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**Cover Crops
Field Days**

See page 2

The field days will highlight the agronomic, economic and environmental benefits of cover cropping, along with cost-sharing opportunities for farmers and a tour of research plots. (NDSU photo)

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NDSU Extension Cover Crops Field Days Set for Sept. 10-12

NDSU Extension will host cover crops field days at three locations on Sept. 10, 11 and 12.



The field days will highlight the agronomic, economic and environmental benefits of cover cropping, along with cost-sharing opportunities for farmers and a tour of research plots. (NDSU photo)

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Have you ever wondered about the agronomic and environmental benefits of cover cropping? Or have you considered planting cover crops in your operation but are unsure where to start?

North Dakota State University Extension will host cover crops field days at three locations on Sept. 10, 11 and 12. The dates, locations and links to detailed information are:

- Sept. 10 in Minot at the North Central Research Extension Center - [ndsu.ag/covercropsnrec](https://www.ndsu.edu/ag/covercropsnrec)
- Sept. 11 in Dickinson at the Dickinson Research Extension Center - [ndsu.ag/covercropsdrec](https://www.ndsu.edu/ag/covercropsdrec)
- Sept. 12 in Williston at the Williston Research Extension Center - [ndsu.ag/covercropswrec](https://www.ndsu.edu/ag/covercropswrec)

"These cover crop field days offer farmers a unique opportunity to learn how

cover crops affect soil health and about the latest NDSU cover crop research," says Victor Gomes, NDSU Extension cropping systems specialist at the Dickinson Research Extension Center. "We look forward to connecting with local farmers and answering their questions."

The field days will begin at 9:30 a.m. local time with registration, coffee and donuts. A series of talks will follow, covering various topics related to cover crops. The sessions will highlight the agronomic, economic and environmental benefits of cover cropping, along with cost-sharing opportunities for farmers and a tour of research plots.

Lunch will be provided and continuing education unit (CEU) credits will be offered. Registration for the field days is encouraged by Sept. 6. To register, email Cristin Heidecker at cristin.heidecker@ndsu.edu or call 701-456-1100.

The field days are made possible by the Farmers for Soil Health program.

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Consider Options For Pregnancy Diagnosis In Beef Cattle

Each pregnancy detection method has unique benefits and disadvantages.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

The profitability of any business is crucial, and livestock production is no different. With most revenue originating from the sale of calves produced, retaining non-pregnant cows in a cow-calf operation is hard to justify. Therefore, this time of year is traditionally pregnancy detection season.

“Cattle producers have or soon will be removing bulls from their spring-calving cow herds, bookending another breeding season, and will need to identify which cows will calve next year before winter feed resources are allocated,” says Lacey Quail, North Dakota State University Extension livestock management specialist.

Quail recommends ranchers compare several pregnancy detection options to determine the best fit for their herd management program, as each option has unique benefits and disadvantages. Factors include cost, timing, training required and completeness of the information gained.

Expense

Cost is the first consideration for many producers when deciding the best way to diagnose pregnancy in their herds. Quail recommends producers assess cost along with accuracy, result timeline, and completeness of the method used. For example, monitoring estrus behavior in the herd after breeding is very affordable; however, this method carries considerable opportunity cost. Observing cattle for estrus behavior is time-consuming and potentially inaccurate due to the individuality of estrous cycles and the impacts of nutrition, lactation and environment on cyclicity in cattle. Additionally, with estrus detection, the result is simple: pregnant or open. This method provides no other valuable information regarding fetal age or sex. On the other hand, techniques such as transrectal palpation or ultrasound are more comprehensive, but more expensive.

Timing

Pregnancy detection requires logistical planning as cows may be on summer



The best method of pregnancy checking in cattle will depend on the desired timing of detection after breeding, the labor required, the availability of trained professionals, and what information is needed for the management system. (NDSU photo)

pasture without handling facilities, or the area veterinarian may have limited availability, among other considerations. Specific methods may align better with the production timeline. For instance, transrectal ultrasound and blood antigen tests can diagnose pregnancy as soon as 28 days after the last possible breeding date, whereas diagnosing pregnancy by transrectal palpation requires a little more time (typically around 40 or more days after breeding). While blood antigen tests are accurate early in gestation, they do not give an immediate result, as it takes time to run the samples. Thus, cattle must be resorted after performing the test, which can be a deterrent due to labor demands.

“If feed resources or cattle handling facilities are limiting factors, it is important to know when each pregnancy detection method can be performed,” Quail says. “Retaining and feeding cows is costly, and opting for earlier detection is often beneficial so that open cows can be marketed earlier.”

Training

Each pregnancy detection method requires varying levels of training or expertise. Quail acknowledges the importance of this factor, as trained professionals are often few and far between in many remote areas devoted to cattle production. The detection of estrus and blood antigen tests both require very minimal, if any, training. They are accomplished by visual observation or simply drawing a blood sample. Both methods can be very convenient options for operations that may not have access to trained professionals. As a trade-off, these methods are not as comprehensive as those requiring more extensive training. Ranchers should consider how the timeline and expense of these methods may fit into their management plan.

Completeness

Observing for estrus behavior and testing for pregnancy-specific factors with a blood antigen test are the least comprehensive methods of pregnancy detection. There is little reliable information for producers to gain aside from whether a female is pregnant or open. In some operations, that may be all that is necessary; however, in others, it is essential to know if cattle are carrying a calf sired by artificial insemination or natural service, the predicted calving date, or whether to expect a bull or heifer calf at calving. Rectal palpation or ultrasound are the most comprehensive options for answering these questions.

Fetal age is valuable information, Quail says. In operations utilizing synchronization and fixed-time artificial insemination, it is common for natural service sires to be introduced to the cow herd around 10 days after artificial insemination. In this case, distinguishing pregnancies by artificial insemination from natural service is a breeze with palpation or ultrasound. Determining an accurate fetal age can also be helpful for producers to concentrate labor during their calving season and identify females that conceived late in the breeding season as potential cull animals. In these situations, a more accurate fetal age determined by palpation or ultrasound is necessary. Pieces of the puzzle that can only be determined by ultrasound are fetal heartbeat and fetal sex. If early embryonic loss (no detection of fetal heartbeat) is in question, or females need to be sorted by those carrying bull or heifer calves, ultrasound is the only option.

“Every operation that raises beef cattle can benefit from pregnancy diagnosis; however, the method used can vary from herd to herd,” Quail says. “To find the most cost-effective method for your operation, consider how soon after breeding you need to detect pregnancy, the labor required, the availability of trained professionals, and the information you need to gain for your management system.”

For more information, including a table comparing each option for pregnancy diagnosis in cattle, visit ndsuhq.com/preg-check.

BARCLAY CONSTRUCTION LIQUIDATION AUCTION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 • 10:00 A.M.



SKID STEER, TELEHANDLER, GENIE, ROAD GRADER, TRACTOR, & MISC.

- 2023 Bobcat T-76 Skid Steer, high flow, 2-speed, joystick controls, power Bob tach, cab, heater, AC, w/bucket, 280 hrs
- Sheyenne Tele Boom 200
- Bobcat Post Hole Auger, hydraulic, 12" & 18" bit, 2' extension
- Bobcat V519 Telehandler w/forks, 1997 hours
- 2007 Genie S-40 Manlift
- Cat 140H Road Grader (Nice)
- Mahindra MFWD M Power 85 diesel Tractor, 3 pt., PTO, & Front-end Loader w/bucket
- 2013 Ditch Witch Hydro Vac w/Trailer, 1373 hours
- TC 1070 Belt Conveyor w/Kohler gas engine
- Brilliant 10' Drill
- Great Plains 3 pt. No-till Drill, model 806NT
- 8' Heavy Duty Offset Disc
- Electric Mass Port Vacuum/Blower Pump w/25 hp 3-phase motor
- Truck Mounted Mass Port Vacuum/Blower Pump
- Haugen Pallet Forks
- 5x10' Man Basket (fits Telehandler)



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- 2017 Polaris XP1000 Side-by-Side, open cab, 4075 miles
- Honda 500 Sportsman ATV, 4410 miles
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- 2020 Carry On 5x10 ATV Trailer w/mesh ramp
- 2018 Look 26' Enclosed Tandem Trailer, 14,000# GVW
- 2016 Tow Master 16' Tandem Trailer, 18,000# GVW w/ramps
- 2015 Tow Master 16' Tandem Trailer, 18,000# GVW
- 2015 Lamar Gooseneck 30' Tandem Dually Trailer w/5' beavertail, 10,000# axles (new brakes)
- 2- 2015 Behnke Gooseneck 30' Tandem Dually Trailer w/5' beavertail, 12,000# axles
- 2014 PJ 14' Dump Trailer, Bumper-pull, 7000 # axles (nearly new tires)



LOCATION: From Fairview, MT-Take East 9th Street off Main and go East to the T, turn South (right) on Interstate Ave. for 7/10ths of a mile.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Justin Barclay 406-977-9768
Lunch will be available.**

PICKUPS

- 2020 Ford F350 Pickup, 4-door, XLT, 4x4, 6.7 turbo diesel, long box, 152,670 miles
- 2017 Chevy Silverado 3500 Heavy Duty Pickup, 4-door, LTZ, 4x4, long box, 6.6 Duramax diesel
- 2017 Ford F350 Dually Flatbed Pickup, 4x4, 6.7 turbo diesel
- 2016 Ford F150 Extended Cab Pickup, 4x4
- 2015 Ford F350 Dually Pickup, 4-door, 4x4, long box, leather, 6.7 turbo diesel 321,660 miles, (new transmission)
- 2015 Ford F350 Dually Pickup, 4-door, 4x4, long box, leather, 6.7 turbo diesel
- 2014 Ford F350 Pickup, 4-door, 4x4, long box, 6.7 turbo diesel (bad engine parts truck)
- 2012 Ford F350 Dually Flatbed Pickup, 4-door, 4x4, 6.7 turbo diesel (needs new engine), long box,
- 2001 Ford F250 Extended Cab Pickup, Lariat, short box, 7.3 turbo diesel, new turbo, 177,560 miles
- 2001 Ford F350 Flatbed Pickup, 4-door, 4x4, long box, Lariat, 7.3 turbo diesel, 305,950 miles
- 2000 Ford F350 Pickup, 4-door, 4x4, Lariat, Bessler Flatbed, 7.3 turbo diesel
- 1999 Ford F350 Dually Pickup, 4-door, 4x4, XLT, long box, leather, 7.3 turbo diesel, 200,470 miles
- Bessler 8' Flatbed (fits Dually)
- (3) Prong Horn Pickup Tool Beds (1-single, 2-dually)
- (2) Boss 9' Pickup V Plows (fits Fords)



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- Case Vac Tractor, narrow front
- (2) JD B Tractor, narrow front
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- 225-gallon Round Poly Water Tank
- 130-gallon Round Poly Water Tank
- (2) 200-gallon Warne Boomless Spray Units
- 75-gallon Warne pull-behind Sprayer
- 24-gallon ATV Boomless Sprayer
- Fimco 65-gallon Side-by-Side Sprayer, boomless w/wand
- 3-tank Vault Containment
- Deeweez Fuel Tank w/20 GPM pump
- 105-gallon L Fuel Tank
- Boomag Jumping Jack, 73 hours
- Rigid 300 Power Head w/stand oiler pan, cutter & threader
- (2) 4" Threaders
- (2) 1/2" to 2 1/2" Hand Threader Sets
- Multiple 2" & 4" Vic Cutters
- (2) Rigid 975 Roll Groovers
- (2) Rigid 700 Power Heads
- Dewalt 14" Cold Cut Saw
- (6) Robinson 12-volt Center Fuses
- Robinson 110-volt Center Fuse
- Coats 1300 2D Wheel Balancer, lots of weights
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- Honda EU3000 Inverter Generator
- Honda EB4000 Generator
- Magna Force 60-gallon Air Compressor
- Kohler 27 hp Engine
- Honda 2" Water Pump
- Honda HS928 Trac Snow Blower
- Victor Plasma Cutter
- 20' Heavy Duty Cattle Guard
- Remington 70,000 BTU Space Heater
- Master 190,000 BTU Space Heater
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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:
Justin has decided to liquidate Barclay Construction. The equipment is in great condition, which is a testament to his maintenance program. If you are looking for good equipment that has low hours, this is the sale to be at! We hope to see you on September 14th!
-Rick

All information is from sources deemed reliable, but is not guaranteed by the Sellers or the Auctioneers. Offering is subject to error, omission, and approval of purchase by owner. We urge independent verification of each and every item submitted to the satisfaction of any prospective buyer. It is every potential bidder/purchaser's sole responsibility to accomplish his or her due diligence in whatever manner he or she deems advisable. Announcements made sale day take precedence over any printed materials. The items sell "As is-Where is." R-K Statewide Auction Service and its auctioneers are acting solely as auctioneers for the Sellers.
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Randy Searer Benefit Auction Sept. 18

A *Calf Roll-Over Auction* will be held Sept. 18 at the Sidney Livestock Market Center at 1 p.m. for Randy Searer.

Randy Searer started retaining water in April 2024. He wasn't feeling his best and thought for the first time ever "hey, maybe I should see a doctor." His first stop on his journey was to the emergency room at Billings Clinic. Here, through lots of visits, tests and a good team of doctors, he was diagnosed with end stage liver failure. Billings Clinic quickly hooked him up with a doctor and transplant center in Denver.

On Tuesday, Aug. 20, Randy went to the emergency room in Sidney as he was not feeling well, and he was airlifted to Denver. On Monday Aug. 26, his team of doctors were able to perform the final heart test he needed to get cleared for the possibility of a transplant. The test results came back positive, and Randy officially got word that he has been placed on a transplant list. He is living under his old saying "never weaken", and we sure are proud of the fight he is giving. The donations from this fundraiser will go towards Randy's medical and travel expenses to help alleviate financial costs as his medical journey to a new liver continues.

Donations of any size will be accepted.

A donation account for Randy has been set up at Richland Federal Credit Union in Sidney, MT.

Be On The Lookout For Palmer Amaranth & Waterhemp

By Marley Voll, MSU Richland County Extension

Now is a good time to be on the lookout for any suspicious pigweeds that could potentially be Palmer amaranth or waterhemp. Both species are very difficult to control and have limited management options, making prevention as well as early detection very important.

Vectors of potential introduction of Palmer amaranth and waterhemp include contaminated seed, especially millet, farm equipment, sunflower screenings, bird seed, and more. Be sure to scout areas where these vectors could potentially introduce Palmer amaranth or waterhemp. Look for large pigweeds that have a long, thin seed head at the top.

Early detection and rapid response are key to preventing and controlling these weeds. For resources to help identify Palmer amaranth and waterhemp or if you find a pigweed that is suspicious, please contact the Richland County Extension Office at 406-433-1206.

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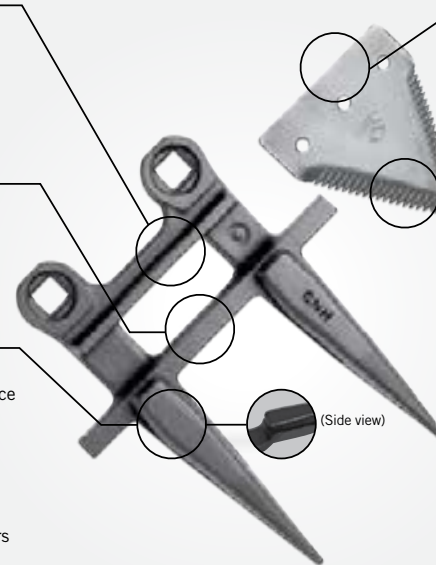
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MRC

Lakes To Open Cattlemen's Cafe In Sidney



Amy and Ira Lake are looking forward to serving up tasty breakfasts and lunches, plus mouth-watering baked goods at the new Cattlemen's Cafe at the Sidney Livestock Market Center, Sidney.

By Dianne Swanson

They've talked about it for years and now Ira and Amy Lake are taking the plunge into the restaurant business. "We've talked about it over the years, ever since the M&M closed. We wanted to get back into the restaurant business but with a smaller venue. Then we started wondering who was going to take over the sale yard. And here we are. This is ideal," Ira explained. They hope to have the Cattlemen's Cafe at Sidney Livestock Market Center open by Aug. 27. It's a natural fit for Ira whose grandparents Martin and Myrtle Lake, then his parents Martin (Bud) and Marilyn, owned the M&M Cafe. Amy's mouth-watering baking and strong work ethic play perfectly into the mix.

From dark to light, the restaurant has undergone a transformation, beginning with windows! New ceilings and flooring, lighting, counter tops and furnishings create a welcoming setting for diners while the completely remodeled, state-of-the-art kitchen and prep areas provide efficient, comfortable spaces to prepare delicious food. Clyde Madison and Paul Fifer have done an amazing job with the remodel, along with Prairie Electric, Olson Plumbing, Big Sky Siding and Windows, Rim Rock Cabinets and Frontier Heating.

Cattlemen's Cafe will serve up breakfast and lunch from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The M&M's famous roast beef dinner will be on the menu as well as Marilyn's yummy pancakes. Using many of the M&M's tasty recipes, Amy will be baking home-made pies (including sour cream raisin) and cakes (including Marilyn's delicious chocolate cake) plus cinnamon and caramel rolls. Be sure to check out the daily lunch specials as well. Whole cakes and pies will be for sale but pre-orders are encouraged. Call 406-433-CAFE (2233).

It is important to Lakes to promote local and use as much as they can in their cafe. They are partnering with Yellowstone River Beef in Williston to provide local hamburger and Grains of Montana in Billings for local bread products. Craig's Meats famous jerky will also be for sale to help get through long sale days.

If all goes well, Cattlemen's Cafe will welcome diners on Aug. 27. Check their Facebook page for updates and daily specials.

"We hope to see you soon!" Ira exclaimed.

An advertisement for American State Bank and Trust Company. The background features a green combine harvester in a field. The text reads: "ASB AMERICAN STATE BANK AND TRUST COMPANY HELPING YOU GROW". Below the text are two portraits of Aaron Granley (VP & Ag Loan Manager) and Jordan Lyons (Ag Loan Officer). At the bottom, it says "GoBeyond 223 Main St. Williston, ND 701-774-4100 | asbt.com | Member FDIC". There are also social media icons and a "MOBILE FRIENDLY" logo.

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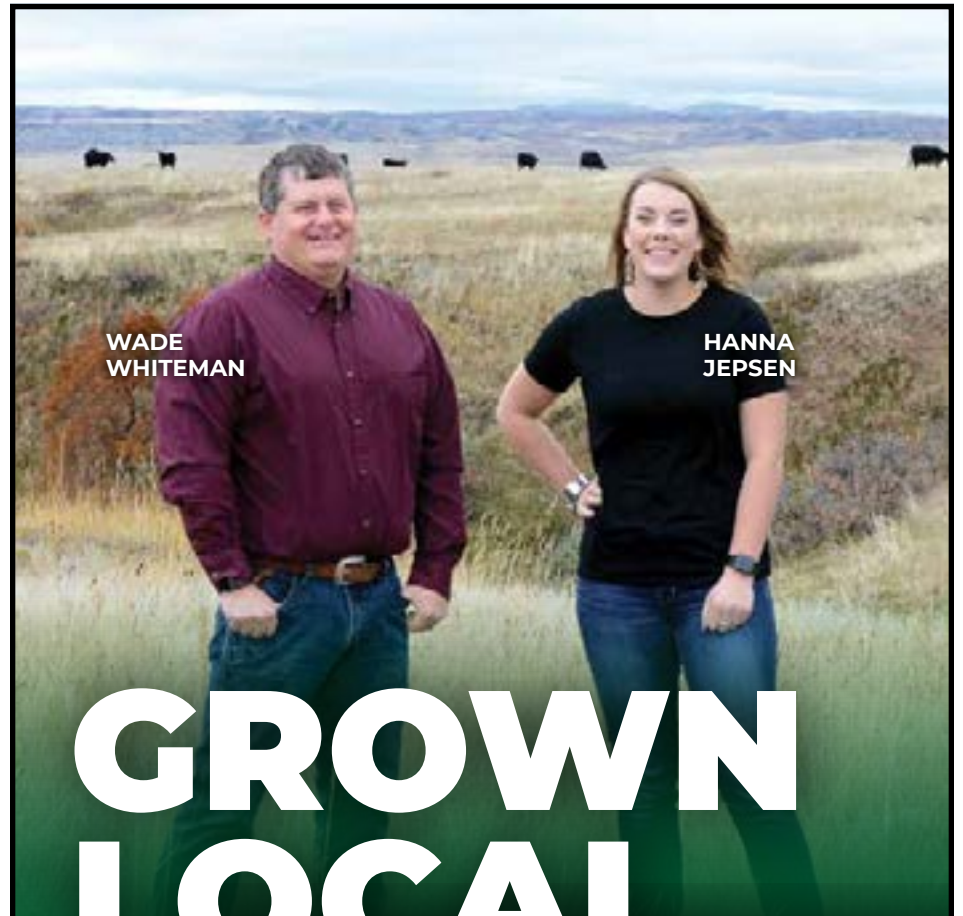
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Fall Bird Migration Is Time To Reimplement Biosecurity Protocols

Review and implement biosecurity protocols to reduce disease transmission from migrating wild birds to domestic flocks.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Fall bird migration has begun, and now is the time to review and reimplement biosecurity protocols to reduce disease transmission from wild to domestic birds.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is a disease carried by wild birds that can affect domestic birds. Avian influenza is caused by the influenza Type A virus (influenza A). The virus is shed in the feces and respiratory secretions of infected birds and is able to survive for weeks in cool, damp environments.

Migration can be followed via BirdCast (<https://birdcast.info/>), an online real-time migration prediction tool.

NDSU Extension specialists have prepared a list of guidelines and resources for reducing transmission of HPAI from wildlife to domestic birds:

If possible, keep poultry housed until the risk for transmission has decreased. Non-lethal methods to deter wildlife are available on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Service's nonlethal webpage: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-services/about/nonlethal>.

Reduce the attractiveness for wildlife to stop at your place by cleaning up litter and spilled feed around your domestic flock housing.

If you come in contact with or handle wildlife, change into clean clothes, wash your hands and disinfect your footwear prior to contact with domestic flocks.

Report sick or deceased wildlife to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at <https://bit.ly/mortality-report>.

In the event you need to handle or dispose of carcasses to reduce potential interactions, be sure to follow the appropriate procedures: ndsu.ag/hpai.

"The best defense against HPAI is having a biosecurity plan in place," says Mary Keena, NDSU Extension livestock environmental management specialist. "It is your job as a flock owner to create a line of separation between your clean flock and the potential unclean issues that wildlife or visitors may bring."

More information about biosecurity can be found on the USDA Defend the Flock Resource Center webpage: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock>.

To reduce transmission between domestic flocks:

Keep your distance. Restrict access to your property and your flock. Allow contact from people who care for your birds but minimize visitors.

Do not haul disease home. If you have been near other poultry or bird owners, such as at feed stores, clean and disinfect car and truck tires. New birds should be kept separate from your flock for at least 30 days.

Do not borrow disease from your neighbor. Do not share lawn and garden equipment, tools or bird supplies with your neighbor or other flock owners.

With birds on the move, fall hunting season is just around the corner.

"If you hunt and have poultry, do not wear hunting clothes in with your poultry,"



Hunters and poultry owners should be aware of the risk of HPAI in wildlife and use measures to prevent transmission to domestic poultry flocks. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services photo)

says Miranda Meehan, NDSU Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist. "Infected birds shed bird flu viruses in their saliva, mucous and feces."

The North Dakota Department of Game and Fish suggests the following steps be taken to reduce the risk of infection:

Do not handle game that is found dead or appears to be sick.

Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning game, and avoid contamination of your eyes, mouth, nose, or any open cuts or sores with blood or other fluids from game that you are cleaning.

Wash hands, cleaning utensils and other surfaces with soap and hot water immediately after cleaning game.

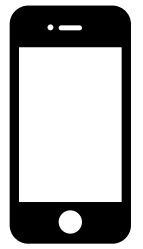
Strains of HPAI have been detected in both wild and domestic mammals across the United States. Most often, these cases occur in predatory mammals known to consume wild birds. While the transmission rate from animals to humans is low, it is a zoonotic disease. To date, cases have been restricted to individuals working in close contact with infected poultry or livestock.

"Poultry testing positive for HPAI are prohibited by law from entering the marketplace," says Miranda Meehan, NDSU Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist. "Poultry and poultry products are safe to eat, and proper handling and cooking is always advised."

To date, there have been no positive HPAI cases in domestic poultry or birds in North Dakota in 2024. Report sick birds to your local veterinarian. If you do not have a local veterinarian for your flock, contact the North Dakota State Veterinarian's office at 701-328-2655.

Roundup

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- **Never try to move** a downed power line.
- If you see a downed line, **call 911**.

If a vehicle or farm equipment contacts a power line or utility pole, stay away and call 911.

- Consider **all lines** to be live and dangerous.
- Stay in place or inside your vehicle unless you see fire or smoke.
- Warn others to stay at least **35 feet away**.
- **Tell others** not to approach vehicle, downed lines, or anything that may be in contact with downed lines.
- **Call 911**



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- **Do not** touch the ground and vehicle at the **same time**.
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Corbin Steinbeisser Sidney 4-H Senior

By **Katelyn Sponheim**

In between running a tractor, feed truck, or managing livestock while working on his parent's farm and ranch operation, Corbin Steinbeisser manages to raise a quality 4-H steer, and helps his younger siblings with theirs, as much as they allow him to, that is. In his first year of showing, he won Reserve in Novice Showmanship with his market steer, so he certainly knows how to get one in the winner's circle. Maintaining a reliable feed schedule and lots of time are his keys to a good animal to present at the Richland County Fair.

The son of Jim and MayAnn Steinbeisser,

Sidney. Corbin also enjoys shooting sports and woodworking projects.

He earned Best of Fair with a potato battery several years ago, and last year won Judges Choice for his display of different shotgun ammunitions and their uses. Two years ago, Corbin attended 4-H Congress after winning his division at Richland County 4-H Speech and Demonstration Day, and greatly enjoyed the experience. He and other 4-H members were able to observe a cannulated cow; which is a cow that has a surgically installed port-hole device through which their stomach can be studied. The dance was also a highlight of his Congress trip.

Corbin in the past has competed on the Richland County 4-H Livestock Judging Team, and in his time on it they won the Keith Steinbeisser Memorial Livestock Judging.

Montana State University, Bozeman, is Corbin's destination this coming fall, with a degree in farm and ranch management in mind. He hopes his years in 4-H have him well-prepared for the courses and knows the value of Parliamentary Procedure in future leadership roles. He would like to eventually join the Montana Stockgrowers Association and plans to continue his (family's ranch and farm operation.



Corbin Steinbeisser with his steer for the Richland County Fair. It is the result of crossing a Black Angus/Hereford cow on a Charolais bull. (Submitted photo)

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Montana Stockgrowers Foundation Now Accepting Donations For Remington Fire In Southeastern Montana

By Raylee Honeycutt
Montana Stockgrowers Foundation

Helena, MT – The Montana Stockgrowers Foundation (MSF) is now accepting donations for its Wildfire Relief Fund which benefits Montana livestock producers affected by fires. Currently, donations are focused on the Remington Fire in southeastern Montana, which as of last Tuesday morning has grown to over 196,000 acres.

In addition to financial support, which is the most immediate need, the Wildfire Relief Fund page also offers a form that can be filled out for in-kind donations like hay, feed, pasture, fencing supplies, etc. In-kind donation submissions will be forwarded to local coordinators to facilitate deliveries. Tuesday morning, Montana Stockgrowers staff attended a local coordination meeting in Forsyth to learn more about needs and will be working closely with local coordinator to distribute funds and supplies.

“The Remington Fire has had devastating effects on ranchers in the region that will be felt for many years.” MSF Chair Ty McDonald shared. “The Montana Stockgrowers Foundation is here to support our friends and fellow ranchers in southeastern Montana as they rebuild and recover after this natural disaster.”

Local emergency coordinators are needing livestock producers who have experienced loss to submit reports. Ranchers in Rosebud County can compile a list of losses and send them to kraymond@rosebud-countymt.com. Producers in Big Horn and Powder River counties will have contacts established shortly. Check back at the MSF website for those contact updates.

The Montana Stockgrowers Foundation ensures the future of Montana's cattle industry through education, leadership, and conservation. Those wishing to donate to the fund can visit www.mtbeefoundation.org or can contact Heidi Kool at the MSF office at (406) 442-3420 to make a donation over the phone or ask questions.

Stockman Bank Announces \$10,000 Matching Donation For Remington Fire Relief Fund

(Miles City) - Stockman Bank has set up a fire relief fund with a \$10,000 matching grant to assist those affected by the massive Remington fire, which started in Wyoming last week and has now crossed the state line into southeastern Montana.

“Damage from the Remington Fire has been devastating. Many in the area have lost land and livestock,” stated Brian Cooley, Stockman Eastern Montana regional manager. “As Montana's largest ag bank, we need to do what we can to help our neighbors who have lost much of their livelihood to this fire, as well as support the firefighters, many from rural volunteer fire departments.”

The Remington Fire Relief Fund will be used to provide needed assistance to those impacted by the fire in Rosebud, Powder River and Big Horn counties. Donations to this account will be administered and distributed by Rosebud County Cattle Women in conjunction with the Rosebud County Foundation.

How to Donate

To donate to the fire relief fund, please stop by any Stockman Bank location or mail to Stockman Bank, c/o The Remington Fire Relief Fund, PO Box 250, Miles City, MT, 59301-0250. Stockman will match all contributions made to the fund up to a total of \$10,000 through Dec. 31, 2024. Please join us in helping our neighbors in southeastern Montana.



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Marett Schieber; This Year's 4-H Senior

By Katelyn
Sponheim

Marett Schieber, one of Richland County's graduating senior 4-H members, knows the power of consistency. In her novice years, she earned the title for the Richland County Fair's Grand Champion Market Hog, but overall is extremely proud to have always been "in the blue" with her ribbons.

Starting with lambs, Marett had her own breeding ewe group at one point but has since moved onto steers and has shown them for the last 7 years. This year,

she will have a market steer and possibly a breeding heifer to show at the Richland County Fair.

The daughter of Gary and Laura Schieber, Marett is also a 4-H Ambassador and Junior Leader. She competes on the Richland County 4-H Livestock Judging Team, and one of her high points was qualifying at 4-H Congress for the National Western Livestock Show in Denver, CO. She has also competed with her teammates at open livestock judging competitions, recently winning the Richland County Livestock Judging. Last Oc-

tober, the team won the NILE Livestock Judging Competition in Billings, with Marett placing 8th individually.

Outside of livestock, Marett enjoys sewing and quilting, and has completed three quilts throughout her years in 4-H. She will be entering a t-shirt quilt as her indoor project for the fair.

After graduation, Marett plans on attending Northwest College, Powell, WY, and will continue to compete on their livestock judging team while working towards a degree in ag business.



Marett Schieber with her 2023 Richland County Fair steer. (Submitted photo)

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Steer-A-Year Opens Donation Period For 2024-25 Academic Year

From the MSU News Service

BOZEMAN — Montana State University's Steer-A-Year program will return for the 2024-25 academic year and is seeking donations of young cattle and feed.

A program housed in the College of Agriculture's Department of Animal and Range Sciences, Steer-A-Year combines academic courses with hands-on experience and exposes students to the many aspects of raising cattle. Students spend the year feeding, caring for and managing steers through the winter and spring, collecting data on feed efficiency and weight gain, and studying livestock marketing.

"This unique program has been providing students with the opportunity to gain practical, real-life skills for 10 years now," said Hannah DelCurto-Wyffels, an associate teaching professor in the department and the Steer-A-Year adviser. "Offering these experiences in a guided, structured way makes the process more approachable, and watching students become more confident and knowledgeable is so rewarding. They are preparing themselves so well for future careers in the livestock industry."

Steer-A-Year accepts financial support or donations of steers, feed and other

supplies. Donated steers are housed at the Bozeman Agriculture Research and Teaching Farm. At the end of the academic year, the cattle are sold to MSU Culinary Services, which serves the meat in both of MSU's award-winning dining halls, Miller and Rendezvous, helping to fulfill the university's commitment to using as many local ingredients as possible. During the 2023-24 academic year, Culinary Services purchased all 25 steers from the program.

Proceeds from sales support travel and other costs for student teams and clubs in the College of Agriculture. Steer-A-Year students also meet with commodity groups and industry professionals, allowing for additional networking and learning opportunities.

"The Steer-A-Year program is always a highlight for our student participants, and it allows us to benefit our agricultural community in a unique way," said Carl Yeoman, Department of Animal and Range Sciences head. "From hands-on training in feeding and managing steers to providing Montana beef for our campus and generating valuable information for our generous community donors, this is a truly constructive program from start to finish."

Annual awards are given to the producer who donated the best initial feeder steer, the steer with the top rate of gain, the steer with the best feed efficiency and the steer that produces the best carcass.

"This program has been so successful over the past decade because of the many relationships that foster it," said DelCurto-Wyffels. "Our students gain literacy in crucial elements of animal science while they engage with producers and industry members all over Montana. We hope the learning process is going both ways, and we're so grateful for the continued generosity that makes this all possible."

DelCurto-Wyffels said that calves should be weaned, castrated and dehorned before donation and should weigh approximately 500 to 800 pounds. The ideal pickup period for calves is the first two weeks of November. Those interested in donating steers or feed, providing financial support or learning more about the Steer-A-Year program can contact DelCurto-Wyffels at 406-994-3752 or hannah.delcurto@montana.edu.



The Steer-A-Year program in the MSU College of Agriculture, gives students hands-on experience raising cattle and allows them to learn about marketing and beef science in real time.

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