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WREC Field Day

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WREC Field Day Scheduled For July 10 & 11

By Katelyn Sponheim

The Williston Research Extension Center will host their annual Field Days July 10 and 11 at their Williston and Ray locations. The Dryland/Horticulture Tour will start Wednesday, July 10, at 3 p.m. CT with registration, and the welcome and tour starting at 4 p.m. The location for the first tour is 14120 Hwy. 2 W., Williston. The Irrigated Field Day on July 11 will take place at the Nesson Valley Irrigated Research site at 5154 112th Ave. NW, Ray, ND.

Tentatively, stop one on the tour will be “Maintaining Markets with Research Information”, and Edson Ncube topic will be “Grain Quality: 2023 DON Levels in Durum and HRSW in Western, ND”. Stop two is “Technology and Management”, and the new Wintersteiger No Till Research Planter, and its electronic precision and mechanics will be covered. Gautam Pradham will speak on “Feasibility of growing a new oil crop in the MonDak Region,” and Justin Jacobs will discuss “Intercropping and managing for In-Field Productivity.” Stop three is “Focusing on the MonDak Region’s Contributions to Leadership in Key Oilseeds,” with Dr. Rahman presenting on Canola and Flax varieties.

Stop four is “Foundation Seed”; Brian Otteson’s topic is “An Advance Look at NDSU varieties to benefit the regions producers,” Kyle Dragseth’s “Varieties coming forward at the Willison REC,” and David Weltikol’s “Optimizing WREC Seed Increase Program with commercial technologies.” For Stop five, “Protecting from Weed Pressures,” Charlie Lim will cover “Kochia and other weeds to monitor and control”. Stop six is “Cover Crop: Protecting our Resource Productivity”, where Chris Augustin will share “Cover Crop Demonstration” and Keith Brown “Cover Crop Mix Trials.” The last stop of the day, stop seven, “Soil Health and Productivity” has Jim Staricka discussing changing conditions that have impacted soil productivity and expected responses to management strategies, and what they have seen at WREC. Chris Augustin will close with “Lime recommendations for challenged fields.”

Also speaking during the Horticulture Field Day will be Dr. Thomas Kalb, Extension Horticulturist and Kyla Splichal, City Arborist; their topics have yet to be announced. Rojee Chipalu-Pradhan, Horticulture Specialist, will have a presentation on Haskaps. After the tour, at 7 p.m., a steak and lamb dinner, sponsored by local businesses, will be served to attendees.

The Irrigated Field Day at Nesson on July 11 will open with Registration at 8:30 a.m., and the tour starting at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon and is sponsored by Agri-Industries.

Justin Jacobs, WREC Irrigation Specialist, will speak on variety trials and intercropping. Wade Webster, NDSU Soybean Pathology Specialist will cover soybean diseases and Andrew Friskop, NDSU Extension Pathologist, small grain diseases. Discussing weed trials at Nesson Valley, will be WREC extension weed specialist, Charlie Lim. NCREC Weed scientist Brian Jenks will give his talk on “Managing Resistance Weeds in the Mondak Region”. Tyler Tjelde, Irrigation Agronomist will give a Nesson Valley research update.

NDSU Soybean breeder techs Gustavo and Cole will speak on VT’s and drought experiments. Rob Proulx, NDSU ABEN, will share information on farm technology. Lastly, Dr. Rahman will tentatively be presenting on a flax and canola topic.

The NDSU Development Foundation will be giving out free handouts and door prizes during the tour, and the STOP THE BLEED training will be available to those who registered before the event.

Schedule may be subject to change without notice.



Kyle Dragseth



Charlie Lim



Gautam Pradham

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Pictured left: Back row (L-R) Julie Rehbein, Vic Gustafson, Jason Rehbein, Casey Rehbein and Dawn Rehbein; front (L-R) Twyla Gustafson and Carter Rehbein.

Pictured below: (L-R) Jason Rehbein, Tommy Rehbein, Rex Ralston, Aurie Schwarting and Kent Rehbein.





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By Dianne Swanson

Over 40 people, including lots of little kids gathered at the Gustafson ranch, south of Culbertson, on Sunday, June 9 for a good old-fashioned branding. Twenty horsemen showed their skill either rounding up calves or roping and throwing over 100 calves which now bear the Gustafson 2 hanging 3 brand, while four more have Julie Rehbein's AR+. Julie got her calves when they were just babies, needing to be bottle fed.

Like most brands, the two have a long history. Rehbein's grandmother, Agnes Rehbein, registered the brand in about 1913. When she died, it was offered to Julie by her uncle Bill and she welcomed the opportunity to keep it in the family. She has had a few cattle off and on since 1975, always using that special brand when needed.

Vic Gustafson's family homesteaded in 1907, and the land is still in the family. Although Vic has not actively farmed since he left to join the Navy as a young man, he inherited his brand from his dad who had received it from a neighbor widow.

The two families have joined together with the marriage of Vic's daughter Dawn to Jason Rehbein, a cousin of Julie's.

Julie is just tickled that the two families are carrying on the legacy given to them by their ancestors, raising cattle, using old brands, and keeping traditions alive. Vic was happy to be at the ranch, helping with the branding and enjoying everyone there. "It was nice to be out there," he said.

Blister Beetle Risk To The Area



Photo submitted

By Marley Voll, MSU Richland County Extension

Blister beetles are here once again, and it is a good idea to scout for them in your fields, particularly alfalfa, prior to cutting. Blister beetle larvae feed on grasshopper eggs, which is why we've seen such large populations the last few years. Adult blister beetles contain a cantharidin toxin in their body fluids which is released when the beetle is crushed. This can blister people's skin and can also be deadly to livestock and horses. There are a few species of blister beetles that are common in this area: ash-gray, black, and gray with spots. These species are less toxic than the black and orange striped beetle that has not yet been reported in Montana. Blister beetles can be found on many crops besides alfalfa, including canola, soybeans, dry beans, sweet clover, and some weed species. Feeding damage is typically not economically damaging in field crops. There are several management options for forage crops to reduce the risk of livestock poisonings.

Blister beetles are attracted to the blooms on the alfalfa, so harvesting at 10% bloom or less will reduce the potential for infested hay. Additionally, blister beetles are gregarious and often feed for a short period and then disperse. If you find large populations in your field, delaying harvest for a few days until they move out will be beneficial. Unfortunately, insecticides are not the best option for blister beetle management as even when dead, the beetles are still toxic and can still end up in the hay. Lethal doses of the black and gray blister beetles are up to 200 to kill an adult horse, and as low as 30-50 of the striped beetles to kill an adult horse. Contact the Richland County Extension office with any questions regarding blister beetle, 406-433-1206.

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MonDak Area Stockgrowers Hosts Spring Meeting

The MonDak Area Stockgrowers held their spring meeting on June 13. The night included updates from both the Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) and the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA), scholarship presentations, and the goat roping.

Currently, MSGA is working on protecting livestock grazing on federal lands. MSGA is actively opposing proposed solar developments and carbon storage facilities on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, as these developments would adversely impact livestock grazing. Additionally, MSGA has also filed a motion to intervene in litigation regarding wolf and coyote trapping season regulations, which would result in limiting the trapping season when grizzly bears are out. Among other projects, MSGA has wrapped up their Producer Profitability Listening Sessions. They are currently compiling the data, but some of the top topics include the estate tax, H-2A program, labor concerns, barriers to entry, FSA programs, and mentorship. MSGA leadership shared this message with the Montana delegation while they were in Washington, DC, this spring. NDSA also gave an update. They have introduced legislation regarding Livestock



Scholarship Winner: Garrett Larson



Scholarship Winner: Lindsey Vachal



Scholarship Winners (L-R) Leah Beery, Corbin Steinbeisser, Grace McPherson, Marett Schieber, and President Dustin Horsburgh. (Photos submitted)

Risk Protection. They are also implementing an electronic brand system to streamline the process. Their new headquarters recently had their grand opening. NDSA is gearing up for their Annual Convention, Sept. 18-20 in Bismarck.

The MonDak Area Stockgrowers also presented six area students with scholarships at the spring meeting. Four high school scholarships were given out in the amount of \$500 each. Marett Schieber is the daughter of Gary and Laura Schieber, Sidney, a recent graduate of Sidney High School, and plans to attend Northwest College, Powell, WY, to pursue a degree in ag business. Grace McPherson is the daughter of Mike and Jodi Shaide and Keven and Keri Hauge, a recent graduate of Fairview High School, and she plans to attend Montana State University to pursue degrees in agri-



Goat Roping Winners: Wade McMillen & Trey Harmon

culture education and ag business. Garrett Larson is the son of Tim and Kristin Larson, Sidney, a recent graduate of James Madison Online High School, and he plans to attend Western Oklahoma State College to study ag business and finance. Corbin Steinbeisser is the son of Jim and May Ann Steinbeisser, Sidney, a recent graduate of

Sidney High School and plans to attend Montana State University to pursue a degree in rangeland ecology/farm and ranch management.

Two current college students were also awarded \$500 scholarships. Leah Beery is the daughter of Matt and Krista Beery, Vida, a past graduate of Circle High School, and is currently a

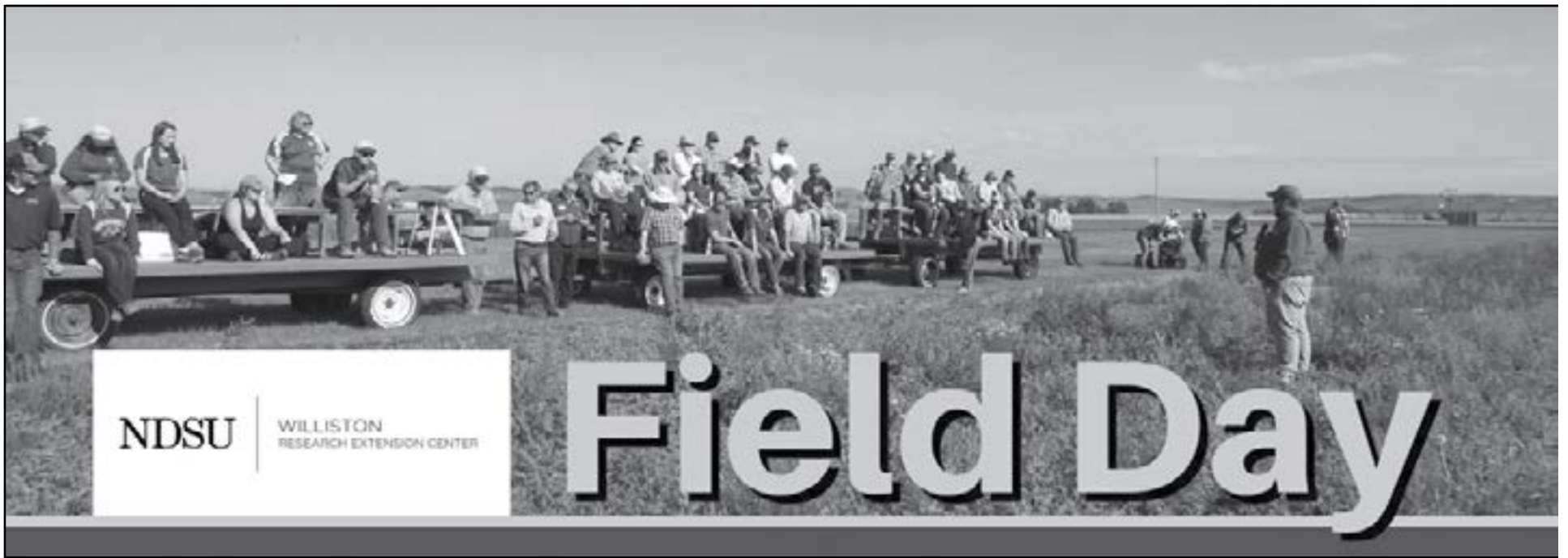


Celebrity Goat Roping Winners: JD & Jessica Mulkey

sophomore at Northwest College studying agriculture education. Lindsey Vachal is the daughter of Colin and Susan Vachal, a past graduate of Tioga High School, and is currently a junior at North Dakota State University studying animal science/pre-vet. Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners, we wish you the best in your future

endeavors!

Following the business meeting, the MonDak Area Stockgrowers hosted the second annual Goat Roping. Winners were Wade McMillen and Trey Harmon. The roping also featured 'Celebrity Goat Roping' which was won by JD and Jessica Mulkey.



Williston Research Extension Center 2024 Field Day:

Agronomy and Horticulture

July 10 • 3-7pm CDT

Williston REC, 14120 Hwy 2 • Williston, ND

3:00pmRegistration
 4:00pm Welcome and tours begin
 7:00pm Steak & Lamb Dinner
 (Sponsored by local businesses)

Nesson Valley Irrigated Tour

July 11 • 8:30am - 12pm CDT

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8:30am Registration
 9:00am Tour Begins
 12:00pm Lunch
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Montana State's Eastern Ag Research Center Blends High-Tech Analysis With Diverse On-Farm Explorations

By Reagan Cotton, MSU News Service

BOZEMAN – Eastern Montana may be typecast for its sparse population and rolling landscape, but its vast expanses make it an optimal region for the state's largest industry.

Along the Yellowstone River near the North Dakota border, Montana State University's Eastern Agricultural Research Center serves 13 counties that produce nearly three quarters of Montana's pulse crop acreage, which leads the nation, and almost half its wheat.

Serving such a wide area can be a tall order for a facility with less than 200 acres for both dryland and irrigated research. By collaborating with producers to conduct off-station experiments, the EARC team is building on decades of crop research to ensure that eastern Montana remains the breadbasket of the state, a leader in pulse crop production and a testbed for emerging agricultural technology and alternative and specialty crops.

"Eastern Montana has diverse climate, soil, crops and production systems, which makes research in the region uniquely challenging," said Chengci Chen, EARC superintendent. EARC is one of seven facilities in MSU's Department of Research Centers overseen by the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.

The agricultural industry around Sidney has historically been dominated by sugar beets, and EARC scientists have conducted variety selection and testing at the station as well as on farmers' fields to maximize sugar content and yield, with long-term success.

Chen, an agronomist who has been EARC superintendent for nine years, estimated that over the past decade, average sugar beet yield has improved by 0.8 tons per acre each year, along with a small annual increase in sugar concentration — both critical metrics. He also led a project funded by a USDA Western Sustainable Research and Education grant to study the feasibility of no-till planting for sugar beets. The project showed that no-till led to similar yield and sucrose concentration but cost less compared to conventional tillage.

While sugar beets remain an important crop in the region, the closure of a large local beet processing facility in 2023 changed regional needs, and EARC research adapted. As producers have begun growing more soybeans, dry beans, canola and corn, EARC scientists are testing to select adaptable, high-yielding varieties for the region, as well as studying optimal fertility management strategies.

"With the crop species and production systems shifting from sugar beet to other alternative crops, new agronomic technology, including cultivar selection, seeding date and rate, fertility, weed and disease management needs to be developed," said Chen.

When it comes to dryland research, Chen and William Franck, EARC research scientist, continue to lead the statewide pulse crop variety testing program. They collaborate with plant breeders and other research centers at MSU, North Dakota State University, the USDA and private companies to test pea, lentil and chickpea varieties across Montana. Chen said the work has led to the release of several new crop varieties and contributed to pulse crops' expansion in Montana — increasing from less than 50,000 acres harvested annually two decades ago to leading the nation with over 1 million acres.

Chen's team also conducts variety trials for wheat, barley and durum at the



Test plots of camelina at EARC examining yield, oil content and nitrogen use efficiency. (Image courtesy of Chengci Chen.)

research center and on farmers' fields in four eastern Montana counties.

"Testing new crop species and varieties is important for innovation, but adapting and establishing a new crop industry takes a persistent and long-term effort," he said.

Chen is also exploring another frontier of crop research with a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. Led by Chaofu Lu in the College of Agriculture's Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology, the project is examining camelina's potential as a source of oil for industrial and bioenergy uses.

EARC serves more than 30,000 square miles of Montana, and producers around the region have long been its partners, volunteering test plots on their own land for research projects. Some of the partnerships have been going strong for 40 years or more, said Chen, allowing EARC to test new crops and varieties in various environments for adaptation and performance.

The center is also home to a unique plant pathology research program led by associate professor Frankie Crutcher, who conducts both molecular and field-scale research on various plant diseases.

One such disease, Fusarium head blight, also known as wheat scab, is affecting cereal crops nationwide. It's a high-priority target for research because of its potentially disastrous impacts on yield, said Crutcher. Because of ongoing work at EARC in collaboration with MSU's wheat breeding program, Montana's

Continued on next page

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(Continued from previous page)

first spring wheat variety with some demonstrated scab resistance was released in 2021, named MT Sidney for EARC's hometown, followed by a second variety that showed some resistance, MT Dutton.

"Although developing resistant varieties is an incredibly important part of what we do, it can't replace the outreach component of our program," said Crutcher. "Effective management of Fusarium head blight starts before the crop is even in the ground, and educating farmers on an integrated approach has been a major focus since I started at the EARC in 2016."

Nearly 175,000 acres of chickpeas were planted in Montana in 2023, and the primary limiting factor in chickpea yield is a disease called Ascochyta blight, said Crutcher. EARC scientists are doing laboratory research on disease resistance in chickpeas while studying a possible management technique for reducing the disease: growing chickpeas alongside another crop, a practice called intercropping. They are examining the effects of growing chickpeas and flax together to reduce the number of fungicide applications needed and decrease disease pressure on chickpea plants. The project, supported by the Western Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education Program, may provide an immediate option for producers, particularly those in organic systems, until resistant chickpea varieties can be developed.

EARC has a 12-person staff and, like all seven of MSU's research centers, is overseen by an advisory committee of local producers, industrial representatives and MSU Extension agents.

"I am so grateful for the strong support from local communities, businesses and producers to EARC," said Chen. "The EARC office building and greenhouse was built with support from local businesses and the public, and every year local businesses sponsor our field day. The staff of EARC are honored to work here to serve producers and the public in the region."

Right: A spring wheat, barley and durum wheat nursery at MSU's Eastern Agricultural Research Center. (Image courtesy of Chengci Chen)



Left: Intercropping experiments with chickpeas and flax at MSU's EARC. (Image courtesy of Chengci Chen)

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Stripe Rust Reported in the Area

By Marley Voll, MSU
Richland County Extension

Stripe rust has been observed in winter wheat at the Eastern Agricultural Research Center here in Sidney. The cooler weather and moisture recently have been ideal conditions for the disease. This article will review some information on stripe rust disease and management options at this point in the growing season.

Stripe rust is a fungal disease that is appropriately named, as the disease forms in a linear pattern of yellow-orange powdery pustules along the leaf blade. This disease is polycyclic, meaning that it will continue to produce spores and spread as long as the conditions are favorable. Stripe rust favors cooler and wetter conditions for initial infection and development; temperatures of 50 to 64°F and 6 hours of dew are ideal. Once plants are infected, temperature is less important. The warmer forecast should slow new infection, but it still is important to scout your fields for the disease. The Richland County Extension Office is always available to assist in plant disease diagnosis.

Management options for controlling stripe rust include planting resistant varieties.

Table 2: Stripe rust resistance classification for spring wheat (Information: Luther Talbert, 2016)

Resistant	Moderately resistant	Moderately susceptible	Susceptible
Egan	BuckPronto	Brennan	AP604 CL
Volt	Choteau	Conan	Hank
WB - Rockland	Duclair	Corbin	Jodd
	Fortuna	Kelby	Mott
	Jenna	McNeal	SY Tyra
	Kuntz	Oneal	
	Reeder	SY Soren	
	Vantage	SY605 CI	
	Vida		
	WB - Gunnison		

Table 1: Stripe rust resistance classification for winter wheat (Information: Phil Bruckner and Jim Berg, 2016)

Resistant	Moderately resistant	Moderately susceptible	Susceptible
Colter	Jagalene	Bearpaw	Carter
Judee	Keldin	Brawl CL Plus	Cowboy
Loma	Rampart	Broadview	Decade
Northern	SY Wolf	CDC Falcon	Genou
SY Clearstone 2CL	WB Quake	Ledger	Jerry
Warhorse			WB4059 CLP
Yellowstone			
Bobcat			
MT Warcat			
MT Cash			



Photo submitted

Fortunately, there are both winter and spring resistant varieties. Results from a 2016 resistance study are shown below. Resistant varieties can show symptoms that appear to be a rust infection; however this is the plant's resistance fending off the pathogen.

The other management option for controlling stripe rust is a fungicide application. However, timing of this application is critical, as the key is to protect the flag leaf. If the crop becomes infected later in its development, stripe rust will have less impact on yield. Generally, the last stage to apply a fungicide is flowering, but this is product dependent so be sure to read and follow label directions. There are several fungicides available for controlling stripe rust. Contact the Richland County Extension Office for a list of options. Remember to always read and follow label directions for harvest restrictions for application timing.



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Options Exist When Bulls Fail Breeding Soundness Exam

Unsatisfactory breeders likely will not improve with time, but deferred bulls may benefit from treatment or additional time and pass a breeding soundness exam in the future.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

In a cow-calf operation, open cows bring disappointment on the day of pregnancy diagnosis. To ensure that a bull is capable of breeding, North Dakota State University Extension specialists recommend that bulls undergo a breeding soundness exam prior to the breeding season.

“The role of bulls on cow-calf operations is to get cows pregnant,” says Lacey Quail, Extension livestock management specialist at the NDSU North Central Research Extension Center. “Considering that 92% of cows and 76% of heifers in the country are only exposed to natural service sires, bull health and fertility are crucial to the overall success of the beef herd.”

A breeding soundness exam helps to ensure that bulls are capable of fulfilling their role. Quail recommends that all bulls have a breeding soundness exam each breeding season whether they are a new purchase or a resident herd sire. Because sperm production is a continuous process and bull fertility can change over time, the breeding soundness exam should be performed close to the start of the breeding season. Ideal timing for the exam is 30 to 60 days prior to turnout. This timeframe allows ranchers to source new bulls if a bull does not pass its exam.

A complete breeding soundness exam evaluates three categories: 1) physical soundness, including feet, hip, and leg structure, body condition, vision, penis, and accessory sex organs, 2) scrotal circumference, and 3) semen characteristics such as sperm cell motility and morphology. Based on the results in each of these three categories, a veterinarian classifies the bull as satisfactory, unsatisfactory, or deferred. A satisfactory breeder meets the minimum requirements in all categories and is free of physical problems. Bulls that do not meet the minimum requirements in at least one of those categories are unsatisfactory or deferred for another evaluation at least 30 days later. Unsatisfactory breeders likely will not improve with time, but deferred bulls may benefit from treatment or additional time and pass a breeding soundness exam in the future.

There are a variety of reasons why a bull may not pass a breeding soundness exam. An injury or frostbite may have impaired the bull’s ability to produce healthy sperm, or feet, leg, or hip issues may prevent the bull from mounting and breeding cows, despite having adequate numbers of morphologically normal and motile sperm cells. On the other hand, yearling bulls may not have reached sexual maturity yet, decreasing the likelihood of passing a breeding soundness exam. In all of those scenarios, a bull may not be capable of breeding cows.

Several options exist when a bull fails a breeding soundness exam. One obvious solution is to market bulls that do not pass a breeding soundness exam. This ensures that inadequate breeding sires are off the property. While marketing these bulls is often a necessary solution, particularly for unsatisfactory breeders, other factors may come into play.

“Market value, availability of additional bulls in your area, and affordability of a new bull that might fit your breeding program all contribute to the decision of whether to market a bull,” Quail says. “With these factors in mind, it is crucial that initial breeding soundness exams are performed early enough prior to the breeding season to allow for the worst-case scenario.”



A breeding soundness exam helps to ensure that bulls are capable of fulfilling their role during breeding season. (NDSU photo)

If a bull is deferred at the initial breeding soundness exam, marketing the bull may not be necessary. In this scenario, the veterinarian likely recommends that the bull be retested at a later date. This is often the case when a bull may need treatment and time to heal from a foot abscess, penile warts, or an infection that resulted in too many white blood cells among sperm cells – all conditions that may improve with time. Commonly, young bulls may fail their initial breeding soundness exam due to a decreased percentage of normal or motile sperm cells. While that may not sound promising, breed and age considerably impact when a bull reaches sexual maturity, and research has reported that nearly 50% of yearling bulls that failed an initial breeding soundness exam were later classified as satisfactory.

“If you have available feed resources, facilities, and time before the breeding season starts, keeping a yearling bull to be retested is often the best option,” Quail advises.

The good news is that spermatogenesis, the process of producing sperm cells, is a continuous process, and a single cycle takes about 60 days in bulls.

“A single breeding soundness exam is simply a snapshot of a bull’s fertility on that particular day, but it is the best and only tool we have to evaluate a bull’s fertility potential and thus his ability to get cows pregnant,” Quail explains. “By identifying bulls that fail a breeding soundness exam, we are keeping infertile and sub-fertile sires out of our herds, which is progress towards improved reproductive efficiency.”

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NDSU Research Extension Center Field Days Set

This year's events will feature the latest research on issues that impact agriculture in North Dakota.



Farmers, crop advisers and others attend NDSU's North Central Research Extension Center Field Day. (NDSU photo)

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

The North Dakota State University Research Extension Centers' annual field days are set. The events take place at the Research Extension Center sites across the state and feature speakers, tours and field demonstrations for farmers, ranchers, crop advisers, landowners, horticulturalists and local stakeholders.

"The agricultural research conducted at our NDSU Research Extension Centers provides research-based solutions that advance agricultural production systems in a variety of areas, including agronomy and crop production, livestock and rangeland management, precision agriculture, and value-added activities," says Greg Lardy, Joe and Norma Peltier Vice President for NDSU Agriculture. "During the NDSU Field Days, our researchers showcase the work they've invested in developing timely, practical solutions for agriculture in North Dakota and across the region."

The dates and locations for the field days are:

- July 8 – Central Grasslands Research Extension Center – 10 a.m.-3 p.m. CDT
- July 9 – Dickinson Research Extension Center – 8 a.m.-noon MDT (agronomy tour)
- July 9 – Hettinger Research Extension Center – 3-7 p.m. MDT
- July 10 – Dickinson Research Extension Center – 8 a.m.-noon MDT (livestock tour)
- July 10 – Williston Research Extension Center – 4-8 p.m. CDT (agronomy and horticulture tours)
- July 11 – Williston Research Extension Center – 8:30-noon CDT (irrigation tour at Nesson Valley Irrigated Site)
- July 15 – Agronomy Seed Farm – 5-8 p.m. CDT
- July 16 – Carrington Research Extension Center – 9 a.m.-3 p.m. CDT (livestock, agronomy, organic & sustainable agriculture, & horticulture tours)
- July 17 – North Central Research Extension Center – 8:30 a.m.-noon CDT
- July 18 – Langdon Research Extension Center – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. CDT

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101st Wolf Point Wild Horse Stampede Set For July 10-13

By Katelyn Sponheim

The 101st Annual Wolf Point Wild Horse Stampede will start Wednesday, July 10, and runs through Saturday, July 13 at the Marvin Brookman Stadium, Wolf Point. Each night will see a Wild Horse race, and there will be a carnival all four days. This year's Grand Marshal is 58-year-old Don Whitmus, who serves on the Wild Horse Stampede Committee.

On Wednesday, the stampede kicks off with a Pitchfork Fondue from 4:30-6 p.m., with the Wild Horse Ranch Rodeo following, and a Breaking Eight concert to close the evening. The PRCA Rodeo will take place Thursday-Saturday night, starting at 7 p.m. Children 6 and under are free to attend, and don't forget to wear pink on Thursday for "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night, which raises awareness for those affected by breast cancer and funding for research towards a cure. Miss Rodeo Montana will host the Kids Stick Horse Rodeo.

The Stampede parade theme is "Montana Roots and Cowboys Boots," and will take place Friday and Saturday at 1 p.m. An all-class reunion, Stampede Fun Run, Catholic Hamburger Stand on Main Street, and Museum Pancake Breakfast will make the Stampede Week an event full of community pride.

The TETWP Golf Tournament also takes place Thursday, and anyone interested in joining can call 406-653-1460 for more information. Saturday, Art in the Park will run all day. There will be even more town-wide special events for Stampede week. Tickets went on sale June 24. They can be ordered by calling 407-653-1770, or purchased at the Main Street ticket booth in Wolf Point. If you have questions about any-aspect of the Stampede, contact the Wolf Point Chamber of Commerce at 406-653-2012.



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Joint ARS-MSU Dryland Field Tour To Feature Pulse Crops, Wheat Stem Sawfly, Grasshopper Management & More July 17

By Beth Redlin

Research looking at pulse crop diseases, native pollinators and new options for wheat stem sawfly and grasshopper management are just a few of the research topics to be presented at the 2024 joint ARS-MSU Dryland Field Day in Sidney, Wednesday morning, July 17. The tour is presented by Montana State University's Eastern Ag Research Center (EARC) and the USDA Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Northern Plains Agricultural Research Lab (NPARL) and features speakers from both Sidney research facilities as well as others from the Mandan, ND, ARS facility and MSU Bozeman.

The combined half-day activities begin at the ARS research farm site located about 4 miles north of Sidney on the Culbertson highway. Take a left at County Road 129 and a second left on County Road 346 to get to the farm site. Registration opens at 8:45 a.m. with coffee and donuts followed by the start of the tour at 9 a.m. The tour will subsequently move to the MSU dryland farm across the highway for additional research talks and conclude with a free lunch at 12:30 p.m. sponsored by the Richland County Extension Office. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Included in the day's presentations are unique ARS studies using straw bales as a means to move large numbers of wheat stem sawfly biocontrol agents to newly infested regions and one using soil microbes to promote disease resistance in peas. Pulse crop research is also featured in the day's EARC studies including those looking at pulse crops and protein, along with long-term rotation effects on lentil and pea pathogens. Guest speakers have also been invited to discuss grasshopper management and new durum varieties developed at MSU Bozeman and a new ARS study incorporating solar panels into livestock forage systems at the Mandan, ND, research facility.

Speakers and topics at the ARS Sidney dryland farm site include:

Spring wheat yield, soil nitrate-nitrogen, and nitrous oxide emissions from slow nitrogen release fertilizers - Upendra Sainju, Soil Scientist, USDA-ARS, Sidney, MT

The soil microbiome advantage: How beneficial microbes promote a thriving soil agroecosystem and healthy plants - Rosalie Calderon, Post Doc, USDA-ARS, Sidney, MT

Establishment of native grasses and forbs for pollinator-friendly CRP fields -



Wheat stem sawfly larva in a wheat stem. (Photo credit Adam Osterholzer & Gabriel Alnajjar) (Photo submitted)

Brett Allen, Research Agronomist, USDA-ARS, Sidney, MT and John Hendrickson, Research Rangeland Mgt. Specialist, USDA-ARS, Mandan, ND

Bees and insect pollinators of the northern Great Plains - Joshua Campbell, Research Ecologist – Pollination Specialist, USDA-ARS, Sidney, MT

Special Guest Presentation:

Integrating solar panels with dryland livestock forage systems – John Hendrickson, USDA-ARS, Mandan, ND

Talks at the EARC dryland farm site include:

Pulse crops and protein - William Franck, Res. Scientist, MSU-EARC, Sidney, MT

Measuring the impact of weather on ascospore release for improved chickpea Ascochyta blight predictions - Alma Chinchilla, Plant Pathology Res. Asst., MSU-EARC, Sidney, MT

The effect of long-term rotations and previous crop on pea, lentil pathogens - Frankie Crutcher, Plant Pathologist, MSU-EARC, Sidney, MT

Wheat stem sawfly update: Developing conservation and augmentation

approaches to improve biological control of wheat stem sawfly - Tatyana Rand, Research Ecologist, USDA-ARS, Sidney, MT

Special Guest Presentations:

Grasshoppers: An inconsistent, but challenging insect pest of Montana - Erika Rodbell, Extension Agronomic Entomology Assoc. Spec., MSU-Bozeman, MT

Brief update of durum breeding and new varieties - BranDee Johnston, Crop Variety Promotions and Educ. Spec., MSU-Bozeman, MT

Field tour participants will qualify for 1 pesticide point in the following categories: 10 – Dealer; 30 - Agricultural Plant Pest Control; 37 - Right of Way Pest Control; 39 - Demonstration & Research Pest Control; 55 - Regulatory Weed; 60 - Private Agricultural Pest Control.

This is the first time in the last five years that the joint tour has been held and it's coming back as an every-other-year event. Covid restrictions and then staff shortages delayed its reintroduction until now, according to field day organizers. "We share adjoining dryland research space with EARC, so we've both been looking forward to renewing this partnership and sharing our research findings with area dryland producers," Brett Allen noted in announcing the tour resumption.

For questions or more information, contact Beth Redlin at 406-433-9427 or email beth.redlin@usda.gov.



Wheat stem sawfly parasitoid (Photo submitted)



Unrolling straw bale containing thousands of wheat stem sawfly parasitoids waiting to emerge. (Photo submitted)

RICHLAND COUNTY FAIR & RODEO JULY 31 - AUGUST 3, 2024

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Fri, Aug 2nd

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2024 Richland County Fair & Rodeo Back Roads and Tractor Shows

Mark your calendars for the highlight of summer in Richland County! From July 31-Aug. 3 the Richland County Fair & Rodeo invites you to join in the festivities celebrating the theme of Back Roads & Tractor Shows. Get ready for four days packed with excitement, entertainment, and the best of rural Montana culture.

CowTown USA invites visitors of all ages to experience the charm of rural life with a petting zoo open all day. From cuddly farm animals to interactive exhibits, there's plenty to delight animal lovers and there's even pony rides! Plus, don't miss Rollo strolling around and Leapin' Louie's captivating performances, featuring three shows a day filled with laughter, thrills, and stunts that will leave audiences of all ages in awe.

Take a leisurely stroll through our new building and marvel at the county's best exhibits, showcasing the creativity, craftsmanship, and agricultural heritage of Richland County. From antique tractors to handcrafted quilts, each display offers a glimpse into the rich tapestry of rural life. Admire the skill and dedication of local artisans and farmers as you explore the diverse array of exhibits on offer.

Indulge in the finest fare the region has to offer as you explore a culinary paradise of flavors and aromas. From classic fair favorites like funnel cakes and corn dogs to gourmet treats and local specialties, there's something to tempt every palate. Sample your way through the food vendors scattered throughout the fairgrounds and discover why Richland County is renowned for its gastronomic delights.

The heart-pounding action of PRCA rodeos takes center stage with two exhilarating nights of competition. Cowboys and cowgirls will test their skills in thrilling events such as bull riding, barrel racing, and team roping, all while vying for top honors and prize money. Prepare to be on the edge of your seat as the

arena comes alive with the spirit of the West. Don't forget to wear pink on Friday for "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night. Every pink shirt in the stands donates \$4 to the Foundation for Community Care.

On Aug. 3, the fairgrounds will resonate with the sounds of country music as Rodney Atkins with special guest Jerrod Niemann take the stage for a live concert. From chart-topping hits to soulful ballads, these acclaimed artists promise an evening of unforgettable music and memories. Gather your friends and family, and get ready to sing along to your favorite tunes under the big Montana sky.

Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of the Richland County Fair & Rodeo, where the spirit of the countryside comes alive in a celebration of community, culture, and tradition. Join us for four days of fun, friendship, and unforgettable memories that will make this summer one to remember.



AG APPRECIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT
2ND MONDAY IN JULY

JULY 8, 2024
7:30 AM REGISTRATION
9:00 AM TEE TIME
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SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024 • 9:00 A.M.

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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:
Mike passed away last year. He was a Master Machinist/Welder. If you are looking for good quality machine shop equipment, this is the sale to be at. We hope to see you Saturday, July 20th!
-Rick

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