



Volume 31

July 2008

No. 6

2008 - Women on the move for Agriculture

*We Support*  
**RENEWABLE FUELS**



Pat Torgerson



*Fueling the*  
**LAND OF THE FREE**

WOMEN WORKING FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

**FAED**

The FAED Board met in Denver. They awarded two \$500.00 Marilyn Spiker Memorial Scholarships to Klaire Jorgensen of Exeter, Nebraska and Shalyn Laird of Hickman Eads, Colorado. The board is reviewing some Grant Applications and these will be awarded during the convention in November. Last year FAED gave National WIFE a grant to design and print a Fourth of July Poster which was presented to the members in June. It was designed by Pat Torgerson but Crystal Clear Designs put it together--sun-solar power/corn-ethanol/wind towers/wind power. It is a pictorial story about WIFE- Women on the Move for Agriculture.

## 2008 NATIONAL OFFICERS

### President:

Pam Potthoff  
35807 Drive 714  
Trenton, NE 69044  
308-276-2548 CST  
308-276-2424 FAX  
coyotepp@gpcom.net

### First Vice-President:

Tammy Basel  
16079 Minnehaha Place  
Union Center, SD 57787  
605-985-5205 MST  
605-985-5205 FAX  
dbasel@gwctc.net

### Second Vice-President

Deb Dressler  
8463 20th St. SW  
Richardton, ND 58652  
701-938-4246  
deb\_dressler@yahoo.com

### Recording Secretary:

Norma Hall  
1813 250th St  
Elmwood, NE 68349  
402-781-2098 CST  
402-781-2098 FAX  
dh33148@futuretk.com

### Treasurer:

Melinda Sorem  
26561 NW 208 RD  
Jetmore, KS 67854  
620-357-6346 MST  
620-357-6117 FAX  
msorem@starband.net

### Area Directors:

1. Vernice Balsdon  
9373 115th Ave NE  
Osnabrock, ND 58269  
701-256-5711 CST  
vbalsdon@utma.com

2. Sheila Massey  
PO Box 70  
Animas, NM 88020  
575-548-2420 MST  
575-548-2613 FAX  
masseyfarm@vtc.net

3. Mary Ann Sheppard  
4966 Co Rd 30  
Shorter, AL 36075  
334-727-7737 CST  
marygo29@aol.com

### Past President

Barb Bonhorst  
110 Caol-Ila Court  
Fort Pierre, SD 57532  
605-222-1156 CST  
blbonhorst@mncomm.com

### Parliamentarian

Nita Bramble  
1926 West 10th St.  
Hastings, NE 68901  
406-462-6246 CST  
nbramble@inebraska.com

## PRESIDENTIAL POINTS

By Pam Potthoff  
25807 Drive 714  
Trenton, NE 69044  
coyotepp@gpcom.net



It is definitely your loss if you did not make it to Denver! All the members went home much better informed on a wide variety of topics. The target of the Board of Directors meeting was planning for the future. Two important issues were selected as demanding immediate attention.

The Food vs. Fuel Debate. Members were alarmed by the Grocery Manufacturers Association's advertising campaign to blame corn-based ethanol and soy-based biodiesel production for elevated food prices. Members designed a four-step plan of action:

1. Design a fact sheet for distribution. (Found in this WIFeline and ready for you to make copies)

2. Hand out the patriotic posters, the fact sheets and a WIFE brochure locally. (The patriotic posters may be reprinted in color locally. If you need additional WIFE brochures, contact me or your state president.)

3. Use Energy Chairman Marlene Kouba's, "The 4 F's: Food, Feed and Fuel Facts" (sent out via email to many of you) to write letters to the editor of newspapers and magazines.

4. Distribute fact sheets in stores, schools, etc. Each local and state organization should plan their own projects. Please share your plans with others through the WIFeline and email.

All members are urged to study the facts and be prepared to defend commodity-based energy production. If possible, schedule talks at local Senior Centers, organizations and schools. WIFE has worked diligently to encourage renewable energy sources. Higher farm gate prices and less dependence on foreign oil sources have been two results of our hard work. Let's not lose either of them now!

**Immigration.** New Mexico President Sheila Massey gave a detailed talk in Denver concerning the effects immigration is having in her area and across the nation. Sheila has prepared some talking points on immigration (found in this WIFeline). Members are urged to question EVERY politician running for election on the issue of immigration. Make sure they understand where YOU stand. The word from Denver was "WE MUST HOLD THEIR FEET TO THE FIRE ON THIS ISSUE."

**Other issues** bearing attention are: the Plum Island Animal Disease Center's possible relocation on the mainland, opposing the JBS Swift acquisitions of additional meat processing and beef feeding capacity in the U.S., the regionalization of the Argentina beef trade and property rights. Some of these issues may require attention before the national convention. If you have any input or opinions on these or other issues affecting agriculture, please share them with members of the Executive Committee.

## WIFE SUPPORTING MEMBER CONTRIBUTOR LEVELS

### VIP Membership

Bayer CropScience

### Executive Membership

American Council of Life  
Insurers

DuPont

Edison Electric Institute

Monsanto

New Holland

North America, Inc.

Renewable Fuels

Association

### Associate Membership

American Bankers

Association

Deere & Company

Farm Credit Council

Florida Sugar Cane

League

U.S. Beet Sugar

Association

### Contributor Membership

American's for Secure  
Retirement

CHS Cooperatives

Miller Brewing Company

### In-Kind Contributors

Kimmitt, Senter,

Coates & Weinfurter

High Plains Journal



# LEGISLATION

Norma Hall  
1813 250th Street  
Elmwood, NE 68349  
Dh33148@futuretk.com



The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 has been passed over the President's veto. Many items that WIFE had supported are contained in the farm bill—country of origin, interstate shipment of state inspected meat, Milk Income Contract Loss program, funds for specialty crops, funds for conservation programs, increased funding for nutrition programs, increased funding for renewable fuels, funds for EQUIP, veterinary services for rural areas, energy self-sufficiency program, permits schools to purchase locally grown foods, changes in the Value-Added Producer Grants program and closes the “Enron Loophole” for oil market speculators.

We read many comments on the farm program costs going to the farmer but 70 percent is for welfare programs. Food stamps use 67 percent of the total funds. Social Security retirement and disability benefits are reduced when a beneficiary's income exceeds the earning's limit. The IRS considered the payments as earned income. The bill changes the CRP payments so that it won't be counted against the Social Security earnings limit, beginning January 1, 2008.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Teresa Lasseter announced that eligible farmers who suffered quality losses to their crops in recent years can enroll in the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) 2005-2007 at the FSA service centers starting June 23, 2008.

The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may receive benefits for only one of those years. However, producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Farmer and rancher candidate nominations for the County Committee began June 15. The nomination period continues through August 1, 2008. Elections take place in the fall. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Click on News and Events, then County Committee Elections.

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer has announced that haying and grazing will be permitted on more than 24 million acres of Conservation Reserve Acres (CRP). CRP participants who hay and graze will be charged a \$75.00 fee for contract modification but the CRP payment will not be reduced. The program will begin August 1, 2008, after bird nesting is over. Each state is allowed to set the date for the program to begin. The holder of the CRP contract can either graze or hay the acres for himself or he can rent or sell the hay to another person. FSA will receive Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) signups until July 18, 2008. The two programs which provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between January 1, 2005, and

December 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

America's Climate Security Act of 2007 was introduced by Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) which directs the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a program to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases. The bill provides the establishment of a Carbon Market Efficiency Board to observe and report on the national greenhouse gases (GHG) emission market and provide cost relief measures if it determines that the market poses significant harm to the U.S. economy. It establishes the Climate Change Credit Corporation to auction emission allowances. It also provides for the selling, exchanging, transferring, submitting, retiring or borrowing emission allowances and establishes a domestic offset program to sequester GHG's in agriculture and forests and the Bonus Allowance Account. S.3036 is a related bill. This legislation may affect the electric power companies.

S.1018 addresses the security risks posed by global climate change. Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) introduced the Global Climate Change Security Oversight Act that requires the Director of National Intelligence to submit to Congress a National Intelligence Estimate on the anticipated geopolitical effects of global climate change and the implications of such effect on U.S. national security. It requires the Secretary of State to report to Congress on the potential for: (1) large migration flows in countries of strategic interest or humanitarian concern as a response to changes in climate and the implications for U.S. security interests; and (2) diplomatic opportunities and challenges facing U.S. policy makers as a result of social, economic, or political responses of groups or nations to global changing climate. A related bill is H.R.1961.

The Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) will initiate a variety of measures to address commodity market volatility. The Commission will look at transparency in the market and whether the markets are being manipulated by speculators or others.

The Federal Communication Commission has extended the Do-Not-Call list which was set to expire at the end of June. The list has now been extended indefinitely.

Representative Jim Costa (D-CA) has introduced H.R. 5904. This legislation is to modernize America's food safety network. The Safe Food Enforcement Assessment, Standards and Targeting Act, “Safe FEAST Act” would establish new food safety requirements for domestically produced and imported food to identify and prevent potential sources of food-borne illness. This legislation would also give the Food and Drug Administration statutory power to recall contaminated food in the case of adulteration. H.R.5904 has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 25 — Deadline for reports  
August 25 — Candidate Bios are due  
October 6 — Deadline for bylaw changes and resolutions  
November 20-22 — National Convention, Nebraska

# PROPERTY RIGHTS/NATURAL RESOURCES

Stephanie Trask  
1117 Racine St.  
Rapid City, SD,  
coolwater471@yahoo.com



TransCanada, a energy infrastructure company based in Calgary, Alberta, has begun approaching landowners, community leaders, and state officials from Montana to Texas on behalf of their proposed "Keystone XL" tar-sands crude oil pipeline. The 1,980 mile, Keystone XL is the second of two pipeline proposals, which are a partnership project between TransCanada and ConocoPhillips, to ship a projected 700,000 to 900,000 barrels of the tar-sands crude per day from Hardisty, Alberta to Nederland, Texas on the Gulf Coast.

Already under construction in North Dakota, the first of the pipeline proposals, "Keystone" will carry tar-sands crude 2,148 miles from Alberta to Illinois and Oklahoma. Having received the thumbs-up from the U.S. Department of State, dismissing "limited adverse environmental impacts", TransCanada is pursuing eminent domain in the individual states along the route.

The presumably innocuous pipeline duo, none-the-less, raises a number of questions and concerns for landowners and environmentalists who call America's mid-west home. First, development of Canada's tar-sands, now the biggest capital project on earth and making Canada the largest foreign supplier of U.S. oil, is amounting to one large horrific slow-motion oil spill in Canada's river systems.

From deformed fish in Lake Athabasca to moose meat containing 453 times the acceptable levels of arsenic, a study by Environmental Defense Canada calls Canada's tar-sands "The most destructive project on earth." Canada can now boast the world's largest dam, a waste lagoon to just one tar-sands operation, and the levels of toxic chemicals are only rising as tar-sands development booms.

This poses the question--Do we want this crude piped almost 2,000 miles through America's bread-basket to refineries on the Gulf Coast? Canada has refineries. Environmental impact aside, will Canada's tar-sands curb sky-rocketing prices at the pump? They haven't yet.

Then there are the easements being presented to landowners releasing TransCanada "...from all manner of action, causes of action, lawsuits, claims and demands of every kind and nature whatsoever..." in connection with the pipeline. Representatives of TransCanada have told landowners that the estimated life of the pipeline is 40 years. They have also said they expect the Canadian tar sands crude supply to last more than 50 years.

Landowners, however, are being offered a one-time token payment for the perpetual use of, and hazard to, their land and water. The value of this payment is proposed by TransCanada's team of soil and vegetation "experts" or the

courts if the land is condemned.

Furthermore, rather than extracting the aging pipeline at the end of it's useful life, TransCanada's easement language provides for "a perpetual, permanent easement and right-of-way".

Keystone may be undergoing preliminary construction, but Keystone XL is still a proposal. If you are a landowner approached by TransCanada, get a lawyer before signing anything, know your rights, ask questions, and talk to your neighbors.

Source: [http://www.environmentaldefence.ca/reports/pdf/TarSands\\_TheReport.pdf](http://www.environmentaldefence.ca/reports/pdf/TarSands_TheReport.pdf) [www.transcanada.com](http://www.transcanada.com)

## PLUM ISLAND

By Pat Torgerson

Infectious animal diseases—do we need to be concerned? "Yes!" said Debbie Harwood of South Dakota, national WIFE beef chairman, during the Board of Director's meeting in Denver.

The Department of Homeland Security wants to close the Plum Island Research Center and build a new facility on the U.S. mainland. This proposal is in H. R. 1717.

The Plum Island Center was established in 1954 to study the Hoof and Mouth virus and other deadly contagious animal diseases. Plum Island is an island 100 miles northeast of Long Island and New York City. With a \$16.5 million annual budget there is maximum security as it is only accessible by ferry or helicopter. No animals are allowed to enter or leave the island. Workers are not allowed to own animals and must wait a week after leaving the facility before attending events where animals may be present. Now it badly needs updating and modernization. Five sites want the new National Bio and Agro Defense Facility—Manhattan, New York; Athens, Georgia; Butner, North Carolina; San Antonio, Texas; and Flora, Mississippi. Consideration includes water supplies and weather related events.

America needs to think long and hard before it moves this facility to the mainland where safety from terrorism, direct contact with large populations and water contamination could occur.

Outbreaks of Hoof and Mouth virus have caused catastrophic livestock and economic losses in countries throughout the world. The United States has been free from the disease only since 1929. For more information, log on to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plum\\_Island\\_Animal\\_Disease\\_Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plum_Island_Animal_Disease_Center).



Debbie Harwood



**"2008 Women on the Move for Agriculture!"**

## GOOD NEIGHBOR FORUMS

By Donna Bolz

"To safeguard our Constitutional Republic and the freedoms it represents by empowering WE THE PEOPLE through education, vigilance and communication to exercise faithful stewardship of private property ownership" is the mission statement of the Good Neighbor Law group that hosts Good Neighbor Forums.



Roni Sylvester

Roni Sylvester, a member of the Board of Directors for the group spoke during the 2008 Board of Directors meeting in Denver.

Roni spoke about the importance of protecting our property rights, constitutional rights and natural resources. The goal of the group is to reconnect city friends with the farm community. She stated that we need the city friends to help us protect our food. The best way to get our message across is to be loud and showy by turning up the volume when we have a message to communicate.

The Good Neighbor Law Group started the Good Neighbor forums in February 2007. These forums bring together many speakers who help the people from across the United States to learn how county, state and federal policies impact our food safety and supply. One of the speakers at the last forum dealt with global warming and how they believe Al Gore to have made a scam of global warming to control all. The group also believes that a nation that can't feed itself is ripe for a take-over.

For more information on the group and the work the Good Neighbor group does, check their web site at [www.goodneighborlaw.com](http://www.goodneighborlaw.com) for a variety of subjects.

## BYLAW CHANGES

By Ardyth Anderson

Each National Commodity/Topic Chairman should review every section in the Directory/Policy Summaries booklet pertaining to her topic--example: any grain chairman should review that particular grain section plus the farm program section. If any chairman thinks a statement should be deleted, clarified, etc. she should send it in writing to the Resolutions Chairman along with the reason. The Chairman cannot change the intent of any resolution or policy on the books; however, she may request deletion or propose a new statement with clarified language. Any change would have to be ratified by the convention.

All members are encouraged to review the policy book and suggest editorial or clarification changes to the individual chairmen or get resolutions ready to present to their state conventions.

These changes must be presented to the Resolutions Chairman at least 45 days before National Convention unless your state has a waiver and then it is immediately after your state convention.



Ardyth Anderson

## LEELLEN KOROULIS

By Mary Ann Sheppard

Leelleen Koroulis of Colorado spoke to the members at the Board of Directors meeting in Denver. She talked about concerned livestock producers who are led by the Colorado Independent Cattlemen Association. Leelleen became involved because she had children who were in the 4-H club and had cattle for the show. She stated the USDA had given \$2.5 million to the state to promote the premises identification as a requirement for 4-H and FFA members to display livestock in the Colorado State Fair.



Leelleen Koroulis

## NOMINATIONS

By Vernice Balsdon,  
Nominations Chairman  
[vbalsdon@utma.com](mailto:vbalsdon@utma.com)

Both state and chapter endorsements were required for each person to have their name accepted at the Board of Directors meeting in Denver. Eight qualified endorsements were reviewed. They are President Tammy Basel for President, Debra Dressler for First Vice-President, Mary Ann Murray for Secretary, Alice Fairfax for Area II Director, Ruth Larabee for Area III Director, Stephanie Trask for Natural Resources, Debbie Harwood for Beef Chairman and Gwen Cassel for Sheep and Goats Chairman.

Other members interested in running for a national office are encouraged to submit their chapter and state endorsements to me prior to the election during the 2008 National Convention. Nominations can be made from the floor as long as the candidate has the required endorsements.



**"2008 Women on the Move for Agriculture!"**

### Membership Information:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

# ENERGY

By Marlene Kouba  
6160 105th Ave SW  
Regent, ND 58650  
mmkouba@ndsupernet.com



The Commodity Futures Trading Commission is in charge of regulating the U.S. futures market and lately there has been much speculation in oil. Crude oil surged \$16 during 48 hours in early June. U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said U.S. officials had found no evidence that speculators are driving up prices. Crude prices have more than doubled from just a year ago to \$138 a barrel in late July while some say it only costs \$2.00 a barrel for it to be drilled. Saudi officials have consistently said the country would provide enough oil to supply the market. The kingdom announced a 300,000 barrel per day production increase in May and said it would add another 200,000 barrels per day in July, raising total daily output to 9.7 million barrels. Both announcements had already been factored into oil prices before a June 22 meeting in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, and neither did much to stem their rise. Total worldwide crude production is about 85 million barrels per day. The seven United Arab Emirates countries are taking advantage of the oil boom with more than \$1 trillion invested in spectacular buildings and Dubai planning \$381.4 billion more projects. Many workers earn only \$174 a month for 12-hour shifts.

The 54-cent per gallon import duty on ethanol will expire in January 2009. Some say that letting more imported ethanol from Brazil would ease corn prices, some have suggested letting that import duty expire to bring an increase in ethanol supply and others say we need an extension. By law, up to 7 percent of the U.S. ethanol supply can come from Caribbean Basin countries duty free.

Fast Facts: Ethanol accounts for 19 percent of corn use and will soon surpass exports as the second-largest usage for corn. The U.S. has subsidized ethanol since 1978. The current federal subsidy is 51 cents per gallon. Every 56 pound bushel of corn used in the dry grind ethanol process yields 18 pounds of dried distillers' grains with solubles.

Several states have Oil Trust Funds. Alaska's Fund is at \$37 billion and each eligible Alaskan received a \$1,654 dividend in 2007. Wyoming's \$4 billion severance tax trust fund earns enough interest to cover a quarter of the state's annual budget. New Mexico has \$4.7 billion in their fund. Alabama's fund recently surpassed \$3 billion. Other states with oil trust funds include Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Colorado. North Dakota has a trust fund but the money is spent during each budget cycle and a vote to approve a permanent fund will be on their ballot this fall.

Ethanol produced from forest waste wood from Wyoming's Black Hills National Forest was used in the American Le Mans Series this spring. It opened with the Corvette racing team using cellulosic-based flex-fuel in its cars. The fuel was made by a two-million-gallon-per-year facility near Upton, Wyoming, which is the first commercially operated

cellulosic ethanol plant in the U.S. It also plans on using corn stover and prairie grasses in the future and possibly use sawdust or city landfills.

The Keystone Pipeline construction has begun in North Dakota and the 218-mile section could cost \$300 million. The project in North Dakota will be split into two parts and each could employ up to 500 workers—mostly union workers. Some workers and their families have already moved into towns along the way. The 30-inch pipe arrived on twenty rail cars. The pipe is placed about four feet underground and is being laid at a rate of 1.5 miles per day. The company will use a horizontal drilling method to cross two rivers thus eliminating the need to cut trees and damage any sensitive areas. The 2,148-mile pipeline will move crude oil from Hardisty, Alberta, to refineries in Illinois and Ohio. It is equally owned by TransCanada of Calgary and Houston based ConocoPhillips. The entire pipeline will be able to carry 590,000 barrels of oil daily by late 2010.

Frank Pringle of Philadelphia, "the microwave guy", has been tinkering with microwaves. For 50 cents worth of electricity for a large microwave oven he built, he turns a single 14-inch car tire, one small piece at a time, into 1.2 gallons of diesel fuel, 7.5 pounds of carbon black, 50 cubic feet of combustible gas and two pounds of high strength steel. The liquids are drained off while the solids stay in the oven. He has tested the diesel in his pickup and it ran fine. He is seeking patents on that and other inventions.

The "American style" windmill was invented in 1854. By the time electrification lines began reaching farms in 1930, more than 700 windmill makers had sprung up with annual production that peaked in 1928 at 99,000 units varying from 6-feet for \$14 in 1911 to the massive 20-foot Aeromotor that pumped water from depths of 1,500 feet. The Dempster windmill is a vaneless-type which was designed to open up in order to slow speeds during strong winds. The new 3-vane windmills are anchored in a base that requires 450 cubic yards of concrete and 40 tons of reinforcement rod. A 50 MW project costs about \$100 million. Building a line to carry the power away from the site can cost \$400,000 a mile. The American Wind Power Center and Museum is in Lubbock, Texas.

The new Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 gave \$1 million in funding for the National Renewable Energy Lab in Colorado. Their research will focus on cellulosic ethanol production from sorghum.

During 2006 and 2007 Montana had the largest annual oil production increase of any state. Richland County in Montana has about 550 wells and is producing more oil than the entire state did just five years ago. The 20 percent increase is due to the Bakken formation in eastern Montana and western North Dakota.

A U.S. pilot wants to fly around the world in a Bombardier business jet fueled by biodiesel. The first jet Green Flight fueled by biodiesel flew last October and an eight-stop flight across America is planned for this year.

## ADDRESS CHANGE?

If there is a change in your address, please call or email the EDITOR rather than mailing it. - Ph. 701-563-4560 or email mmkouba@ndsupernet.com

# CEREAL GRAINS

BY Phyllis Howatt  
1409 12th Ave  
Langdon ND 58249-1925  
howphy@utma.com



White wheat, what is it? The most recognizable difference between white wheat and hard red spring wheat (HRSW) is bran color. HRSW is the traditional wheat grown in the Northern Plains. Hard white wheat (HWW) is similar to hard red winter wheat (HRWW). The plants are alike and both have hard grain endosperm for making bread and other products. The color of the seed coat (bran) is different. One, two or three major genes that do not affect other plant traits determine the bran color. The first hard red winter wheat had three genes for red bran but many modern varieties of hard red winter wheat have only one or two of these genes. Hard white wheat has no major genes for bran color. As with red wheat, there are winter and spring types and there are soft and hard types. The quality characteristics and end-uses of the soft white wheat and hard white wheat differ significantly.

Soft white wheat is grown in parts of Michigan, New York and the Pacific Northwest. It has low protein and weak dough but is used to make cakes, cookies and crackers. The United States hard white wheat production is not significant compared to Australia. There is some production and interest in growing hard white wheat in California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Washington.

There are substantial breeding efforts in many states to develop new hard white wheat varieties. Hard white wheat can be used to make bread in a domestic market and it can be used in export markets for making Asian noodles and Middle East flatbreads. Quality characteristics required depend on the end-use. The hard white wheat for the domestic market should have high protein and strong dough; whereas hard white wheat for export and noodle production should have low protein, low ash content and good starch swelling properties. Hard white wheat is also used for ready-to-eat cereals.

Millers, bakers and consumers may prefer hard white wheat as it has a flour yield advantage over hard red wheat. Products baked from white whole wheat flour have a more pleasing appearance. White bran is much less obvious than red bran in flour and food products. White bran does not impart the bitter taste associated with red bran.

White wheat has tended to be more susceptible to sprouting in the head compared to red wheat when there is rain at harvest time. All white wheat varieties should be harvested as soon as possible to avoid excessive pre-harvest sprout damage.

The North Dakota State University (NDSU) breeding program is concentrating on developing varieties with a whiter seed coat and on incorporating pre-harvest sprout resistance into these varieties. NDSU also is focusing on white wheat research to identify specific end-use products within

existing markets and to determine the production practices needed to meet end-use quality requirements.

Hard white wheat has been recognized as a separate wheat class by USDA since 1990; however, only a few grain buyers are set-up to handle and market hard white wheat at this time. Producers need to identify a buyer for their white wheat before the first kernel of wheat is placed in the ground. There is no guarantee of a buyer at harvest if prior arrangements have not been made. This was the problem that farmers found in North Dakota when growing white wheat. They were only able to sell it at the State Mill in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The distance to haul it elsewhere was too far at harvest time and they did not have separate storage for the white wheat.

## FSA OFFICES

By Ardyth Anderson

Chad Hart from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Lang, Colorado, shared some of his thoughts regarding the FSA office closures during the BOD meeting in Denver.



Chad Hart

Hart had been County Executive Director at the Power County FSA office in Lamar, Colorado, since March 1986 and recently became share manager with Bert County. The offices are located in the southeast corner of the state on Arkansas River. Predominant crops are dry land wheat, grain sorghum and Conservation Reserve Acres.

He expressed concern over what is behind office closings. Will it cut costs? If an office closes what do we receive in exchange? The average farmer makes seven or more trips each year to the FSA office. Considering time lost and the price of miles traveled this is very expensive.

The FSA offices will be able to deliver the new Farm Bill but it will take time with the cut back in office staff. Besides regular staff, most offices have temporary employees but training is important to bring them up-to-date on the new regulations. Conference calls help but are not adequate. The use of computers for online sign up is available but only a small percentage of farmers use this means. Not all farmers have computers. Newsletters are sent out for information. Records are kept in Kansas City as that is where government payments are mailed.

County committees are becoming fewer. These need to be preserved as they are the link between the farm community and the Department of Agriculture. They work to make FSA programs serve the need of local producers.

If the FSA office in your county closes and is merged with another county, check to find out what your position will be should you opt to go to a different county from the one you are assigned. Also check with your office to find out if they are giving out personal information.

# TRADE

By Ruth Larabee  
7839 East Road  
Lowville, NY 13367  
grlaribe@hotmail.com



May and June of 2008 could go down in history as “easier said than done” with the passing veto, the missing Trade section, passing again and another veto of the Farm Bill. President Dwight David Eisenhower was the last to veto a farm bill in 1956. The new bill is “The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008”. Majority leader Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) said “the section that dealt with trade and international food aid programs was never printed.” The House of Representatives have now corrected that error.

The Trade section needs to be dealt with carefully and correctly as one extremely urgent concern is “Geographical Indications” (GIs), especially as the European Union’s aim is for added protection and they would like to globalize their GI system. What are Geographical Indications? The European system of Geographical Indicators Registration and Protection has three types. One is Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) which describes food items that are “produced, processed and prepared in a particular geographical location using knowledge privy to the people of that location.” The second is Protected Geographical Indications (PGI) in which the product must be “produced, processed or prepared in a specific geographical region.” The difference between this indication and a PDO is the PGI certification only requires one of the three qualities listed to be registered. The third is Traditional Specialty Guaranteed (TSG) indication which “refers not to origin but of traditional characteristics by which the product is produced or composed.”

In the United States trademark system Geographical Indications can be registered as “certification marks”. A certification mark may be registered for names, words, symbols or devices used by the owner to identify goods or services which the owner guarantees have been tested and meet certain quality standards. This GI registration may indicate where a good is produced, what the good is made of, how it is made or other characteristics that denote quality and accuracy. A certification mark may also serve to assure the public that only a “select group or organization produces those goods.” The United States and numerous other countries agree to support a voluntary system. With the passing of the dairy import assessment this might not be a possibility in the future.

In the year of 2005 the European Union’s (EU) justice system handed down a ruling that Greece has the sole rights to the name “FETA.” This drew protests from Great Britain, Germany, France and Denmark. Even though “Feta” cheese has been produced since the 1930’s in France and Denmark it can now only be produced in Greece. Another interesting fact is that there is no geographical area in Greece and “Feta” is a generic name.

This decision prepared the way for Denmark to open up the opportunity to protect many common name cheese prod-

ucts such as Cheddar, Mozzarella, Brie, Camembert and Gouda. They are produced in many other countries besides the United States. Other cheese products affected could be Parmesan and Edam. Cheese that has been produced and consumed in large quantities in countries other than the EU also could come under a protectionism decision. There have been several EU proposals developed, such as an essential part of market access in agriculture which includes the improvement of GI’s, to establish a multilateral system of notification and registration of GI’s. Under this registration all products would be open to GI’s. The proposals have not been placed on the agenda at the World Trade Organization yet, but it is only a matter of time.

The EU ambassador, who represents all 27 countries, reportedly was extremely happy that the U.S. Farm Bill paved the way for complete access to American markets. During the Doha Round, EU negotiators will demand that America do two things in order to be compliant with the WTO: to eliminate all barriers to American dairy markets for European products and to insist on geographical indications for their cheese products. Right now the rulings of GI’s, as in the Feta case, are only in the EU. Many other countries, plus the United States, that are making Feta but exporting the cheese to the EU would be prohibited but the EU would be able to export their products to the United States.

The race is on between the European Union and New Zealand to see who can take over dairy with their own boards. News items report they were very happy for the gift from Congress as the countries will be able to advertise for seven and one half cents while the Americans have to pay fifteen cents. Owen Hembry wrote an article in the New Zealand Herald of Fonterra claiming profits of one point two billion in United States trading. Fonterra President Martin Bates reported, “I can easily see that we can double that business in three to five years”. He continued saying that the import side is not the biggest opportunity but their working in the United States and leveraging our technologies and etc. there. Fonterra is opening a new “Fonterra North America” headquarters in Chicago.

There have been several articles concerning more production in the EU with the rising cost of food and a possible shortage of supplies. With the possibility of food shortages then protectionism in trade of agricultural commodities could be the focus of many countries. EU officials are assessing the fact they need to review their farm payments and policies. France would like to bring back paying the farmer for every ton of specified crop grown. The World Trade Organization rules that production-linked subsidies create unfair competition. You may remember how our United States cotton industry was hit very hard concerning subsidies by Brazil via the WTO. The United Kingdom wants subsidies phased out completely and would give the rural landowner a certain amount of money per hectare which is equal to one hundred acres. This would leave the landowner free to plant what the market needs or demands. Denmark pays approximately \$500,000 per year for rent to farmers providing land to riding schools.

The United Kingdom’s payments go to environmental programs like keeping and/or planting hedgerows and making buffer strips, thereby making it more attractive to birds

# FAED SCHOLARSHIPS

By Cynthia Thomsen

The Marilyn Spiker Memorial \$500 Scholarships are sponsored by the Foundation for Agricultural Education and Development (FAED) in cooperation with National Women Involved in Farm Economics. FAED offers the scholarships to young women in their first or second year of college to be used in a study related to agriculture. The 2008 winners are:

Klaire Jorgensen of Exeter, Nebraska, was presented the \$500 FAED Scholarship following her high school graduation on May 10, 2008. Klaire will be attending Kansas State University at Manhattan, Kansas. She plans on studying Agriculture Business with minor in Animal Science, a field with many opportunities.

Shalyn Laird of Eads, Colorado, received her \$500 FAED Scholarship by mail. Shalyn will be attending Otero Junior College at La Junta, Colorado and work toward a bachelor's degree in dietetics and nutrition.



Shalyn Laird

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



## WIFeline

A publication of  
Women Involved in Farm Economics  
Marlene Kouba, Editor  
6160 105th Ave. SW  
Regent, ND 58650  
Ph: 701-563-4560  
FAX: 701-563-4560  
email: [mmkouba@ndsupernet.com](mailto:mmkouba@ndsupernet.com)  
Published monthly except June & November

## Trade continued from page 8

tourism. The U.K. spends \$800 million on such programs per year. Poland is paying landowners for reforestation and is looking to take some land out of farming. The amount budgeted is approximately \$1 billion for this year.

In India even though the production of some crops has declined they still are world-leading producers of wheat, sugarcane, rice and milk. It is thought by many that India could become known as the "food basket of the world".

A member of the Texas National Farmers Union stated that their national president, Tom Buis, reported they would have to sacrifice dairy for the sake of ethanol production. Americans need to remember how very important all of our agricultural commodities are to the security and well being of our farmers, ranchers and consumers in America.

Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) supports and promotes only fair trade.

Sources: USDA, USTR, Dick Groves, NY Times, WTO GI's, Wall Street Journal, Financial Express, New Zealand Herald



WIFE members Cynthia Thomsen (left) and Frances Rohla (right) presenting a scholarship to Klaire Jorgensen (center).

## OPEN HOUSE

The family of Phillys E. Lyons honored her with an open house on June 28 for the celebration of her 90th birthday. Cards may reach her at 1515 West 5th, McCook, Nebraska, 69001. Phillys is no longer a WIFE member due to some health problems. She was unable to attend meetings and finally discontinued her membership a couple of years ago. Many of you will remember Phillys as an advocate of strong water policies and had been the Water Chairman. Please remember Phillys on this benchmark in her life.

# OILSEEDS

Donna Bolz  
6519 Francis  
Lincoln, NE 68505  
donnab6519@alltel.net

Words like trans-fat-free, calories count, total fats, glycemic index and nutraceuticals were terms used mainly in scientific circles a decade ago. Today they are part of the mainstream vocabulary for many U.S. consumers. Some areas, such as New York City, have been legally required to provide trans-fat-free foods which is testing the food industry to make more changes. Producers need to be ready to respond.

One example of a company that is dealing with this situation is Ventura Foods, LLC. Dana Leslie, director of innovation for Ventura Foods states that they do a lot of trend research. They want to be ahead of the market so they have a sense of what is coming. They hope to be able to address food trends early so they can adjust their product offerings to meet the needs of the consumers. While flavor and menu preferences are important, health has become a major part of the consumer food preference. The changes in health are much more challenging than creating new flavors and unique menu items. As the consumer concern has increased over the use of hydrogenated oils in food, the industry has gone to the soybean.

Dennis Wendland, Cenex Harvest States Cooperative (CHS) senior vice president of Oilseed Processing states, "We recognized trans-fats as an issue several years ago and began creating our low-linolenic soybean program for producers. We are now entering our third crop year and have made capital improvements to our refinery so we can refine this specialty oil for resale. We believe the trans-fat-free trend is here to stay." Wendland says in gearing up its low-linolenic soybean program for production of trans-fat-free soy oil, CHS has established processes for soybean handling and storage that can transfer to other types of health-friendly crops. The next step will likely be to mid-oleic soybeans, with even lower trans-fat levels. Seed companies are already working to develop crops that will address specific health needs. Wendland predicts that specialty oils will make up about a quarter of the overall vegetable oil market.

Paul Heers, Jr. farms near Oakland, Minnesota. He plants his low-linolenic soybean crop with the satisfaction of knowing he is adding value to his farming operation and is helping put healthier food on American dinner tables. Heers states "We are just hitting the tip of the iceberg. We've got a product that's good and healthy and the yields are good. We need to have a good food system here in the U.S. We can't continue to have high fat in our diets." CHS plans to have 50,000 acres of low-linolenic soybeans contracted with seed varieties developed by both Monsanto and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. CHS plans to pay 60 cents per bushel premium for the identity preserved beans delivered to the crushing plant in Fairmont, Minnesota.

The specialty trait soybeans typically contain less than 3 percent linolenic acid, compared to 8 percent found in traditional beans. The reduced level minimizes the need for par-



tial hydrogenation during the refining process which results in lower trans-fats.

Another area farmer, David Burk, states "As specialty crops come along, I fear missing the boat. If you don't change and do some of these things, people will go elsewhere to get it done. If we don't go after these opportunities, our community won't succeed."

*Source: Your CHS Connection, May/June 2008.*

## ALERTS

Many concerns are listed in this issue. Alerts concerning various issues of the Farm Bill were completed. Thanks to all of the great WIFE members who took time to respond to the alerts and concerns. Hopefully, all of the information being sent via email to State Presidents is being forwarded to their members without email.

WIFE joined other organizations in promoting our priorities for the Farm Bill and in urging final passage. WIFE and over 550 organizations signed onto a letter urging Congressional override of the President's vetoes.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

Here is your official call to attend the 2008 National Convention so start making plans to head to Nebraska in November. The convention will be held at the beautiful Lied Lodge and Conference Center on Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Nebraska, on November 19-22. Pre-convention committee meetings will be on November 19 and the Convention convenes on November 20. The Convention concludes after the banquet on November 22. Please consider this your invitation to attend the 2008 National Convention.

The center is nestled on 260 lush, wooded acres in the beautiful rolling hills of the Missouri Valley. The lodge has a shuttle from the Omaha airport for those of you flying into Nebraska.

The Lied Lodge and Conference Center offers a unique environment that enhances every experience, whether business or pleasure. It is the home of J. Sterling Morton who started Arbor Day. The Lodge is completely heated and cooled by waste wood which is a unique feature. They are growing Hazelnut trees at the farm that they feel will be the "health food soybean" of the future.

The fully-appointed guest rooms and distraction-free meeting spaces are designed with the exceptional attention to detail that ensures your convenience, comfort and creativity, while allowing you to get the most out of the WIFE convention.

Savor award-winning cuisine in their welcoming Timber Dining room or relax in the Library Lounge. You can escape to miles of scenic trails or to the fitness center where the beauty of the Olympic-sized pool provides the perfect spot to unwind.

We are sure you will have a new experience by attending this convention. Start making plans for November 19-22. See you in Nebraska. —Doris Ourecky, Nebraska State President

# IMMIGRATION

By Sheila Massey

During the spring Board of Directors meeting of Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) in Denver, I presented information on how critical the illegal immigration problem is to this country.

My husband and I farm forty miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border. Our family's privacy has been invaded by strangers crossing my land and invading my little corner of paradise in New Mexico. The property of many farmers and ranchers in New Mexico's Bootheel has been tromped by thousands of feet crossing the border and running through our property on their way to a better life in the United States. Time has been snatched from us as we repair fences cut by uninvited guests and pick up the trash they leave behind. The safety of our children and grandchildren has been threatened by drug dealers and desperate immigrants. It seems U. S. borders, particularly along the U.S.-Mexico border, only serve as an open invitation for illegal entry of persons from various countries--some of which are labeled terrorist countries.

Pictures taken on or near my farm were shown. Illegals have made a trail deeper than most cattle trails across many of the ranches in this area. Along the trail are abandoned clothing, food containers, backpacks and other trash. Local officials tell area farmers and ranchers that it is their responsibility to clean up this mess and it is also their responsibility to mend their private fences.

Some pictures showed the various types of fences being built along the border. Some now in place are no more than three barbed-wire fences. If you have crawled through a fence or two in your days, you know that no such fence is going to slow you down much so it is not very effective against determined illegals either. Other fences were solid and high. However, the jaguar is threatening the existence of those fences because it is a threatened specie and migrates across the border.

Other pictures showed bales of marijuana and knapsacks filled with other drugs brought across the border at night and left for drug dealers in the U.S. to pick up later.

Two different law agencies respond to calls involving illegal immigrants—the local sheriff's department and the border patrol but only one agency will come at a time. If one agency has already responded then the second agency does not add support. We have called for greater cooperation among the locals and the law agencies. Sometimes patrolling is done forty miles from the border and agents are not stationed nearby so we have to travel to the site of border crossings when a call is made. The practice is foolish and ineffective.

When illegals are caught in the area, they are generally taken to El Paso, Texas, to be sent back across the border. Often these illegals just go to another spot on the border and try again--often beating law enforcement officials back into



Sheila Massey

the U.S.

It is estimated there are over 20 million illegal immigrants in this country. This number does not include their children who are born in the United States and become legal American citizens.

WIFE believes that our inability to keep these illegal immigrants out of our country is a situation needing immediate attention. The longer we wait for corrective action, the worse it will be.

WIFE supports legislation whereas illegal immigrants and their children should not be eligible for any government benefits until they are U. S. citizens. WIFE opposes amnesty for people who break our laws and enter our country illegally.

# FEED GRAINS

By Lisa Goodheart

230 Highway 128  
Glen Elder, KS 67446  
soxer@nckcn.com

There are two main types of corn grown in the United States: field corn and sweet corn. Field corn accounts for more than 99 percent of all corn acres, is considered a grain and is primarily used for livestock feed and ethanol production. A small percentage is processed for corn cereal, cornstarch, corn oil and corn syrup.

Sweet corn is considered a vegetable and is purchased fresh, frozen or canned.

Field corn is harvested when the kernels are dry and fully mature, while sweet corn is harvested while still in an immature state.

To help you understand the following statistics, you need to know this information: a bushel of corn weighs 56 pounds, an acre is the size of a football field and a ton is 2,000 pounds. In 2007, there were approximately 93.6 million planted acres of field corn and 631,400 planted acres of sweet corn. Farmers produced 13.1 billion bushels of field corn (366 million tons), and 2.9 million tons of fresh and processed sweet corn. The 2007 crop value of field corn was \$52.3 billion; the crop value of fresh sweet corn was \$625.5 million and \$236.9 million for processed sweet corn.

The following is a breakdown of how field corn is used in the United States: 47 percent is feed for livestock such as beef, pork and poultry; 19 percent is exported to other countries (primarily Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan and Egypt); 10 percent goes to other food, seed and industrial uses (in addition to the food products mentioned earlier, corn is also used for plastic packaging and fabric); and 24 percent is used for ethanol production. An added value to the ethanol production is approximately 24 million metric tons of high-protein livestock feed and 2.5 million pounds of corn oil. In addition to these uses, about 9 percent of the total corn supply is carried over as surplus for the next year.

These facts confirm that our corn supply is safe, secure and plentiful enough to meet all demands, ensuring enough corn yields for both food and fuel.

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

# PORK

By Frances Rohla  
2007 Hwy 41  
Milligan, NE 68406  
402-629-4326

As I have written in the past publications about housing sows in gestation stalls, a study has been done by Missouri Extension Swine specialist Tim Safranski that pig welfare depends not on the use of gestation stall of group housing but on the quality of individual basic needs.

Proper care means ensuring basic needs like food, water and protection from weather. The American Veterinary Medical Association feels that no existing housing system for pregnant sows is better than another. Stalls prevent fighting and reduces stress or injury, but also make medical care or artificial insemination easier. Skinny sows can be given more food while fat sows can be given less.

Stalls restrict movement and natural behaviors. Limited mobility may cause joint stiffness. It depends on how long the sows stay in crates and if there is limited help to care for the sows and piglets.

What happens when a tornado hits a hog confinement farm? Such a storm happened to the Dunn family of St. Johns, Kansas, in 2007. Many people came to help clean up, but finding facilities for their hogs that needed medical care and a roof plus water and feed was more difficult. They have nearly recovered with new facilities and fences but how did the tornado affect the animals? The family had to find a place for the gestating sows, plus check their health. The conception of the sows was down and double the number of replacement gilts was needed in later months. Smaller litters and weaned pigs were also down. A year later full production has come to a full capacity. Many FFA, 4-Her's church groups and just strangers helped to clean up. The Dunn family was so impressed with the young people, so that to some way pay back to the youth who helped clean up, they bred some sows to commercial boars. They sorted litters according to farrowing dates and dates to county fairs, put in ear tags and then put numbers into a hat for a drawing. The pigs weren't completely free but the family felt the FFA and 4-H members would learn responsibility in swine management. They offered seminars, herd health, nutrition and basic showing skills. Their intent was to help kids learn about swine and the swine business.

Canadian marketing groups label their pork with "Canadian Pork" to help their pork producers through tough economic times. Consumers didn't know whether the pork they see in their local meat counters was imported or Canadian. The rise in the Canadian dollar and skyrocketing feed costs will help the Canadian people to decide to buy Canadian or imported pork.



# DAIRY

Diana Selfridge  
29250 NE 227 Road  
Hanston, KS 67849  
dianalynn@gbta.net

The Dairy assessment or "checkoff" was established in 1983 for the promotion and research of dairy products. Dairy farmers across the United States agreed to pay 15 cents per hundredweight for this program. It has been proven over and over that this has been very beneficial to all producers. The consumption of dairy products has increased. Without the promotion we would have had more products thus creating a surplus. With oversupply we see lower milk prices, i.e., supply and demand. The research for the use of dairy products in other food groups has been overwhelming. Whey, which was once a by-product and had to be disposed of, is now in great demand.

The Dairy Promotion and Research Program in the 2008 farm bill was amended by changing the authorization of the national checkoff to include all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. This also allows imported dairy products to be assessed. The U.S. producer will still be assessed 15 cents per hundredweight whereas the importer will only be assessed 7.5 cents per hundredweight. This was a compromise on the House side. The assessment in the past has not been enforced so even though it may not seem fair to the American dairy producer, the importers will now share in the cost of the benefits they receive from the promotion and research of milk products.

**REFUND OF ASSESSMENTS ON CERTAIN DAIRY PRODUCTS** — Section 113(g) of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7U.S.C.4504(g)) is amended by adding at the end of the following:

- (A) **IN GENERAL** — An importer shall be entitled to a refund of any assessment paid under this subsection on imported dairy products imported under a contract entered into prior to the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.
- (B) **EXPIRATION** — Refunds under subparagraph shall expire 1 year after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

If they enter into a contract after the enactment of the bill then they will be assessed the 7.5 cent with no refund.

Jerry Kozak, president and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), stated that the measure was a positive and balanced package of policy items that will benefit dairy farmers. Based in Arlington, VA, they develop and carry out policies that advance the wellbeing of dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. They represent 31 cooperatives producing the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of more than 40,000 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies.

The American dairy producer, as well as those who import, should benefit from the 2008 Farm Bill.



**"2008 Women on the Move for Agriculture!"**

# BEEF

By Debbie Harwood  
PO Box 99  
Union Center, SD 57787  
sdharwood@gwtc.net

Recent interest in vegetarian diets is being fueled, in part, by activists trying to discredit the health benefits of animal foods such as beef. This review examines vegetarian diets and the potential health consequences of a diet deprived of meat, such as beef.

What is a vegetarian diet? A vegetarian diet is broadly defined as a diet excluding animal products such as meat, poultry and fish. However, there is no single vegetarian-eating pattern. Vegetarian diets differ widely in the extent to which animal products are excluded. A lacto-ovo-vegetarian diet — which is the most popular — is based on grains, vegetables, fruits, legumes, seeds, nuts, dairy products and eggs, but contains no meat, fish or poultry.

A vegan diet, which is similar to the lacto-ovo-vegetarian diet but also excludes dairy products, eggs and other animal products is one of the most restrictive vegetarian diets.

Lack of consistency in the word “vegetarian” has led to the suggestion that it be replaced with the term “plant-based”. However, this term may be inappropriate given that a plant-based diet can still contain animal products. Estimates of the prevalence of vegetarianism in the U.S. vary considerably, in part because of the broad spectrum of dietary practices under the umbrella definition of “vegetarianism”.

According to a recent poll of 968 adults, an estimated 2.5 percent of the population, or 4.8 million people, are vegetarians, defined as those who never eat meat, poultry or fish. About one quarter of this population consumes no animal products of any kind. Similarly, a survey commissioned by the National Live Stock and Meat Board found that about 2 percent of respondents classified themselves as vegetarians. However, when respondents’ diets were analyzed, less than 1 percent consumed no red meat and even fewer consumed no meat, poultry or fish. Motives for following a vegetarian eating pattern range from expected health advantages to concerns about the environment and economics to religious beliefs. For some people, young women in particular, following a vegetarian diet may be an acceptable way to mask an eating disorder.

Are vegetarians healthier than omnivores? The healthfulness of vegetarian and meat-containing diets depends on food choices made within the framework of each of these diets. Several epidemiological studies indicate that vegetarians have lower morbidity (sickness) and mortality from chronic degenerative diseases such as heart disease. “Low intake of red meat does not seem to be an adequate explanation for the general good health of vegetarian populations,” states Walter Willett, MD, professor of epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. Higher intakes of fruits, vegetables, dietary fiber, antioxidants and phytochemicals from vegetarian diets than from nonvegetarian diets may contribute to vegetarians’ good health.



Nondietary aspects of a vegetarian lifestyle such as regular physical activity and abstinence from smoking and alcohol may also be contributing factors. A common misperception is that vegetarian diets are lower in fat than meat-containing diets. Yet, a recent study of health-conscious vegetarian and non-vegetarian women aged 18 to 50 years found no differences in the women’s fat, energy, or carbohydrate intakes or in their relative body weight. Both vegetarian and omnivorous diets can be healthful if they are appropriately planned, include a variety of foods and are consistent with dietary guidelines. Current dietary guidelines to promote health and prevent disease do not recommend that meat be eliminated from the diet.

## DOT MCKAY

A long time member of Chapter 6 Nebraska recently attended her 80-year class reunion. Dorothy (Dot) McKay, had many memories to share with the group who attended the reunion.

When she was in school basketball was thought to be hard on women physically. The basketball uniforms looked a little different also. “We wore bloomers that we were to keep below our knees. Times sure have changed,” she said.

School buses were different, too. She said, “They had curtains that rolled up which was really something. The school building was brick and fairly new. It was a pretty spiffy building.” Her favorite subject was home economics, which she put to good use. Her least favorite was Latin. She states she wasn’t very good at it and never used it.

When Dot wasn’t learning in the classroom she was helping teach. During her senior year scarlet fever hit the Waverly, Nebraska, area and many people got sick. One of the teachers got sick and called on her to teach her class. The next thing she knew, Dot had the fever. Dot made it to graduation but was too weak to stand to get her diploma. She missed skip day which usually was a trip to Omaha and also the prom. Her fellow classmates missed her also. After the banquet they went to her house to give her the favors that each student received at the meal and she still has them. It was the year that Lindbergh was flying so that was the theme.

Dot states that her time in school was exciting. The school had the first movie camera and several students learned to run it. The students sat in the auditorium and waited for them to get it going. →† It was a big deal back then.

Dot and her husband, George, farmed near Waverly. Dot is the one that baked over 25 dozen cookies for the 25th National Convention that was held in Sidney. At 97 years of age, Dot lives on the farm that she and George farmed. She attends the WIFE Chapter meetings regularly

## TRAVELING

The “Hard Luck Traveler” award for the June meeting goes to Area II Director Mary Ann Sheppard of Alabama. She could not get her flights to connect on the legs of her itinerary and ended up spending a whole night in an airport on her way home! Thanks for your dedication, Mary Ann.

## WIFE STUDIES CURRENT AG ISSUES

By Kay Zeosky

The Courtyard Marriott in Denver, Colorado, was host to the Spring Board of Directors Meeting June 7-8. An enthusiastic group met to discuss hot topics and current agricultural legislation.

Many changes contained in the new Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 comply with Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) priorities, such as Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), continuation of the Milk Income Loss Contract program and increased funding for renewable fuels.

Speakers informed the members on how critical the illegal immigration problem is to this country, the status of premises identification and the National Animal Identification System, Good Neighbor policies and how new legislation will affect Farm Services Administration offices at the local level.

The impact of moving the Plum Island Research Center from an island 100 miles off the coast of the United States mainland was of genuine concern to everyone in attendance.

## GET WELL

Nebraska WIFE member Artie Triplette's husband Bob had knee replacement surgery in late May. Please keep Bob's recovery in your prayers. Cards can reach Bob and Artie at 31395 Road 752, Venango, NE 69168.

Colorado WIFE member Cathy Scherler had back surgery in May. She has spinal synosis. Her bottom disk(s) was completely worn out and was pinching nerves in the spinal column. The surgery was to correct this and she is making progress. Encouragement for Cathy can reach her at scherler@rebelpec.net or 21899 County Road 59, Sheridan Lake, CO 81071.

When we were in D.C. this year, National Sheep and Goats Chairman Gwen Cassel gave us a daily report on lambing progress back home. Her husband, Butch, was taking the OB duty. The owner of the farm has decided to make a change and Gwen and Butch are preparing to sell off the herd and find employment elsewhere. Since Butch had health insurance with this job, he decided to have total knee replacement. Please add Gwen and Butch to your prayer lists. Cards can reach them at 514 Partridge Hill Road, Barneveld, NY 13304.

New York President and National WIFE Media Relations Chairman Kay Zeosky had some problems getting her heart adjusted and has been in and out of the hospital. Kay could use your encouragement and prayers. Cards can reach Kay at 7723 West State Street, Lowville, NY 13367. Kay was able to attend the Denver BOD meeting and brought along her "medical advisor" Joe.

WIFE member Joyce Williamson's husband Loren is fighting lung cancer. Cards can reach them at HC 2 Box 80, Trenton, NE 69044. Chapter 102's WIFE President Loretta Sandberg's husband Roland is fighting cancer of the throat. Cards can reach them at RR 1 Box 114, Stratton, NE 69043. Please hold these couples up in your thoughts and prayers.



Kay Zeosky

## RESOLUTIONS

By Lynda Steichen

lynjeanstei@hotmail.com

Do you have October 6 marked on your calendar or to-do list? It is the deadline to submit resolutions to be considered during the National WIFE Convention. The WIFE Procedure Manual states that resolutions shall be submitted to the chairperson at least forty-five days prior to the Annual meeting.

All members are encouraged to review their Policy booklet and suggest editorial or clarification changes to that Commodity/Topic Chairperson. Resolutions are an area where we can all make a difference. The date helps keep the Policy book timely with the organizational goals of WIFE. I am new to this position so please contact me for any assistance in the writing of or submitting resolutions. If I don't know the answer, I will find it for you.

## SYMPATHY

Jerry Breidenbach passed away on June 14. She had been valiantly fighting pancreatic cancer for over 10 months. Jerry will be remembered as one of those first women who were on that first bus trip to Washington, DC, in February 1977. She served as Sugar Chairman for many years and worked closely with the Sugar Beet Growers Association and Sugar Cane League. Condolences could be sent to her daughter, Susan Marostica and Frank Breidenbach, 23970 County Rd, Iliff, CO, 80736.

Madeline Metzger, 84, of Langdon, ND, passed away on April 25. She was the mother of long-time WIFE member Bonnie and Randy Carignan. Cards could be sent to them at 12705 9th St. NE, Walhalla, ND 58282.

Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska's Jim Hanna spoke to us about the beef checkoff during the 2007 National Convention. He passed away in June after a short illness. WIFE joins the cattle industry in expressing our regret at the untimely loss of this great spokesman for livestock. Cards can be sent to his wife, Shirley Hanna, at HC 58 Box 94, Brownlee, NE 69166.

## MEMBERSHIP

WIFE is in need of more members to help promote agricultural issues and improve the profitability of farmers and ranchers.

Your 2009 dues may be paid any time after July 1 but before December 31. If you have not paid your 2008 dues yet, President Pam says if you pay your dues in July, you will be paid for the remaining months in 2008 as well as ALL of 2009!! National membership dues are only \$30.00 so get them in to your chapter secretary/treasurer and she will get them to the state treasurer who in turn will get them to our national treasurer, Melinda Sorem.

Please remember that if you wish to run for an office on the national level, you must have your dues paid before the National Convention in November 2008.

# RURAL HEALTH

Cynthia Thomsen  
2304 Road 3  
Exeter, NE 68351-9215  
Gt40846@stwireless.com



Dr. Dan Fletcher, a professor of bioengineering at the University of California, Berkeley, has led a team that developed a cheap attachment to turn the digital camera of a mobile cell phone into a microscope. It is called a CellScope, which can show individual white and red blood cells. By transmitting an image directly over the mobile phone, the CellScope, will help greatly in remote diagnosis and monitoring of many illnesses.

This discovery began as a challenge by Dr. Fletcher to his undergraduate students to turn their mobile phones into microscopes. The latest uses include commercially available lenses that fit inside a tube and snaps directly onto the phone. One end has a clip for holding a sample slide and different levels of magnification are possible. The team thinks they could sell for less than \$100.

One of the ways it can be used is to identify the parasite that causes malaria. Diagnosis of malaria was the first test because it demands a high quality image. Someone with training will be able to take and stain blood samples to transmit images to an expert who could carry out the diagnosis.

Cancer patients have to travel many miles to a hospital each week for simple cell counts. Dr. Fletcher hopes the CellScope may enable them to do so from home.

Another group of engineers at Berkeley are looking at other ways to use the CellScope in medicine. It would make medical imaging simpler, cheaper and more widely available.

Farmers who suffer crop blight could send images from plant samples for remote diagnosis by agriculture experts. The University at Berkeley is working on this idea with the University of Florida which runs a remote program for farmers.

The images help create digital records. This makes it easier to verify the success of a drug trial. Interest in this field is growing. Microsoft has donated some camera phones equipped with satellite-navigation devices and Nokia has been in touch. America's defense research department has shown interest.

The mobile phone may join the stethoscope and the thermometer an indispensable piece of the medical kit.

Remember the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003? The World Health Organization struggled with the Chinese foot-dragging in reporting and it made things worse. SARS spread world-wide and killed 774 people. Today China is reporting a new disease. It is a less exotic bug called enter virus 71 (EV71). The disease can cause a dangerous form of hand, foot and mouth disease. This is a common childhood disease that sometimes kills but often is cured with no lasting harm. China has reported 28 deaths in the current outbreak centered in the town of Fuyang in the central province of Anhui. In May it reported 15,799 cases. China says surveillance is improving and not

because the virus is spreading. Last year China saw a total of 80,000 cases with 17 deaths. The disease tends to peak in the summer due to heat. This year's outbreak is making China nervous because of the coming Olympics in August. China says the outbreak will have no impact on the games and the visitors very much want to believe them. (*Source: Economist, May 17, 2008*)

# SUGAR

By Klodette Stroh  
980 R 5  
Powell, WY 83435  
strohfarms@tritel.net



The media has been focused on food costs. Considering the sugar program in the farm bill, American sugar cane and sugar beet farmers have an increase of 6/10th of a cent per pound for refined sugar—from 22.9 to 23.5 cents per pound. This means the raw sugar loan rate will increase by a half cent—from 18 cents to 18.5 cents per pound. The last time there was a loan rate increase was 1985. Since that time, inflation has been 90 percent. The lack of an increase in the loan rate over the years and high cost of production has caused the transfer of sugar factories to the hands of U.S. sugar farmers simply to survive. Our sugar farmers are carrying the burden of running these factories plus trying to survive and save their own operation. The shrinking profit margins have led to the closing of 53 sugar beet and cane facilities since 1985. A benefit in the farm bill toward the nation's sugarcane and beet farmers is the proposal to turn unneeded sugar (due to foreign free trade agreements such as NAFTA and CAFTA) into ethanol.

"Farmers are getting rich" is just a myth. Rising prices of agricultural commodities are not the cause of higher food costs, especially when the cost of production is through the roof. A very good example is the wheat price. Wheat reached \$12 dollar a bushel last March but since then the price of wheat has dropped to \$7 a bushel. This equation should be balancing because if wheat prices are the cause of higher bread costs, then the cost of a loaf of bread should be coming down too, and that's not happening, so the commodity prices can't possibly be the sole factor in higher food prices. Please bear in mind that one-bushel of wheat makes 72 loaves of bread. The last time there was a crop price situation similar to today happened before the farm crisis of the 1980's. Producers' input costs have been rising along with commodity prices. If not for some farm policies, farming would be a money-losing proposition for some growers—even with higher crop prices.

Agriculture is America's first industry and the stepping-stone that we built our great nation on. Today less than 2 percent of the U.S. population is engaged in production agriculture. One farmer supplies food and fiber for 129 people in the world. American farmers and their commodities insure our nation security and feed our soldiers abroad.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower had it right when he said, "Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field".

## THANKS

Thanks for the cards and phone calls I received when I had rotator cuff surgery on my left shoulder. I thought when surgery was over my arm would not hurt. I go to rehab twice a week and they hurt me every time I go. I will be through with rehab about the middle of July. The worst things to do were to dress and undress. Several times I had to get some one to help take off my blouse. My arm would not let me move it to get the blouse off. Combing my hair was an ordeal and so was cutting up my meat. Rotator surgery is for the birds but hopefully I will soon be good as new. Thanks for your concern. - Mary Ann Sheppard

## THANKS

WIFE friends are the best!! Thank you all for the prayers that lifted Dean and I and calmed us when I had emergency surgery for diverticulitis and a colostomy. How special the cards were that came day after day and the phone calls and visits at the hospital and at home have been much appreciated. While we did not see you at the BOD meeting, we look forward to seeing you all at the Nebraska convention! Thank you, Deanna Hobelmann

**NORTH DAKOTA WIFE:** Voices For Farming-WIFE Chapter 141 in the Langdon area awarded two scholarships to students going in to agricultural-related career fields. They have been doing this for several years as a way to give back to the community that has helped support WIFE. Kay J. Krahn, a home-schooled student graduate, will be attending Calvary Bible College in Kansas to major in Biblical counseling and a minor in coaching, music and animal science. Alex Chaput, a 2008 high school graduate from Langdon Area High School, will be attending North Dakota State University to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Agribusiness. Both of these young people have helped on the family farms all of their lives. --Phyllis Howatt

## FAED

The Foundation for Agriculture Education and Development (FAED) would like each state to bring an item for a silent auction to the national convention. The funds will help provide future grants and scholarships.

A second item would also be appreciated to help finance a new project in Washington, DC in 2009, — an educational undertaking in their schools.

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

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

Change Service Requested

Non--Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 1  
Regent, ND 58650