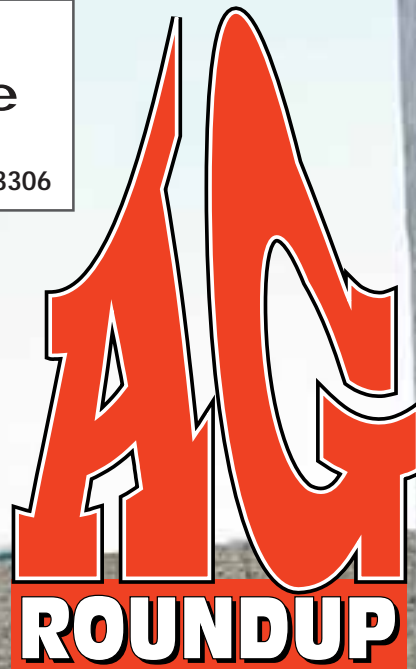


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AT AG
ROUNDUP

December 2011 Edition

Bovine Connection

Dec. 1-2

See page 2

Bovine Connection Set For Dec 1-2

By Lois Kerr

This year's Bovine Connection, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Dec. 1-2 in the meeting room at the MSU EARC and Extension building, 1499 N. Central Ave., Sidney, promises to provide an interesting program, complete with a variety of pertinent information for cattlemen and agribusiness people. Committee members have worked hard to provide a quality program for those who attend. Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine points out that people will certainly benefit by attending this year's proceedings.

"The committee has obtained top notch, nationally known speakers for this event," Fine remarks. "We will offer a diverse program that includes everything from genetics and nutrition to people management to the generation gap to the discussion of the promotion of free market principles."

He adds, "We will cover a lot of topics during the two-day event."

The Bovine Connection event begins with a 9:30 a.m. registration and welcome on Dec. 1 in the meeting room. Presentations begin at 10 a.m., with Steve Dittmer, Ag Freedom Foundation, talking on preserving free market principles. At 10:30 a.m., Bill Price will talk on global trade, followed at 11 a.m. by Charlene Rich, Montana Beef Council, discussing the new agricultural alliance made up of farmers and ranchers.

Following a noon lunch, presentations continue with John Paterson, Montana State University, discussing cattle response and behavior in relation to mineral supplements. A talk on implants will follow, and the day's educational sessions will end with an extremely important talk by Curt Pate, NCBA, on stress free livestock handling.

The Thursday session of the Bovine Connection will finish up with a banquet held at the Country Club beginning with a social at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. Steve Dittmer with the Agribusiness Freedom Foundation will give the address following dinner.

The Friday, Dec. 2 session of the Bovine Connection convenes at 9:30 a.m. Friday morning at the Extension office meeting room. At 10 a.m., Robin Thorstenson, Bismarck State College program manager and trainer, will discuss the power of persuasion. At 11 a.m., Jim Robb, Livestock Marketing Information Center, will talk about the market update and outlook. Willy Altenberg will finish the morning sessions with an



A.I. industry update.

Following a 12:45 p.m. lunch, the afternoon session will lead off with a discussion on DNA testing, followed by the return of Thorstenson to talk about generational issues. Bill Bowman, AGI president, will wrap it all up and tie together the information presented at the two-day session.

"We have an excellent program lined up," Fine concludes. "I invite all cattle people, cattle industry people, and those interested in the cattle business to attend this two-day event."

The Bovine Connection proceedings will cost participants \$40 per individual or \$75 per couple. Tickets may be purchased at the Richland County Extension office. This fee includes two days of proceedings and the Thursday evening banquet.

Anyone wishing to just attend the banquet may purchase a banquet ticket for \$25 per individual. These tickets are also available at the Extension office.

December Puzzle Answers

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Crypto-list: turkey, ham, potatoes, gravy, cranberries, yams, vegetables, salad, tarts

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Dittmer To Speak At Bovine Connection

By Lois Kerr

Bovine Connection organizers have invited Steve Dittmer with the Agribusiness Freedom Foundation to speak at the Thursday, Dec. 1 session of the Bovine Connection, scheduled for the meeting room at the Extension office building on 1446 N. Central Ave. and also to present the address at the Thursday night banquet scheduled for the Sidney Country Club. Dittmer will discuss free marketing and the preservation of free market options. "We promote free market principles throughout the food chain," Dittmer comments. "We aren't just promoting cow/calf production or packers, but rather the entire chain all the way through to the plate. The more free market options and the less government involvement we have, the better it will be for everyone."

He continues, "We want to preserve as many options as possible for cattlemen, whether they sell calves every Tuesday at the auction barn or whether they want to participate in an alliance. Cattlemen should be able to choose from many options."

Dittmer points out that many proposals that will affect cattlemen sit on the table in Congress, many of which would remove innovations and options for the cattle industry. "People claim to be victims of free enterprise, but they aren't," Dittmer says. "We need to be armed with the correct facts. A lot of folks who are basic free market people know what others say isn't true, but they need more information to refute the false information already out there."

He continues, "A USDA proposal would change a lot of the branded beef programs and make it more difficult for cattlemen and prohibit them from selling contracts. These are options that cattlemen need to retain."

Dittmer urges people to become more involved, to learn the facts, spread the word, and be part of the solution. "Politics and economics are not always of interest to many folks, but economics is the study of human behavior, so people need facts," Dittmer comments.

He continues, "Many people are not happy with the direction government is going. We can't sit back and say 'Let George do it' because that is the reason we have problems today. People are busy, they have a business and a family and they feel they don't have time to mess with politics, but that's how we ended up with what we have today, a government that oversees and manages. The Tea Party people may not be perfect, but they did prove that individuals can have an impact and it proves that the power of the vote has not gone away."

Dittmer believes that rural folks need to educate their neighbors about what they do on the farm and ranch, and why they do it. This will help preserve the free market principles with many viable options. "The free market has been



Steve Dittmer, Agribusiness Freedom Foundation

good to agriculture over the long run, but when government gets involved, it alters pricing and messes up the system," Dittmer comments.

Dittmer, who has been with the Agribusiness Freedom Foundation since 2004, serves as the executive vice president of the foundation. He delivers facts, analyses, and opinions on beef industry economics and politics. Dittmer provides this information through the e-mail newsletter AFF Sentinel. "AFF's mission is to be blunt about ignored facts, distortions, emotion-driven illogic, and the real agendas of demagogues attempting to 'reform' the beef industry," Dittmer notes. "AFF favors free market solutions, preserving all possible options, innovations and coordination among industry sectors."

He adds, "I serve as the public face for cattlemen and other segments of the beef industry."

Dittmer grew up on a cattle operation in Ohio, so he has involved himself with the beef industry his entire life. He has worked with voluntary and mandatory check-offs, coordinated a successful Nebraska national beef referendum campaign, and has served on national committees that developed the Beef Industry Council's first national television advertising campaign.

Dittmer has visited hundreds of ranches and feed yards around the country.

Dittmer will present an interesting informative talk at the Bovine Connection.

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Communicating Effectively Part Of Bovine Connection Presentations

By Lois Kerr

Difficulties in communicating with others can lead to problems and misunderstandings. Getting your message understood, dealing with people of a different generation, and effectively airing viewpoints can present challenges for many of us. Times change, fashions change and attitudes change from year to year and from generation to generation, sometimes making it difficult to bridge gaps. When four generations live and work together, it is critical to maintain good communications and understanding among all family members. As well, in this world of anti-agriculture, it is also imperative to know how to persuade

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Robin Thorstenson

and convince others of an idea or the value of an idea. The ability to talk effectively is a skill that people can learn.

To address a few aspects of communication, Bovine Connection organizers have invited Robin Thorstenson, Bismarck State College program manager and trainer, to present two different talks during the Friday, Dec. 2 session of the Bovine Connection. Thorstenson will give a talk on the power of persuasion at 10 a.m. and then will speak again at 2:15 p.m.

Friday afternoon to discuss generational issues. Both presentations will be held at the MSU EARC and Extension Center facility on North Central Avenue, in the meeting room.

Persuasion means influencing others and this skill can be learned. "Persuasion is a science, not an art," says Thorstenson. "To influence others to take action or to agree to your request doesn't require a glib tongue. It requires understanding why others behave the way they do. I will present the science behind effective persuasion and will share ten subtle and not so subtle ways to persuade others to take action, to comply with a policy, or to say 'yes' to your request."

At her afternoon session on generational issues, Thorstenson will again present valuable information that can help a multigenerational business work together more effectively and harmoniously.

"I will help people discover how they can work side by side with four generations while drawing from a rich mixture of skills and experience," says Thorstenson. "Participants will gain an understanding of what defines a generation and will examine how different generations view teamwork, rewards, authority and job change."

Thorstenson, a trainer and facilitator for the division of continuing education at Bismarck State College for the past six years, has experience working in nonprofit, government, and in healthcare in a variety of roles ranging from recruiter to nonprofit director. Thorstenson is certified to deliver courses within the learning systems of Development Dimension International. She also facilitates mentoring program training. She combines practical applications with the latest trends to create a positive learning experience.

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Farmers/Ranchers Alliance Information Part Of Bovine Connection Presentations

By Lois Kerr

We all know that many urban folks really don't understand production agriculture. We also know that many organizations and groups have made it their goal to target production agriculture. Fortunately, the Montana Beef Council, along with other beef organizations, seeks to educate consumers about beef and works to combat the misinformation put out by those who wish to undermine agriculture.

Because of the negative information circulating about agriculture, and in efforts to learn more about how to combat this misinformation, the Bovine Connection committee has invited Charlene Rich, Montana Beef Council executive director, to discuss the formation of a new group that will highlight positive aspects of production agriculture and will attempt to better educate consumers. Rich will speak at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1 at the new Richland County Extension/EARC facility, 1499 N. Central Ave., Sidney, presenting her talk explaining the new U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance.

"This alliance is made up of a group of people that plan to counteract organizations that are anti-agriculture," Rich says. "We need to build trust in the delivery chain and resolve problems together."

Rich explains that the beef industry has initiated this alliance as part of its long range goal to get more people eating beef more often. "I'm going to focus on one thing we are very passionate about here in Montana-strengthening the image of beef and the beef industry," she says. "Some of the social issues we are familiar with, such as beef's impact on the environment and how beef is raised, are attracting more and more consumer interest, and not necessarily in a positive way. This awareness is likely the result of someone directly or indirectly who told them they should be worrying more about where their food comes from."

This is where the new alliance fits into the picture. "This alliance is a movement that gets farmer and rancher voices heard in a cluttered conversation about food that is largely happening without us right now," Rich says. "The U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance has as its mission the rebuilding of public trust in agriculture. We know that consumers trust individual farmers and ranchers, but they don't trust agricultural practices and the industry overall."

Rich will explain the new alliance, what it is, and how producers will benefit from it.

Rich will also touch on some new fresh cuts of beef now available to consumers. "Three fresh beef cuts are now certified to display the coveted heart-check mark on retail cuts, signifying they met the American Heart Association's criteria for saturated fat and cholesterol," Rich remarks. "I will talk about these three new fresh cuts of beef."

As executive director of the Montana Beef Council, Rich's responsibilities include the collections and compliance aspects of the checkoff as well as coordinating the education, promotion, and research activities for beef and beef products in Montana.

Born and raised on a family ranch, Rich has spent the past 16 years as the director of the Montana Beef Council. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois, a Master of Science degree from Montana State University, and she has completed post graduate work in marketing for organizations at Cornell University, New York.



Charlene Rich



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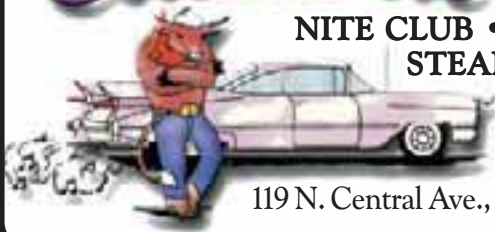
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AI Information/Market Update, Projections On Tap For Bovine Connection

By Lois Kerr

Bovine Connection organizers have included informational sessions on AI updates and Market updates as part of the Bovine Connection Program, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Dec. 1-2 at the new Extension/EARC facility located on North Central Avenue.

Willie Altenburg, Genex Cooperative associate vice president of beef marketing, will speak at noon, Friday, Dec. 2 and will discuss several aspects of A.I. techniques for beef cattle. "I'll talk on synchronization systems and how they work when breeding heifers," Altenburg remarks, "I'll also discuss gender selected semen and how we can choose the sex of our calves from the semen."

Altenburg has worked on AI techniques for 40 years, so he will bring a wealth of information to his discussion. "I enjoy this business," he says. "Genex is the leader in the AI business. It is unique because it is a cooperative owned by beef and dairymen."

Jim Robb, Livestock Marketing Information Center director, (LMIC) will also give a talk during the Friday, Dec. 2 session of the Bovine Connection. Robb will provide the LMIC market update and projection report at 11 a.m. in the meeting room at the Extension office facility and will also discuss issues in the livestock markets and explain how these issues interconnect and affect the entire marketplace.

"We are seeing record high calf prices, we've had the worst drought in the U.S. southern plains that we've seen for the past 100 years, so the dynamics have changed," Robb remarks. "We have a weak domestic economy, other issues are impacting us, and all these factors are mixed together and affect one another."

He continues, "Every day we face new market related challenges and opportunities, and they all have an influence on how we produce beef. BSE, interest rates, and other issues affect this mix. We are undergoing changing times, and I will provide updates for everyone."

Robb has served as LMIC director since 1997.

The LMIC, a cooperative effort that has provided economic analyses and market projections concerning the livestock industry since 1955, continuously updates forecasts, projections and support materials related to market situations and outlooks. A cooperative effort among state land grant universities, USDA economists, industry cooperators and the Center staff, the LMIC contributes to economic education, supports applied research projects, and policy evaluation. "Our goals are to support education, research, ad outreach efforts," Robb says.



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The Coming Food Crunch

Beef Technology Presentation

On Tap For Bovine Connection

By Lois Kerr

While agricultural land continues to dwindle and water issues become increasingly critical, the population continues to explode at unprecedented rates. How to feed all these people on less and less land will become a huge challenge over the course of the next several decades. To address this issue, Bovine Connection organizers have invited Dr. Jon Seeger, Pfizer Animal Health technical services veterinarian, to discuss this looming problem.



Jon Seeger

Seeger will talk at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1 in the meeting room at the Richland County Extension facility, 1499 North Central Ave., Sidney.

"I will discuss technology in beef production and impress on the audience the significance of what technology has done to produce beef and what is coming in the future," Seeger remarks. "We will need to double our food production in short order and we need to discuss how to do this."

Seeger will cover the coming needs and challenges in food production and what we can do now to prepare for this mammoth undertaking. "I'll review where we've

been and where the population and its needs will go, and the challenges involved," he comments. "I will talk about how we can do this. This presentation will not be a scientific lecture but rather an informational session to review and project. There are some real challenges ahead and we need to prepare."

Seeger tosses out a staggering statistic to illustrate his point. "We have six billion people on earth now with a projected seven billion by 2050," he says. "The bottom line is that we will have to produce as much food in the next 40 years as mankind has ever produced since the beginning of time. Energy is important, but food is critical, and we will have to produce that food with less available water and less input costs."

Seeger looks forward to meeting MonDak cattlemen at the Bovine Connection. "This should be fun," he says. "I hope to stimulate thinking with my presentation."

Seeger grew up on a North Dakota farm and ranch, so he understands food production issues. He worked as a veterinarian for 21 years, served as the assistant state veterinarian for North Dakota, then joined the Pfizer team where he has spent the past 18 years as a technical services veterinarian. "I know the cattle industry from several sides: as a producer, as a veterinarian, and from the industry and regulator sides," he concludes.

NDSA President Responds To Proposed Livestock Competition Rule

"The North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) is pleased that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has decided to postpone action on its proposed livestock competition rule as it relates to the beef industry," states Jason Schmidt, North Dakota Stockmen's Association president, Medina.

"Cattle producers want good prices, fair practices

and the freedom to operate our businesses without unnecessary government intrusion. We support value-based marketing and were very concerned with the proposed language that would have hindered these profit opportunities for producers."

"The NDSA thanks USDA for taking into account the opinions of thousands of family farmers and ranchers who offered input at various listening sessions as well as through the public comment period."

Tips For Better Livestock Handling Part Of Bovine Connection Agenda

By Lois Kerr

Methods of handling cattle may differ from ranch to ranch. Some ranchers find livestock handling a relatively simple matter, while others feel it is a stressful experience for both man and beast. However, ways do exist to make handling livestock a chore than no one dreads, rather than a painful marathon for all involved.

Because cattle handling has become something that the public looks at more carefully than they did in the past, and because methods do exist that make moving cattle easier for everyone, the Bovine Connection committee has invited Curt Pate, NCBA stewardship and stockmanship program cattle handler, to speak on stress free cattle handling. Pate will speak at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1, at the EARC and Extension facility located on 1499 N. Central Ave. Pate will share tips and common sense tactics for

better handling livestock.

"People work cattle the way they have learned from family members," Pate observes. "When you are in the wrong spot, you are told to get in the right spot. The trick is to figure out how the cow sees and thinks, and once you know how cows see and think, it makes sense and allows you to know how to counteract this."

He adds, "It is never stress free to work cattle, but the methods I talk about are as low stress as we can make it for everyone: cattle, horses, and people."

Pate explains that the methods he teaches are not new. They are common sense approaches and they satisfy the public's demand for proper livestock handling. "We've dealt with cattle for a long time, and sometimes we did good and sometimes we did not so good," Pate comments. "A few people learned how to work and present things in ways more acceptable to the public. In my presentations, I'm putting ideas out there that we have learned and I'm talking about how to get better at stockmanship."

He adds, "There are increased economic benefits to handling stock correctly. As livestock production comes under increased scrutiny, improved handling practices create sustainability for the cattle industry."

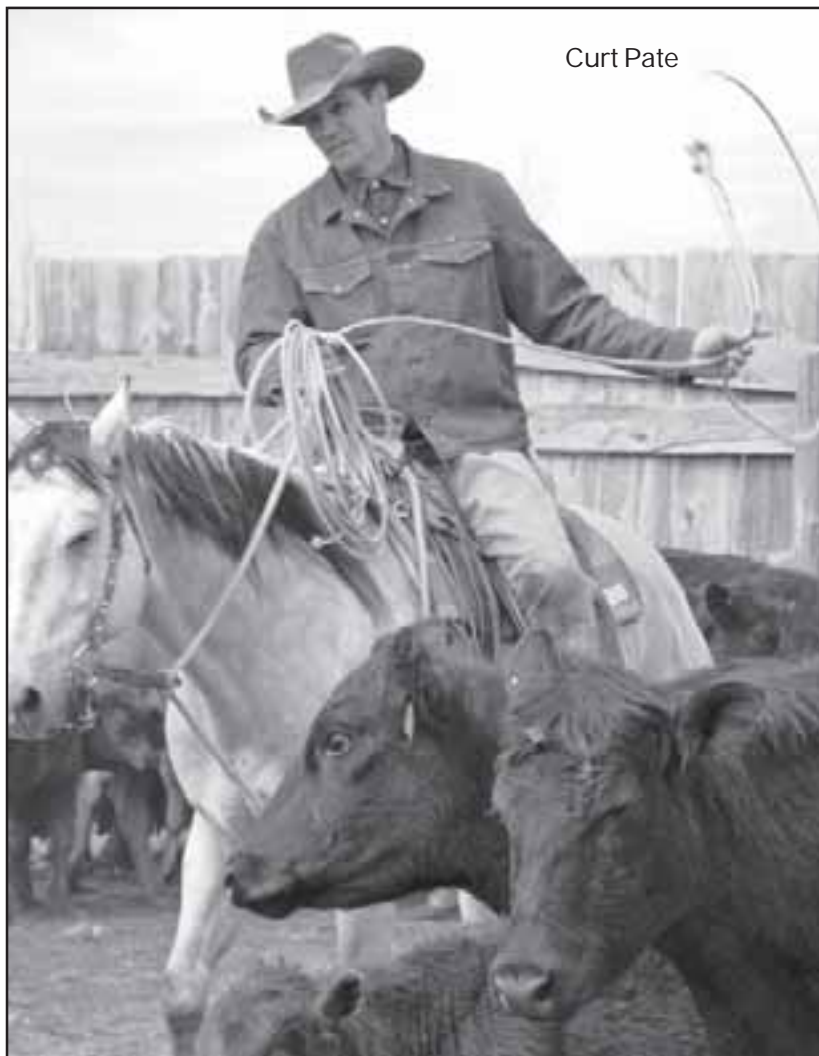
Pate points out that cowboys have excellent skills, but a good cowboy also practices good stockmanship. "I spent a lot of time learning how to be a good horseman and roper, so I know the skills of a cowboy, but now I'm learning the skills of a stockman," he notes. "The stockman has the skills of a cowboy but he often uses those skills in a different way."

He concludes, "In my presentations, I talk from experience. Cattle don't always do what you want them to, but knowing how they see and think helps stockmen better respond. I will present sound ideas and methods that work."

Pate, born and raised on a Montana ranch, has spent a decade conducting demonstrations and clinics on stockmanship, horsemanship and safety. He has a small place near Ryegate, and along with this Montana ranch, he also runs a grazing operation in South Dakota. Pate has worked as an auctioneer and rodeo announcer so he knows how to communicate effectively and he knows how to present his ideas in an interesting, informative manner.

Pate will deliver a pertinent, informative presentation on stress free cattle handling.

Curt Pate



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MonDak Ag Days Set For Jan. 12-13

By Lois Kerr

This year's MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Jan. 12-13 at the Richland County Fair Event Center, has a good mix of educational sessions, trade show displays, and Ag in the Classroom, with something to interest everyone. The show will provide agricultural presentations dealing with a wide range of relevant information, and a trade show that highlights new ideas and technology within the field of agriculture.

"I invite people to mark this year's Ag Days on their calendars," says Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine. "This will be a good show with a lot of information and new ideas for those who attend."

The event begins Thursday morning, when vendors will have until noon to set up their display booths. Ag in the Classroom also will run from 8 a.m. until noon, along with a program designed for women.

At 11 a.m., Charlene Rich with the Montana Beef Council will discuss new, nutritious cuts of beef, with the cuts served as part of the lunch.

At 1 p.m., Dr. Michele Mostrom, North Dakota State University, will discuss the impact of oil wells on livestock production in the MonDak region. Following Mostrom's talk, the next session, beginning at 2 p.m. on Thursday will deal with the whys and ways to increase sheep production. At 3 p.m., Jude Capper, University of Washington assistant professor of Dairy Sciences, will talk about the carbon foot-

print of beef production. From 4-5 p.m., Capper will talk with high school science classes.

The Ag Days banquet, scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Event Center, will feature Trent Loos, a farmer/rancher passionate about agriculture who has become known all across the country for his advocacy in dispelling the myths about agriculture.

"Trent Loos is the pioneer in the field of agriculture advocacy," says Fine. "He is passionate about agriculture and he has done a lot to promote it. He is a good speaker and he brings a good message. He will tell us how we in production agriculture can do more to get out the positive aspects of what we do and how we do it."

Loos will speak at 7 p.m. following the banquet, and this presentation will wrap up the Thursday activities for the MonDak Ag Days.

Friday's Ag Days activities begin with a 7 a.m. pancake breakfast, sponsored by the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture

The day's educational sessions include a presentation by the Army Corps of Engineers, a discussion on precision agriculture, making equipment more efficient, and a talk by a Sidney Sugars representative on the proper set up of a beet harvester.

Mark Jan. 12 and 13 on your calendar and plan to attend all or a portion of this year's presentations, visit with agricultural businesses and learn what's up and coming, and enjoy all the event has to offer.



Last year the trade show featured many booths with new and innovative agricultural products and information.

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A Little Bit Country: Crop Outlook For 2012

By Warren Froelich

NDSU EXTension Service, Williams County

Producers looking for information regarding the 2012 cropping season and a review of 2011 are invited to attend a special interactive video meeting on Monday, Dec. 5, at 1:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Williams County Courthouse.

Staff of the North Dakota State University Extension Service will present a crop market outlook, information on maximizing winter wheat yields and an update on farm program legislation.

In addition to these topics there will be discussion about factors which had a negative impact on the 2011 wheat crop and how growers can take steps to avoid yield losses in 2012.

Speakers will include Frayne Olson, marketing economist; Dan Waldstein, Jeremy Pederson and Jason Riopel, area agronomists serving northwest North Dakota and Tim Semler, Bottineau County Extension Agent.

The meeting is being made available at no cost.

Irrigation Meeting Schedule

It has been a tradition of the NDSU Extension Service to conduct annual informational meetings relating to crops produced under irrigation systems. Williston has always been one of those meeting sites. This year's meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Ernie French Center located at the Williston Research Extension Center begin-

ning at 9:30 a.m. CST.

This year's meeting will focus on how to achieve consistency in yields while maintaining crop quality. The morning session will center around fungicide management, saline situations and economics of corner arm systems.

The afternoon program is to include reports of water management research conducted at the Nesson Valley site and the use of polymer coated urea along with comparing irrigation and greenhouse emissions.

The irrigation meeting is being made available free of charge with the noon lunch compliments of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative.

4-H Horse Club to Organize

Horsemanship is the most popular 4-H project in North Dakota. Just about every county in the state reports more youth enrolled in various levels of Horsemanship than in any other project area. In Williams County, Beef and Photography are the most popular projects but with the formation of a new 4-H club that will focus solely on horses I predict Horsemanship will soon become number one.

The 4-H horse program in Williams County now has some committed adults who will give leadership to club activities. Dave Smithberg and Tana Conlin, along with assistance from many other experienced horse people in the area, have a desire to give our young people an opportunity to participate in activities designed to promote a strong foundation of horsemanship skills.

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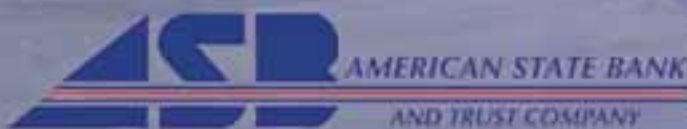
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Meadow Muffins . . . The Longhorn-Harley Davidson Cross

By Ken Overcast

The sun was just beginning to peak over the ridge, breakfast was in full swing, and Dick and Billy were having the same conversation they'd had ever' morning for about six months.

"How 'bout a hotcake?" Dick asked his old partner as he flips a couple on his own plate.

"Nope," was Billy's slurred reply as he popped the top on another beer. "I'm shtickin' with the Breakfast of Champions."

The two old bachelor cronies had been sort of on the outs the last few months. Dick had quit drinkin' last fall sometime and wanted his ol' buddy to experience all of the joys of sobriety that he'd gotten so accustomed to. There were times when the conversations got a little tense.

"I'm tellin' ya Billy, that drinkin' is gonna kill you. Have a hotcake. You need somethin' decent in yer stomach. That big red nose of yours looks just like a doorknob on the Fire Hall."

"Nuthin' worse than a reformed drunk," Billy retorted, his bleary eyes filled with inebriated contempt. "Eat them things yerself. Door knob on a Fire Hall, my foot! I feel sorry fer you, Dick. You got nuthin' to look forward to. When you wake up in the mornin' that's as good as you're gonna feel all day long. Me... now I know I'm gonna feel better than this after while."

The conversations always just seemed to trail off into the sunset with neither side of the argument getting the upper hand. They were both a little on the stubborn side and neither one of 'em would give an inch. Besides, they'd been partners far too long to get real mad at each other.

"We better get goin' if we're gonna make that circle before the sun gets too high," Billy changed the subject. He flipped the now empty beer can into the old thirty gallon oil drum by the door as he went out.

"Yea... we better," Dick answered as he tidied up the table. "Give ol' Roany a feed of oats for me, will you? I'll be right behind you."

The boys struck out in a long trot for the west end of their summer pasture to look things over. They'd had a shower or two, the grass was good, and it was a perfect mornin' for a ride. Just as they topped the ridge on the south end of the field, they spied one of the neighbor's cows in with theirs. She was a big dry red brindle cow with a set of horns that

belonged in the movies.

"Looks like we've got one of Smokey's cows in here again."

Normally they would have just eased her over to a gate and put her back where she belonged, but those horns were just more of a temptation than a trigger happy cowboy could stand. The critter looked like she must have been a Longhorn/Limousine cross, for she weighed in at around fourteen hundred pounds.

"Just look at those antlers," Dick grinned as he jerked down his rope. "I've got the head." Down the coulee towards their unsuspecting victim the two tumbleweed cowboys galloped.

The ol' girl threw her head up and put her tail over her back the minute she saw them comin', and took off on a high lope for the hole in the fence she'd crawled through. She didn't quite make it, and let out a beller that would raise the dead when the slack came out of the loop that Dick had neatly placed around her horns.

Billy's end wasn't quite as easy. The sagebrush was tall and thick so the heelin' part of the operation was a little on the tricky side. A couple of loops later and he had her. The boys stretched the old cow out on the sagebrush flat on the far side of the ridge.

They were proud as punch of their little piece of cowboy fun, but to say that the bellerin' cow wasn't impressed would be an understatement.

"That ought to teach her to stay home," Dick grinned as he stepped off his horse and walked over to the cow stretched out on the ground to retrieve his rope from those huge horns. As he straddled her neck and pulled his loop loose, Billy rode up to loosen his rope on her hind feet.

This is an operation that the boys had performed at least a jillion times. It's just standard procedure for turnin' a critter loose. But this time Billy was a little quick on the draw and released the slack on his end just as Dick was astraddle the cow's neck. Up she came, with one of Dick's legs on each side and a hand on each of those giant horns.

They just thought the ol' cow was upset before. She took off like a rocket; bellerin' and hookin' at Dick with her antlers. They were almost perfect handlebars, and he really put up a dandy ride. It's a dang shame it wasn't captured on

Continued on next page.

video.

Boy, what a sight. Dick's long legs were draggin' the ground on each side of her neck with the rowels on his big Mexican spurs whirrin' through the prairie grass, and cutting little trenches. Both hands were firmly gripped on those wonderful Longhorn-Harley Davidson handlebars.

About this time Billy's Border Collie couldn't stand not being in on the action, and ran around to the front and grabbed the already irate cow by the nose. She dropped her head to hook the dog and off went Dick, landing in a heap right in front of his former mode of transportation.

"Ah, there he is!" Ol Brindle thought to herself and made a hook at the seat of Dick's Wranglers. The horn slid right over the intended target and lodged itself firmly under his belt. This deal isn't getting any better from Dick's perspective. He's flat on his belly now with a mad cow's horn stuck in the back of his belt. She's as intent on getting loose from Dick as he is from her, but at the present time her focus is

on the dog that's still taking every opportunity to nibble away at her face.

The powerful old cow is galloping across the prairie after the dog with a horn under Dick's belt and his face making a little furrow through the rocks and sagebrush. Billy's thinkin' this is about the funniest thing he's ever seen, and would give his whole calf check for a camera.

The belt buckle finally broke, the cow ran off, and Dick managed to drag himself back to his feet. He was a real mess. His clothes were nearly torn off, and the ride through the sagebrush hadn't done his face any good.

"You really don't look THAT bad," Billy grinned, barely able to contain his laughter. "... 'cept fer yer nose. Looks like a door knob on the Fire Hall."

Keep Smilin'.... and don't forget to check yer cinch.

Ken Overcast is a recording cowboy singer that ranches on Lodge Creek in North Central Montana where he raises and dispenses B.S. www.kenovercast.com.

Cut Energy Use To Reduce Electric Bills

North Dakotans use more electricity and have higher bills than residents in neighboring states, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reports.

While North Dakotans pay nearly the lowest retail price per kilowatt for electricity in the nation, their average monthly bill is higher than in neighboring states, such as Minnesota and Montana, because of the higher energy usage.

North Dakotans could lower their bills by reducing their electricity consumption, and they have some simple ways to do that, says Carl Pedersen, North Dakota State University Extension Service energy educator.

Heating a home can use considerable amounts of energy, according to Pedersen. If a home that uses electric heat is not properly insulated and sealed to keep out the cold, the heating bill will be affected.

"Homeowners can take a quick look around for areas of heat loss," Pedersen says. "Is the basement insulated? Does the attic have at least 18 inches of insulation? Are there cold spots, indicating air leakage around doors and windows? These are questions homeowners can ask themselves."

Making wise purchases on appliances also can lower electric bills.

"Every appliance or electronic device you purchase has two prices associated with it: the original purchase price and the price of operating the device," Pedersen says. "Many people shop for the lowest-priced item but do not take into account how much that particular appliance or electronic device could cost them each year in utility costs."

For example, people frequently overlook televisions as a source of electricity usage, he says. Plasma televisions,

which are very popular, may draw as much as 500 watts of electricity while in use.

People also may forget that devices such as televisions continue to draw electricity even when they are not in use because they are on standby power. TVs need to be on standby power, or use electricity constantly, for the remote control to work. Energy-efficient TVs will have low usage rates of electricity while on as well as off.

Doing a little research before purchasing a new electronic device could pay off, Pedersen says. Numerous websites provide energy consumption information for appliances to help people select the most energy-efficient items. Plus, most home appliances will have an EnergyGuide label that lists the average amount of energy the appliance will consume in a year and the average cost for that energy.

However, EnergyGuide labels are not required on home electronics. To find the most energy-efficient home electronics, look for the ENERGY STAR label. ENERGY STAR is a continually updated rating system that labels a particular appliance or electronic device as being energy efficient.

For example, an ENERGY STAR-rated refrigerator will be at least 15% more efficient than the current federal requirements. It also will be 40% more efficient than the typical model sold just 10 years ago.

For more information about energy efficiency, check out the NDSU Extension Service's energy website at <http://www.ndsu.edu/energy>, or contact Pedersen at 701-231-5833 or carl.pedersen@ndsu.edu.

To see how states rank in energy usage and costs for electricity, visit http://www.eia.gov/electricity/sales_revenue_price/pdf/table5_a.pdf.



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Trent Loos Ag Days Entertainment



By Lois Kerr

The Ag Days Committee is pleased to announce that Trent Loos, passionate advocate for agriculture, will serve as the Thursday night, January 12 Ag Days after dinner speaker. Loos, a 6th generation rancher, began speaking out on behalf of agriculture in 2000 and uses radio, publications, the Internet, and public speaking engagements as tools to get the positive message and the truth out about agriculture and food production today. For his topic of discussion at the Sidney Ag Days, Loos will focus on food production issues and will speak following the Ag Days banquet. "There are so many misconceptions that exist about food production," he remarks. "I will lay out a clear path on how to overcome this."

He continues, "There is a disconnect between food production and consumers and this is how myths begin. People no longer know where their food comes from and what goes on in food production, so they can't separate fact from fiction."

Although agriculture represents such a tiny portion of the population, we in agriculture still can have a voice and get our message out to the public. Loos believes all of us can make a huge difference in our own individual ways when it comes to promoting agriculture. "We are a small percentage of the population but we can do something," he admonishes. "Each person one day at a time can tell the real story, and we can make a difference as individuals. Only a third of the population of the original thirteen colonies was in favor of the revolution, but look what happened there."

Loos began his quest over a decade ago to set the record straight about agriculture. The catalyst for his decision to promote agriculture arrived in the form of an animal rights activist. Loos attended a talk given by this man, a talk riddled with untruths and inaccuracies, and he realized that people needed to counter these myths with the truth. "I used to complain like everyone else that the boy in the grocery store had no idea where his milk came from, but that's all I did, complain," Loos says. "I then went to a talk given by an animal rights person and it dawned on me that

this guy was telling lies and that people believed him. I took it upon myself to tell the truth about agriculture and to make a difference."

Loos initially began his quest to educate the public by walking into a radio station in South Dakota and telling the manager he was a 6th generation rancher and he wanted his own radio show to talk about agriculture. That simple step launched his agricultural advocacy and mushroomed into over one hundred radio stations airing his shows, Loos writing newspaper articles, using the Internet to get his message out, and accepting speaking engagements. "I walked into the radio station at Spearfish South Dakota and told Jim Thompson I wanted my own radio show. He initially laughed at me but he became my mentor and taught me the ropes," Loos comments. "I first aired on KMZU Radio in Carrolton, Missouri in January of 2001. I now do five radio shows every day with over 100 stations across the nation carrying the shows. I write a column for the High Plains Journal and I travel to over thirty five states each year to speak."

Loos also travels internationally as he has given talks in Canada and Australia. "This is a global phenomenon," he comments about the disconnect regarding agriculture. "I try to educate and motivate my audience on issues related to animal agriculture and food production."

Loos feels the biggest issue facing agriculture today is complacency, an issue we can and must address. "There is a disconnect and we have to do more than just complain about it," he says. "My uncle used to tell me to stay home, work hard, and things would take care of themselves. That just isn't true, that's not the way it is."

He concludes, "Food production is a means of national security. A country that can't feed itself is vulnerable, and I intend to see that this doesn't happen to us."

Loos will give a very interesting, intriguing talk. Plan to attend the Ag Days banquet and listen to Loos present his ideas for educating the public about agriculture today. Loos will speak following the banquet on Thursday, January 12 at the Richland County Fairgrounds Event Center.

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Westrum Wins Reining Competition

By Lois Kerr

A willingness to learn coupled with dedication and practice can lead to huge personal satisfaction. Paulette Westrum, Williston, learned that fact in October when, after showing only four times, she won the beginner ranch reining class and took second in the green reining class held at the Saskatchewan Reining Horse Show, Moose Jaw.

"Both these classes were for people just beginning in reining," Westrum comments. "To enter in the ranch class, neither the horse nor the rider could have won more than \$250. To qualify for the green reining class, the rider couldn't have won more than \$100."

Westrum began showing in reining classes a year ago and has made great strides in her horsemanship skills. "I started showing and reining last summer, and I started it up again this year," she says. "I ride with the Yellowstone Reining Horse Association and started out as a green reiner. I had to earn 30 points as a green reiner, and I have achieved that, so now I will ride at the rookie level."

Westrum first became interested in reining when she bought a mare seven years ago. The mare's trainer felt the animal had a lot of reining potential, and this intrigued her and encouraged her to look into the world of reining. She took some lessons and first rode the mare in shows last summer. In February, she purchased a new horse, the two of them clicked as a team, and together they won the competition in Moose Jaw in October.

"Seven years ago, I bought a horse at the Breeders Classic. My cousin broke her for me and thought that she

was really good," Westrum remarks. "He showed her, and this sparked my interest. I learned on this horse and I rode her last summer."

She continues, "The trainer moved to Texas and the mare went with him, so I needed a new horse. I shopped around, and through friends, I met Pat Mitchell, Pat Mitchell's Performance Horses, Billings. He had a horse we thought would be perfect for me, and he was."

Westrum boards her horse at Mitchell's Performance Horses. She makes the trip to Billings once a month to work with the animal. She will spend the entire week prior to a show practicing with her horse so both of them are prepared and ready for competition.

She also does a lot of riding at home and credits several locals with providing her with invaluable help. "First of all, this would not be possible without the help and support of my husband Rod, and my family," Westrum remarks. "Rod has always encouraged me to keep going, and my family helps out so I can go to the shows. Also, John Hovde helps me with my general horsemanship, and Bill and Karen Novak, Williston Saddlery, have encouraged me and been so helpful and supportive. I ride with MonDak Quarter Horse Association members and they provide a lot of support as well."

Westrum loves reining and she encourages anyone with an interest to give it a try. "This is something anyone can do, and it really builds confidence," she comments. "If I can do it, anyone can. I had a bad experience with a horse and had very low confidence, but in doing reining, my horse-

manship skills have improved and so has my confidence."

She concludes, "I really recommend this. I have met so many great people, and the experience has been wonderful for us. We have our reining family and it has all been marvelous. If a person wants to get started or wants to meet other horsemen, I recommend they join the MonDak Quarter Horse Association and begin riding with them."

Congratulations to Westrum on her win in Moose Jaw, and on her advancement to the next skill level.



Paulette Westrum at the Moose Jaw horse show. (Photo by Charbonneau Photography)



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Leachman To Discuss Profitability During Bovine Connection Proceedings

By Lois Kerr

Profitability allows us to stay in business; while no profits mean the potential of losing the farm and ranch. To address the issues surrounding profits and loss, the Bovine Connection committee has invited Lee Leachman, Leachman Cattle Company of Colorado, to discuss the keys involved in remaining profitable. He will present his "Five Keys to Long Term Profitability" during a 2:15 p.m. presentation scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 1 at the new Extension/EARC facility, 1499 N. Central Ave., Sidney.

"Markets are increasingly volatile," Leachman points out. "Costs are skyrocketing. I will take a 50,000-foot view of our changing industry and suggest five key strategies that can help you stay profitable. These strategies can make the difference between having to sell your family ranch versus buying your neighbor's ranch."

Leachman will discuss his five keys in detail. These keys include hybrid vigor, efficiency, cow size, terminal cross bulls, and selecting for profit. He also will urge the audience to think long term. "The decisions we make in ranching have long term ramifications but most ranchers mainly worry about today's management problems and marketing challenges," he notes. "We tend not to look far enough into the future."

Leachman Cattle Company, Colorado, annually markets over 1200 bulls. "We raise Angus, Red Angus, Charolais and our composite line Stabilizer," Leachman remarks. "Our

bulls are selected based on our \$Profit index. This single number predicts the genetic impact that a bull will have on a commercial producer's bottom line."

Leachman graduated from Harvard University with an Honors BA in economics in 1988. He also completed graduate level work in animal breeding at Colorado State in 1992. From 1992-2003, he served as the CEO of Leachman Cattle Company, Billings. In 2003, he formed Leachman Cattle

Company of Colorado, a seedstock marketing company. His duties include determining genetic selection objectives, financial planning and overall company management.

Leachman Cattle Company has gained worldwide respect as a leader in objective selection criteria and composite cattle production. In 2008, he published one of the industry's first feed efficiency EPDs.



Lee Leachman

Mineral Supplement Information Part Of Bovine Connection

By Lois Kerr

Mineral supplements cost money. Do they work? Are there tricks that a rancher can use that will enable his cattle to better utilize mineral supplements? To answer these and other questions about the use of mineral supplements, the Bovine Connection committee has invited Dr. John Paterson, Montana State University beef extension specialist, to discuss cattle response in relation to mineral supplements. Paterson will speak at 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1 at the new Richland County Extension/EARC facility, 1499 N. Central Ave., Sidney.

"I will discuss a lot of related issues regarding mineral supplements," Paterson remarks. "I'll talk about some of the factors that influence mineral supplement usage. Ranchers pay \$100 a ton for minerals for their herds, and I plan to



John Paterson

show why this is a good investment, and I'll also talk about some of the issues we run into."

Paterson also will discuss animal behavior with given minerals, the value of minerals, how to get animals to eat the less than tasty supplements, and other related issues. "Some animals won't eat minerals at all, while others will eat 5 lbs. a day," Paterson says. "I'll talk about what influences this behavior. I'll also talk about flavored additives. Why put black licorice into a mineral supplement? It tastes great, but just how good does it taste and what does it do?"

He continues, "There's also the issue of tetany, when cattle get the shakes and then die. Tetany is treated with magnesium, but magnesium tastes terrible. I will show how cattlemen can get their herd to eat magnesium. Also, last year we had a lot of rain, then we had a dry August. A lot of the ponds dried up and filled with salt. I will discuss how to know if you have a problem with salt."

Paterson, one of only two beef extension specialists in Montana, specializes in cattle management and cattle nutrition. "I'm a nutritionist by trade," he comments. "I've been doing this now for 32 years."

Bowman To Wrap Up Bovine Connection Proceedings

By Lois Kerr

Those who attend both days of the Bovine Connection proceedings will receive a lot of pertinent information. What does it all mean and how does it all tie together? Bill Bowman, American Angus Association chief operating officer, will serve as the last speaker at the Bovine Connection and he will tie up all the loose ends and apply the information to the real world. Bowman will speak on Friday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. at the new Extension/EARC facility located at 1499 N. Central Ave., Sidney.

"I'll wrap it all up and tie things together," Bowman remarks. "I'll give an overview of the programs, the industry, and tie the process together."

Bowman also serves as the director of performance programs with the American Angus Association. As well, he is president of Angus Genetics, Inc., a subsidiary of the American Angus Association, that provides genetic evaluation services for the beef industry.

A Missouri native, Bowman graduated from the University of Missouri. He has a lot of work experience in the beef industry, both in seedstock operations and in a sale management company prior to his joining the American Angus Association. He has served two terms on the Beef Improvement Federation board of directors and he currently serves on the Ultrasound Guidelines Council.

The American Angus Association, the nation's largest beef registry association, has over 30,000

adult and junior members. The organization seeks to serve the beef cattle industry and increase the production of consistent, high quality beef that will satisfy consumers throughout the world. The organization also provides programs, services, technology and leadership to enhance the genetics of the Angus breed and expand the market for superior tasting, high quality Angus beef.

Bowman will deliver an interesting wrap up of the Bovine Connection proceedings.



Bill Bowman

A festive advertisement for Sidney Sugars. The background is red with a white, snow-like or sugar-like pattern. At the top, the text "To Our Friends & Neighbors" is written in a white, cursive font. Below this, "Merry Christmas" is written in a larger, white, cursive font. In the lower right quadrant, there is a white bag of "Crystal & Sugar Granulated Sugar". At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a logo for Sidney Sugars, which consists of a stylized green leaf and a white root-like shape, followed by the text "Sidney Sugars" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "INCORPORATED" in a smaller font below it.

Make It With Sugar Contest Winners



First place Cookies, Candi Ossowski, Sidney, won a \$50 gift certificate to the Triangle Nite Club.



First place Breads and Rolls, Jennifer Morken, Sidney, won a baking set and a mixer from Finnicum's Furniture and Appliances.

First place Candy, Lauren Lambert, Culbertson, won a bag full of candy making tools courtesy of Cooks On Main, Williston.



First place Pie, Patricia Denow, won a steamer courtesy of Farm and Home.



People's choice, Ryan Morken, won a \$100 Reynold's gift card, courtesy of The Roundup.



First place Other, Joyce Sifers, Sidney, won a \$50 gift certificate from Planet Hair.



First place, Cake, Heather Giese, Bainville, won an assortment of goodies from Johnson Hardware & Furniture.

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Make It With Sugar Winning Recipes

Wild Grape Jelly – Joyce Sifers

Pick and wash grapes removing stems. Put 4-4.5 lbs. grapes in kettle with 2 cups water. Bring to a boil, turn down heat to simmer. Stir and cover for 10 minutes, simmer for up to an extra 5 minutes if needed. Strain juice into reserve container. Bring 5 cups juice, 1 box fruit pectin and 7 cups sugar to a boil for 1 minute. Put mixture in jars and seal in hot water for 20 minutes.

Apple Pie – Patricia Denowh

Crust-Mix 2 cups flour, 1 tsp. salt, 2/3 cup Crisco & ¼ cup milk. Roll out.

Mix 4 cups sliced apples, 1 cup sugar, 1-2 tsp. tapioca, dash of salt and cinnamon and put in crust. Dot with butter.

Bake at 375 for 55-60 minutes.

Whole Wheat Ginger Snaps – Candi Ossowski

1 c. butter or margarine

1 1/2 c. white sugar

2 eggs, beaten

1 c. molasses

4 c. whole wheat flour

1 Tbsp. baking soda

2 tsp. baking powder

1 Tbsp. ground ginger

1 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg

1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

1 1/2 tsp. ground cloves

1 1/2 tsp. ground allspice

1 c. white sugar for decoration

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets.

In a large bowl, cream together the butter and 1 1/2 cups of sugar until smooth. Mix in the eggs, and then the molasses. Combine the whole wheat flour, baking soda, baking powder, ginger, nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, and allspice, heaping the measures if you like a lot of spice. Stir the dry ingredients into the molasses mixture just until blended.

Roll the dough into small balls, and dip the top of each ball into the remaining white sugar. Place the cookies about 2 inches apart on the cookie sheets.

Bake for 10-15 minutes in the preheated oven, until the tops are cracked. Bake longer for crispy cookies, less time for chewy cookies. Cool on wire racks.

Lauren's Luscious Caramels - Lauren Lambert

4 c. sugar

2 sticks butter

1.5 c. Karo syrup

2 lg. cans evaporated milk

Melt butter, add Karo syrup and sugar. Cook until it boils well. Add milk a little at a time so the mix doesn't stop boiling. Boil to firm ball stage (235 degrees). Pour into buttered trays. This candy must be stirred constantly. Do not pour on foil or wax paper that has not been buttered.

Peanut Butter Bon Bons – Ryan Morken

5 c. crispy rice cereal

1.5 c. creamy peanut butter

1.5 c. confectioners sugar

4 c. milk chocolate chips

Combine rice cereal, peanut butter and sugar in a large bowl. With your hands, mix until well combined. Mixture will be slightly crumbly and should stick to your hands.

Mold mixture into balls. Place on a wax paper lined cookie sheet and chill in fridge while you melt the milk chocolate.

Melt chocolate by placing all but ¼ cup of the chips into a glass bowl. Microwave on high in 30-second intervals, stirring

until chocolate is smooth. Toss in remaining chips and stir until completely melted. The chocolate will now be perfect temperature for dipping. Using a fork, dip each bon bon into the milk chocolate and place back on wax paper.

Allow chocolate to set about 1 hour.

Apple Cake in an Iron Skillet – Heather Giese

4-5 Gala apples, peeled, cored and cut into 12 equal pieces

1-1/4 stick butter

3/4 c. sugar

FOR THE CAKE:

1 stick butter

2/3 c. sugar

1-1/2 tsp. vanilla

2 whole large eggs

1/2 c. sour cream

1-1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1-1/2 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1 whole Gala Apple, peeled, cored and chopped finely

Preparation Instructions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

In a 9 to 10-inch skillet, melt 1 1/4 sticks butter over low heat. Add 3/4 cup sugar to the pan and stir around, then place apple slices, wedge side down, in the pan. Don't pack them too tightly, but try not to leave overly large gaps. Allow this to cook over low/medium-low heat while you make the cake batter.

In a small bowl, sift 1.5 cups flour, 1.5 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp salt & ½ tsp cinnamon together.

In a separate bowl, beat 1 stick of butter and 2/3 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in vanilla and eggs. Add sour cream and mix well. Gradually sift in flour mixture until just combined. Gently stir in 1 chopped apple.

By now the mixture in skillet should be about done. Apples need to be fork tender. Remove skillet from heat. Spoon batter over the top, then spread gently so batter is evenly distributed. At this point I will tip the skillet over a bowl and drain a little butter off just so there isn't SO much. Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until cake is golden brown and bubbly. Allow cake to sit in skillet for five minutes, then invert onto a serving plate.

Bananaberry Bread – Jennifer Morken

1 1/4 c. sugar

1/2 c. butter or margarine, softened

2 eggs

1 1/2 c. mashed ripe bananas (3-4 medium)

1/2 c. buttermilk

2 1/2 c. Gold Medal® all-purpose flour

1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. salt

1 c. fresh or frozen (thawed and drained) blueberries

1/2 c. chopped walnuts

Heat oven to 350°F. Grease bottom only of one 9x5-inch or two 8x4-inch loaf pans with shortening.

In large bowl, stir sugar, butter, eggs, bananas and buttermilk until mixed. Stir in flour, baking soda and salt just until moistened. Stir in blueberries. Pour into pan.

Bake 9-inch pan about 1 hour 15 minutes, 8-inch pans 55-60 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes. Loosen sides of loaf from pan; remove from pan to wire rack. Cool completely, about 2 hours, before slicing. Wrap tightly and store at room temperature up to 4 days, or refrigerate up to 10 days.



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"Take A Break"

By Lois Kerr

LOOP-A-WORD HORSES

The following words are found within the diagram. Words read forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

T	Y	L	U	S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D	B	R	E	D
A	E	E	R	A	M	C	H	P	E	R	U	V	I	A	N
R	R	N	A	Z	I	P	P	I	L	G	T	Q	Y	U	B
A	E	D	N	R	S	A	A	N	N	O	U	C	D	U	Y
B	C	A	R	E	L	I	T	A	R	A	L	W	C	L	T
R	A	D	L	O	S	I	T	T	R	E	H	K	L	L	H
E	P	Y	O	N	J	S	N	T	W	I	S	I	P	A	O
T	N	S	P	I	U	F	E	G	T	K	F	E	N	R	R
T	A	A	E	M	O	R	R	E	I	H	P	O	N	Y	O
O	W	O	L	O	P	R	E	N	W	E	V	C	R	P	U
R	E	B	K	L	O	F	F	U	S	A	D	Y	A	R	G
T	L	E	N	A	G	R	O	M	R	O	L	Y	L	E	H
X	S	L	N	P	N	E	R	I	H	S	C	K	L	H	B
O	H	G	A	Y	O	S	A	P	R	T	O	N	E	C	R
F	P	I	N	T	O	N	O	L	L	U	R	G	O	R	E
D	N	A	L	T	E	H	S	O	K	C	A	L	B	R	D
T	U	N	T	S	E	H	C	G	N	I	D	L	E	G	B

Appaloosa	Filly	Mustang	Shetland
Arab	Fjord	Pacer	Shire
Bay	Fox trotter	Paint	Standardbred
Belgian	Gelding	Palomino	Suffolk
Black	Gray	Paso	Tennessee Walker
Bronco	Grullo	Peruvian	Thoroughbred
Buckskin	Hanovarian	Pinto	Trot
Chestnut	Lippizan	Polo	Welsh
Clyde	Lope	Pony	White
Colt	Mare	Quarter (horse)	Yearling
Dun	Morgan	Roan	

KEYWORD: To find the keyword, fill in the blanks 1 to 10 with the correct missing letter. Transfer these letters to the correspondingly numbered squares in the diagram. Be careful. More than one letter will complete each word.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- 1. __ L A C K
- 2. S __ A R E
- 3. B L __ N D
- 4. __ A T C H
- 5. C H A __ M
- 6. S __ A C K
- 7. C H __ M P
- 8. P O __ C H
- 9. __ U N C H

CRYPTO-LIST

Crypto list is a list of related words in code. The same code is used throughout. When you have identified a word, use the known letters to decode the other words in the list.

Found on a Holiday Table
Ex: Pumpkin pie

V W E Q U K

P D S

A J V D V J U M

X E D T K

O E D Y I U E E C U M

K D S M

T U X U V D I B U M

M D B D R

V D E V M

See answers on page 2.

About The Ag Roundup



The Ag Roundup is a monthly Farm & Ranch Magazine. It is delivered to over 10,000 farm & ranch families in Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana. The advertising and news deadline for the January issue is December 27. Subscription Rate: \$15 per year.

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Maximize Your Pivot \$\$\$ Irrigation Workshop

This past growing season created many issues for growers from getting the crop planted to disease and quality issues. Crop rotation and spreading acres over multiple crops are considerations producers must think about to while managing their farm operation. One of the biggest question marks in irrigation is how to achieve consistency in crop management and yields along with maintaining quality. To

address some these questions, an irrigation workshop has been developed emphasizing research taking place in the region and specific management practices. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Williston Research Extension Center (Ernie French Center) starting at 9:30 a.m. (CST).

The workshop will start with an update on fungicide management from Chet Hill, WREC Area Extension specialist. Discussion will then switch to the economics of corner arm systems on pivots provided by Lyle Roberts, MonKota Inc., Fairview, and Mike Ames, Agri Industries. Jim Staricka, WREC soil scientist, will speak on the management of saline areas. This will conclude the morning session.

Following lunch, ARS-Sidney researchers Bart Stevens, agronomist, and Upendra Sainju, soil scientist, will update growers on research being conducted at Nesson Valley with polymer coated urea and the correlation of irrigation and greenhouse emissions. Finally, Tyler Tjelde, WREC irrigation agronomist, will provide an update on the Nesson Valley irrigation research site and highlight a couple research projects on water management.

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative will sponsor the noon lunch. Agri Industries will be sponsoring the breaks during the workshop.

If you have any further questions, please call Chet Hill, NDSU Extension Area Ag Diversification Specialist, at 70-774-4315.



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Craig & Cel Iversen Named 2011 Cooperators of the Year

By Lois Kerr

The Richland County Conservation District has named Craig and Cel Iversen as this year's Cooperators of the Year. For the past 15 years, the Iversens have worked diligently with the NRCS and the Richland County Conservation District to improve their land for cattle and for wildlife. They have accomplished this by drilling wells, laying pipeline, installing stock tanks, cross fencing, reseeding old cropland to grass and planting shelterbelts.

"When we picked up this place 15 years ago, there were only a few grain bins and one building here," says Craig Iversen. "There were no wells, no pipelines, and nothing for cattle to utilize. Cattle had to drink out of stock ponds which often became stagnant and unusable."

Using available NRCS programs, the Iversens began the process of improving the land by drilling two 400-foot deep wells that provided excellent drinking water. Once they had the wells in place, they began installing pipelines and fencing. "We put in eight miles of pipeline that served all the pastures," Iversen remarks. "We then put in water tanks and did some cross fencing. This allowed cattle access to good drinking water and to better utilize the available grazing land."

The Iversens eventually built a home on the property and turned their attention to planting shelterbelts. They used



The Iversens have spent years planting and improving their shelterbelt.

a variety of shrubs, deciduous trees, and conifers to encourage the growth of a variety of trees and to attract wildlife as well. "The trees that were here were dying, so we planted shelterbelts," Iversen comments. "We bought our trees from the Richland County Conservation District, and we've planted trees every year. The deer are hard on trees, and the porcupines are hard on them, but we keep replanting. The Conservation District helped us plant them, they came back and laid the mesh, and then we utilized the pipeline as we put in a drip system to water the newly planted trees."

The Iversens also seeded 200 acres of land back to grass, which has helped better serve the cattle and also has enhanced wildlife. "The NRCS came up with a good variety of grass that gives us an excellent hay crop," Iversen notes. "We always leave a few strips of the grass for wildlife use."

The Iversens are pleased with the outcome of their efforts and commitment, and they praise both the NRCS and the Richland County Conservation District for assisting with this long term project. They used federal conservation programs available to landowners and received nothing but valuable help and advice from the local NRCS. "We are happy with the results," Iversen says. "It took a long time, but eventually everything came together. The main thing was obtaining the water, and everything else followed from that."

He concludes, "This was a big project, and it took a lot of time, effort and money. Without the NRCS programs and the Richland County Conservation District, we couldn't have afforded to do this. We applied for the programs every year, and didn't always get them, but when we did, the help was invaluable. The NRCS planned it all. Dave Haverkamp is a great guy to work with, and we got a lot done."

The Richland County Conservation District is proud to name the Iversens the 2011 Co-operators of the year.

The Iversens have done a lot of work on their ranch, including cross fencing pastures to better utilize the grass.



Grass seeding in cropland.

See Us at the Irrigation Workshop

Tuesday, December 13th, 9:30 a.m. (CST)
Ernie French Center (Williston REC)

- Update on fungicide management from Chet Hill, WREC Area Extension specialist.
- Economics of corner arm systems on pivots provided by Lyle Roberts, Mon-Kota, Inc. , and Mike Ames, Agri Industries.
- Jim Staricka, WREC Soil Scientist, will speak on the management of saline areas
- ARS-Sidney researchers Bart Stevens, Agronomist, and Upendra Sainju, Soil Scientist, will update growers on research being conducted at Nesson Valley with polymer coated urea and the correlation of irrigation and greenhouse emissions.
- Tyler Tjelde, WREC Irrigation Agronomist will provide an update on the Nesson Valley irrigation research site and highlight a couple research projects on water management.



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