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# Coal and It's Future

By Marlene Kouba

An old energy source that has received a bad name is coal. It has been mined for many years in various parts of the country. Homesteaders in western North Dakota had open pit mines for their own use and that of their neighbors. My grandparents and my husband's grandparents each had one but none of them are used any more but the western half of the the state has much of it.

Nationally, the United States recoverable coal reserves are more than 250 billion tons. That amount is about one-fourth of the world's total coal reserves and is equivalent to four times the oil of Saudi Arabia, 1.3 times the oil of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and equal to the world's proved oil reserves. Coal is our primary source of energy and U.S. coal reserves represent the largest single unit of energy in the world secure within the borders of one country.

Without the country's readily accessible coal deposits, electricity prices would be much higher, causing a less competitive U.S. economy. The U.S. imports more foreign oil today, about 60 percent that is used domestically, than it did during the 1970s when the Arab Oil Embargo shocked the nation. The eastern half of the nation has large deposits of anthracite and high bituminous coal (the hardest type). The Rocky Mountains and east in to North Dakota have subbituminous and lignite (softer coal). Wyoming has ten coal fields but only four are currently producing. Their 22 coal mines produce enough coal to make them the number one coal producing state. Coal underlines 54 percent of the state and covers 53,000 square miles. Long trains of cars loaded with coal from Wyoming cross North Dakota many times a day and are headed for Minnesota.

North Dakota is one of the country's top ten coal-producing states, mining about 30 million tons every year since 1988 with open pit mines. About 79 percent is used to generate electricity for more than two million people in the region, about 13.5 percent is used to generate synthetic natural gas that is delivered to 400,000 homes and businesses in the eastern United States and 7.5 percent is used to produce

fertilizer products containing anyhdrous ammonia and ammonium sulfate. The region's electricity is generated from lignite at six power plants in western North Dakota and one in eastern Montana. Lignite also fuels the nation's only coal-to-natural gas coal gasification plant in western North Dakota. The North Central coal-based plants supply 77 percent of the electricity, largely because of its low cost. Average residential retail prices per kilowatt hours is 17.75 cents in New York, 15 cents in California, 9.7 cents in Minnesota and 7 cents in North Dakota.

The lignite industry currently employs 27,000 people, has an annual economic impact of \$3 billion in North Dakota, and generates more than \$90 million in state taxes each year. Mining salaries in two North Dakota counties averaged \$80,949 in 2008. They are home to three coal mines and five power plants.

North Dakota is one of 12 states to meet all of the federal government's ambient air quality standards. Scrubbers remove sulfur oxide and other emissions. Some of the plants use waste heat from coal combustion to reduce the moisture in lignite so it will burn cleaner and hotter. The Great Plains Synfuels Plant of Beulah, North Dakota, is a partner with Canadian oil companies in the world's largest carbon capture and sequestration project and about 19 million tons of carbon dioxide have been captured through 2009. About 8,500 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per day is delivered via pipeline to Weyburn, Canada, where it is stored in partially depleted underground oil reserves while enhancing secondary oil recovery.

Mining companies spend an average of \$15,000 to reclaim one acre of land that has been mined but costs can run as high as \$30,000. Much reclaimed land has been returned to agricultural production or are recreational sources.

Fly ash, one of the byproducts of the power plants, is the primary building material used in concrete. Buildings are using it in their construction and parking lots. Fly ash concrete is stronger, more durable and lighter in color than asphalt so

*Continued on Page 7*

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# TAMMY'S TOPICS

By Tammy Basel, SD  
National President



On Aug 28, the Department of Justice (DOJ)/Grain Inspection Packer and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA) held a workshop in Fort Collins, Colorado. There were a variety of panelists and opportunities for the public to go to a microphone to make oral comments as well as going to computers located in various spaces to make electronic comments. All the major organizations were represented by staff and members of the organizations. Opinions were vast and passionate. An interesting perspective by a speaker at the DOJ/GIPSA workshop referred to the diverseness of the people in attendance and the differences of opinion. He thought it was like circling the wagons and shooting inward.

Mark Lauritsen, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) reflected that when the wagons are circled and shots are being fired inside that the workers that process the beef are standing in the middle of the circle. He felt concentration in the retail sector should not be overlooked as a problem. Wal-Mart has more retail grocery sales than its next three largest competitors (Kroger, Safeway, Supervalu) combined. In 1990, the retailer took 33 cents out of every dollar spent on beef, but in 2009, they took 49 cents.

The next DOJ/GIPSA workshop will be held in December in Washington, DC, and the concentration in the retail sector should be highlighted.

GIPSA is taking comments on some possible rule changes to the Packer and Stockyard Act passed in 1921. These proposed changes do not do anything with the fact that so few companies control the slaughter of so many cattle or how long the cattle are owned by the processor. WIFE has long standing policy that does not support the packers owning the cattle.

It is getting that time of year to finalize your plans for the National Convention. I hope to see many of you there. Montana WIFE has been working hard and is looking forward to hosting this year's convention.

# NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Montana WIFE members have been busy planning in preparation of the national convention. The registration form for members and spouse are on the back page. The registration fee includes the banquet, seminar and Saturday tours. If you wait until after November 1, then add \$10 for each registration. There will be an optional tour of the Murray farm on Sunday, November 21 for \$20 each. Specify that item when you register. If you just want to attend the Friday night banquet or are bringing a guest, the charge is \$20 each. If you only want to attend the Private Property mini-seminar, the charge is \$25 per person.

Hope to see many of you in Billings in November.

# WIFE SUPPORTING MEMBERS CONTRIBUTOR LEVELS

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## WIFeline

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# LIVESTOCK WORKSHOP

By Mary Ellen Cammack  
National Beef Chairman

The United States Department of Justice/United States Department of Agriculture-Livestock Workshop was held in Ft. Collins, Colorado, on August 27, 2010. It was a day in history for the livestock industry as several thousand producers, packers, organizational leaders, and others directly involved and impacted by the livestock industry met at the Colorado State University. The purpose of the workshop was to create dialogue on competition issues facing producers in today's agricultural marketplaces. Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and Christine Varney, Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust from U.S. Department of Justice, were in attendance and active participants in the program. Additionally, the Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. plus Colorado and Montana Attorneys General and other state officials were in attendance.



During the day, attendees had the opportunity to hear from three different, selected panels which included: producer presentation of issues (sheep, cattle and hogs); trends which included issues associated with contracting, price transparency and the effects of concentration; market structure, which included various market participants to further discuss market structure issues within the livestock industry. There were also two opportunities for individuals to give public testimony, by lottery selection.

There was a broad consensus that the proposal issued by GIPSA on May 10, 2010, may be far too vague to be accepted at this point, and that impact studies should be conducted. Others believe the proposals should be implemented immediately. The comment period has been extended into November and those comments will influence the direction of this process. Attorney General Eric Holder pointed out that attitude and values define United States agriculture, not everyone can be on Wall Street and we, as a nation, need to focus on core issues that have formed our nation. "Government must not lose sight of this and must stay in touch with this aspect", he stated.

Secretary Vilsack passionately described that one-sixth of our United States population lives in rural America, but 40 percent of our military force comes from that segment. He asked "What can USDA do to help the livestock industry?" Responses varied from 1) regulating packer concentration, 2) broadband development for rural areas, 3) retaining/gaining young farmers and ranchers, 4) focus the impact of retailers and the impact on U.S. food production, 5) modify the inheritance/estate tax and the impact that has on farmers and ranchers to risk management and the fact that many financial institutions are requiring more and more of producers before issuing credit.

It is interesting to note that very little to no comment was made about COOL, animal ID or the Beef Check-Off, but comments that consumer demand is key to increasing beef prices, was constant. Several additional topics mentioned throughout the session included 1) off-farm income has existed since the 1940s, 2) aging population of farmers and ranchers has always been a concern, 3) how to retain young people in production agriculture, 4) rural America has been (nearly) regulated to death, 5) producers must devote more time to market evaluation and understanding trends within, and 6) to allow federally inspected state processing plants to ship interstate.

## PEANUT FACTS

By Jacquelyn Sistrunk, AL  
National Peanut Chairman

Here are some interesting and amusing peanut facts: 1. Peanuts are not true nuts. They are legumes. They are related to peas and beans. 2. The United States is the largest producer of edible-grade peanuts in the world. 3. Americans eat more than 600 million pounds of peanuts and 700 million pounds of peanut butter every year. 4.



Peanuts are a good source of phosphorus, magnesium and niacin which give our bodies energy and help makes us strong. They are high in protein. 5. Peanuts have "good" fat. Peanuts and peanut butter are high in unsaturated fat. 6. One acre of peanuts will produce enough peanuts to make 30,000 peanut butter sandwiches. 7. Some tasty ways to eat peanut butter, other than peanut butter and jelly sandwiches: put peanut butter on apple slices, celery sticks, or on toast with raisins. 8. Two Presidents of the United States, Thomas Jefferson and Jimmy Carter were also peanut farmers. 9. Astronaut Alan Shepherd carried a peanut to moon on Apollo 14, in 1971. 10. Tom Miller pushed a peanut with his nose all the way to the top of Pikes Peak. It took four days, three hours, 47 minutes, and three seconds.

## FAED

Working together we accomplish good things. FAED invites each state attending the National WIFE Convention in Billings, Montana, to bring two items for their silent auction. The funds raised will go into FAED's Scholarship Fund. Your past generosity has made it possible to award 26 scholarships to young women pursuing a higher education. FAED was organized in 1983. This auction gives convention participants a break from hearing intense speakers and digesting their information. HOW's (Husbands of WIFE) enjoy the chance to shop as well. Pat Torgerson is in charge of the auction. She would appreciate a description of auction items before the convention. This information will speed up making the auction slips. Please call Pat at 406-774-3744 or write to her at P.O. Box 132, Lambert, MT, 59243.

# HORSE TRANSPORTATION ACT

By Donna Bolz, NE  
National Transportation  
Chairman

As I mentioned in my last WIFeline report, WIFE was founded in part to improve conditions for the family farmer through following legislation both on the local and national levels. It is our responsibility to stay current on legislation that affects us. Alerts that come from the national level and reading your WIFeline are good ways to stay informed.

On July 28, 2010, The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed HR 305, The "Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2009." This prohibits the interstate transportation of horses in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another. It creates civil penalties of at least \$100 but no more than \$500 for each violation of this act.

The bill was initially introduced in the 110th Congress on June 27, 2008, by Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) and currently has 69 cosponsors. According to the Transportation and Infrastructure House Staff Committee Report, HR 305 ensures that any transportation of horses is covered by federal legislation, regardless of the reason of the transportation. The bill may be voted upon by the House of Representatives, upon their return from summer recess on September 13. If the House passes this bill it will have a significant negative effect on the rodeo industry and the commercial transporters of horses and bulls for the numerous rodeos held across the nation each year. If this becomes a federal law it would force rodeo transporters to put more trucks on the road, hire more drivers and increase their fees to rodeo sponsors for the cost of transporting rodeo stock to the rodeos. Adding more trucks to mainly rural roads will contribute to increased congestion and pollution.

Rodeos have become a part of Americana in thousands of communities across the United States and an important generator of revenue for organizations ranging from 4-H Clubs to community hospitals. Over 600 rodeos in the United States donate over \$25 million dollars to charity each year. The economic impact of rodeos is significant. Each rodeo is dependent on the safe and efficient transportation of rodeo stock or there is no rodeo.

Jim Korkow, a member of the Professional Rodeo Stock Contractors Association and owner of the Korkow Ranch in Pierre, South Dakota, states, "HR 305, though well intended, is so broad in its scope that it takes in the transportation of rodeo horses, which can be safely transported in modified double deck trailers to protect them from injury and be ready to perform at peak standards when they arrive at the rodeo site. I do not know of a rodeo sponsor who wants injured horses who are not in superior condition participating in their



rodeo."

In these difficult economic times, rodeo in America is thriving, as citizens are looking for values in entertainment and an event the whole family can afford to attend.

Thought for the day, the world is run by those who show up. Do you show up?

## MEXICAN TARIFFS

By Frances Rohla, NE  
National Pork Chairman

In March of 2009, license plates from the United States and Mexico were attached to trucks near the Mexican custom port of Otay in Tijuana, Mexico. On August 16, 2010, Mexico will increase tariffs on 99 U.S. products in retaliation for a decision to end a pilot program that allowed some Mexican trucks to transport goods into the United States.

The 99 products are worth about \$2.5 billion worth of trade from 43 American states but also added pork to their list to pressure Washington to lift a ban on Mexican cargo trucks entering the United States.

This pilot program began in 2007 and allowed Mexican trucks beyond a border buffer zone. It ended when President Obama signed a sweeping bill that barred spending on it.

National Pork Producer Council president Sam Carney of Adair, Iowa, said "We are extremely disappointed that our top volume export market has taken this action and we are more disappointed that the United States is not living up to its trade obligations."

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) dispute-settlement panel ruled that excluding Mexican trucks violated U.S. obligations under the trade deal. The ruling gave Mexico the right to retaliate against U.S. products.

In 2009, higher tariffs were put upon U.S. goods that were worth \$2.4 billion. At that time, pork was not included.

Mexican's Economy Secretary Bruno Ferrari said, "We have to act firmly so we can sensitize U.S. authorities."

The trucking program is one of the last and largest disputes between the United States and Mexico involving the 1994 NAFTA accords. In 2001, Mexico took the case before a dispute-resolution panel. The panel recommended that the United States comply with the program and allow Mexican trucks within its border.

On August 22 on the RFD television channel it was announced that there will be a five percent surcharge on pork going into Mexico.

The 14th annual Nebraska Pork Producer's Capital City Ribfest was held on the streets and grounds around the Pershing Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ribfest is the largest festival in Lincoln featuring barbecue from seven vendors. They were: Howlen Coyote Southwestern BBQ from Chicago; Texas Rib Rangers from Denton, Texas; Johnson's BBQ from Chesapeake, Virginia; Pork N Beans from Port St. Lucie, Florida; Desparado's BBQ and Rib Co. from Hinckley, Ohio; and Willingham's BBQ from Memphis, Tennessee.



# FOOD SAFETY AND PROJECTS

By Cynthia Thomsen, NE  
National Health/Finance Chairman

Recently a lady from California told of two new magazines at a museum. They are *Mary Jane Farm and Urban Farming*. Supposedly *Mary Jane Farm* is equal to Martha Stewart in fame for new rural readers who are following the rural trend today. Check them out by putting [www](http://www) in front of the names and adding [.com](http://.com) to the end. You will be surprised at what you see. The first is more like a California-type magazine while the other looks pretty good.

Folks want to raise their own chickens and produce eggs. It is the fastest rural industry and producers can't keep up with demand. A producer of cattle, chickens and milk lives nearby and has grown to the point of having a delivery route for his products in Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska. He has a newsletter and a website for his customers to place their orders. He began by going to Farmer's Markets in three locations. For help in establishing his business, he signed up for the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP). To do so, you are required to take their four sessions on how to run a business before qualifying for a loan. For more information, go to [www.cfra.org/reap](http://www.cfra.org/reap).

With food safety being such a top subject today, you can understand why consumers are seeking a safe source of food. As the consumer is further removed from the farm and its background, you understand their need to connect with grassroots groups.

The thin pamphlet "An Adaptive Program for Agriculture" is authored by the Research and Policy Committee of the Committee for Economic Development (CED). The website, [www.ced.org](http://www.ced.org), says "The Committee for Economic Development is an independent, nonpartisan organization for business and education leaders dedicated to policy research on the major economic and social issues of our time and the implementation of its recommendations by the public and private sectors." The name sounds harmless. However, this CED committee is comprised of about 200 CEOs of major corporations, with a few academics included. There are no agricultural people unless you count the president of King Ranch, Inc., and agricultural business people like Continental, Heinz, Deere and Company, Oscar Mayer, Hormel, General Foods, etc. This is a program laid out over 50 years ago to industrialize agriculture. To make it happen farm prices had to stay low enough and long enough to make it work. The CED put out a series of "plans" for various aspects of American life, schools, local governments, money distributions, foreign affairs, etc. A 2007 report recommends a market-based universal health-insurance system that allows consumer choice of a health plan with a systemic restructuring of the health-insurance system. Check it out at your local library. It is Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 62-19145. When you find the article, it has probably never been checked out by anyone.



# EGG SALMONELLA

By Marlene Kouba

The latest food scare involves eggs. How much of a risk is it to you and me? Actually, not much. Over half a billion eggs were recalled but no actual food poisoning has been reported. About 1,300 people were reported to have been infected but no one has died. Symptoms include abdominal cramping, vomiting, diarrhea, fever or chills, headache, blood in the stool and they would begin 12 to 72 hours after consuming a contaminated product. Any diarrhea can be resolved by drinking fluids. Salmonella bacteria can double every 20 minutes to more than a million in six hours. Good hygiene, cooking, refrigeration and handling can prevent many cases.

The outbreak originated in a feed mill on the Wright County Egg farm in Galt, Iowa, which also supplied feed for the nearby Hillandale Farm. Both places have been inspected. They found 4 to 8 foot high manure piles that blocked or pushed open doors, live and dead flies and maggots, rodent holes, frogs, wild birds in the egg-laying houses, and liquid manure on the floor. They believe the rodents and the bacteria they carried caused the salmonella outbreak.

The FDA only tracks eggs once they leave the farm while USDA monitors eggs in terms of their physical appearance. The Center for Disease Controls has been giving timely reports and updates. No one tracks their safety. Vaccinating hens against salmonella would help decrease the number of cases as it has in Great Britain but it would cost about 14 cents per egg. The FDA has decided not to mandate it. New regulations and federal food safety bills are pending.

Properly prepared egg recipes are rarely a problem. Even if you have an infected egg, cooking eggs kills the bacteria. When frying or scrambling eggs, they must be cooked to 160 degrees or about 2 to 3 minutes per side. If in doubt, try fried eggs rather than sunny-side up. Poached eggs should be cooked about 5 minutes. Cook boiled eggs for 15 minutes. Use in baked cooks is considered safe. Don't use any cracked eggs or those that have been sitting around very long. Eggs remain fresh in the refrigerator about a month after purchase.

Some of the eggs were sent to distributors in Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin. Some of the brands were Lucerne, Albertson, Mountain Dairy, Ralph's, Boomsma's, Hillandale, Farm Fresh, Shoreland, Sunny Farms, Sunny Meadow Wholesome Farms, West Creek and Lund. If you have eggs in question, take them back to the store.



## Calendar of Events:

Deadline for WIFeline reports — September 25  
National Convention — November 17-21

# BIOGRAPHIES

## President:

Deb Dressler is the candidate for the office of National President. Along with her husband, Russell, they operate a fourth generation ranch in southwestern North Dakota. Russell and Deb have two grown children and five grandchildren.

Deb has held several national WIFE positions including national media chair, national vice president, area director and a topic chairmanship. She is past president of ND WIFE and is currently the secretary.

Educating the general public about agriculture is a passion of Deb's. There is no greater place to raise a family than in rural America. Ranchers and farmers in the United States are the most efficient in the world. Their story must be told. We are fortunate to have access to a reasonable, safe and abundant food supply.

Deb looks forward to promoting agriculture through WIFE. She hopes to see you in Billings, Montana at the National WIFE Convention in November.

## Treasurer:

Unless I can twist Melinda Sorem's arm enough at convention to convince her to continue her job as treasurer, I will be forced to throw my hat in the ring for the job. I have served one year as National WIFE Second Vice President and one year as National Area Director. I would appreciate the opportunity to again serve National WIFE and continue working on the many issues facing agriculture today.

Keeping family farms and ranches economically viable is a huge task in these current political and challenging economic times. We all need to be organized and working together on any issues in which we can find common ground.

My husband, Justin, and I ranch in the badlands of Eastern Montana. We run a commercial herd of mostly black Angus cattle. We have two sons, both of whom are currently in the United States Marine Corp. My mother-in-law and I also run a dinosaur fossil hunting business, which involves guiding guests in hunting and excavating fossils and petrified wood on our ranch.

## Area Director:

Born in the tiny village of Glenfield, New York, my life became unbelievably complicated when I fell madly in love with my husband, Joe. After attending Watertown School of Commerce and working a few years as an income tax accountant, then as a Stenographer for the Conservation Department in New York State, we bought his parents' dairy farm.

As every dairy farmer knows, for the next 44 years, our life was never our own as we gained experience in every aspect of rock picking, bale throwing, cow chasing, manure shoveling, snow plowing, debit accounting and all the other great exercises that follow dairying.

As well as 24 rewarding years of work with WIFE, I have served as President of our Lewis County Cooperative Extension and Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services. Many terms were also served on our Lowville Producers Dairy Cooperative, the Governor's Advisory Council on Dairy Trade Practices, Lewis

County Hospital Board of Managers, the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board, Lewis County Farm Bureau, National School Boards Association and South Lewis School Board. I recently was employed for six years as an Agricultural Research Assistant for New York State Senator, Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann, Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The best part of my life, after my family, has always been WIFE and I owe it all to a lot of nagging from my sister, Jaun, and her husband, Paul, who absolutely insisted that I was wasting my time doing anything else. My thanks go to both of them for all the hard work they have given me, mountains of papers in my house, all the miles on my cars driving to hundreds of meetings to be sure agriculture had a voice, and the blisters we all got every year from walking many, many, miles in Washington, D.C. I always say that if I could go around the United States and pick the best women I would want to have for friends, they would be the exact people that I have met in WIFE. But for Jaun and Paul, I would never have met any of them. My thanks to all of you for making my life so very much richer.

Joe and I are the parents of four children and have nine grandchildren. Kay Zeosky

## Cereal Grains:

Lisa Goodheart was raised on a farm in Jewell County, Kansas. She is inspired by her mother, Ila Nelson, and Nancy Spiegel, who are longtime WIFE members. Lisa promotes and supports the rural way of life by her lifestyle and by the committees and boards that she participates in. She lives in Jewell County with her husband, Todd, and their "critter children". She also works for four Methodist churches.

## Dairy:

I will be seeking the Dairy Chairmanship again this year. I have served as Dairy Chairman on the local, state and national levels for many years. Our family is no longer milking but we are still very active in the industry by raising replacement heifers. My concern for the producers still runs very deep. I would appreciate your support during the convention. Thank you, Dianna Reed

## Dry Edible Beans:

My name is Diane McDonald and I live in Inkster, North Dakota. My husband, Richard, and I raise both winter and spring wheat, pinto beans, soybeans and corn. We also raise purebred registered Simmental cattle for seedstock.

I have two children—Denise, who is married and has two children, and Jeremy, who is married and has three children.

I was raised in Wisconsin, but not involved with agriculture. Since marrying Richard, I have come to realize there is no place that I would rather be. I believe that each one of us must be advocates for farming and ranching. We must tell our stories so non-farmers and ranchers to help them realize what it takes to produce food for the world.

I was appointed as the dry beans chairman last spring and I would feel privileged to continue to serve in this post.

## Energy:

I would like your support for Energy Chairman. I have served as chairman of numerous committees but with all of

the new activity in our state, I would like to try this one again. I held this position before and have numerous contacts for all types of energy. It is a topic that concerns all of us in most aspects of our daily lives.

I have also been your editor for four years but writing reports does not conflict with that job as that is what editors do. One position is appointed and one is elected. I am also chairman of three organizations, secretary for one, treasurer for one, editor for two state and local newsletters plus on the board in more. I just completed the compilation of 500 local histories for a 420 page book for our centennial—Regent Reflections.

Richard and I had a good life together on the farm where we raised our nine children. We were married nearly 48 years when he passed away. I also have 20 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. I remain on the farm and one of our sons lives in the same yard so I am alone but not alone. Your vote would be appreciated in November. Marlene Kouba

### **Oil Seeds:**

I was appointed as National Oil Seed Chairman for 2010 and am now running for the position in 2011.

We live in the northeastern part of North Dakota close to the Canadian border. We grow canola and spring wheat on our farms. Our farming operation consists of our family--my husband Gerald plus two sons and their families. We also have two daughters and two-sons-in-law. We have ten grandchildren, seven step-grandchildren along with a grand son-in-law and a step-grand son-in-law. On August 10, 2010 we added our first great-grandson Dyson Hamilton Askvig. Our family continues to grow.

I am glad to live near the Canadian Border as it sounds so different than the Mexican border. We have land bordering Canadian land that belongs to Gerald's relatives. We can be thankful that it is a peaceful border.

I would appreciate your vote at the National Convention for Oilseed Chairman. Thank you. Phyllis Howatt

### **Trade:**

My name is Ruth Larabee and I live on the East Road in Lowville, New York. For 42 years my husband, Glenn, and I owned and operated a dairy farm. The 245 acres of land is now being used to raise crops and is growing alfalfa and corn with excellent yields. I have four children, ten grandchildren, ages 8 to 33 and four great grandchildren ages 5 to 1 year. About four years ago our son Larry started a small registered beef operation and has a few Holsteins on another parcel of land we formerly owned. I am always invited to come and help out anytime!

Since 1981 I have served on the Lowville Town Board as Councilwoman and was elected again last year for another four year term. I serve as secretary for the Mountain View Prevention board which is an educational organization with staff that goes into the schools working with the students to prevent alcohol and substance abuse. I also serve as lector in St Peters Church. I served two terms on the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

In the 1980's I joined WIFE and have served as State Dairy Chairman and am currently State Trade Chairman. I served as National Dairy Chairman, National Trade Chairman and am currently Area 111 director.

Agriculture and WIFE are important to me. WIFE is made up of different commodities which bring about many different issues but working together we do make a difference. Together we have one common goal and that is to better the life of our American farmers, ranchers and consumers.

This last year has brought about new challenges, learning experiences and a privilege to serve as the Area 111 director. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve the WIFE organization as National Trade Chairman.

### **Area Director**

I would appreciate your support for Area Director for 2011. I am treasurer of our local chapter, "Voices for Farming # 141" and president for our state association.

My husband, George, and I each grew up on farms and we still live on the home farm by Osnabrock, North Dakota, in the northeast corner of our state where George has lived since he was five years old. We were married in 1953 and hope we can still live here together for a few more years. We now produce spring and winter wheat as well as canola. We have three children--one daughter and two sons, two daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren--two girls and three boys. Our two sons and one grandson farm with us.

Hope you have all had a safe year and God bless until we meet again.

I hope to see you in Montana this November and I would appreciate your vote. Vernice Balsdon

## **Coal and It's Future** *Continued from Page 1*

it helps keep buildings cooler and parking lots require less lighting. For every ton of fly ash used, one less ton of carbon dioxide is produced.

A lignite-to-liquids plant and a lignite-to-hydrogen-to-electricity plant have been proposed for western North Dakota. Lignite can contain up to 30 to 60 percent water so has low efficiency. A new North Dakota plant is the first commercial-scale coal-drying project of its kind and is designed to process about 240,000 tons of lignite a year. It has successfully removed 65 percent of the water from the low-grade lignite allowing it to burn cleaner and produce more than 40 percent more energy. A new power plant is also being planned for the eastern part of the state.

In 2007 The Blue Flint Ethanol plant was built adjacent to a power plant and uses captured residual steam to reduce the cost of the ethanol plant. It produces 50 million gallons of ethanol per year and is one of the industry's lowest-cost producers of ethanol and produces enough distillers grain to feed about 225,000 head of feeder cattle. Another power plant will generate electricity while providing steam energy to a nearby malt plant and a proposed grain processing facility. It will also become the second electric generating unit in the world to use dried lignite as its primary fuel which will further reduce emissions from the power plant. One of the first coal power plants built in 1951 now converts two million pounds of garbage into enough electricity for about 30,000 homes.

The state and nation are planning ahead to meet the needs of future generations.

# TRADE TARIFFS

By Ruth Laribee, NY  
National Trade Chairman

Mexico, one of the United States major export markets, will inflict new tariffs adding to their inventory of already imposed tariffs on United States goods. In 2009, 89 products were on the required tariff listings whereas this year it has been upped to 99 products. It is reported that 54 items are farm-related. Of the 89 in 2009 several crops were hit with a 20 percent tariff such as pears, strawberries, almonds, and onions to name a few. Mega dollars were lost and reportedly Northwest growers lost approximately \$25 million with lower prices and sales. The new additional tariffs of 20 to 25 percent will be placed on cheese. Included in the 25 percent tariffs will be processed cheese like Gouda and the so-called fresh cheeses being mozzarella and cream cheese. Twenty percent tariffs are to be put on cheeses such as Monterrey Jack, Cheddar, Provolone, and Colby. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), at this time, allows the United States cheese a duty free access but the new tax has an educated guess cost of approximately \$59 million dollars. This will not help the already distressed U.S. farmers.



What brought this about? The NAFTA deal between the U.S. and Mexico is the explanation being given and the name of the game is "retaliation". Retaliation, according to the dictionary means, to pay back wrong, return like for like, an act of reprisal i.e; a return for injury especially by one nation or group to another. In the 1995 NAFTA deal, Mexican trucks were to be allowed to enter and travel the United States highways. A pilot program ensued for eighteen months then ended in March of 2009. When the program ended the tariffs were put in place. According to many reports the program ended because of grave concerns on the safety of the Mexican trucks. Speaking for the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., Ricardo Alday, conveyed that because the United States has not "lived up to its obligations under NAFTA, the measures were necessary". Ron Kirk, the U. S. Trade Representative, will work with Congressional members seeking a solution to the safety concerns of the Mexican trucks and at the same time maintain U.S. trade obligations.

Many complaints are being raised concerning U.S. free trade agreements being put on hold. The approval of trade agreements with South Korea, Panama, and Columbia is just not happening. With a South Korean deal, the labor unions say American jobs are threatened and numerous industries say advantages are given to their foreign competitors according to the way the trade pacts are written. Concerns abound because of the partial ban on U.S. beef exports since 2003 and legislators want the South Korean government to alleviate the ban before progressing forward. Auto manufacturers say the problem with strict vehicle standards that inhibit U.S. imports and endanger U.S. jobs by removing import duties on Korean pickup trucks is not addressed in the 2007 pact whereby the U.S. and South Korea would eliminate tariffs on 95 percent of consumer and manufactured goods within a three-year period. The Columbian agreement has been

stalled because of prior aggression against labor leaders but others say credit is not being given to Columbia for the many improvements in safety.

With in-depth discussions going on between leading officials there are some reports that apprehension is building within agricultural, industrial and manufacturing interests in the U.S. These interests question whether for future trade pacts we might be standing on the outside looking in because there hasn't been any progress. Dialogue is occurring between many other countries and deals are being made. Canada is in negotiations with the European Union with the Canadians more enthusiastic than the EU. Canada has sanctioned a deal with Columbia and Australia and they are talking trade with South Korea. The trade agreement of South Korea and the European Union has the possibility of being signed this year. The Chamber of Commerce put out a study reporting that, if a U.S. agreement with South Korea fails, we could stand to lose \$35 billion dollars in world exports and as many as 345,000 jobs. On the upside the U.S. Meat Federation data reports that South Korea has imported U.S. beef showing a 66 percent increase from January to May of this year.

The DOHA Round is, and has been deadlocked, but changes are being made in the World Trade Organization (WTO) with key developing countries gaining power in the worldwide market. Brazil, India and China, (BIC) share some of the blame for the deadlock but provide evidence that shows, with sizeable and increasing trade shares and by being invited consistently to the negotiating table, a significant sign of importance. According to reports, the key decision making procedure in the WTO have converted from the countries of Canada, the United States, Japan and European Union to numerous new variations. China is the second largest exporter with global sales of 11.8 percent. India exports 1.5 percent and Brazil exports 1.6 percent. Russia exports 3.9 percent and, as described by Goldman Sachs, could complete the "BRICs" group of major emerging markets. Russia is not a WTO member at the present time.

Russia is a major grain exporter but because of summer droughts, the crop yields are unknown. They have placed a ban on grain exports to provide their own people with food and have received constructive criticism from the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council. Some points being made are: they should use what wheat stocks they have and import some cheaper grain for livestock, their reputation as a reliable supplier will suffer as a result of the ban, it can cause higher prices by panicked importing countries, this will be seen as protectionism and they need to learn how the markets can work to even out the ebb and flow of goods to export. The council did say in case of weather occurrences "there is no doubt governments are faced with tough decisions".

The Milkweed carried a story "Cheese Importers Want to Use Dairy's Real Seal". It was bound to happen with extending the domestic dairy checkoff program to dairy imports. Without naming the countries of origin, importer boards could promote imported Cheddar-type cheeses as "The Other Cheddar" to distinguish them from the domestic competition. Imported cheeses could, if the dairy import

*Continued on Page 9*

# CANOLA AND SAFETY

Phyllis Howatt ND  
National Oilseed Chairman

## Canola

During the past 25 years the transition to hybrid spring canola varieties has been slow and difficult but now is complete. Most of all the new varieties introduced today are hybrids.

Thanks to all of the work over the past years, the seed comes out of the ground better and covers the ground faster. The yield disasters that were common when the growing season was too hot or dry have moderated. The consistency in agronomic performance and seed yields in newer hybrids have improved. Many hybrid-breeding programs are beginning to mature and the future looks promising. The quality of U. S. canola grown from 2000 to 2009 was excellent, with a trend towards higher oil content and oleic acid levels. As new varieties are bred for improved quality, these positive attributes are expected to get even better.

Canola yields were up in 2009 for the United States crop nationwide. Yields were up the highest since records began in 1991. The U.S. production was 1.47 billion pounds, up two percent from 2008, despite decreased planted and harvested areas. Canola hybrids continue to improve and make a difference.

From an agronomic survey completed in 2009, canola growers appear to be using better management practices. It found that most weeds, diseases and insects were generally controlled and did not significantly impact yield. The same was true of fertility, plant stands and swath management. Yield-increasing factors were quick canola emergence in warmer soils and rotating canola at least every other year to prevent disease from getting the best of plants.

## Harvest Safety

Do you remember hearing your parents saying, "Cleanliness is next to godliness"? This used to mean your personal hygiene. Now farmers are thinking this about their combines as they harvest oilseeds. When it comes to preventing combine fires while harvesting sunflowers, a thorough and regular cleaning should be done daily. The 2009 sunflower harvest season brought a higher than usual number of combine fires. The 2009s wet early fall and dry October and November found that sunflowers were harvested with seed moisture well below 10 percent and the stalks were very dry. There were many fires from these high-oil seeds and a lot of dust from pulverized heads and stalks floating around the combine. Cleaning is very important. Some farmers did this but missed an enclosed compartment under some false flooring that allowed chaff from other grains to get in and it was next to the fuel tank on their new combine. In one combine a fire broke out and, before it could be extinguished, it cost an \$18,000 dollar repair bill. The farmer also had to bring in a custom combiner to finish the harvest.

Farmers--know your machine. Look for those hidden fire hazards and keep every thing clean. Pressure washers and blowers help to remove all grease, oil and crop residue off the engine and engine compartment, where about 75 per-



cent of the fires start. A clean engine will run cooler, operate more efficiently and greatly reduce the chance for fire. Fire extinguishers should be carried in tractors and combines at all times. Many farmers also have a water truck in the field as well.

Remember that harvest is a busy time of year with lots of trucks, combines, tractors and other machinery on the road and all are in a big hurry. We need to give them lots of room when meeting or passing as many roads are narrow and the machinery is WIDE. Remind our school children of these things also as they travel the roads everyday.

# LENTILS

By Diane McDonald, ND  
National Dry Edible Beans Chairman

Lentils are a bushy annual plant of the legume family. They are grown for their lens-shaped seeds. They are about 15 inches tall and the seeds grow in pods, usually with two seeds in each.

The lentil was one of the first crops domesticated in the near East. They contain about 26% protein. Because of this fact, lentils are an important part of the diet in many parts of the world. Lentils are sold in many forms--with or without skins, whole or split. They are considered "pulses", which includes peas and beans.

Besides containing high levels of proteins, lentils also contain dietary fiber, vitamin B1 and minerals. Lentils are also one of the best vegetable sources of iron, which makes them an important part of the vegetarian diet.

Lentils are relatively drought tolerant and are grown throughout the world. The Palouse region of eastern Washington and the Idaho Panhandle constitute the most important producing region of the United States.

## Trade Tariffs...Continued from page 8

assessment is implemented, carry a distinctive "the Other Cheddar" promotion ID along with the Real Seal. The cheese importer's letter to Mr. Tom Gallagher of Dairy Management, Inc. giving notice of the importing community's intention to take advantage of the dairy import assessment is dispiriting. If the dairy import assessment is enforced, they will have every legal right to participate in the program and promote their products. Cheese importers have the advantage of paying one half less than domestic producers pay. Cheese importers can ask for a refund of their assessment, domestic dairy producers cannot.

WIFE supports fair trade for our American farmers, ranchers and consumers.



<p><b>Membership Information:</b> Yes, send me information about becoming a member of WIFE. I am interested in the grassroots organization.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Send above form to the <b>National Membership Chairman</b> Alice Fairfax - 27248 Goodwill Chapel Rd. Sedalia, MO 65301</p>
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# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

By Klodette Stroh, WY  
National Sugar Chairman



The 2010 International Sweetener Symposium was held at Vail, Colorado, this year. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND) joined House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN), Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID), and others in offering support for the current sugar program at the 27th annual International Sweetener Symposium.

Sen. Conrad addressed the World Trade organization and the North America Free Trade agreement with Mexico and Canada. About the World Trade organization Conrad noted, "The current administration recognizes that the proposed agriculture deal is a non-starter in Congress and Australia would face stiff opposition to reopening its existing trade deal with the United States to gain greater share of the U.S. sugar market under the Trans-Pacific Partnership pact."

With regards to the North America Free Trade Agreement, in which the United States, Canada and Mexico are involved, Sen. Conrad stated that the United States and Mexican government officials have just reached an agreement on a number of measures to improve data sharing and allow for better operation of our integrated sugar market. According to the language of the trade agreement, Mexico has unlimited access to the United State's sugar market which overrides the sugar policy's foreign sugar code. Cooperation between the two countries is very essential. This cooperation will make sure the USDA receives the information it needs to continue operating the sugar policy in a way that avoids shortages and oversupplies. A balanced U.S. sugar market will help ensure our sugar policy will operate at no cost to our taxpayers.

Former House Agriculture Committee Chairman Larry Combest (R-TX) told the producers about the 2007 coalition called Farm Policy Facts. Coalition members are the American Sugar Alliance, National Cotton Council, National Association of Wheat Growers, Minnesota Corn Growers Association and USA Rice Federation. This coalition educates and delivers accurate and positive information about agriculture to Congress. Farm Policy Facts has expanded and the Hands That Feeds US also educates the urban population about the importance of the U.S. agriculture. The sugar program operates at no cost to taxpayers and provides jobs in almost every state in this country.

Thanks to Marlene Kouba for informative information about using sugar beets to produce ethanol. Maynard Helgaas, a businessman from Jamestown, North Dakota, has been working with the Green Vision to develop an energy beet processing plant. This study has proven that making ethanol from sugar beets is very efficient, takes less energy than converting corn and produces twice the ethanol per acre than corn would. Energy from sugar beets converts to

one unit of input to provide 9.28 units as compared to energy with a 4.25 unit return from crude oil.

American farmers have proven their efficiency in providing food and fiber for our country. This country is truly blessed to have our agriculture working to improve the United States economy. We will be facing a tight budget and an historically high deficit but I believe that, as the Great Depression has proven, American farmers will be a strong wheel to pull our economy out of this sinkhole.

## EC REGULATIONS

By Dianna Reed, KS  
National Dairy, Chairman



There is one more regulation for the dairy farmer to contend with, as if he didn't have enough to worry about. Starting on December 1, 2010, dairy processors who are exporting to the European Union (EU) will need to certify that each farm supplying milk for those exports has a somatic cell count (SCC) below 400,000. While the 400,000 SCC requirements have been in effect for several years, milk samples from silos or tankers have been accepted for use in determining compliance. Now those tests must come from farm-level milk.

Earlier this year, USDA received a "notice to the industry" from a team of European Community (EC) auditors. The auditors noted that when the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service conducted reviews on the milk records to verify that the milk going into dairy products and being exported to the EC met the requirements for somatic cell count (SCC) and standard plate count (SPC), the reviews were not in agreement with EC regulations. Silo or tanker test records were sometimes used to make the determination.

EC regulations state that a representative number of samples of raw milk collected from milk production holdings taken by random sampling must be checked for compliance... The term "milk production holdings" refers to actual farms. Samples from silos or tankers will no longer be accepted

Somatic Cell Count (SCC) is one of the indicators of the quality of milk. The number of somatic cells increases in response to pathogenic bacteria like *Staphylococcus aureus*, a cause of mastitis. The SCC is quantified as cell per millimeter. Somatic Cells originate only from inside the cow's udder, while bacteria is usually from external conditions and is the main cause of Somatic Cell Count. Somatic Cell Count does not affect the human health but does affect the shelf life of the products.

New information continues to come to light about the many ways in which EU countries allow their producers to undermine the stated intent of the EU regulations to maintain somatic cell count levels less than 400,000. The National Milk Producers Federation continues to explore these reports in order to ensure that U.S. producers are not held to a higher standard than EU dairy producers to their requirement, particularly given the complete lack of scientific or trade justification for the necessary imposition of a 400,000 SCC limit on individual dairy farms.

# OATS

By Lisa Goodheart, KS  
National Cereal Grains Chairman

Oats were once considered an unwanted weed which grew between the rows of wheat and barley. The plant thrives best in colder, damper climates and under conditions where other grains, especially wheat and barley, would not do well.



Oats grew wild in the colder areas of Europe, especially in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Germany, Denmark and Switzerland. It is believed to have been spread by raiders, merchant caravans and invaders, along with their horses and the food carried to feed them. Since horses are big eaters, oats made it easier to feed them and because it was recognized as a good feed source, more oats were sown. Once cultivation started, it was not long before it made its way into human food.

The once unwanted weed has been transformed into a nutritious grain with many forms and uses. Oats have excellent nutritional qualities, including protein, B vitamins, calcium, unsaturated fats and fiber. It is used as a thickener or an extender in recipes, but is more often used as a hot cereal. American demand for oats has increased recently, due to the inclusion of oats as a component in a "heart healthy" diet.

The bran is the outer protective coating of the kernel and is a good source of silicon, a trace element needed for healthy joints and normal bone growth. Bran also supplies a water-soluble fiber called beta-glucan. Soluble fiber reduces the rate of glucose absorption and insulin production after a meal, making it an excellent food for diabetics. Oatmeal is a good choice as a breakfast item, as long as it is not overly sugared.

Oats are found in the following forms: whole oat groats, steel-cut, rolled, oat bran and oat flour. Groats are untreated but are natural oats with only the outermost hull removed. These can be cooked whole or ground. Steel-cut oats are called Scottish or Irish Oats. Unrefined oat groats are cut into two or three pieces to make cereal. They are processed with a small amount of heat by the steel blades, so a small amount of their B vitamins are lost. Rolled oats are large separate flakes that have been steamed and then flattened. The "quick" or "instant" types have been processed further and heat-treated for faster cooking. The quick oats have less nutritive value than the rolled oats, but are more expensive. Oat bran is the outer covering of the whole oat groat, and is an excellent source of fiber. Oat flour is the finely ground oat groat which also contains much of the bran. The flour is almost as nutritious as the whole grain, depending on how it was ground. Oat flour has very little gluten so it is not good for making bread. However, it can be combined with other flours to add nutrition to baked goods, pancakes, and quick breads.

# TENTATIVE CONVENTION AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:00 am Executive Committee  
10:00 am Budget and Finance Committee  
11:00 am By-law Committee  
Lunch on your own  
12:00 -- 5:00 pm FAED meeting  
1:30 - 2:45 Media Workshop  
3:00 - 4:30 Banking Panel  
4:30- 5:00 Craig Henke, Emissions injection system  
4:30 Nominations Committee  
5:30 - 6:30 Supper  
6:30 pm Resolutions Committee

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

7:00 am State President's Breakfast  
7:00 am Breakfast for all members  
8:00 am - 9:45 am Board of Directors  
9:45 am -10:00 am Break  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Convention opens  
12:00 - 1:30 Susan Metcaff  
1:30 - 1:45 break  
1:45 - 2:45 John Munsel  
2:45 pm - 5:00 pm Convention  
5:15 pm - Supper  
6:00 pm Private property mini-seminar  
United Property owners of Montana,  
Western Legacy, Karen Bud-Fallen  
Sue Krentz -- invited

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:00 am - 8:00 am Election  
7:30 am - 8:30 am FAED Breakfast  
8:30 am - 9:15 am Caucus - Beef, Sheep and Goats, Pork ,  
Rural health  
9:15 am - 10:30 am Caucus - Dairy, Private Property, Cereal  
Grains, Peanuts  
10:30 am - 11:30 am Caucus - Sugar, Trade, Transportation  
11:30 pm - 12:00 pm New officer Caucus  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch, Susan Metcaff  
1:45 pm - 4:00 pm Convention  
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm Break  
4:15 pm - 5:30 pm Convention  
7:00 pm - Banquet

## SATURAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:30 am - Breakfast  
8:30 am - BOD TOURS

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21

Extended farm/ranch tour to Mary Ann Murray Ranch

# DUES

You can pay your dues anytime between now and January 1. During the last convention, the annual dues were raised to \$40.00. Keep that in mind when you have your meetings and send them in. All those running for office must have them paid before the national convention.

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### RESERVATIONS

Call the Hotel at: 1-800-537-7286 or 406-248-7151  
[www.billingshotel.net](http://www.billingshotel.net) Courtesy shuttle to and from airport  
Room rate for 1-4 is \$64.00 plus tax  
**Deadline for reserving rooms at above rate is November 1**

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Registration: \$165.00, spouse \$135.00  
After Nov. 1, \$175.00, spouse \$145.00  
Optional tour on Nov. 21 is \$20.00  
Friday night banquet only \$20.00  
Private property mini seminar only \$25.00

**Make checks payable to: Women Involved in Farm Economics**

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

National Position: (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply: State President ( ) BOD Delegate ( ) Member ( ) Guest ( )

Check if roommate needed ( ) Special diet required: \_\_\_\_\_

(We only share your name with others looking for a roommate. You must make arrangements and book your room.)