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Inside This Issue:

69th National Hard Spring Wheat Show Special Edition

Photo submitted

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2022 National Hard Spring Wheat Show Set For Feb. 9



By Anna Dragseth

The 69th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 9 at Williston Area Recreation Center, 822 18th St. E., Williston.

The event includes a vendor show, breakfast, agriculture specialist speakers, an awards lunch, and an evening banquet.

At 7:30 a.m. the show will kick off with a free ag appreciation breakfast, followed by words from Williston Mayor Howard Klug, Wheat Show President Dusty Berwick, and Wheat Show Board.

Throughout the day, several speakers will be informing attendees on the latest issues affecting the grain industry, weed control, weather, markets, and much more.

"We will be bringing great updates from the drought these past two years and great information going forward, recovering from the drought," said Kelly Leo, Williams County Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension Agent.

F. Adnan Akyuz, Ph.D., NDSU Professor of Climatological Practice will present a discussion on 2020 - 2021 drought and an outlook into the 2022 growing season for spring wheat growers in the Northern Plains. Dr. Janet J. Knodel, NDSU Pro-

fessor and Extension Entomologist will speak on what's new with cereal aphids, wheat midge and wheat stem sawfly, T.J. Prochaska, North Central Research Extension Center Crop Protection Specialist will discuss western North Dakota pest management and Dr. Brian Jenks will provide a weed update. Dr. Frayne Olson, NDSU Crops Economist/Marketing Specialist, will talk on wheat markets and Dr. Jason Cook, Spring Wheat Breeder/ Geneticist and Assistant Professor at Montana State University will provide a Montana spring wheat breeding update.

At noon, there will be an awards lunch and an evening banquet at 6 p.m. (each meal costs \$10). The evening banquet will feature Jolene Brown, an award-winning speaker, author, and farmer.

"We are so excited to have this event completely in-person this year! We have a great line up of speakers, a lot of current information for producers, and a really nice banquet with Jolene Brown who talks with humor about some of the things that are usually difficult for farming families to discuss," explained Leo.

For more information on this event, contact the Williams County Extension Office at 701-577-4595.

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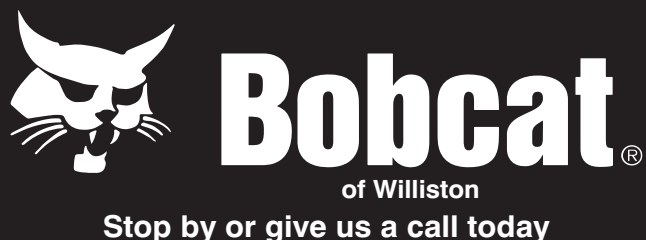
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Wheat Diseases & Management Implications



Dr. Andrew Friskop

By Anna Dragseth

Dr. Andrew Friskop, Cereal Extension Pathologist associate professor, NDSU Department of Plant Pathology will be discussing wheat disease for every environment and management implications at 1:15 p.m. CT at the Hard Spring Wheat Show, Williston, ND.

“I am really looking forward to coming back to Williston and to get out onto the road again and see everybody out in the audience.”

Friskop’s talk will focus on helping attendees understand that, even though this past year was not a big disease year for wheat, that doesn’t mean the same for the upcoming growing season.

“Last year, there were some questions about what to do when we see a disease in a dry environment and when to apply fungicide and when it pays off,” said Friskop. “We have different weather environments and fungicide might not always be needed and I want to get that data back into the growers’ hands.”

He says growers should be mindful of having a fungicide input and, at least, have it part of the conversation each year. To better understand disease management, growers should focus on variety selection first.

“I hope to stimulate discussion and get listeners thinking about some of the inputs. I know going into next year, there are going to be a lot of challenges. We are dealing with some pesticide supply issues, fertilizer issues, and I think we are going to be scrutinized a little bit more on the input side. So, I am hoping to give information on fungicides, input decisions, and help growers with that bottom line for next year,” he explained.

Friskop, originally from North Dakota, earned his Ph.D. (2013) from North Dakota State University and has been working in the NDSU Department of Plant Pathology since then. His applied research program focuses on the management of several cereal diseases.

Through his work, Friskop collaborates with several NDSU Research Extension Centers throughout North Dakota, including Williston, Minot, Langdon, Hettinger, and Carrington.

“We look at quite a few fungicides by variety trials to manage tan spot and Fusarium Headlight. The big idea is we have this large data set and a great collaborative network across the state, and we are able to get that regional data approach using the same protocol.”

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Past Drought Conditions To Be Discussed At Wheat Show

By Anna Dragseth

Starting at 9:15 a.m. CT, Dr. F. Adnan Akyüz, will discuss the 2020-2021-drought intensity and impact on North Dakota's agricultural community. A historical perspective of the drought will also be discussed along with the outlook into the next growing season at Hard Spring Wheat Show, Williston, ND

Akyuz is the North Dakota State Climatologist and professor of climatological practice.

Since August 2020, he has been researching drought conditions and is finding new drought indices to adequately demonstrate drought intensity and coverage that properly addresses the concern in the Northern Plains.

He says the outlook for this growing season is promising and looking much better than during the winter of 2020-2021.

"A cooler and more snowy winter can change the whole attitude of the drought progress into the next growing season. However, soil moisture in the root zone and groundwater

deficits are still concerns. If the snow stops falling, we could easily fall back into the drought very quickly, especially in areas that lack significant precipitation, such as western North Dakota."

This past year's drought has been "very tough" on producers. It has been devastating across the board, with not enough moisture to sustain crops to create a desirable crop yield.

Several crops were turned into forage for livestock because there was not enough of the crop to make a desirable yield. Seed heads only filled part way before curing off and most small grain crops – aside from corn- had very low yields.

"Let's be optimistic about the coming growing season. Even in 1936 and 1988, droughts ended up having cooler and near average precipitation. It seems like we are following along these drought years, North Dakota recovered from two of the most devastating droughts on record."



Dr. F. Adnan Akyüz

Soil Carbon Storage in Wheat-Based Cropping Systems

By Anna Dragseth

At 3:30 p.m., Upendra Sainju, Northern Plains Agriculture Research Laboratory research scientist will be discussing soil carbon storage under dryland wheat-based cropping systems at the Wheat Show, Feb. 9.

Sainju will discuss long-term research in eastern Montana, involving 10-36 years of experiments. He will also touch on the effects of tillage, crop rotation, and nitrogen fertilization on soil organic carbon to a depth of 4 ft.

Since 2004, Sainju has been working at the USDA-ARS, researching carbon sequestration, nitrogen cycling, greenhouse gas emissions, and crop production in dryland and irrigated cropping systems. He studies soil organic and inorganic carbon levels at the surface and subsurface soil layers using various management practices, such as tillage, cover crops, crop rotation, nitrogen fertilization, irrigation, and sheep grazing.



Upendra Sainju

"Our research shows that conventional tillage/wheat-fallow rotation has not only reduced soil health by increasing soil erosion and salinization and reducing organic matter, but also reduced annualized crop yield due to the absence of crops during the summer fallow period," explained Sainju.

He also says that their results show how soil carbon level can be enhanced by using no-tillage crop rotation with recommended nitrogen fertilization rate by eliminating summer fallow and how spring wheat yield can be enhanced with this practice. Improved soil carbon storage also enhances soil health by increasing soil water content, aggregation, microbial activities, and nutrient levels.

Sainju says producers can enhance farm income by increasing carbon sequestration in carbon credit markets using improved management strategies.

"Increased soil carbon levels also can enhance spring wheat yield by increasing soil fertility. This is a win-win situation for producers, as increasing soil carbon storage also reduces greenhouse gas emissions that enhance global warming and the potentials for additional income through carbon credit markets and increased crop yields," said Sainju.

Although soil carbon is shown to increase yields, it is a slow process. It takes more than 10 years to enhance soil carbon sequestration using improved management techniques in dryland cropping systems.

"However, indirect effects of improving soil health, such as increased soil water content, aggregation, and microbial activities, are readily observed by increasing carbon sequestration. More than ever, there is a need to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, by enhancing soil carbon sequestration using improved agricultural practices."

MSU Spring Wheat Variety Performance

By Anna Dragseth

Dr. Jason Cook, MSU-Bozeman trait integration breeder and geneticist, will be presenting information on the MSU spring wheat-breeding program at 2 p.m. CT during the Wheat Show, Williston.

Cook will update attendees on wheat varieties that are doing well in eastern Montana and sharing information on some of the new varieties that are coming out of the breeding program. He will focus on Hard Red Spring Wheat varieties and provide data on how well these different varieties yield, what their economic performance looks like out of the field and share information on their grain protein content for quality purposes.

“The information that I will be talking about can be used by growers to decide what variety will best fit their operation,” said Cook.

Cook has been working with the MSU spring wheat program since 2015 and prior to that, he was breeding wheat for a private company. He received his PhD at University of Wisconsin - Madison in plant breeding and plant genetics in 2009. Cook is knowledgeable of all aspects of the MSU plant-breeding program and has a track record of success



Dr. Jason Cook

in obtaining research funding and completing and publishing research projects. His on-going research focuses on the genes impacting wheat yield, wheat stem sawfly resistance, and fusarium head blight tolerance.

“The breeding program develops new spring wheat varieties for Montana producers. We do genetic studies to better understand the genetics that control the traits that we are interested in to help improve and increase productivity of spring wheat varieties in Montana.”

Cook is also closely monitoring wheat varieties to find out what is doing best under severe drought conditions.

He said, “Drought is a big topic this year, so I hope to be able to provide some research information on how well these different varieties are holding up to drought conditions.”

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Brown To Be Wheat Show Featured Speaker, Wed. Feb. 9

By Anna Dragseth

Jolene Brown is coming to the National Hard Spring Wheat Show to speak on how to “stop the fighting on the way to the funeral home” at 6 p.m. CT.

“It happens far too often in family business - promises are spoken and broken, facts are assumed, habits are hardened and before we know it, we’ve got family fighting on the way to the funeral home. It’s time we honor the family and do the business right,” said Brown.

Her presentation highlights transition issues of fair and equal, earned sweat

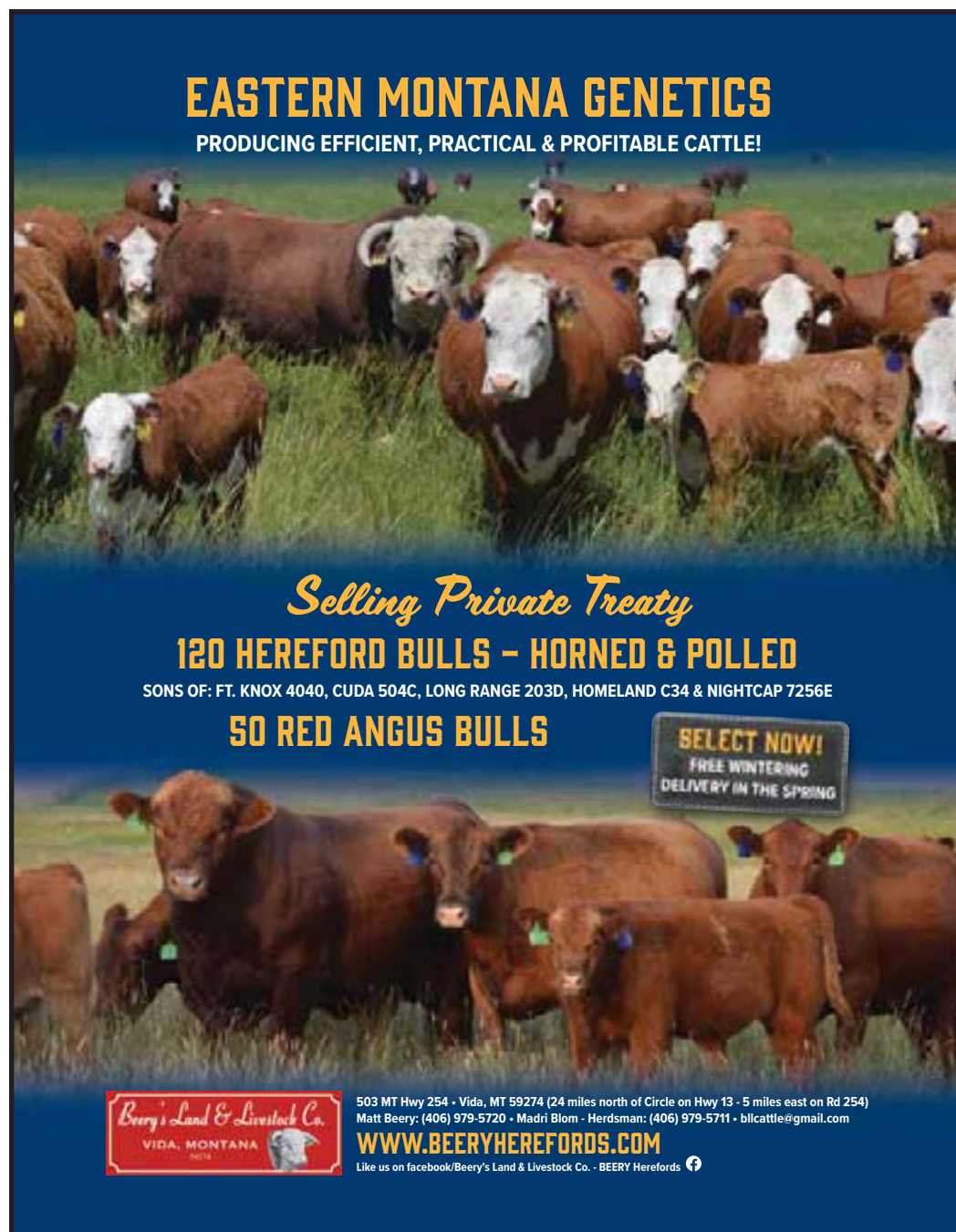
equity, advisor necessity, productive communications, and important meetings.

Brown is a spokesperson, eastern Iowa farmer, contributor to Successful Farming magazine’s popular family business column, author of two great books, and an inductee into the prestigious CPAE Speaker Hall of Fame. She brings a fun-filled spirit and valuable information to her discussions. She is known to share leading-edge best practices, appreciation, laughter, and celebration to increase productivity, profitability, and peace of mind.

Brown has spoken in the area before, including Taylor Ag Services, Watford City in 2014, Farmer Union Oil, Stanley in 2013, and at Wheat Show in 2013. She says she is eager to get back to the area to share some information.

“I’m excited to share insight wrapped in humor and real-life stories that will help attendees honor their families by doing the business right. Over three decades of speaking for and consulting with families, I know that this does not have to be a painful, dreaded process. The business and the people deserve more than hope, they deserve some help. It’s time to appreciate and celebrate the hard work of those in the hard red spring wheat business.”

For more information on what Brown does, visit her website at www.JoleneBrown.com.



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Jolene Brown

69th National Hard Spring Wheat Show Presenters

Dr. Adnan Akyuz is the North Dakota State Climatologist and professor of climatological practice at North Dakota State University. He also oversees the activities of the ND State Climate Office. Akyuz served as the American Association of State Climatologists (AASC) president, a professional, scientific organization between 2018 and 2020. He is a member of the Standing Committee on Climate Services Expert Teams with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Jason Cook is an Assistant Professor in charge of the Montana State University spring wheat breeding program as of September 2021. Jason is originally from Big Sandy, MT and has been supporting MSU's wheat breeding efforts since 2015. The breeding program is focused on developing high yielding spring wheat varieties with excellent end use quality that are adapted to Montana's diverse climates.

Dr. Andrew Friskop is a ND native and completed his PhD in Plant Pathology at NDSU in 2013. He began his appointment as Cereal Extension Plant Pathologist in 2013 and manages an Extension-driven research program focusing on the management of small grain and corn diseases in the state. His primary research efforts in wheat are directed towards Fusarium head blight, ergot, bacterial leaf streak, root rots and fungal leaf spots.

Dr. Brian Jenks is the weed scientist for the NDSU North Central Research Extension Center in Minot. He has been with the NCREC since 1997 and is widely respected throughout the MonDak. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Janet Knodel is the Professor and Extension Entomologist at NDSU. For 23 years, she has provided statewide program leadership for Extension Entomology, the ND Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program, and the NDSU Crop & Pest Report. Her outreach and research focuses on using IPM strategies for control of insect pests in field crops. She also studies pollinators, bees and butterflies, in gardens and field crops. Dr. Knodel has authored/co-authored more than 350 publications in professional, Extension, technical and trade journals including over 50 peer-reviewed papers and five book chapters.

Dr. Frayne Olson is the Crop Economist/Marketing Specialist with the NDSU Extension and Director of the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives. Dr. Olson conducts educational programs focusing on crop market outlook and price analysis, evaluating alternative crop marketing strategies and the economics of crop contracting. As Director of the Center for Cooperatives, he teaches a senior level course on cooperative business management and coordinates the Center's research and outreach activities. Dr. Olson received his PhD from the University of Missouri in Agricultural Economics, and his M.S. and B.S. in Agricultural Economics from NDSU.

Travis "TJ" Prochaska is the area crop protection specialist at the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot. His role includes developing innovative Extension programming to serve a diverse clientele of producers, advisory groups, local Extension agents and industry. Overall, his programming will focus on crop protection management and education. TJ earned his bachelor's degree in organismal biology from Concordia University Nebraska, and his master's degree and doctorate in entomology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Dr. Brian Jenks is the weed scientist for the NDSU North Central Research Extension Center in Minot. He has been with the NCREC since 1997 and is widely respected throughout the MonDak. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Upendra M. Sainju is a Sr Research Soil Scientist working in USDA, Agricultural Research Service, in Sidney, MT. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky, M.S. from University of Florida, and B.S. from University of Udaipur, India. He is renowned in developing soil and crop management practices that sequester carbon and nitrogen in the soil, reduce N fertilization rate and N leaching, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and sustain crop yields in dryland and irrigated cropping systems.

Guest Banquet Speaker: "Stop the Fighting on the Way to the Funeral Home!"

Jolene Brown is a walking-talking spokesperson and champion for the people of agriculture. She's a farmer in Eastern Iowa, contributor to Successful Farming magazine's popular family business column, author of two great books and an inductee into the prestigious CPAE Speaker Hall of Fame. Her worldwide audiences appreciate her fun-filled spirit and valuable information. She's on a mission to share leading-edge best practices, appreciation, laughter and celebration to increase productivity, profitability and peace of mind. www.JoleneBrown.com



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MonDak Ag Days Entertainment Laura & the Soo Valley Boys Announced

Ag Days Will Be Held March 3 & 4 at the Richland County Event Center

By Anna Dragseth

MonDak Ag Days is bringing together agriculture and entertainment on March 3 and 4 at the Richland County Event Center.

This year's entertainment features "Laura and the Soo Valley Boys".

"I'm particularly drawn to this band for Ag Days because essentially all of the band members are from within our own agriculture community," Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Executive Director Kali Godfrey said.

Last year, due to COVID-19, the event was held in a hybrid format but this year the Chamber is happy to announce that it will be an all in-person event.

"The 2022 MonDak Ag Days will follow its traditional footprint. We are adding some pretty sweet door prizes to the banquet though."

The event provides educational opportunities for MonDak area farmers and ranchers and showcases the latest in agriculture related equipment and technology.

"MonDak Ag Days falls on the same dates as the Class C Divisional Basketball tournament that's also in town. I'm excited to see an influx of small-town folks in Sidney, I think it will draw an even larger attendance to Ag Days so I'm hoping that'll be a good thing for our ag reps during the Trade Show," added Godfrey.

Tickets for the banquet are available at the Sidney Chamber of Commerce. Businesses can request to be invoiced if preferred. Tickets will be available at the event and can also be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mondak-ag-days-banquet-tickets-200977207237>.



Laura and the Soo Valley Boys (Photo submitted)

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Shown (L-R) are: Chris Roth, Reinke president, Lyle Roberts Mon-Kota manager, Vern Hinnenkamp, Reinke territory manager. (Submitted photo)



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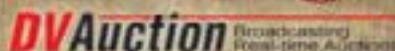
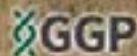
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Reclamation Workshop Returns To Dickinson March 1

The conference will bring together those involved in energy reclamation to converse about strategies for remediating, reclaiming, and/or restoring soils and water.



The conference will include a general session focused on the challenges of reclamation during drought. (NDSU photo)

The 2022 North Dakota Reclamation Conference, “Investing in Effective Reclamation,” will focus on reclamation practices and technology to improve reclamation success. The conference will be held March 1 at the Astoria Event Center, Dickinson, ND. The conference begins with registration at 7:30 a.m., and the first session beginning at 8 a.m.

This event will bring together those working on reclamation in the region to discuss effective reclamation strategies. The conference will include a general session focused on the challenges of reclamation during drought, as well as breakout sessions on soil disturbance and new approaches to reclamation. The conference will also feature a tradeshow.

“The success of reclamation depends on several factors, including the practices that are selected influence the effectiveness of reclamation,” says Miranda Meehan, NDSU Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist. “If the right practices are not selected for a site, a greater investment of time and money will be required to achieve successful reclamation.”

“Although the exchange of knowledge has greatly changed over the past few years, the need for research-based information continues,” says Tom DeSutter, NDSU professor of soil science. “The North Dakota Reclamation Conference is a wonderful event where land owners and representatives from the energy sector, government agencies and academia can converse about optimal strategies for remediating, reclaiming, and/or restoring soils and water.”

NDSU Extension, Dickinson State University, the Society for Range Management, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS), the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality and BKS Environmental are hosting the event.

Conference presenters include representatives from NDSU, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, North Dakota Department of Transportation and private industry.

The registration fee for the conference is \$90 if paid by Feb. 7 and \$110 after that date.

69th National Hard Spring Wheat Show



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Pictured is the Nelson family, Logan, Jody, Nate, Carter, Tom, Renee, Hadley, Brent, Reggie, Vallie, Brayden, Taylen, Amanda and Gavin. (Submitted photo)

By Anna Dragseth

Located south of Wibaux, in “Eastern Montana short grass country” sits the Nelson Livestock Company, a 113-year-old family run operation.

Tom and Renee Nelson and their family operate the ranch. The place was originally homesteaded by Tom’s great grandparents in 1909 and has remained in the family since then.

Nelson Livestock raises Simmental, SimAngus, and Angus cattle. They started raising Simmental cattle in 1971 and sold their first set of bulls in 1974.

“We added purebred Angus to our herd in the mid-1990s and now have an established herd of SimAngus cattle. They are very versatile and popular, an ideal cross with many desirable traits,” explained Tom.

Their operation mainly focuses on SimAngus cattle, a combination of Simmental and Angus. Their well-planned crossbreeding program offers Americanized Black and Red Simmentals, Red and Black SimAngus and Purebred Black Angus cattle that are performance selected, using EPDs, ratios, linear measurements, genomic testing, planned mating, carcass testing and ultra-sounding to help increase overall beef production.

Nelson Livestock Co.’s cattle are known to showcase desirable traits such

as muscle, high cutability, good marbling, growth, fertility, maternal power with calving ease and longevity.

According to Tom, using a crossbred cow will give you 30% more lifetime production and crossbreeding utilizing heterosis is the only “free lunch” in the cattle industry.

With Nelson Livestock Co.’s cattle, you can expect maintenance-free genetics.

“We try and select cattle that work for the commercial man. We don’t creep feed; our rugged forage-based operation is designed to be as close to the conditions of our primary customers as we can make them. They are environmentally tested black and red SimAngus and Simmental genetics for no-miss crossbreeding solutions; selected to thrive without extra inputs, and produce,” added Tom.

Over the years they have sold cattle, semen and embryos into 30 different states and into different countries including Australia, Canada, and Mexico.

Nelson Livestock Co. will host their annual Bull Sale Monday, Feb. 14 at their ranch. The sale will also be broadcasted online via Superior Livestock Auction. For more information on Nelson Livestock Co. or information on bulls in the sale, visit their website at <http://www.nelsonlivestockco.com>.

2022 Montana State Hemp License Applications Now Available

Submitted by Chelsi Bay, MT Dept. of Agriculture

Helena - The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the 2022 hemp growing season after receiving federal approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its state hemp production plan which took effect Jan. 1.

“Montana’s hemp industry continues to advance and present opportunities for growers, especially with regard to fiber and grain,” said Christy Clark, Montana Department of Agriculture acting director. “Our department is proud to operate a hemp program that has been federally compliant since the beginning. With more processing available in the state now than ever before, I look forward to seeing what the industry will accomplish in the year ahead.”

The Montana State Hemp Program has worked diligently to ensure its program follows 2018 Farm Bill provisions for state hemp production while incorporating input from growers, law enforcement, and stakeholders to benefit the industry. In 2021, 37 hemp growers licensed with the state and planted 2,540 acres. The majority of planted acres were for grain (1,700 acres), followed by fiber (590 acres), then

CBD (250 acres). Approximately 2,000 additional acres were grown on Montana tribal reservations.

Growers can expect hemp program procedures similar to the prior year. New changes include:

- Applicants are required to submit a FBI criminal background check.
- Producers must report hemp acreage and locations to their local USDA FSA office prior to submitting planting information to the department.
- Remediation options for non-compliant hemp are now limited to meet federal requirements.

Montana State Hemp License applications and more information is available on the department’s website at agr.mt.gov/Hemp. Applications for outdoor producers are due to the department by May 30.

The Montana Department of Agriculture is serving Montana Agriculture and growing prosperity under the Big Sky. For more information on department programs and services, visit agr.mt.gov.

USDA Expands Partnerships For Conservation Through Its Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Submitted by Lindsey Abentroth

Washington - Dec. 20 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is leveraging its authorities under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to bring in new types of partners and ultimately expand opportunities in voluntary conservation for the Nation’s agricultural producers and private landowners. In direct response to feedback from state agencies, Tribes, non-profits and other groups, USDA has updated CREP’s rule regarding matching fund requirements, and invested in additional staff to work directly with partners for streamlined, partner-driven conservation efforts.

CREP is part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and enables USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), through Farm Service Agency (FSA), and partners to co-invest in partner-led projects. CREP also plays an important role in USDA’s broader climate change strategy, bringing together producers, landowners and partners for climate-smart land management.

“CREP is one of the most flexible tools we have for locally-driven, partner-led efforts to reward producers and drive important environmental and climate outcomes, said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “We look forward to working with new, diverse partners who can shape CRP to address priorities most important to them and to local communities, from water quality and conservation to wildlife habitat and climate outcomes. The CREP changes in this rule will remove barriers and provide partners with increased flexibility to participate in this powerful program.”

Matching Funds

A Dec. 6, 2019, rule required that 50% of matching funds from partners be in the form of direct payments, which made it more difficult for diverse types of groups to participate as partners in CREP. With this rule change, partners can now provide their negotiated level of matching funds in the form of cash, in-kind contributions, or technical assistance. This change allows for greater flexibility and opportunity for additional partners to participate in the program.

This change was enacted through a Dec. 13, 2021 rule in the Federal Register.

The rule also updated policy to now provide a full annual rental rate to producers who are impacted by state, Tribal or local laws, ordinances and regulations

that require a resource conserving or environmental protection measure. The previous rule reduced the rental payment made to producers who were covered by such laws.

Additional Capacity to Support Partners and Producers

In order to implement these changes, FSA has hired three new CREP staff members, using a regional approach to work closely with potential and existing partners and expand program availability. The team members include:

- Evelyn Whitesides, focusing on Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Caribbean Region (Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands).

- Kim Martin, focusing on Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

- Patrick Lewis, focusing on Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Pacific Basin, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

“We want to build capacity so that we can better reach partners, including those who we may not have worked with before,” Ducheneaux said. “We’re taking action to reduce barriers to access and opportunity for historically underserved producers and landowners, and by engaging more partners, we’re working with groups that provide a direct link to these communities.”

These investments in CREP staffing build on other recent outreach and education efforts by FSA, including a \$4.7 million investment announced this year to establish partnerships with organizations to provide outreach and technical assistance to historically underserved farmers and ranchers on a variety of CCC and FSA programs, including conservation programs.

Currently, all CREP partners are states; however, FSA is strongly encouraging tribes and non-governmental organizations to consider partnerships. This program is a great vehicle for their conservation-focused efforts.



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Farmers Should Make ARC-PLC Election Decisions By March 15

NDSU Extension has developed an online tool to aid producers in making this decision.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Farmers can elect coverage and enroll in crop-by-crop Agricultural Risk Coverage-County (ARC-CO) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs within each Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm unit, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for the 2022 crop year, says Ron Haugen, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension farm management specialist.

Although election changes for 2022 are optional, enrollment by signed contract is required for each year of the program.

This is an annual decision that farmers need to make, Haugen says.

If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, the election defaults to the current election for crops on the farm from the prior crop year.

ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the national marketing year average price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

NDSU Extension has developed an online tool to aid farmers in making this decision. The tool can be found at <https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/ag-topics/farm-management>

Contact your local FSA office to make this election.

For more information on ARC and PLC, farmers can go to the FSA website at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc> or contact their local FSA office.



NDSU Extension has developed an online tool to aid farmers in making their ARC, PLC enrollment decisions. (Pixabay photo)

Montana Farm Bureau Offers Scholarships For Higher Education

Submitted by Rebecca Colnar, Ag NewsWire

The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation and Montana Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee are offering several scholarships for students pursuing higher education.

"Our Montana Farm Bureau Foundation and Women's Leadership Committee are pleased to once again provide students with some financial assistance as they work toward furthering their education," said MFB Foundation Coordinator Scott Kulbeck.

Scholarships Available:

The Montana Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Scholarships: Two \$1,500 scholarships are available through the sponsorship of MFB Women's Leadership Committee. The scholarships are available to young men and women. The applicant must be an incoming college freshman and must be from a paid Montana Farm Bureau member family. Applications will be scored on scholastic achievement, future goals, community involvement and school activities. Many county Farm Bureaus offer scholarships and the online form for this application will allow students to apply for any county Farm Bureau scholarship for which they are eligible. Due date: April 1.

The 2022 MFB Foundation CYF&R Scholarship: The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation will award one \$1,000 scholarship to a current member of Collegiate

Chapter of Young Farmers and Ranchers at MSU Bozeman, UM Western, Miles Community College or Dawson Community College. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist Collegiate Young Farmer and Rancher members in pursuing a degree from an accredited institute of higher education and enrolled at that institution for the Fall 2022 semester. Due date: April 1.

The 2022 Bernard Greufe Honor Scholarship: This \$1,500 scholarship assists Montana high school students in paying for higher education. The applicant must be pursuing a degree from an accredited institute of higher education, although the award is not limited to students seeking a degree or career in agriculture. Due date: April 1.

The 2022 Future of Agriculture Honor Scholarship: This \$1,500 scholarship is administered by Montana Farm Bureau Foundation. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist students towards the completion of a degree in a field pertaining to agriculture. A special emphasis will be given to applicants who have shown ingenuity in agricultural production and advancement of small-scale agriculture. Due date: April 1.

Students wishing to apply for these scholarships will need to sign in to Montana Farm Bureau scholarship portal, which is available by visiting mfbf.org/Programs/Scholarships. For more information call 406-587-3153 or email scottk@mfbf.org.

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Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate Or Grandpa's Toy Truck

Written by Carrie Krug, MSU Extension Richland County FCS Agent, and Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist.

Throughout the estate planning process, questions may arise about the more sentimental items that mom and dad or grandparents have. How do you distribute these family heirlooms (non-titled property) and help keep the peace among family members? The process can cause stress and tension, especially if a plan was not made before a person died.

Non-titled property is "NOT cash, stocks, and bonds, mutual funds, other intangible personal property, or real estate because those items have titles," said Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension family economics specialist. Non-titled property includes family photos, favorite baking dishes, guns or other items that may have sentimental value to the person who owns them and to potential receivers.

There are numerous ways families have used to distribute these types of properties. Tossing the dice, drawing numbers out of a hat, oldest child gets the first choice, and by gender. These methods can create added strains among family members.

Most people are unaware of a Montana Uniform Probate Code provision allowing a person to create a separate list specifying the distribution of personal belongings. "The list is not a part of the will but separate from it. The list must identify both items and the persons to receive them with reasonable certainty," said Goetting. There must also be a paragraph in the will saying a person has a separate list of tangible personal property. This paragraph gives legal weight for the personal representative to distribute the items to individuals listed.

Another way families have distributed property is by gifting these possessions to individuals prior to death. "This is something my grandfather occasionally did, especially when he got older. He would occasionally give my cousins or me some of his little knick knacks," said Krug. "Another strategy to help reduce some of the sadness of going through my grandmother's possessions after her death was when we moved her to assisted living. The whole family went through the house and were able to choose those sentimental items."

These are just some ways that non-titled property can be distributed among family and friends either before or after death. Remember when you begin planning or distributing your property what your goals are for those items and what fair means to your family. Also, keep in mind that some items could be treasured more by some family members than other relatives. For example, grandma's pottery serving bowl might not appeal to her great-granddaughter but might be treasured by her granddaughter.

To get the Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate? Transferring Non-Titled Property MontGuide and other estate planning MontGuides, contact Carrie Krug at the MSU Extension Richland County office at 406-433-1206 or find them online here: <https://www.montana.edu/estateplanning/eppublications.html>

MSU Extension's Golden Triangle Barley Conference Set For Feb. 22 In Conrad

From MSU News Service

Bozeman — The Golden Triangle Barley Conference, a triennial event featuring updates about the barley industry, will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 22, in Conrad. The event is hosted by Montana State University Extension and its partners and will take place from 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m. at Pondera Shooting Sports Complex, 972 Granite Road. Check-in will begin at 8 a.m.

Speakers from MSU will include Pat Carr, Central Agricultural Research Center, Moccasin, barley breeder Jamie Sherman, Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology, and Justin Vetch from the Western Triangle Agricultural Research Center, Conrad. Carr will present on successful crop rotations using barley; Sherman will provide an update on barley varieties and research; and Vetch will discuss research results on barley sprouting.

In addition, representatives from the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee will update producers on North American barley supply and demand, while representatives from the U.S. Grains Council will cover current trade and recent dynamics of U.S. grains. Arin Peters, NOAA, will provide a weather outlook. Cort Jensen, Montana Department of Agriculture attorney, will cover a variety of topics, including knowing business partners, contract law and liabilities, contract language and recent industry changes and concerns.

The conference will conclude with a malting barley industry panel, featuring representatives from AB InBev, Molson Coors, Malteurop and Centrol Crop Consulting.

Private and commercial pesticide applicator credits will be available.

In addition to MSU Extension, event sponsors include the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, American Malting Barley Association and Centrol Crop Consulting.

Operations are asked to limit participants to two representatives. Registration is required by Feb. 18. To register, contact Adriane Good, Pondera County MSU Extension, at 406-271-4053 or adriane.good@montana.edu.





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Williams County Extension Office Relocates



Photo submitted.

By Anna Dragseth

The NDSU Williams County Extension Office has relocated to a new space at the Williams County Highway Complex, 5218 141st Ave NW, Williston.

The extension office was previously located at Broadway Commons in downtown Williston since 2012.

The new location provides more office space and a bigger parking lot for visitors.

“Downtown was really difficult for parking and was not real user friendly. Our location now is much more convenient for producers; we have a great big parking lot for them to access,” said Kelly Leo, Williams County Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension Agent. “We are the only group up here on the second floor, so it’s really nice to have a whole area to ourselves.”

At the previous location, staff members worked in cubicles and at the new location they all have their own offices.

“I really like having the privacy of having an office - if we need to meet with public, we have a lobby, office, and conference room,” added Leo.

The Williams County Extension office facilitates the 4-H program, agriculture and natural resources programs, family and nutrition programs and parent education programs.

“We are excited to be here, we have lots of space and would love for people to stop in and see us at our new location!”

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Montana Farm Bureau Announces ACE Program Participants

Submitted by Rebecca Colnar, Ag NewsWire

The Montana Farm Bureau announces their ACE (Advocate. Communicate. Educate.) Leadership Program class for 2022. The fifth ACE program will empower Farm Bureau members to be confident, effective leaders in their county Farm Bureau and local communities. Advocacy follows leadership and with practiced, ever-evolving leadership skills, participants will be prepared to actively advocate on key industry issues. The three primary objectives include developing leaders, engaging local communities and issues advocacy.

"MFBF is excited to kick off another year of this program with an outstanding class of advocates for Montana agriculture," said MFBF ACE Program Co-Coordinator, Sue Ann Streufert. "This leadership program strives to build a group of well-informed and well-trained leaders for Farm Bureau and our state's number-one industry. We are looking forward to a great year ahead of us."

The first ACE training took place in January in Bozeman and featured a look at Montana Farm Bureau and Montana agriculture, past and present with MFBF Legacies book author Laura Nelson. The group also spent time with Bruce Vincent and Sarah Bohnenkamp. Vincent is best known for his experience in the timber industry and work helping individuals and resource groups revitalize rural America. Bohnenkamp led the group through intensive discussion of their personal leadership skills and what it means to use those skills to identify ways to serve within groups and communities.

The 2022 ACE Class

Andee Baker – Park City, Carbon/Stillwater County Farm Bureau – Andee has been active in the Montana State University Collegiate Young Farmers & Ranchers Club and interned with American Farm Bureau in the Summer of 2021. She hopes to glean the ability to convey the purpose of an organization as well as sharpening communication skills to non-agricultural groups.

Zach Coccoli - Helena, Lewis & Clark County Farm Bureau – Zach works as the Montana Department of Agriculture Ag Development Division Administrator. He hopes to further his knowledge and develop new professional relationships to create more effective partnerships for the benefit of ag and rural Montana.

Morgan Kuntz - Dillon, Southwest County Farm Bureau – Morgan splits her time between working on her family's ranch and writing for the Prairie Star. As an ag journalist, Morgan would like to leave ACE as a better advocate for agriculture, as well as foster new connections and be a more articulate leader.

Lindsay Orem – Wolf Creek, Lewis & Clark County Farm Bureau – Lindsay is the Montana Ag in the Classroom Foundation executive director. She wants to communicate more clearly and build a more effective Ag in the Classroom program.

Canyon Rehbein - Lambert, Richland County Farm Bureau – Canyon works full time on his family's farm and ranch and serves as the Richland County Farm Bureau president. He hopes to further his leadership skills and knowledge, as well as build membership in his community.

Josh Senecal – Ronan, Northwest Counties Farm Bureau – The Ronan-area rancher is Northwest Counties Farm Bureau president and looks forward to learning how to encourage discussions with people of different viewpoints, as well as learn to speak up for agriculture.

Becky Stuart - Dillon, Southwest Counties Farm Bureau – Becky serves as University of Montana-Western graduation coordinator. She hopes to gain a broader skill set to advocate for and educate audiences on current or upcoming agricultural issues and events with specific regards to media, non-agricultural audiences and educators.

For additional information on the ACE program, visit www.mfbf.org or call 406-587-3153.

NDSU Extension To Hold Calving Workshop In Minot



New calf management will be a topic at the NDSU Extension calving workshop in Minot. (NDSU photo)

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension will be holding a calving workshop from 1-3:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28 at North Central Research Extension Center, 5400 HWY 83 S, Minot.

Topics include signs of labor in cows, stages of calving, identifying calving problems and new calf management.

"Whether you are well seasoned or new to calving cows, this workshop will provide you with tips, tools and hands-on activities to be better prepared for the upcoming calving season," says Paige Brummund, NDSU Extension agent in Ward County.

Speakers Gerald Stokka, NDSU Extension veterinarian and livestock stewardship specialist; Rachel Wald, NDSU Extension

agent, McHenry County, and Brummund will cover topics including what equipment and supplies to have on hand for calving, how to recognize signs of labor in the cow, stages of calving, normal delivery expectations, identifying calving problems, assisting births, dealing with abnormal births, new calf management, colostrum needs, tube feeding procedures and signs of calf stress and health.

The meeting is free to attend, but registration is requested. You may register online at www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/events/calving-workshop or by calling 701-857-6444.

Questions may be directed to Paige Brummund at 701-857-6444 or Rachel Wald at 701-537-5405.

69th National Hard Spring Wheat Show



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7:30 am.....Ag Appreciation Breakfast - Sponsored by American State Bank & Trust
9:00 am.....Welcome - Williston Mayor Howard Klug; Wheat Show President, Dusty Berwick and Wheat Show Board
9:15 am.....“The Drought of 2020-2021 and Outlook into the 2022 Growing Season for the Spring Wheat Growers in the Northern Plains” - F. Adnan Akyuz, Ph.D., NDSU Professor of Climatological Practice, North Dakota State Climatologist
9:45 am.....“What’s New with Cereal Aphids, Wheat Midge and Wheat Stem Sawfly” - Janet J. Knodel, Ph.D., NDSU Professor and Extension Entomologist
10:15 am.....Break - Sponsored by Thrivent Financial
11:00 am..... Western ND Pest Management - TJ Prochaska, Crop Protection Specialist, North Central Research Extension Center

11:30 am.....2022 Weed Update - Brian Jenks, Ph.D., NDSU North Central Research Extension Center, Extension Weed Scientist
12:15 pm..... Awards Lunch - Sponsored in part by ND Wheat Commission - \$10
1:15 pm.....“A Wheat Disease for Every Environment and Management Implications” - Andrew Friskop, Ph.D., Associate Professor - Cereal Extension Pathologist - NDSU Department of Plant Pathology
2:00 pm..... Montana Spring Wheat Breeding Update - Jason Cook, Ph.D., Spring Wheat Breeder and Geneticist, Assistant Professor Montana State University
2:45 pm.....Break - Sponsored by Kalil Law Firm, LLC

3:30 pm.....“Soil Carbon Storage in Wheat-Based Cropping Systems in Dry/and Farming” - Upendra Sainju, Research Scientist, USDA-ARS, Northern Plains Agriculture Research Laboratory, Sidney, MT
4:15 pm.....“What Has Happened to the Wheat Markets?” - Frayne Olson, Ph.D., NDSU Crops Economist/Marketing Specialist
5:15 pm..... Social Hour - Sponsored by Central Life Sciences
6:00 pm..... Banquet - “Stop Fighting on the Way to the Funeral Home” - Guest Speaker Jolene Brown - Banquet sponsored in part by Williams County Farmers Union - \$10

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NDSU Extension, FSA To Host ARC/PLC & NAP Webinar

The webinar on ARC/PLC decisions and enrollment will be held Feb. 3.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Farmers will have the opportunity to learn more about the upcoming Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) election and the decisions the programs entail during a webinar that North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension and the North Dakota Farm Service Agency (FSA) are hosting on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 11 a.m. CST.

The webinar will also include information on FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

The ARC and PLC sign-up period runs through March 15 which means farmers can now make elections and enroll in these programs for the 2022 crop year. These key USDA safety-net programs help farmers mitigate fluctuations in either revenue or prices for certain crops.

"Agriculture risk coverage or price loss coverage programs provide income support," says Laura Heinrich, North Dakota FSA farm program director. "Whether you're making changes to your elections or keeping them the same, you must still sign a 2022 contract."

The webinar will discuss farm program decisions for 2022 under the ARC/PLC commodity crop safety net, as well as the NAP, which can be valuable to farmers of non-insurable crops, protecting against losses due to natural disasters. Farmers must apply for NAP coverage ahead of an upcoming application deadline.

"NDSU has developed online ARC and PLC election decision tools that we will demonstrate on the webinar," says Ron Haugen, NDSU Extension farm management specialist. "This will be a nice opportunity for farmers, agriculture professionals and agriculture stakeholders to learn more about current USDA safety-net program details and decision opportunities to assist their operations."

For more information and to join the meeting, visit www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/events/arc/plc-and-nap-webinar/.

Participants may ask questions during the live webinar. The webinar will be recorded, and the recording will be available at www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/events/arc/plc-and-nap-webinar/ for later viewing.

For more information on ARC and PLC, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/arcplc_program/, or find your local USDA Service Center at www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator/.



NDSU has developed online ARC and PLC election decision tools that will be demonstrated during the webinar. (NDSU)

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Prairie Fare: Try These Tips to Avoid Winter Dehydration

We may be less aware of our hydration needs in the winter months.

By Julie Garden-Robinson

Food and Nutrition Specialist, NDSU Extension

I was getting a little worried. I could not hear the grumbling sound of the snow blower.

Our driveway and sidewalks were covered with a mountain of snow that drifted in after the latest blizzard.

I poked my head out the front door to check on my husband. He had been outside for more than two hours clearing snow in subzero temperatures.

"Are you OK?" I asked.

"I am almost done out here," he replied as he leaned on a shovel.

His scarf, stocking hat and hair were frozen, and his clothes were covered in snow. He looked like a snow man, or maybe an ice man.

"The driveway and sidewalk are good enough," I announced. "Come inside and warm up."

When I saw my frozen husband, I felt guilty about basking in the warmth of our home. I should have "suited up" in all my winter gear and helped.

I was making soup and bread, so that provided a little comfort, anyway. My husband was thirsty after working outside in the cold so long.

Our North Dakota winter has been more challenging this year than the past few years. We may not realize how cold temperatures and exertion can affect the hydration status of our body. We tend to be more aware of our thirst and need for liquids in the summer when the weather is warm.

Depending on our age and other factors, our bodies are made up of about 60% water regardless of the season.

During the winter, our bodies work to retain the heat in our body's core, where our vital organs such as heart and lungs are, instead of our feet and hands.

We bundle ourselves in layers of heavier clothes, including sweaters, coats and perhaps, heavy boots. We may not even realize that we are perspiring.

We go from one heated area to another heated area for survival. We travel with our vehicle heaters blowing hot air at us. All that dry air tends to dehydrate our skin.

In the winter, we are losing a lot of water as we breathe in the cold outdoor air and exhale. When you see your breath, that is a signal that water is leaving your body, forming a vapor.

Our level of hydration affects our ability to think and make decisions. We might feel irritable, tired and/or have headaches even with mild dehydration. Our skin may be flaky and itchy.

What's a person to do?

Let's start with our skin. Remember to wear a moisturizing broad-spectrum sunscreen on your face, nose and other exposed skin because sun can damage your skin even in the winter.

After coming inside from the cold, you may be tempted to take a long, hot shower, but that may not be particularly helpful. A shorter shower followed by applying lotion to damp skin can help keep your skin healthy.

Next, hydrate your body from the inside. Our body needs an ongoing supply of liquid in order to flush wastes from our body, carry nutrients throughout the body and to regulate our body temperature and many other functions.

Even if you do not feel thirsty, drink more fluids and enjoy water-rich nourishing foods such as fruits and vegetables in the winter. Keep a water bottle with you and sip all day. We need at least two quarts of water a day from beverages and foods.

Remember that you have a "personal hydration meter" available every time you visit the bathroom. Check out the color of your urine. It should be a pale, straw-like color if you are fully hydrated. However, some foods (such as beets and berries) and medications can affect the color of urine.

Warm beverages may be more appealing in the winter than cold beverages, but both will hydrate you.

Caffeinated beverages such as coffee are slightly dehydrating, so you might want to switch to herbal teas or decaffeinated coffee in the afternoon if you need a caffeinated pick-me-up in the morning.

Alcohol-containing beverages are not hydrating and can have a "diuretic" (or water-losing) effect. Be sure to counterbalance caffeinated and alcohol-containing beverages, if you consume them, with extra glasses of water.

Here's a simple recipe that you can modify to suit your taste for sweetness. The basic ingredients may have some health benefits in addition to hydrating your body.

Honey is rich in natural disease-fighting antioxidants, and darker honey provides more antioxidants than light. Honey has been used as a cough suppressant, and it may have some immune-boosting effects.

Lemon juice is rich in the antioxidant vitamin C, which may help fight colds through its effect on boosting the immune system.

Ginger root adds flavor to your beverage and is rich in antioxidants with potential disease-fighting benefits.

Honey, Lemon and Ginger Tea

1 cup hot water

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 tablespoon honey

1 small slice peeled ginger root (about 1 teaspoon)

Heat water. Add lemon juice, honey and ginger root, if desired. Stir well to dissolve the honey. Allow to stand a couple minutes to blend flavors. Remove ginger and savor the warming effect.

Makes one serving with 70 calories, 0 grams (g) fat, 0 g protein, 19 g carbohydrate, 0 g fiber and 10 milligrams sodium.

(Julie Garden-Robinson, Ph.D., R.D., L.R.D., is a North Dakota State University Extension food and nutrition specialist and professor in the Department of Health, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences. Follow her on Twitter @jgarden-robinson)



Honey, lemon and ginger tea is a beneficial way to hydrate your body. (Pixabay photo)

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2021 Harvest Bowl Celebrates County Agriculturists

NDSU Harvest Bowl program recognizes the success, dedication & hard work of outstanding agriculturists.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

The success, dedication and hard work of outstanding agriculturists in 53 counties in North Dakota and 10 counties in Minnesota were honored during the 47th annual Harvest Bowl program at North Dakota State University on Nov. 19.

Information on the outstanding agriculturists listed by county is available at <https://bit.ly/2021HBCountyBios>, and photos are available at <https://bit.ly/2021HBHonoreePhotos>.

2021 Harvest Bowl honorees by county, name and city:

Adams - Jamie and Nikki Enerson, Hettinger, ND
 Barnes - Jerry and Amy Noeske, Valley City, ND
 Benson - Matt Gilbertson, Maddock, ND
 Benson - Tom Gilbertson, Maddock, ND
 Billings - Bob and Deb Hewson, Belfield, ND
 Bottineau - Patrick and Amy Artz, Bottineau, ND
 Bowman - James and Wanda Powell, Bowman, ND
 Burke - Jerol Staael, Stanley, ND
 Burleigh - Curtis and Karla Stanley, Bismarck, ND
 Cass - Kevin and Betty Skunes, Arthur, ND
 Cavalier - Michael and Beverly Dick, Munich, ND
 Dickey - Collin and Kahri Finley, Oakes, ND
 Divide - Andrew and Kirstie Grundstad, Ambrose, ND
 Dunn - Weston and Teresa Dvorak, Manning, ND
 Eddy - Todd and Karen Koeplin, New Rockford, ND
 Emmons - James and Janel Silvernagel, Hazelton, ND
 Foster - Nathan and Emily Spickler, Glenfield, ND
 Golden Valley - Dr. Bill and Sue Tidball, Beach, ND
 Grand Forks - Greg and Janet Amundson, Gilby, ND
 Grant - Pete and Helen Hettle, Elgin, ND
 Griggs - Bryan and Lauren Ressler, Cooperstown, ND
 Hettinger - Scott and Laurie Monke, New England, ND
 Kidder - Susan Eberl, Dawson, ND
 LaMoure - Larry and Jodi Laney, Verona, ND
 Logan - Brian and Mary Schneider, Napoleon, ND
 McHenry - Kelly and Pamela Volochenko, Balfour, ND
 McIntosh - Gary and Cindy Jenner, Ashley, ND
 McKenzie - James Cross, Alexander, ND
 McKenzie - Robert Cross, Alexander, ND
 McKenzie - Rodney and Leah Cross, Alexander, ND
 McLean - Brent and Theresa Petersen, Washburn, ND
 Mercer - Nathan and Kristin Richter, Beulah, ND
 Morton - Nathan and Heather Boehm, Mandan, ND
 Mountrail - Doug Kinnoin, Stanley, ND
 Nelson - Duane and Rebecca Flaagan, Pekin, ND
 Oliver - David and Deb Berger, Center, ND
 Pembina - Allen and Valerie Heuchert, St. Thomas, ND
 Pembina - Carlton and Stacey Heuchert, St. Thomas, ND
 Pembina - Elton and Renae Heuchert, St. Thomas, ND
 Pierce - Lonnie and Carolyn Anderson, Rugby, ND
 Ramsey - Bill and Deb Hodous, Devils Lake, ND



HARVEST BOWL

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Ransom - Ronald and Terese Rotenberger, Milnor, ND
 Renville - Josh and Kari Cook, Kenmare, ND
 Richland - Paul and Stephanie Kuzel, Wyndmere, ND
 Rolette - Scott and Kathy Bryant, St. John, ND
 Sargent - Chris and Marsha Mathias, Stirum, ND
 Sheridan - Curtis and Donna Hase, Anamoose, ND
 Sioux - Charles and Ernesdean Murphy, Selfridge, ND
 Slope - Stuart and Katie Dilse, Scranton, ND
 Stark - L. J. and Janet Dohrmann, Taylor, ND
 Steele - Michael and Bonnie Johnson, Galesburg, ND
 Stutsman - Bernie and Shelly Wanzek, Courtenay, ND
 Towner - Vic and Sherry Risovi, Cando, ND
 Traill - Sarah and Jason Lovas, Hillsboro, ND
 Walsh - Kenneth and Gail Beneda, Lankin, ND
 Ward - Jay and Laurie Johnson, Burlington, ND
 Wells - David and Chrissie Hager, Harvey, ND
 Williams - John and Debby Salvevold, Williston, ND

Minnesota honorees by county, name and city:
 Becker - Michael and Carol Lockhart, Ulen, MN
 Clay - William and Elaine Austin, Barnesville, MN
 Kittson - Dan and Diane Younggren, Hallock, MN
 Mahnomen - Pat and Gina Noll, Mahnomen, MN
 Marshall - Mike and Donna Drangstveit, Goodridge, MN
 Norman - Anne Nalewaja and Steve Ruebke, Twin Valley, MN
 Otter Tail - Mike and Jessica Metzger, Elizabeth, MN
 Polk - Gary and Wendy Kircher, Fertile, MN
 Traverse - Tom and Jane Vangness Frisch, Dumont, MN
 Wilkin - Jeremy and Karensa Tischer, Breckenridge, MN

An agribusiness award recipient also is chosen annually. This award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves in the field of agriculture and business in North Dakota and beyond. This year's award recipient was Eddie Bernhardson, past Harvest Bowl chair and retired University of Minnesota Extension agent in Clay County. More Bernhardson information is available at <https://bit.ly/2021HBAGriAward>.

Several scholarships also were awarded to outstanding male and female athletes during Harvest Bowl. Scholarship winners and photos are available at <https://bit.ly/2021HBAthletes>.

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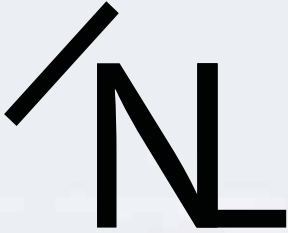


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Conservation Cost Share Applications Accepted Until Feb. 28

Submitted by Julie Goss,
Richland County Conservation District
The Richland County Conservation District is accepting applications for the 2022 Conservation Cost Share Program. Applications can be requested by calling 406-943-3001 or emailing richlandcd@gmail.com.

Landowners in Richland County seeking to implement conservation practices on their property may be eligible for 50% cost share on the practices. Examples of eligible practices include, irrigation projects, stock wells, pipelines, grass seeding, fencing or any project that enhances or protects the natural resource. The conservation districts share for 2022 is \$4,500 per applicant for projects over \$9,000 or 50% of the project costs if less than \$9,000. Practices must benefit the natural resources in Richland County, design standards and specifications need to follow NRCS specifications where applicable. Proposed practices must be completed within one year of approval and payment will be made upon completion and inspection of the project. Projects that have been implemented prior to contract agreements are not eligible for cost share. The Richland County Board of Supervisors will make all decision on prioritizing and acceptance of applications.

If you have a smaller conservation practice that would enhance the natural resources in Richland County, call 406-433-2103x3 to request an application. Applications are due back to the conservation district by Feb. 28 and applicants will be notified by March 31, if they will be funded. Funding for this project is made available from the Richland County Commissioners.

2022 Field To Fork Webinar Schedule Set

Topics include small space gardening, growing great vegetables, attracting pollinators & preserving food safely.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension again will host the Field to Fork “Wednesday Webinar” series starting in February 2022.

Experts from across the region will provide information about growing, preserving and preparing specialty-crop fruits and vegetables safely in this seventh annual webinar series that has reached thousands of people

The “Field to Fork Wednesday Weekly Webinars” will begin Feb. 16. The webinars will be held online from 2-3 p.m. Central time through April 20. They also will be archived for later viewing; however, participating in the live webinar allows participants to interact with the presenter.

The webinars are free of charge but preregistration is required. The webinars will be held on Zoom. The NDSU Extension Field to Fork website (<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/fieldtofork>) has a link to register for the webinars. Participants will be sent sign-in reminders with the link for viewing if they are unable to attend.

“We are pleased to have faculty from several universities providing this learning opportunity for people across the region,” says Julie Garden-Robinson, NDSU Extension food and nutrition specialist. “This is an ongoing collaborative effort with the North Central Food Safety Extension Network.”

Topics that will be covered are:

Feb. 16: Turn any Balcony, Patio, or Small Space into a Vegetable Garden – Don Kinzler, Extension agent – horticulture, NDSU Extension – Cass County

Feb. 23: Tips on Growing a Great Vegetable Garden – Tom Kalb, Extension horticulturist, NDSU

March 2: Good Gardening Practices: Safe and Healthy Produce – Barbara Ingham, professor and Extension food safety specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison

March 9: Honey: Safety and Use – Shannon Coleman, assistant professor and Extension food safety specialist, Iowa State University

March 16: Let’s Not Waste Food: From Storing to Composting – Julie Garden-Robinson, professor and Extension food and nutrition specialist, NDSU

March 23: Share the Bounty: Gardening to Fight Hunger in Our Communities – Esther McGinnis, associate professor and Extension horticulturist, NDSU

March 30: Developing Safe Food Products – Byron Chaves-Elizondo, assistant professor and Extension food safety specialist, University of Nebraska – Lincoln

April 6: Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden – Janet Knodel, professor and Extension entomologist, NDSU

April 13: Farm to School: Getting Started and Best Practices – Londa Nwadike, Extension associate professor and food safety specialist, Kansas State University and the University of Missouri, and Anna Barr, South Dakota State University Extension farm-to-school nutrition field specialist

April 20: Preserving Food Safely: Home Food Preservation Update – Karen Blakeslee, Extension associate, Kansas State University

This project is made possible with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service.

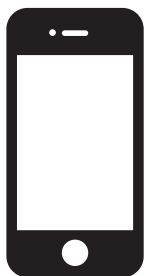
To register, visit NDSU Extension’s website at www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/events/2022-field-fork-webinar-series or contact Garden-Robinson at 701-231-7187 or julie.garden-robinson@ndsu.edu.



The 2022 Field to Fork webinar series begins Feb. 16.

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CED +0
 BW +4
 WW +72
 YW +123
 Milk +14

REG: 20191948 DOB: 2/22/2021 B.wt 84
 Sire: SAV America 8018 205wt 870
 MGS: SAV 707 Rito 9969

Classic Commodore 128



CED +5
 BW +2.8
 WW +81
 YW +142
 Milk +24

REG: 20120913 DOB: 2/1/2021 B.wt
 Sire: Kesslers Commodore 6516 205wt 810
 MGS: HA Cowboy Up 5405

Carlson Bloodline 1033



CED +0.17
 BW +3.2
 WW +70
 YW +125
 Milk +21

REG: 20191849 DOB: 2/23/2021 B.wt 79
 Sire: SAV Bloodline 9578 205wt 804
 MGS: Coleman Charlo 3212

Classic Colonel 2027



CED +5
 BW +0.5
 WW +63
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REG: 19807659 DOB: 3/6/2020 B.wt 70
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Watford City Holds Donkey Basketball Competition



Donkey Basketball was a big hit as Watford City teachers faced off to raise some funds for FFA. A friendly competition as well as free donkey rides for the kids was a fun night of entertainment for the whole family on Friday, Jan. 14. (Photos by Kathy Taylor)





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Dakota Gardener: The Colors of Winter

Though the colors of winter are understated, they are still fascinating if you look a little closer.



By Joe Zeleznik, Forester, NDSU Extension

It's January, and the memories of Christmas are already starting to fade. We had a houseful of people, with plenty of food and lots of fun.

Two days later, though, things got quiet pretty fast. My wife and I quickly settled into our normal winter routine, with one twist. She bought us a 3,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. Yes, 3,000 pieces! Wow. It was amazing, fun and took us 11 days to complete.

The puzzle is a colorful undersea scene with lots of tropical fish and corals. There's also a section of "sky" – the shallow seas – that has some pale-colored fish mixed into it.

You're probably thinking, "What does this jigsaw puzzle have to do with trees and the colors of winter?" That's a fair question and I'm getting there. Thanks for your patience.

Color variations in jigsaw puzzles are often very subtle. Over the years, I've gotten better at seeing those differences, with my wife's help. She's an artist and a quilter, and has helped me see colors, and describe them more clearly.

She's even helping me to see the colors of winter better – specifically, the colors of trees in winter. It often seems that there's a sea of white, surrounding the upright stems of just brown and gray. And in general, that's true. But then I look more closely and the subtle differences begin to emerge.

The most common natural shade I see in winter is from redosier dogwood shrubs. Their bark is very distinct. Colors often range from fire-engine red to a deep purple-red. Other dogwoods have been selected for their pink stems, yellows or even orange. Dogwoods provide bright splashes of scattered color across the winter canvas.

For trees, at least a dozen crabapple cultivars have persistent fruit. That is, the fruit doesn't drop in the fall. Mountain-ash trees also retain their red or orange fruits into the winter. In addition to adding color to the winter palette, these trees provide food for various wildlife species.

The greens of the conifers look beautiful as well. I especially love it when they're covered in snow with their branches drooping down. Some evergreen trees are selected for their bold colors, which range from a deep dark green to silvery blue.

Look closely at the stems of large, older trees and you might be surprised at what you see. The tree trunks often provide a foundation for lichens to thrive. Lichens are complex life forms, based on a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and either an alga or a cyanobacteria.



The subtle colors of winter, including evergreens and some redosier dogwood, can be fascinating. (NDSU photo)

Lichens are pretty cool. They're highly variable in shape and texture, though the colors are usually very soft. I've seen lichens that are orange, yellow-green, gray-blue and lots of gray-green ones. In the broader winter landscape, they don't show up. But if you look closely, you'll be surprised.

I also love ironwood trees in winter. They're easy to spot because of their orange-brown leaves, which they'll retain until nearly spring. The technical term for leaf retention like this is 'marcescent'. I just learned that word a few months ago, and I'll admit – I wanted to show off.

If you want more colors, check out the fine twigs at the ends of the branches. Some of the willows are red or orange, and certain maples have bright red twigs at the ends of their large, gray branches. Though paper birch trees are mostly white, their twigs are actually a dark purple-red. It's a beautiful color, when you look closely.

It's true that most of the colors of winter are understated and not bold. But they're still attractive and fascinating. Sometimes we just need to look a little closer to find them. Kind of like those subtly-colored pieces of the jigsaw puzzle.



Joe Zeleznik, NDSU Extension forester (NDSU photo)

Now Taking Tree Orders For 2022 Spring Planting Season

Submitted by

Julie Goss, Richland Co. Conservation District

Richland County Conservation District is now taking tree orders for the 2022 spring planting season. Call 406-943-3001 to request an order form. The Conservation District and the NRCS office can help you plan for shelterbelts; windbreaks or wildlife plantings. Trees planted by the conservation district need the soil prepared for the tree planter and mesh layer to work properly. Certain species of trees sell out so please order early to ensure availability of trees & shrubs.

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NDSU Extension Virtual Canola Production Meeting Set For Feb. 15

Topics that will be covered include canola cultivar selection and new traits, plant establishment and nutrition, and more.

Farmers and crop advisers interested in canola production management updates should plan to participate in the 2022 Getting-it-Right in Canola Production virtual meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15, from 8:30 a.m.-noon.

The event is being planned and will be conducted by North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension and supported by the Northern Canola Growers Association.

Topics that will be covered include canola cultivar selection and new traits, plant establishment and nutrition, plant protection – disease, insect and weed management, and a market update.

“University and agriculture professionals will provide information to assist canola producers with production decisions for the 2022 growing season,” says Greg Endres, Extension cropping systems specialist and co-organizer of the event.

This online-only meeting will be delivered by Zoom. There is no fee yet pre-registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8z3km2>. All who preregister will receive emailed instructions for participating in the event.

“Canola is a responsive crop to management,” says Hans Kandell, Extension agronomist and co-organizer. “With the proper care and attention, the crop can be very productive and profitable. It is important that farmers and consultants learn as much as they can about the latest canola research and recommendations.”

The presentations will be recorded and archived. Attendees also will receive a list of pertinent Extension canola production reference materials that will supplement information from presentations. Certified crop adviser continuing education credits will be available for meeting participants



University and agriculture professionals will provide information to assist canola producers with production decisions for the 2022 growing season at the Getting-it-Right in Canola Production meeting. (NDSU photo)

Montana State Researcher Part Of Study On Decline Of Development On Forest & Agricultural Land

Daniel Bigelow, assistant professor of economics in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University's College of Agriculture. (MSU Photo by Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez)

By Meaghan MacDonald-Pool
MSU News Service

Bozeman - A Montana State University researcher is part of a new study that finds rising gas prices led to a steep decline in the development of forest and agricultural land across the country from 2000 to 2015 compared to the previous two decades, resulting in a broad shift toward denser development patterns throughout the United States.

Published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*, Daniel Bigelow, assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics in the College of Agriculture, and researchers from Oregon State University and the U.S. Forest Service also found that falling gas prices and, to a lesser extent, rising income drove land development from 1982 to 2000. Since then, however, income growth has been stagnant and gas prices have risen sharply. The researchers conclude that gas price increases, more than changes in income and population, most significantly shaped the recent shift toward denser development.

"Increasing gas prices raise commuting costs in areas with longer commutes, which makes land less attractive for housing development in such areas," said David Lewis, a natural resource economist at Oregon State and co-author of the paper.

The change in land development patterns led to 7 million acres of national forest and agricultural land being saved from development from 2000-15, which the researchers described as "a remarkable decline" with important implications for the natural environment.

The researchers found the pace of land development steadily increased in the 1980s and peaked in the mid-to-late 1990s before beginning a steady decline starting around 2000. It plateaued around 2010 at a level amounting to less than one-quarter of the peak development rate in the 1990s. Notably, the declining land development rates began well before the Great Recession of the late 2000s.

The researchers used data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Resources Inventory from 1982 to 2015, the latest year for which data was available, to create a county-level dataset of land development patterns for the 48 contiguous U.S. states. Hawaii and Alaska were not included in the study.

"Other studies have documented or suggested this trend, but the causes and consequences of the change have not been explored in depth", Bigelow said. In the new paper the researchers took a more comprehensive look at the trend and analyzed several facets of land development, with a particular focus on population



growth and changes in income and commuting cost.

The findings highlight a potentially significant connection between land development patterns and efforts to price carbon emissions that are aimed at mitigating climate change, the researchers said. Since gas prices would rise if carbon emissions were priced, the new research findings show how carbon pricing would indirectly conserve forest and agricultural lands by reducing land development.

The researchers note some limitations of the analysis, particularly that it didn't explicitly model the impact of land-use regulations. They also note that the findings are not necessarily representative of a similar global trend in land development.

Perhaps, most importantly, they say the downward trend in land development is likely not permanent. For example, some speculate that the COVID-19 pandemic could shift where people prefer to live – from higher- to lower-density areas. That would add pressure to develop new lands in low-density areas.

Bigelow and his colleagues believe this research lays the groundwork to help study land development after the pandemic and other future large economic shocks.

"Land development is irreversible, so once land gets developed it generally is not going back to forest or the agricultural use that it was previously," said Bigelow. "That's why this is such an important issue to so many people and so many groups because it's not something that can be undone."

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