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MONTANA WIFE MEMBER TURNS 104

Eva Amundson, Montana WIFE member and national WIFE member, turned 104 on April 23. She currently resides at The Springs in Missoula, MT. Eva was born in North Dakota to a family of seven siblings and soon after, moved to their homestead in Joplin, MT. After graduating, Eva married Leif Amundson and together they had four daughters, including Connie Cain, who served as Montana WIFE treasurer for many years.



One of Eva's proudest life achievements is her involvement with ORI, or Opportunity Resources, Inc. ORI is an organization that helps support people with disabilities, and its creation is due in part to Eva's journey in finding additional help for her daughter, Ardis, who lost her ability to speak as an infant. Eva has been on ORI's Board of Directors since its inception and over the years, has seen the effect of the ever-important organization. Currently, ORI is helping over 700 people and employs over 250.

At 104, Eva is an active part of her retirement community. She still plays Bingo and Pinochle, exercises at least three days a week and continues to be a member of WIFE.

What to look for in this issue:

- ⇒ Convention Information
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- ⇒ WIFE Updates
- ⇒ And More!

President's Report



By Linda Newman
Montana

Quilt raffle donations help in fight for good of agriculture

Wow, fall is in the air, harvesting is winding down, fall planting is on the radar, school is starting, calves are being prepped for shipping, cows are being preg-tested, and the cycle continues! It seems like there is never a “breather” in Ag country!!

Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are on fire—stressing resources to the max, several firefighter lives lost, many homes and towns evacuated, not to mention the loss of life for wildlife, livestock, etc. I actually read an article (as all these fires were burning) that environmentalists were

against harvesting Pine Beetle-infested trees from western Montana as that would cause trauma to the wildlife and run off from rains and snowpack would contaminate all of the water. Really?!! These dead, infested trees, as well as the shutdown of logging (thanks to same “environmentalists”) are fueling these terrible fires that we have had the last several years. I wonder what their reaction is to this terrible devastation to wildlife and erosion? I think it is time to get real and exhibit some common sense in managing forests, livestock grazing, water management, etc.

At this point, I would like to thank all of the national Members who have responded to our donation quilt raffle project—these funds will go a long way to help WIFE continue to fight for the

good of Agriculture and combat the craziness (as demonstrated above) that is going on in this country. So, thank you for helping to make this project such a success!

Our WIFE National Convention is only about two months away, so I hope you are all making plans to attend. It is scheduled for November 5-7, 2015 in Bismarck, ND. Watch for details here in the WIFeline, Facebook, and on the National WIFE website at www.nationalwife.org. The North Dakota gals are working hard to get it all planned, so I am sure it will be a very informative and fun meeting. I hope you will consider joining us!

Also, all of the state WIFE Annual Meetings are being scheduled. Montana is looking forward to their annual meeting in conjunction with Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture (WSFFA) in Billings; an event in which Montana WIFE and several other Ag womens groups put on, drawing agricultural women from all over the state. The conference offers many great speakers and the opportunity to network with the other womens groups. This event is scheduled for September 10 (MT WIFE meeting) and September 11-12 (WSFFA).

With this, I will close and hope you have all had a great summer and are getting ready for Christmas—only about 115 shopping days left—and believe me, it will slip by quite fast!

National Candidate Profile

Gabriella Domagala New York Nominee for Dairy Chair

My name is Gabrielle Domagala and I am currently a student at SUNY Cobleskill. I am majoring in Agriculture Business with the focus in Dairy Herd Health and Management. I grew up as the fourth generation on my family's dairy farm of an eighty Holstein cow, tie-stall operation. I am very passionate about the agriculture and dairy industries. Along with being a full-time student, I am also involved in extra-curricular activities such as SUNY Cobleskill Dairy Cattle Club, SUNY Cobleskill American Animal Producers Club, SUNY Cobleskill Postsecondary Agriculture Student, 4-H, Jr. Holstein Club, FFA, Farm Bureau, and Women Involved In Farm Economics. In addition, I hold the Teaching Assistant position for Dairy Cattle Management at SUNY Cobleskill and Student Technical writer for SUNY Cobleskill's section of Country Folks. It is my pleasure to be a representative for Women involved In Farm Economics and the agriculture and dairy industries through informative writing about upcoming events and news within these industries.





**By Donna Bolz
Nebraska**

Feed Grains Report

The 'future' of farming

I recently attended a meeting where they stated that by the year 2050 there would be about 10 billion people on this earth. Some believe that it will be hard to feed them all. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations projects that the world's farmers will have to produce 70 percent more calories by 2050, on less land and with less water than they do today.

There is currently a lot of debate about the sustainability of our agricultural system, which depends on both water and fossil fuels. People are divided over GMO's (genetically modified organisms) versus organic, and grass-fed versus factory-farmed. The bottom line is that 97 percent of America's 2.1 million farms are family farmers. They will have to produce a lot more food per acre.

The United States has more arable land than any other country but that amount is shrinking. It is believed that 3,000 acres are lost to development every day. The facts show that 40 percent of our land area or 889 million acres are devoted to farming. Getting more food from every acre without destroying the land for future generations requires farmers to understand every single thing that happens on their farm, down to a resolution of single days, square meters and even individual plants.

One of the ways Mark Bryant, who farms in Ohio on 12,000 acres where he raises corn soybeans and soft red winter wheat, does this is by surveying dashboards full of data gathered from the 20 or so iPhones and five iPads he has supplied to his employees where they report on his acreage in real time, thanks to software from Google-funded startup called Granular. Other data is gathered from aircraft, self-driving tractors and other

forms of automated and remote sensors which give moisture and soil quality. While this is the typical way farming is done for Mark, this could be how the farm of the future has to operate to stay competitive.

Another farmer states, "If we're really going to be professional farmers and feed everybody in the world, we really have to utilize this technology to do the job."

You might think as I did that this is far-in-the-future technology, however John Deere is the world's largest producer of autonomous four-wheeled vehicles. They have about 2,600 employees who work every day to write software. The cab of one of these self driving tractors is now

so full of screens and tablets that it has come to resemble the cockpit of a passenger jet. These tractors do more than drive themselves, they provide wireless, connected sensors that map every field as well as planting and spraying machines that operate in the fields. John Deere has been selling self-driving tractors for 15 years. The way we will feed the 10 billion people will require us to manage every acre of our farmland with the same precision that allows a company like Apple to deliver tens of millions of iPhones within weeks of each other. Now it is up to you to decide what to believe. Stay tuned for more information on this. If you want more material in the meantime, visit syngenta.com.

National Candidate Profile

Mary Ann Unruh **North Dakota** **Nominee for Rural Life Chair**

Mary Ann has had a very full life in agriculture, born into a farming family with seven children. She graduated from Hebron High School then attended Dickinson State Teachers College. She was teaching in Beulah where she met her husband Clarence, a student at North Dakota State University and a member of the Farm House Fraternity. They were married and began ranching in 1962 and had three children who all live on ranches within a 25 mile radius of the "Prairie Diamond Ranch," which she owns and operates with her son and his family. She still likes to attend brandings and see her seven grandchildren ride the prairies. Her contribution helped them earn the Commercial Breeder of the Year Award from the North Dakota Angus Association for CHAPS records kept on the herd. She has spent hours on horseback and has probably ridden hundreds of miles.

Some other accomplishments: member of the Farm Business Management Advisory Board, State President of North Dakota WIFE, Past President of Delta Kappa Gamma, Past President of the St. Joseph's Hospital Auxilliary, Chairman of their Annual Valentines Cookie Sale for two years. Mary Ann was also an Adult Education instructor and had the most graduates the first year. She was a substitute teacher in area schools for 20 years.

Mary Ann loves to travel and has traveled in 48 states, Canada and Mexico. Church involvement has always been a big part of her life and she still serves as deacon for her church. Mary Ann was widowed in 1996. Her greatest joys at this point of her life are grandchildren and great-grandchildren, good friends and good books as well as community involvement.



By Jean Wach
Nebraska

Cereal Grains Report

El Nino affecting wheat markets

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, heavy rains caused by El Nino will damage Argentina's crops and generate fungal diseases such as Fusarium and affect the wheat's quality, according to Bloomberg Business. El Nino has caused flooding and mudslides that have damaged crops and cut off roads. Storms in northern Buenos Aires dropped a record total of 24 inches of rain, according to the province's agency for emergencies. The Arrrecifes River rose to 20 feet, nearly twice its usual level. Argentine wheat output will likely fall this season after record storms lashed the Pampas grains belt, a region in South America, making it difficult for Argentina to compete in a global export market saturated by bumper harvests in Western Europe and the Black Sea region.

A key supplier of wheat to neighbor-

ing Brazil and the world's top exporter of soybean livestock feed, Argentina is one of a handful of key international food suppliers at a time when both global demand and weather-related risks are rising. Farmers expect a 6 percent loss in recently-sown wheat, after plantings were reduced in reaction to government export restrictions and a local currency widely considered overvalued.

"We've already gotten a year's worth of rain and we're just headed into spring, which is supposed to be the wet season," said David Huges, who farms several thousand hectares in the bread-basket province of Buenos Aires. He usually gets 39.3 inches every year. "We passed that for 2015 about a week ago," Huges said.

An analyst at the Argentine Rural Society, which represents big growers, said a record 11.8 inches fell on some parts of the Pampas region in South America over the last 10 days. What's certain is about 6 percent of the wheat area will be lost to the floods, not counting yield losses due to fungi that flourish in overly-wet conditions. Weak production could decrease

Argentine exports to Brazil, prompting its largest wheat customer to turn elsewhere. When frost damaged Argentina's 2013 crop, U.S. exporters stepped in with 4 million tonnes of wheat, the most ever shipped from the U.S. to Brazil.

Storms, droughts and heat waves will cause more frequent shortages as the global climate changes, British and American experts warned last week, throwing a question mark over top commodity crops. Since most of these crops come from a small number of countries such as the U.S., Argentina and China, extremes in these regions are expected to have an outsized impact on food supplies. Global wheat stockpiles are nonetheless seen hitting a record 221.5 million tonnes by the end of the season. The USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) expects an Argentine wheat crop of 11.1 million tonnes, down from 12.5 million in 2014-15. Some of Argentina's restrictive trade policies may change after the Oct. 25 presidential election, which could in turn increase wheat output the following season (N.A.W.G, Aug 20, 2015).

Rural Life Report

Stop and smell the manure

More people are viewing manure as an agricultural nutrient rather than an agricultural waste, says Mary Berg, livestock environmental specialist at the North Dakota State University Extension Research Center. Scientists along with farmers and ranchers, agronomists, and other agriculturalists are working to make a greater, more efficient use of manure as a crop fertilizer.

There is a new appreciation for manure as manure contains significant amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, the three primary plant nutrients. Manure also has lesser amounts of many micronutrients.

Some farmers are reluctant to use manure in part because, in doing so, it is more

complicated and less effective than using other chemical fertilizer. Manure nutrients break down more slowly in the soil, with the rate depending on the soil temperature, moisture and type, among other factors. Chemical fertilizer, in contrast, typically breaks down more predictably.

Interest in manure use began to grow in the early 2000s, largely as a result of fast-rising chemical fertilizer costs. That interest was curtailed from 2008 to 2012 when high crop prices increased the incentive to produce as many bushels as possible with chemical fertilizer. Now, the slump in crop prices has renewed and strengthened interest in manure use. Manure can enhance long term soil health, especially when used in combination with crop rotation and

cover cropping.

Composted manure is easier to apply, has much less odor and is more likely to be free of weeds. Its volume can be reduced by half during the composting process and it is more affordable to haul and spread.

Some operators recognized the value of their manure long ago and have established relationships with buyers. Rising interest in manure as fertilizer has changed, so if you want it, you may have to pay for it.



By Mary Ann Unruh
North Dakota



**By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming**

Sugar Report

CCC loans may become unavailable for producers

There is no possible way that we, as citizens of this country, can let America's agriculture diminish. If we truly love our country and want to preserve it for future generations, we have to support our farmers and ranchers. Without farming and ranching, who are we going to rely on for our food and commodity supply?

Attacks on U.S. sugar policy were obvious in the Senate Appropriation Committee as Senators Shaheen (D-NH) and Kirk (R-IL) had an amendment that would prohibit sugar factories from borrowing money out of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan to operate. There is over \$300 million dol-

lars that sugar factories borrow for their yearly processing operation. At the end of the year sugar factories pay back their loans to the federal government, plus interest. These loans benefit our country. I wonder if Senators Shaheen and Kirk are aware of their actions and the damages they may cause the U.S. government.

Is this a sensible action from lawmakers of this country? Destroying the sugar program will diminish sugar farmers and the jobs they provide. For example, jobs in rural areas like Powell and Lovell in Wyoming or Billings, Bridger, and Laurel in Montana will be threatened. Jobs in the small towns of Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Florida, Illinois, California and New York (there is a sugar cane mill in Brooklyn, New York)

will also be at risk. We have a responsibility and obligation to serve our country. I believe U.S. history gives this country's law makers a good lesson if they just look back and learn from it.

This country learned a good lesson years ago. Sugar history shows us that after 40 years, in 1974, when the U.S. Sugar Act expired, the world price skyrocketed to 60 cents a pound. American consumers suffered. Then it dropped to 3 cents a pound and forced many sugar beet and cane farmers out of business, but consumers found no savings in their food prices.

To protect the taxpayers from sugar prices and the insecurity of supply, Congress included a sugar program in the Farm Bill in 1981. It stabilized the price at a reasonable level, and assured American consumers and giant sugar users such as candy, cereal and soft drink makers a reliable and high quality supply of pure natural sugar.

American farmers are one of the most efficient farmers in their practices. Keeping in mind today's high cost of production, sugar beet farmers in irrigated areas spend between \$1000 and \$1100 an acre. On the other hand, sugar cane farmers invest \$1100 and \$1200 an acre especially around the Florida Everglades where sugar cane farmers have been sentenced to pay \$300 million over 20 years to restore the Everglades.

America is already more dependent on foreign suppliers than most would think. Trade deals have forced the United States to be the second biggest sugar importer in the world—imports account for approximately one-quarter of the market—and low prices in past years forced 33 U.S. sugar facilities to close between 1996 and 2008.

History is a wise teacher and if we look back and learn from our past mistakes we will prosper from this great teacher.

National Candidate Profile

Kimmi Lewis

Colorado

***Nominee for Natural Resources/
Private Property Rights/Endangered
Species Chair***

I am a cow/calf producer from Southeast Colorado. I run around 300 mother cows on mostly private property in an area known as the Purgatoire Canyonlands. All of our six grown children help me run the ranch that my late husband and I bought from my dad back in 1992, which is also where I grew up. Two of these children are within 14 miles from the ranch headquarters. My life stems around taking care of my cattle and land as well as fighting for our freedoms. I have fought several battles that include private property takings including the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site Expansion in Southeast Colorado as well as the proposed Canyons and Plains National Heritage Area that we stopped last year. Leading up to these two battles have been years and years of smaller property rights concerns including exposing national historical scams to take private property. I would be honored to be your Chair for Natural Resources/Private Property Rights and Endangered Species.



By Pam Potthoff
Nebraska

Trade Report

It's time to take action on currency manipulation

In the third week of August, the stock market took its worst beating in four years. Commodities tanked and oil fell below \$40--the lowest price since 2009 following the economic collapse. Cattle and commodity futures were swept up in the selloff. The major concern was a slowdown in China, the world's second largest economy. China is now facing rising wages, overcrowded urban centers, and employees with raised life-style expectations. The Chinese government is desperate to keep controls over its millions of citizens that are in transition. A major slowdown in the economy is their worst nightmare. In an effort to shore up their economy, China artificially devalued the Yuan.

The devaluation of the Yuan, joined with this disappointing economic news out of China, is of special concern to the U.S. agriculture industry where China represents the fastest growing beef user in the world and a large importer of American grains.

China has long been a currency manipulator in the minds of many trade experts. A currency is the local medium of exchange. Different countries use different currencies, so to trade there has to be a way to set the exchange rate of the currencies relative to each other. When a country (such as China) is selling more stuff to the world than it is buying (a trade surplus) the price of its currency is supposed to go up. Similarly a trade deficit should push the value of the currency down. When you are buying more from the world than you are selling to the world, you are flooding the world with your

own currency.

But suppose that instead of lots of people and businesses in the trade-surplus country using the stronger currency to buy more stuff from the rest of the world, that country has a central authority that uses the surplus of incoming cash to buy the currency of other countries. This is called currency manipulation. It bypasses the natural market supply/demand function of the currency exchanges.

By doing this the country, namely China but including many others, that has been selling more than it is buying is able to keep the demand and, therefore, the price of other currencies up, meaning goods from those countries still cost more and goods from its own country still cost less. China's trade surplus continues upward instead of adjusting. Factories in other countries close, people in other countries lose their jobs and the wealth of nations shifts to the currency-manipulating country. With China, the result is the U.S. ends up having a massive trade deficit that drains us as a country of jobs, factories, entire industries and our national wealth and standard of living.

When China lowers the value of its currency, it makes what it sells cheaper and what it buys more expensive, sometimes by as much as 30-40 percent. Congress has been considering legislation that would put a tariff on imports when a country manipulates its currency. U. S. critics say the manipulation contributed to a \$343 billion trade deficit with China last year and cost up to 5.8 million American jobs. Wording in the Senate-passed Custom-Enforcement Bill includes a retaliation procedure for currency manipulation. The House-passed version doesn't in-

clude that wording. The bill is now in conference committee. If this legislation fails, the pending trade legislation, the TransPacific Partnership, offers a unique opportunity to take decisive action.

Now is the time for action on currency manipulation, before our trade deficit becomes even larger and the price of our meat and commodities in China becomes even higher, thus lowering our agricultural exports.

WIFE Supporting Members

VIP Membership

- Bayer CropScience

Executive Membership

- Renewable Fuels Association

Associate Membership

- American Bankers Association
- American Council of Life Insurers
- Monsanto
- Florida, Texas, and Hawaii Sugarcane Growers
- U.S. Beet Sugar Association

Contributor Membership

- American Sugarbeet Grower's Association
- North Bridge Communications
- Western Skies Strategies
- AT&T

In-Kind Contributors

- Miller/Coors
- Rauner & Associates



By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota

Homeland Security Report

Sharia law becoming part of everyday life in Seattle

Seattle's Mayor Ed Murray is pushing for Sharia law in his town, saying banks need to offer "Sharia-compliant" mortgage loans for Seattle's growing Muslim community. Muslims are forbidden by their religious law, Sharia, from paying interest on loans so they must be offered loans structured in such a way that interest is not part of the package. More and more lenders are offering Sharia-compliant financing. The sector has grown to more than \$1.6 trillion in assets worldwide over the past three decades. Sharia thus applies the tenants of Islam to every area of life, not just religious life. "Sharia is a unified whole—a guide to every aspect of human behavior. The teachings of Islam regarding war, against and subjugation of unbelievers, is part of Sharia as well. More than 30,000 Muslims live in the greater Seattle area and many work for Microsoft and Amazon. They often enter the U.S. on the H1-B temporary guest-worker visa for skilled workers. Muslims also enter the U.S. through other programs. Seattle is one of more than 200 sanctuary cities and counties in the U.S. Seattle's plan to help Muslims could lead to banks buying the home outright and holding the title. The bank would then contract with the buyer to purchase the home at marked-up price. The buyer could then pay in a lump sum or in payments over time. Some financiers in Seattle are already offering such options. Chicago offers some options for Sharia-compliant Muslims, as well as the Bank of America. In contrast to Seattle, the mayor of Irving, Texas, has advocated for a new state law that would ban courts from meting out decisions based on any foreign legal system.

The first new international rail bridge over the Rio Grande between the United States and Mexico in more than 100 years is now open. It is near Brownsville, Texas and cost over \$120 million and replaces an old one. Its freight trains carry goods from Mexico to Texas.

The President's White House Task Force on New Americans has unveiled its recommendations for a national strategy to "integrate" millions of immigrants and refugees

into "welcoming communities" across the U.S. His administration is also bringing in 70,000 foreign refugees per year from places like Iraq, Somalia, Bhutan, Burma and Syria. The new plan was titled "The New National Integration Plan: Making the Most of a Historic Opportunity." The National Partnership for New Americans, a coalition of 34 organizations involved in everything from protecting immigrant rights to providing social services, wants a strong federal role. They already have "boots on the ground" in 29 states, including all manner of service providers, immigrant rights attorneys, interpreters, and advocates "to make sure immigrants have what they need." Syria has the highest concentration of jihadists of any country currently involved in the program and is continuing to admit about 800 a month from Somalia.

Rep. Brian Babin, (R-TX), has introduced the Resettlement Accountability National Security Act, or HR 3314, which places an "immediate suspension on allowing immigrants into the United States under the refugee resettlement program, until the Government Accountability Office (GAO) completes a thorough examination of its costs on federal, state and local governments." The state of Texas and its taxpayers are taking in more than any other state. Other leading states are California, New York, Michigan, and Minnesota. Most arrive with no English or job skills, and the nine major resettlement agencies that get government cash to do the resettlement work typically only provide aid for three to five months. After that, the refugees are the responsibility of state and local governments.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres selects more than 95 percent of America's refugees. The costs of the resettlement program have ballooned to \$1 billion a year but that does not include the cost of social welfare programs they receive. A public backlash against the program has sprung up in recent months in several communities. The refugee resettlement industry, which includes advocates and community organizing groups funded by George Soros, the Rockefeller, Carnegie and Ford foundations, among others, printed a document in 2013 on how to deal with so-called "pockets of resistance." The document, authored by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, advised advo-

cates who oppose resettlements to be turned over to the Southern Poverty Law Center for public shaming as "racists" and "anti-Muslim" bigots and other aggressive agitation.

In 2013, the Obama administration released over 36,000 convicted criminal aliens awaiting the outcome of deportation hearings and another 30,558 in 2014. The offenses include "dangerous drugs, assault and domestic violence, stolen vehicles, robbery, sex offenses, sexual assault, kidnaping, voluntary manslaughter, and homicide." More than a quarter of these aliens "were so called 'level 1s' --the worst of the worst." And in 2013 alone, the administration didn't even bring removal proceedings against an additional 68,000 criminal aliens convicted of everything from homicide to sexual assault. DHS records show that in just one eight-month period in 2014, more than 8,100 deportable illegal aliens were released by sanctuary jurisdictions--3000 of them were felons, 62 percent had a prior criminal record and 1900 were later rearrested a total of 4,300 times on 7,500 different offenses. Thus, these sanctuary policies directly victimized thousands of the residents of these sanctuary cities who were subjected to crimes that would not have occurred except for these sanctuary policies.

Since January 1, more than half of the new driver's licenses issued by California went to undocumented workers (new term for illegal immigrants or aliens). Officials predict that they will issue nearly 1.5 million licenses to these immigrants within three years. The state hired 1,000 new workers and opened four offices that are intended specifically to help with the new licenses. California is home to nearly three million illegal immigrants with about 25 percent of all such immigrants in the country. It creates even more of a magnet in what is already basically a sanctuary state. Nearly 65 percent of the state's residents see immigrants as a net benefit to the state. A dozen states allow them to get driver's licenses, and more offer in-state tuition rates at public universities. In Connecticut, which began offering driver's licenses to illegal immigrants this year, there were nearly 50,000 submitted in the first six months. Maryland has issued roughly 60,000 such licenses since January 2014, while Colorado has given out about 10,000 (Houston Chronicle, WND).

Energy Report



By Barbara Broberg
Montana

Tractor technologies make life easier for farmers

At a women's farm leadership event some years ago, a woman described being a grain combine driver during the harvest on their farm. The exercise at the women's event was dealing with a time when an assertive effort was a positive move for everyone. She was new to the grain combine driving, but not new to harvest. As for her age, she was the mother of young teens. After a few days running combine, she noticed a noise in the combine—not a normal one, she thought. She described alerting the others. It took several attempts to get them to look where the noise was but yes, it was a problem and yes, it was fixed immediately. It would have been huge if "the noise" had been allowed to continue its breakdown. Her comment was, "I knew the noise was not right."

Fast forward to today. Have you heard the term "fog computing"? Fog computing is NOT cloud based analytics. (Cloud computing is information stored not on your computer, but elsewhere in the cyber world.) According to James Campbell, author of an article titled *Smart Maintenance on the Rise* says, "The volume of data collected will require that machines become 'smart' and able to make decisions locally. Fog computing pushes computing and analysis closer to the machine" (www.plantservices.com/articles/2015/smart-maintenance-on-the-rise).

Further studies described hydro-electric dam turbine maintenance, analysis, and replacement. Another study showed similar work with wind-

mills on wind farms. There were huge costs associated with replacement items but it was helpful when the wear patterns could be analyzed for useful time left versus time to replace it.

Has a warning come up on the dashboard readout on your vehicle? A warning that something is imminent? Maybe a mileage alert about oil life left on your vehicle? Beeps and tweets and chirps. We can't know it all any more and this is help for us.

With ISOBUS Class 2, the tractor talks to its implement and can tell the implement (or attachment) what to do. Class 3 lets the implement talk back to the tractor--in the magazine example the baler hits a big clod of material so the baler tells the tractor to wait until the issue gets processed before resuming speed. The tractor operator can set some standards the machines will work among.

This all has to do with energy because we don't have time, energy, or equipment to bring the next bunch of farmers into familiarity with all that is needed today. And yes, someone has to buy this to be effective. We all are aware of economics. After all, we are Women Involved in Farm Economics.

If you heard that chance comment a few years ago and wondered if you could ever sell your place to anyone, rocks and all, www.feedandgrain.com/news/dupont-university-of-missouri-and-usda-ars-collaborate-on-soil-mapping shows how mapping concerns itself with using available data to more accurately map United States soil. The chance comment stated rather loftily, "in the future all farmland will be sold on the basis of soil fertility."

It has been heard on the street, or in the field, that Purdue University students are actively being taught that cover crops (soil containing plant material at all times) are the wave of the future and this news is meeting the farmer at every conference.

It's too soon to know what oil barrel prices, the erratic stock market and Chinese interest in United States coal is going to do to life as we know it. So, in India they are improving solar usage. And we... well we are going to keep on keeping on...til next time.

Tickets for the quilt raffle are still available! The drawing will take place at the National Convention in November and to be sure all the tickets you sold are eligible for the drawing, don't forget to get them in to Linda Newman (442 #4 Road Roundup, MT 59072) by the end of October. For those of you who have already sent in money and tickets, THANKS A MILLION! Questions? Contact Linda at (406) 323-8299 MST or dlnewman@3riversdbs.net

New Holland offers ISOBUS Class 3 for a baler and tractor combination (see page 28 at www.FarmProgress.com in the September 2015 Farmer-Stockman issue for the full article).

National Candidate Profiles

Linda Newman *Montana* **Nominee for President**

I am Linda Newman, running for the office of 2016 National WIFE President. I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your vote, in my desire, to be your National WIFE President again for 2016. I have enjoyed working with all of you this last year as your president, and would hope to do a better job in this second year!

My husband, Dean, and I are involved with two of our daughters and their families on a farming and ranching operation in North Central Montana on the Missouri River. We run cow/calf pairs, raise winter wheat, barley and hay. Dean and I have been making some plans to “slow down” but, he is still at the ranch most of the time, and I spend part-time at our so-called “someday retirement” home near Roundup, MT. So, needless to say, I spend most of my time running back and forth to the ranch (about 2 hours drive) and living out of a suitcase. (And to think I planned all of this to get out of doing a little cooking on the ranch!!) Well, I did get out of that, but gained way more than I bargained for!!

I am very concerned about the future of agriculture and think that we need to have a strong WIFE Organization and be an effective partner with other Ag Groups to combat all that is coming our way. Passive resistance is no longer an option—we need to be forceful in our beliefs and fight for our rural way of life and what we know best—how to effectively feed a hungry world.

So, if elected, I will do my best to fulfill those concerns and with all of your help, I think we can be successful! Thanks!

Donna Bolz *Nebraska* **Nominee for Area 2 Director**

Moving to the next level is what I had in mind when I decided to run for Area 2 director for National WIFE. I have held local and state offices but never an office on the National level. I grew up on a small family farm southeast of Lincoln. I currently live in Lincoln. I might not be doing the daily activities of what it takes to keep a farm going but I still am a farm girl at heart. I am retired now so I have more time to devote to the duties of Area 2 Director. I look forward to seeing everyone in Bismarck.

Mary Ellen Cammack *South Dakota* **Nominee for Vice President**

Mary Ellen Cammack along with husband, Randy and 4 adult children, operate a fourth generation cow/calf ranch in western South Dakota. Mary Ellen works part time for NASDA as a field supervisor, collecting ag data for most of western South Dakota. She also holds director positions in the following: SD State 4-H Leaders Assoc., South Dakota Beef Industry Council, Western Jr. Livestock Show. Additionally, she and Randy were selected to represent South Dakota in the Farmers Union Enterprise program, which is a regional couples leadership development program, spanning approximately 18 months. Mary Ellen is a graduate of the South Dakota Ag Rural Leadership (SDARL) program, class VI. In previous years she has served as beef and resolutions chairman for WIFE.

She looks forward to serving a second year as National WIFE Vice President, and appreciates input from WIFE members.

Shana Baisch *Montana* **Nominee for Treasurer**

I am once again running for National WIFE Treasurer. I have served for five years as treasurer and enjoy the job. My family and I ranch in the Badlands of Eastern Montana. We run a commercial (mostly Black Angus) herd of cattle. We also have a small side business of taking people out dinosaur fossil hunting on the ranch. We now have four generations living and working on the ranch. The challenges and issues facing agriculture are a continual barrage that will effect all four generations in different ways and for years to come. We all need the voice and fighting spirit that WIFE is known for. Continuing and promoting our nation's agriculture business and our way of life is near and dear to my heart.

Pam Pothoff *Nebraska* **Nominee for Secretary**

I have kept accounting records and recorded business transactions on the farm owned by my husband, Harold, and I for forty-seven years so I appreciate the importance of accuracy. As your secretary this year, I am trying to keep accurate records and put into minutes the exact happenings at our meetings. I would appreciate your vote for secretary.

National Candidate Profiles

Kerry Froese

Colorado

Nominee for Specialty Crops Chair

Kerry Froese was raised on a ranch in southeast Colorado. Kerry and her husband, Jacob, along with their five month old daughter currently reside south of Las Animas, CO, on a place that borders the ranch where she grew up. Kerry owns the family trucking company with her brother, Keith, and enjoys keeping the books and maintaining the office for the third generation business. Kerry and Jacob, along with Jacob's twin brother Andrew, also own a small produce company, Simply Different Produce LLC, that operates as a Community Shared Agriculture (CSA), giving local residents the opportunity to purchase shares in the CSA garden to receive bi-weekly shipments of fresh, locally grown produce throughout the summer. This year the trio has operated a U-Pick Garden to local residents. Kerry also has a few bookkeeping clients on the side and enjoys helping on the family ranch when she has time.

Kerry joined WIFE in 2012 and has enjoyed becoming an active member at the local, state and national levels. She currently serves as the vice president for the local Kiowa County WIFE Chapter as well as vice president for the Colorado WIFE Association. Kerry is the current National WIFE Area 2 Director and helped organize the 2014 National WIFE Convention in Phoenix, AZ. Kerry is also the current Finance Chair for National WIFE.

With your vote, Kerry looks forward to representing the specialty crops sector of agriculture as the National WIFE Specialty Crops Commodity/Topic Chair. Many crops are covered under specialty crops, including "fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture)" as defined by the USDA; as well as, "cotton, peanuts, rice and tobacco" as stated in the WIFE Procedure Manual. Kerry thrives on researching information and will take pride in keeping members up-to-date on the rapidly growing, specialty crops industry.

Klodette Stroh

Wyoming

Nominee for Sugar Chair

I would like to thank all members of WIFE for their diligent work and dedication to America's agriculture. It is an honor for me to be a member of this noble organization. As the national sugar chairman I have learned so much about the sugar industry. My husband Rick and I operate our own farm and our family is involved in our operation. We grow dry beans, malt barley, corn and alfalfa hay for our Black Angus cattle. It is a privilege for me to serve our nation agriculture, because I believe American farmers are the founder of this great nation. God has blessed us with children that are interested in agriculture. Our sons Rick and Paul both farm with us. We are blessed with three granddaughters and looking forward to arrival of two more grand children in near future.

Marlene Kouba

North Dakota

Nominee for Energy Chair

I am Marlene Kouba and live on a farm in southwestern North Dakota. My husband, Richard, passed away in 2005 but I remain on the farm which was purchased by one of our sons about 15 years ago. They live in the same yard but I live in a 5 bedroom house by myself. I have 9 children (including twins), 21 grandchildren (including triplets) and 8 great-grandchildren. This year my sons raised winter wheat, spring wheat, durum, canola, sunflowers and corn.

I taught school before getting married then taught 7th and 8th grade religion classes for 15 years. I was a 4-H leader for 20 years and judged 4-H contests and county fairs for 40 years. I was the clerk and reporter for the Roughrider Livestock Association for 20 years. I was the county Farm Bureau president for 30 years and am now secretary. Governors appointed me to the NDSU's President's Advisory Committee for 4 years, the State Soil Conservation Committee for 3 years, and the State Health Council for 12 years where I was an officer for 10 of them. I ran for the ND Legislature twice. I have been chairman of our church Ladies Guild and am now the church secretary working one day a week.

In 1981 I joined WIFE and have held all of the offices on the state level. Since 1985 I have been publicity chairman and editor with a monthly newsletter. I have taught Ag in the Classroom for 21 years in all of the schools in the county plus some in 4 other counties. On the national level I was secretary for 2 years, vice president for 2 years and editor for 4 years. I have also been the national chairman for Education, Transportation, Endangered Species, Energy and currently Homeland Security.

For personal interests I have taken classes in Income Tax Preparation, Oil Painting, Conversational Czechoslovakian, Handwriting Analysis, Investing for the Future, Genealogy and I flew to Ireland in 2014. I guess some would say I am versatile with a wide number of interests but I like to keep busy.

For the coming year I would appreciate your vote to be the next national Energy chairman.

National Convention Registration

2015 NATIONAL WIFE CONVENTION

November 5-8, 2015

(Travel days are November 4 and 9)

Hotel: Ramada Inn

1400 E. Interchange Ave.

Bismark, ND 58501

Phone number: (701) 258-7000

* Discounted rate code: "WIFE"

* Rate: \$90.00 plus tax for two queen beds or \$100.00 plus tax for one king bed

Deadline: October 20, 2015

Cancellation date: November 1, 2014

Registration: Members: \$125.00 Spouses/Guests: \$125.00

Please make checks payable to: National WIFE Convention

Convention Registrar: Diana Adam

9601 42nd St. SE

Minot, ND 58701

(701) 833-0535

email: dadam@srt.com

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Please check: National Officer () State President () Delegate () Member () HOW ()
Commodity/Topic/Issues Chair ()

Special dietary needs: _____

WIFE Updates

TAKE NOTE:

- Commodity/Topic Chairmen: Don't forget to contact Linda Newman to schedule a caucus conference call in October to go through current policies and make changes if needed: deletions, additions, etc. These calls need to be made at least two weeks to 10 days before National Convention.
- Standing Committees: You need to schedule pre-convention conference call meetings in October as we have shaved one day off of convention. This includes: Budget & Finance Committee, Nominating Committee & State Presidents/Representatives, Bylaws/Procedure Manual Committee, and the Resolutions Committee.
- Don't forget to register for national convention!



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Mariah Shammel, Editor
2091 Salt Creek Road
Hilger, MT 59451
(406) 462-5639
paisleyprairies@gmail.com

Change Service Requested

Shana Baitsch
323 Road 300
Glendive, MT 59330



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