects. A booth set up for cattle branding shows why and how this is done. The children get to use a real branding iron with paint and they brand a wall. They also have a chance to design a brand. Our local electric coop sets up a safety booth.

The Soil Conservation Service has a display on water safety. The Game and Fish Department brings in a wildlife display. We have a Beefy Bingo game with each square list

Energy

By Marlene Kouba

The 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), where drilling could take place, was set aside for future oil and gas exploration when ANWR was established by Congress in 1980. It consists of 1.5 million acres-nearly the same size and shape of Saudi Arabia. Proposed development in this area is 2,000 acres or 3.13 sq. miles of the ANWR Coastal Plain along the northern border along the Beaufort Sea. The rest is Wilderness Area. The Plain could provide up to 15 billion barrels of oil, equivalent to 30 years of oil imports from Saudi Arabia. It has more than double the amount of oil in Texas but remains untapped. On May 25, the U.S. House passed H.R. 5429 (225-201), the American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act, that authorized exploration but the Senate has not yet voted on it.

After years of exploration, oil has been discovered in Uganda and production is expected to begin in 2009. A refinery to produce between 6,000 and 10,000 barrels a day will be built.

GOOGLE Inc. will undergo the largest ever solar project by an American company when it converts its headquarters to partially run on sunlight power. More than 9,200 solar panels will be added to company offices in California. The cost of the project is expected to pay for itself in 5-10 years.

Currently there are 109 ethanol refineries with a capacity to produce 5.2 billion gallons annually. There are 53 ethanol

refineries and 7 under construction with a combined total of 4.2 billion gallons annually.

North Dakota ranks ninth in crude oil production out of 31 oil-producing states and two federal offshore areas. North Dakota produced an average of 98,000 barrels of oil per day in 2005 or about 36 million barrels. Texas, Alaska and California are the top three with nearly half of the nation's oil or nearly 1 billion barrels. The nation produced 1.9 billion barrels in 2005.

The National Association of Counties and the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory have recently published a guide for county commissioners about wind energy. The guide, called "**Wind Energy Guide for County Commissioners,**" is designed to provide county commissioners, planners, and other local county government officials with a practical overview of information required to successfully implement commercial wind energy projects in their county.

Australia's Northern Territory will be using palm oil in their new 140-million liter biodiesel production facility being built by Natural Fuels Australia Limited in Darwin. The palm oil will be supplied by ConAgra Trade Group with feedstocks from Malaysia and Indonesia. The Natural Fuel Group of companies is a member of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a World Wildlife Fund initiative aimed at promoting and implementing the use of palm oil.

Transportation

By Nancy Skinner

The Panama Canal is 92 years old! Panamanians are likely to approve an eight-year \$5.25 billion expansion plan.

Due to the fact that the canal is so old, by adding a third set of locks on the Atlantic and Pacific side, it would create a separate lane for larger cargo, cruise and tanker ships and double the canal's capacity.

Without the expansion, the canal will continue to lose out on shipping traffic. The Panama Canal now handles 5 percent of the world maritime traffic and 68 percent of it to or from the United States.

It takes 52 million gallons of water and 10 hours to move most ships through the canal, meaning only 40 vessels a day can pass through.

Ships that have made a reservation will probably wait an average of 16 hours before passing through the canal and still pay approximately \$200,000. The largest ships pay about \$400,000. Ships without reservations wait an average of 28 hours and can cost shippers about \$50,000. Panama earns 75 cents in revenue for each 100 cubic feet of cargo space. Tolls are steep now and the canal is almost maxed out.

By expanding the canal, it could generate up to 40,000

construction jobs in a poverty stricken country. The unemployment rate in Panama is now at 9.5 percent.

President Theodore Roosevelt helped arrange Panama's independence from Colombia in 1903, and the Americans took over a bankrupt French canal-building effort a year later. About 25,000 workers died from yellow fever and malaria while building the S-shaped, 50-mile channel, which opened on Aug. 15, 1914. On Dec. 31, 1999, President Jimmy Carter signed a treaty with Gen. Omar Torrijos to hand control of the waterway to Panama.



**“2007
Time to Get
the
Red Ink out of
Agriculture!”**

Sheep

By Gwen Cassel

Sheep and lambs are raised throughout the United States for a variety of purposes including meat, milk, wool, and several specialty needs. Trying to report nationally is as challenging as the many differences in our large and beautiful country, and the varieties of farms and ranches owned and worked by American families. Legislative and other needs are often handled nationally, but understanding regional situations can help in understanding sheep and lamb as a commodity and as a family farm business.

Located in a very rural part of central New York State, the farm that I co-manage (and on which I am "chief shepherd"), is home for more than 300 commercial-bred ewes, five rams, 20 or so Belted Galloway beef cows and acres of hay land. To help on the farm we use livestock guardian dogs that live with the sheep (Great Pyrenees at this time) and we use working Border Collies to move groups of sheep and cattle. Throughout the northeast of the United States, sheep and lambs are raised on small and large farms. Many family farms lamb in the spring of the year on grass. Ewes raise their lambs on this abundant grass and freezer lambs are sold in the fall.

In addition to this traditional scenario, the east coast is an area where lambs of various ages and growth states are in demand through the year. Small thirty pound or so lambs are very popular at Christmas time in a number of communities where they are considered a delicacy. Forty-five to fifty-five pound lambs are sought by restaurants in our large cities. Sixty to eighty pound lambs are preferred by our Middle Eastern neighbors and in neighborhood groceries of our cities. Larger lambs are usually offered as freezer lambs sold at auction or privately in halves and whole, butchered to the buyers specifications at small custom and USDA processing houses.

Smaller "hot house" lambs (up to 40 to 50 pounds) are usually raised indoors, nursing from their mothers and having access to high quality feed (mixed grains) as desired. In

the northeastern United States, commercial cross ewes (Finn/Dorset with or without East Friesian and other breeds) are used for a variety of purposes. Dorset sheep will breed to have lambs throughout the year. Finn sheep are known to have and raise "litters" of lambs-three, four or more! East Friesian are a sheep milking breed and increase milk available to lambs in cross-bred ewes.

Our ewes are bred to have lambs in the winter, spring and fall. Each ewe is managed to lamb and feed her lambs for about two months. The lambs are then weaned, the ewes rest a month and are bred back to lamb five months later. This allows our more productive ewes to have three "crops" of lambs in two years. Our ewes are on "maintenance feed" for the first four or so months after breeding. They are then fed for lambing using whole corn or other grains starting a month to six weeks before lambing and while nursing their lambs. Maintenance feed can be lush grasses even in the winter if grass has been stock-piled in the field by not cutting a second or third cut of hay. Sheep in maintenance, like deer, can graze through snow as long as it is not too high or too crusty. Maintenance feed can be medium quality hay, fresh water, and free choice mineral/salt mix through the year to guard against insufficiencies.

Family farms east of the Mississippi River can be small niche marketing farms of as few as six or so sheep for hand spinning wool or possibly milking to make cheese or soap. Many families own between 30 and 100 adult sheep, and some number ewes into the hundreds and more. There are active sheep showing opportunities available for those raising purebred sheep, and extension programs and 4-H groups support sheep activities and are great sources of information for those new to sheep and also those more experienced. The Resource, Conservation and Development division of the US Department of Agriculture organize programs to educate consumers concerning managed grazing, fencing and water solutions to allow use of lands otherwise difficult to access.

One of the benefits of living close to where our products are sold, is being able to specifically know what type of product is desired, and being able to grow a particular type of lamb for a specific demand. A difficulty at this time is that the wool produced by our meat-type sheep is not preferred, and often the sale of it does not even cover the cost of shearing.

Sometimes hidden in the hills of our various eastern mountain ranges, the sheep industry in the Northeast is a growing industry and more and more sheep are being seen dotting the fields of large and small properties in this transitioning farm area.

For more information on lambing, winter grazing, etc. see the Cornell University Sheep Program website at <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/sheep/index.html>



ing byproducts of beef. The children get small cut-up squares so when called they can fill their cards. We also have a model of a cow that lets the children pull a calf. This cow is set up with springs so the kids really do have to pull out a stiff calf.

We fill bags with agricultural facts and treats for the kids to take home. WIFE members follow up later with visits to the classrooms.

March brings Ag week with Ag trivia questions every morning on the local radio station. The correct answer wins a ten dollar beef certificate. We also do our Associate Membership drive with each business receiving a large bag of cookies with Ag facts on the bag and an Ag poster. We try to do Ag education every chance we get. We have to show the importance of the farmers and ranchers to this great nation of ours.

Kayce Weber will be the new Wyoming State WIFE President.

Nebraska is planning a March visit to the Unicameral Legislature in Lincoln. Three chapters in Southwest Nebraska are planning the first-ever joint meeting in January.

Kansas WIFE is part of the Kansas Farm Bill Coalition (KFBC). This group of 21 farm organizations and groups has been meeting since May 2005 to formulate ag policy components to recommend to the Kansas Congressional Delegation for the 2007 Farm Bill. Nancy Spiegel, Kansas President, and Melinda Sorem, Kansas Treasurer and National WIFE Treasurer, attended the series of meetings.

In Topeka on December 11, 2006, the KFBC held a press conference to release the 34 full consensus statements to the Kansas U.S. Congressional delegation and the media on behalf of the 60,000 producers in the state of Kansas whose direct output is \$11.4 billion in economic activity without multipliers. Several other statements were discussed that did not garner full consensus.

Representatives of the organizations involved had open and frank discussions of various farm bill components and gained a better understanding of each other's perspectives. Discussions included commodity, conservation, credit, rural development, research and miscellaneous titles.

The mission statement of the group is "A coalition of Kansas agricultural organizations working together to achieve agricultural policy, which creates and sustains a long-term, competitive and profitable agricultural industry; while providing a safe and secure food, fiber and energy supply for consumers."

This activity by Kansas WIFE is a great example of WIFE cooperating with other ag groups to make an even bigger impact.

Alaska President Jiona Richey reports that Alaska WIFE has secured the 2007 Farming in the Classroom slots and volunteers. Alaska WIFE is also working with an Artic Survival program dealing with survival of both people and livestock. Discussions will include power outages and earthquakes in extreme cold, among other challenging situations. The format will be a free classroom presentation with the opportunity to participate in an Artic Survival Challenge of three days in the wilderness. Five Hundred are expected to participate. A date has not been selected as this is still in the planning stages. The most likely date is May 2007. Isn't that exciting stuff?

Alabama WIFE had their Christmas party December 5 in

the home of Jeanette Torbert with Louise Huskey and Jackie Sistrunk as co-hostesses. The house was beautifully decorated for Christmas. The HOWs were also invited. After the dinner WIFE had a short business meeting to inform the members about the National Convention.

Alabama WIFE meets every three months on the second Monday night of each month in the home of Edna Cope. The Alabama chapter association meets every month the second Monday night at the home of Edna Cope.



"2007 - Time to Get the Red Ink out of Agriculture!"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 1 2007 dues are due
- 11 Conference Call on Wind Energy
- 18-20 President Potthoff speaks at American Corn Growers Convention
- ? Southwest Nebraska to hold first regional WIFE meeting in Imperial

February

- 25-28 WIFE Legislative Conference in DC
- 28 Officers will do corporate visits

March

AGRICULTURE MONTH

- WIFE educational projects in schools
- 1-2 Six Officers will attend Ag Outlook Forum in DC (Pending)
- 20 National Agriculture Day

June

- ? Growing for Fuel Symposium in Denver

July

- 4th Posters distributed

Nov.

- Convention
- Thanksgiving Placemats

The deadline for WIFEline articles is the 25th of each month except no paper will be printed in June and November.

Thank You

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to my WIFE family who kept me in their prayers as I underwent my knee replacement surgery in November. The cards, emails and flowers were very much appreciated. My new knee is wonderful - the best thing I ever did! My next surgery to replace my left knee is scheduled for March 12 and I am counting the days. Please continue to include me in your thoughts and prayers. My love to all of you!

Sheila Massey

Trade

By Ruth Larabee

To be or not to be, that is the question of the Doha Round trade talks. World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Pascal Lamy discussed the challenges of renewing negotiations via the internet. According to the Ellinghuysen & KTIC Rural Radio report, Director Lamy's discussions included agriculture as being the most sensitive issue and that we need to get the global talks going again soon. Lamy believes that if this isn't achieved soon it could be a very long time before talks are resumed. He was hopeful to reach an agreement in the year 2007 but if not maybe next year. Lamy also pointed out that after that "things become more complicated".

The WTO Director said that it would be useful for small groups of countries to work out an agreement on their own. Those agreements then could be sent to the WTO's 149-country membership for approval. Will Director Lamy put together a text for a new plan? But according to Daniel Pruzin, of the Daily Report for Executives, Lamy continued to add that outlining a possible deal for negotiations would be a last resort option. He spoke of Director Arthur Dunkel's compromise text in 1991 that clinched the final deal in 1994 for Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). Lamy added, "It only happened once in 50 years".

Many officials believe that a compromise text could come from Lamy possibly by early spring of 2007. President Bush, according to a report by Rossella Brevetti, stated he was very

strongly in favor of continuing negotiations under the Doha round trade talks. Bush reinforced his thoughts of how free trade is important for the economy, that the continued opening of markets should be promoted and that other nation's and our markets be treated the same. The President also stated the administration had a robust agenda on trade in Congress and believes they can come to an agreement on many of the important issues.

United States officials and Director Lamy are looking at the last part of March 2007 as an important date to have significant progress towards negotiations. They feel this is necessary to protect the renewal of the Trade Promotion Authority in the U.S. Congress which ends June 30 of 2007. The big hurdle will be agriculture tariffs and subsidy reductions of United States farmers as that is what brought the trade talks to a standstill. Any assurance giving the U.S. confidence for improved access to markets abroad receiving our goods didn't happen. While the waters of the Doha Round are not moving, underneath they are churning with separate meetings of trade ministers with "informal bilateral talks", signed legislation for other countries extending trade preference programs, providing new trade benefits and approval for permanent normal trade relations.

WIFE is concerned about any trade negotiations that do not adequately protect the American agricultural sector.

Legislation

By Norma Hall

The 110th Congress is now in session. There are many new Senators and Representatives who have not been involved in writing a Farm Bill. Many of the returning Congressional members have not been present when a Farm Bill was written. Senator Harkin, (D-IA) will chair the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. Representative Colin Peterson (D-MN) will chair the House Agriculture Committee. Before the 2006 elections, Representative Peterson favored and introduced a bill that would extend the current Farm Bill for one year. However, he now supports writing a new Farm Bill. There are reports that this Farm Bill will be much leaner and greener than previous ones. If commodity prices continue to be higher than in previous years, there will be no Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) funded which would help in the total cost. Under Senator Harkin's leadership there may be more emphasis on concentration, payment limitations and research.

Usable research needs to be done so bio-mass can be used for making ethanol. Additional funds may be appropriated early in the session. With the present price of corn there is concern about the available supply of corn for making ethanol and a sufficient supply for livestock. Senator Harkin and

Representative Peterson have been strong supporters of renewable fuels. Consideration may also be given to extending expiring contracts on Conservation Reserve Acres (CRP) so the land may be put back into production.

Recent news articles deal with payments to large farmers and the large amounts that are paid. Payment limitation legislation may be forthcoming to close some of the loopholes that are used to obtain large payments.

Before Congress adjourned the lawmakers passed a continuing resolution that authorized funding levels for Farm Bill programs at the lowest figure of: 1) proposed House funding levels for FY2007; 2) proposed Senate funding levels for FY 2007; or 3) current fiscal FY2006 funding levels. This continuing resolution runs until Congress readdresses it.

The Senate passed the Rural Water supply Act (S.895) before adjourning. The bill will help rural communities obtain reliable water service. The bill directs the U.S. Department of Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to establish a program to plan, design, and construct rural water supply projects.

With new leadership in Congress, budget limitations, funding for the Iraq War and domestic needs, it is difficult to know what issues will take "center stage" in Congress.

Natural Resources/Property Endangered Species

By Cynthia Thomsen

With salmon and wildlife dwindling in the Skagit River Delta in northwest Washington, a collaboration of farmers and environmentalists will preserve wildlife and keep livelihoods for farmers. Usually The Nature Conservancy (TNC) buys the land to shield it from development. Here they are renting the land from three farmers on behalf of migrating Western sandpipers, black-bellied plovers, dunlins, marbled godwits and other shorebirds.

From private and public funds, including a grant from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the three farmers will each receive up to \$350,000 for three years of labor, expenses, and use of 210 acres. Each farmer has committed about 70 acres to the project called Farming for Wildlife. A third of that land will be flooded with a few inches of fresh water in the spring, fall and winter. This will create shallow ponds that should entice birds on their way to and from the Arctic. Farmers see the TNC's willingness to pay them as an acknowledgment that they should not have to sacrifice their land or living for wildlife. This turns shorebirds into another crop to manage, instead of a lawsuit.

One of the farmer's 70 acre Farming for Wildlife property has been under water since a heavy November rain breached a dike and flooded the field. This is a preview of what the environmentalists hope will happen. Wild roses and blackberry bushes edge the lake and it is quickly attracting trumpeter swans, coots, and mallard, teal and wigeon ducks.

Since the mid 1990's residents have tried to slow development as strip malls and housing subdivisions went north of Seattle. Skagit County residents pay more in taxes to buy development rights from farmers but a charitable group says that "pavement is forever". Conservationists have decided that farms are better than pavement and are willing to balance preservation with profitable land use.

The three farmers in this article will plant their 70 acres with a mixture of clover and grass to enrich the soil. A third of the land will be periodically flooded for birds, a third will be fenced as pasture for dairy cows and the rest will be mowed or left alone. This program will be moving toward organic production within three years.

The TNC will analyze soil samples to see if the shallow flooding improves the soil as much as manure or grass does.

Feed Grains

By Alice Maxwell

Corn and Milo are the nation's main feed grains and with the advent of ethanol we are in for a very interesting year in the United States.

With over 100 plants producing ethanol, 40 more under construction, and 50 to 75 more in the planning stage, the demand for corn could outstrip supply in the next few years.

Around 79 million acres of corn were planted in 2006. It is estimated that an additional four to ten million acres will be planted to corn in 2007.

Most farmers rotate soybeans and corn every other year for the benefit of the soil. If four million or less acres are switched from soybeans to corn then corn prices could skyrocket. If six to ten million additional acres of corn are planted, corn supply will be more likely to meet lower corn prices but still provide a profitable margin for the farmer as well as the ethanol industry.

A co-product of the ethanol process is distiller's grain which is high in protein. It will begin to replace corn in feed rations for beef, dairy, and poultry. It is estimated that distiller's grain will replace one billion bushels of corn per year for feed purposes by the year 2011.

Weather conditions will make the feed grain market even more volatile .



"2007 - Time to Get the Red Ink out of Agriculture!"

FAED Scholarships 2007

By Alice Fairfax

The Foundation for Agricultural Education and Development (FAED) Board of Directors met at the Best Western Ramkota Inn & Conference Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on November 8 & 11, 2006.

It was decided to provide four (4) \$500.00 Marilyn Spiker Scholarships for 2007. High school seniors and college freshman are eligible to apply. The scholarships can be used during the freshman year or sophomore year in college.

The scholarship information was distributed at the November meeting in Sioux Falls and/or emailed to all State Presidents. If information is needed, contact your State President or Scholarship Chairman. Please remember that all applications are due at your State Association by March 1 and due at the National level by April 1 so the winners can be notified by/or near May 1.

Beef

By Linda Newman

WIFE opposes mandatory animal identification and was pleased when the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) ruled out requiring livestock producers to participate in a National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns predicted that the system would initially be voluntary but may be made mandatory if enrollment targets were not met.

After announcing the program will remain voluntary, Johanns said he believes the USDA can still meet its enrollment goals. The plan calls for having 40 percent of young animals and 70 percent of all farms registered by 2008. At this time, 24 percent of the 47,246 farms in Iowa have been registered and stated that the nationwide registration rate is about the same.

The NAIS, as it has been presented, has run into much resistance from producers in the cattle industry and small-scale farms. Producers do not want to be forced to buy expensive identification (ID) tags for their livestock or worry about privacy issues. There is concern of the impact that the plan will have on producers of different sizes and different species.

The purpose of the NAIS was to be a tool to allow investigators to quickly trace back a diseased animal to a certain premise. However, after all of the resistance from producers

concerned about the cost factor in implementing such a program, the "great marketing tool" argument surfaced—the idea being that producers would make more money and this would offset the extra cost of implementing the program. Many feel that the program needs to focus on the animal health issue and let the industry drive the marketing aspects to make the plan more palatable for producers.

There are many ideas floating around as to how to make NAIS workable. One of these ideas is to let each state keep the collected data. However, the USDA wants to keep the information at the government level and insists that the data will be safe—this is the same government that reported not long ago that a large number of laptops containing millions of individual's personal data were stolen!

We all agree that there needs to be protection against animal diseases in our industry, and we, in the 17 brand states, already have great "tracking" systems in place with bang tags and brands. Many feel that these systems could be "tweaked" a bit and still get the results that are needed without exorbitant costs involved for the producers.

Health authorities of individual states may also make it necessary as a condition of entry into their states.

The USDA is finally realizing that it will take producer and industry input into the planning to come up with a program that will actually be effective.

Rural Health

by Anita Maxwell

The population of the U.S. reached 300 million last fall—a huge increase of 100 million since 1967. By 2030 almost 20% of them will be over 65. Many people will not be able to retire at age 65 and many do not want to retire at that age. Many farmers keep working as long as they are able in some capacity.

After many complaints from senior citizens about their drugs being confiscated when shipped from Canada, the government is allowing some small orders to come into the country. Many of these drugs are manufactured in the U.S.

Regarding Social Security, the 4.1% cost of living increase in benefits all but disappeared because of a 13% increase in Medicare Part B premiums and the growing cost of health care. Many analysts say that in another decade Social Security could begin to pay out more benefits than it takes in from payroll taxes. Unless Congress acts to assure solvency, by mid-century the system would have enough to pay only three-quarters of promised benefits.

The health insurance program for the 65 and older population is facing huge hurdles. Some analysts predict bankruptcy of the Part A trust fund for hospital care by 2018. The cost of prescription drugs is a perennial worry for many Americans, even with Medicare's new Part D prescription drug benefit program.

Even though Congress passed and President Bush signed the 2006 Pension Protection Act, major flaws still exist in the country's pension systems. Many companies are ending traditional plans, switching to other types of plans or reducing benefits for workers and retirees.

2007 WIFE LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The WIFE Legislative Conference and Board of Directors meeting will be held in Washington, DC, on February 25th through 28th at the Radisson Hotel, Reagan National Airport, 2020 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. Members should plan to travel on February 24 and after noon on February 28. This does not apply to the Executive Committee members who will be staying longer for corporate visits and leadership training.

The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 25, with optional church services held at 7:40 a.m. Each state has been asked to bring some edible products for the Taste of WIFE buffet during the Reception so start thinking about what you will bring. Look for the registration form and hotel information in this issue of the WIFEline.

Cereal Grains

by Ila Nelson

Rice is a very important cereal grain for the world and is the most important crop in Asia. It is the main source of food for about half of the world's population and the staple food to go with other foods for two-thirds of the world's population. Asia consumes over 90 percent of the world's rice production. Rice is the world's third largest crop, behind corn and wheat.

Rice cultivation is thought to have begun in many countries over 6500 years ago. It is now cultivated in more than 100 countries on every continent except Antarctica.

Rice is two species of a cereal grass that is native to tropical and subtropical southern and southeastern Asia and Africa. The two species are *Oryza sativa* (which is more widely used) and *Oryza glaberrima* - African rice. The differences between these two evolved geographically and culturally over thousands of years as farming groups relocated to different ecosystems. Some groups moved to new land at higher elevations, while others established lowland rice fields in dry areas, seasonally flooded ground, or tidal swamp areas. Over the years, different types of rice evolved that were cultivated under different ecological conditions. Today there are approximately over 40,000 different types of rice. Only a few are well known, short grain, long grain, medium grain, brown, sweet rice, Arborio and aromatic—delta, basmati and jasmine. Research centers are working on a gene modified rice, which is higher in protein and other nutrients. There has been opposition to this type of rice by some countries.

The three largest exporting countries are Thailand, Vietnam and United States. The three largest importing countries are Indonesia, Bangladesh and Brazil.

Rice is a wholesome and nutritious cereal grain with qualities that make it ideally suited for special diets. It contains 103 calories per half-cup serving of white rice and 108 calories per half-cup of brown rice. It is cholesterol-free, a complex carbohydrate, gluten-free, non-allergenic and easy to digest.

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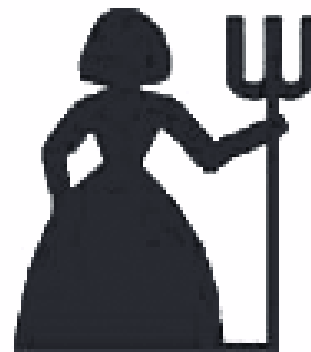
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Dairy

By Dianna Reed

As the year draws to an end we always tend to look back over the year at what has transpired. The dairy industry has seen some changes, some good and some not so good. Milk prices dropped considerably while feed and energy prices seemed to continue to climb. There were some positive decisions made with the pooling and de-pooling of milk on Federal orders. The Central States area has seen a considerable decline in the number of dairy farms—some of this is due to low prices and some to the herd buyout.

The Cooperative Working Together (CWT) program has had positive results in putting dollars in the producers' pockets with the herd buyouts and now the exporting of milk products. (The program is an assessment by the National Milk Producer's Federation. Not all pay into the fund but all benefit from it.) This program seems now to be in jeopardy with several cooperatives undecided as to whether or not to participate. If more cooperatives continue not to participate, the program will be lost and dairy farmers will have lost what may be the last real chance at any type of meaningful supply management program.

Sugar

By Klodette Stroh

Now it makes sense: my mother used to advise me not to repeat the same mistakes. We should look back at history. Sugar history shows that after 40 years, in 1974 when the U.S. Sugar Act expired, the world price skyrocketed to 60 cents a pound. American consumers suffered. Then it dropped to 3 cents a pound and forced many sugar beet and cane producers out of business, but consumers found no saving in their food price.

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

Sugar beet farmers in irrigated areas spend between \$900 and \$1000 an acre. On the other hand, sugar cane farmers invest well over \$1000 an acre, especially around Florida's Everglades where sugar farmers have been sentenced to pay \$300 million over 20 years to restore the Everglades.

By contrast, 110 foreign countries subsidize their sugar production, consumption and trade in some way. This makes sugar one of the most heavily subsidized and therefore distorted markets in the world. The so-called world price is not a fair price because it is set well below the cost of production.

Knowing the history of United State sugar policy gives us a better judgment on the recent movement in the Washington, D.C. The Sweetener Users Association is a lobbying group for candy companies and multinational food manufacturers. This group is pressing Congress to adopt a sugar policy that would send U.S. sugar prices plunging below the world average cost of production. Please bear in mind American farmers in general have higher costs of production, because of government regulation on seed, fertilizer and chemicals that are used to protect the crops, which results in a safer product.

The Sweetener Users Association is asking to change the Sugar Policy, which, currently operates at no cost to taxpay-

ers but generates jobs and provides revenue. If the sweetener lobbies succeed. Taxpayers will have to fork over \$1.3 billion a year in subsidy checks to domestic sugar producers. Foreign producers would receive nothing.

America is the world's second largest sugar importer, and 38 of its 41 foreign suppliers are considered developing countries. The current Sugar program provides a level ground to keep foreign countries from going broke. Many of these countries are vocal supporters of the current no-cost sugar program according to Jack Roney, the director of economics and policy analysis at the American Sugar Alliance.

I believe this action will repeat history and would lead more countries to follow the way of St. Kitts and Nevis, which recently announced the end of its 360-year-old sugar industry following the European Union sugar policy change.

Sugar is the only major commodity program in the 2002 Farm Bill that is designed to operate at no cost to U.S. taxpayers. Net revenues from U.S. sugar policy during 1991 to 2003 totaled \$24 million.

Over 1,400,000 acres of sugar beets are grown in 12 states and are processed in 25 sugar beet factories. The industry creates 88,200 full time direct and indirect jobs for people across the nation. There is also seven cane refineries and 22 mills processing sugar cane raised in four states: Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana and Texas. The production and processing of sugarcane creates 71,900 full time direct and indirect jobs.

Corn sweetener is the third sector of the United States sweetener industry and seventeen corn refineries nationwide use over 760,000,000 bushels of corn each year for making sweeteners. That is a cornfield almost 4 miles wide, stretching from Washington, D.C. to San Francisco!

United States sugar producers, oppose the food manufacturers' subsidy plan because of its cost and implementation hurdles. I hope we don't make the same mistake as when the U. S. Sugar Act expired in 1974 because it will force more farmers out of business.

President Pam

2007-The Year to Get the Red Ink out of Agriculture. What a great slogan for 2007! As we begin the Farm Bill debate, let's take time to look at the broad picture and be creative in ways to make a genuine, long-lasting positive effect on agricultural producers.

Education Chairman Pat Torgerson envisioned a hand-out for our D.C. Congressional visits using a band-aid on the front. The theme will be that agriculture deserves a long-term solution to the cost-squeeze in farming and ranching country-not just a band-aid approach. Details will be forthcoming on this exciting visual approach to Farm Bill discussions.

When Sara Wyant, AgriPulse Editor, spoke with us at the Sioux Falls Convention, she mentioned a possible USDA grant for leadership training. Grant Chairman Linda Newman has completed that grant application to prepare our WIFE leaders to speak out concerning using the growth in renewable fuels as a rural economic development opportunity. The plan includes a visit to renewable fuels production facilities by our leadership and training for the members in all the states. We should hear soon if this develops.

Our June meeting in Denver will include another grant-funded member training session. This symposium, "Growing for Fuel", will cover cellulosic ethanol production. First Vice President Ginger DeCock is chairing this symposium. Preliminary plans include a demonstration on how enzymes break down cellulose to make ethanol. You won't want to miss this meeting!

Finally, our Legislative Conference in Washington, DC is scheduled for February 25th through the 28th. Members

should plan on arriving on Saturday, the 24th. Activities will include a Pizza Party for legislative aides; a Reception for corporate sponsors, USDA personnel and Congressmen; a Legislative Panel from the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and Lobbying on the Hill. Area Director Mary Ann Sheppard is organizing a Taste of WIFE buffet for the Reception. Members from each state are asked to provide samples of edible products from their home state.

In order to "get the red ink out of agriculture", we will all have to "get the lead out" of our members, chapters, state and national organizations to place agriculture education and promotion as a priority. National WIFE is printing bookmarks containing agriculture facts for distribution to school children during March, National Agriculture Month. Dreamed up by Education Chairman Torgerson, this project is being designed by our talented Past President Cindy Cruea. Distribution of these bookmarks is being planned for DC.

All of these activities will help make 2007 a year when WIFE gets our red-dressed women out to promote agriculture. January is just an exciting start to what stacks up to be a very productive year for WIFE. Let's go get 'em!



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Oilseeds

It is estimated that America's Biodiesel industry will add \$24 billion to the U.S. economy between 2005 and 2015. This number was taken from a study by the National Biodiesel Board. The study predicts that 650 million gallons of Biodiesel will be produced annually by 2015. The study was funded by the soybean checkoff through the United Soybean Board. This study also projected that 39,102 new jobs would be created in all areas of the economy.

The additional revenues from Biodiesel production will more that offset the federal tax incentives provided to the industry. It will keep \$13.6 billion in America that would otherwise be spent on foreign oil.

"Because these plants buy local goods and local services, the second and third-round employment-generating impacts are really significant," said John M. Urbanchuk who conducted

the study. "You're looking at a fairly substantial employment-generating impact. Most of these jobs are going to be located in rural communities, and you can't overstate the impact of the biofuels' industry on these rural economies."

The study states that 498 of the 650 million gallons of estimated Biodiesel used in 2015 will be produced from soybean oil and farmer-level soybean prices will increase about 10 percent. In 2006 there were 88 plants in the United States producing an estimated 200-250 million gallons of Biodiesel. That number is triple last year's production of 75 million gallons.

The above information is from the greenbiz web site, <http://greenbiz.com/news/>.