



Volume 40

August 2017

No. 3

Message from the President

This summer is going by so quickly and I can't wait for fall, yet I am enjoying each day as it is approaching peak harvest time in our garden. We are huge fans of fresh produce and love the variety of melons, watermelons and squash we have because of my husband's cucurbit breeding company. "Cucurbit" according to the Dictionary means "any plant of the gourd family" which includes pumpkins, gourds, squash, melons and watermelons. We have been blessed with moisture this season and have been able to miss all the bad hail storms in the area so far. If you are in southeast Colorado and want to try some delicious melons and watermelons, please contact me as we would love to give you a tour that includes trying lots of varieties! Just be warned that there are a few pollinator varieties that are extremely bitter that my husband has been known to prank people into eating and yes, I even tried it once when he told me how delicious it would be. That's the latest news around here so it is time to discuss WIFE business.

National WIFE Board of Directors had a terrific conference call in June. Please find included in the WIFELINE the action items that took place during the call meeting. The minutes from this meeting as well as the 2016 Convention minutes and the March Board of Directors meeting will be e-mailed soon to all members with e-mail addresses and a copy mailed to those without email addresses.

The weekly WIFE news briefs that are e-mailed to all members and subscribers provide a great communication tool to members with e-mail addresses yet members that do not have e-mail only receive communication through their state associations and the quarterly WIFELINE newsletters. Members without e-mail addresses are not receiving the updates that other members are, and I hope to see this change going forward. I would love to receive phone calls, letters, e-mails or have a face-to-face conversation with anyone that has ideas on improving communication with members that do not have e-mail addresses. Anyone with a suggestion will be entered to win a prize and the winner will be drawn at convention. My phone number is (719) 469-7749, mailing address is 30377 C.R. HH, La Junta, CO 81050 and my e-mail is kerry.froese33@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and want to come up with a feasible plan to reach out to members that do not have e-mail to keep them up-to-date.

National WIFE has several projects underway including the cookbook, pink pumpkin fundraiser, quilt donation drawing, and letter writing campaign. National WIFE has also been working on issues affecting agriculture. Thank you to all of you members that have been writing letters and making phone calls to elected officials about current concerns in your area and across the country. It takes all of us working together to make our voices heard. Please keep up the good work! National WIFE submitted comments to the U.S. Department

Continued-



**Kerry
Froese
Colorado**

2017 WIFE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Kerry Froese, CO
kerry.froese33@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Diane McDonald, ND
ddmcdon3654@msn.com

SECRETARY

Mary Ann Murray, MT
lige@midrivers.com

TREASURER

Jenifer Felzien, CO
gjfelz@kci.net

AREA I DIRECTOR

Debra Dressler, ND
debdressler1@gmail.com

AREA II DIRECTOR

Donna Bolz, NE
donnab6519@windstream.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Linda Newman, MT
dlnewman@itstriangle.com

of Interior in regards to Executive Order 13792 of April 26, 2017 about the review of certain national monuments established since 1996. The comments included the following statement:

“WIFE respectfully requests the Secretary of Interior to thoroughly review all of the National Monuments that meet the criteria in Executive Order 13792 and specifically request the boundary of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument be downsized to conform to the current boundary of the Upper Missouri River Breaks Wild and Scenic River that was established in 1976. WIFE supports the protection of private property rights against government takings by any agency, department, organization or non-governmental organization. The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument encompasses 377,346 acres that includes approximately 82,000 acres of private land and 39,000 of state land. WIFE supports the ownership of agricultural land by family farm and ranch operations. Any time productive, private deeded land is taken for government use, the land no longer provides revenue for local communities and counties”. The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (UMRBNM) is located in central Montana and the Montana WIFE members requested help from WIFE members across the country to help submit comments about the need for a review of the UMRBNM as the designation was opposed by the local residents and the opposition was well documented.

National monuments will be discussed in detail at the 41st Annual National WIFE Convention in Cheyenne, WY as Jim Carlson, Executive Director of The Kansas Natural Resource Coalition will be speaking about his extensive work on the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah that was designated on Dec. 28, 2016 and encompasses over 1.3 million acres. Other confirmed speakers include Harriet Hageman, Attorney at Law in Cheyenne, WY and Martha Boneta, Executive Vice President of Citizens for the Republic (CFTR) from Paris, Virginia. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the convention that is set for November 9 – 11th in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

It has been a rough summer for some of our members struggling with extreme conditions including drought and fires in certain areas to flooding and hail in other areas. Some members have health concerns and/or have lost loved ones. Please continue to pray for each other and I hope you always remember to take time for family and friends. My family recently made a quick trip to Pennsylvania to attend my husband's grandmother's funeral. Don't forget how short life is and to make the most out of each day. If you are having a tough time, please be encouraged to know that you always have something to be thankful for. I am thankful for WIFE and the opportunity I have to encourage and inspire you to keep working for the better for agriculture. Hope to see you in Cheyenne in November. May God bless you and watch over you and your family during harvest and/or shipping season.

2018 Officers National WIFE is looking for officers and commodity/topic chairs for 2018. If you are passionate about any of the below positions, please contact Cathy Scherler, Nominations Chair, at (719) 729-3367 or cscherler@fairpoint.net for information on how to be nominated.

President- Kerry Froese
V-President- Diane McDonald
Treasurer- Jenifer Felzien
Area I Director- Deb Dressler
Recording Secretary - Vacant
Area II Director - Vacant

Commodity/Topic Chairs

Beef- Jennifer Jones
All Grains- Vacant
Energy- Belinda Pierce Groner
Specialty Crops- Mary Ann Unruh
Homeland Security- Marlene Kouba
Natural Resources- Jillane Hixson
Rural Life- Vacant
Sugar- Klodette Stroh

**WIFE 2017
Commodity & Topic Chairs**

Beef
Jennifer Jones, NE

Dairy
Chris Anken, NY

All Grains
Phyllis Hoskin, MT

Energy
Belinda Pierce Groner, CO

Homeland Security
Marlene Kouba, ND

**Natural Resources/Private
Property/Water/Endangered Species**
Jillane Hixson, CO

Rural Life
Mary Ann Unruh, ND

Sugar
Klodette Stroh, WY

Trade
Ruth Larabee, NY

***** **NEWS FLASH** *****

**Watch for your WIFE Weekly News
Brief emails from
news@nationalwife.org**

**Please look for them in your email
inbox, junk and spam folders!!
Are you receiving the news briefs?**

**Send your email address to President
Froese at
kerry.froese33@gmail.com
to subscribe**

Cookbook

Deadline for recipes, stories and pictures was July 31st. If you forgot and still want to participate please submit as soon as possible to Marlene or Jenifer. The more the merrier. The goal is to have the cookbooks printed and ready for sale at the annual convention this November.

Marlene Kouba
6160 105th Ave SW
Regent, ND 58650
(701)563-4560
mkouba@ndsupernet.com

Jenifer Felzien
2946 County Road 53
Sterling, CO 80751
(970)522-1429
gjfelz@kci.net

National Convention 2017 OFFICIAL CALL

The National WIFE Annual Convention will be in Cheyenne, WY from Nov. 9 – 11, 2017. Travel days include Wednesday, Nov. 8th and Sunday, Nov. 12th. Please plan to attend. Three speakers have been confirmed including Harriet Hageman, Attorney at Law from Cheyenne, WY, Jim Carlson, Executive Director for The Kansas Natural Resource Coalition and Martha Boneta, Executive Vice President of Citizens for the Republic from Paris, Virginia. Ms. Boneta will be joining us for the entire convention.

2017 Letter Writing Campaign

Please continue to contact your elected officials about WIFE's two main priorities for 2017 including the economic crisis for farmers and ranchers in rural America and the upcoming Farm Bill. If you need help with your letters, please contact President Froese. The state association and member that makes the most phone calls and sends the most letters will win a prize each month. Submit your totals to your state association president or a National WIFE officer to be entered to win.



Pink Pumpkin Fundraiser

Several members from several states are participating. If you are a participating member, please make a list of everyone in your family and your community that is a survivor of breast cancer, currently fighting or has lost the battle. It will soon be time to harvest the pink pumpkins, yay! Fall is just around the corner. The goal is to give each person affected by breast cancer or their family a pumpkin and then sell for \$5 each the remaining pumpkins in your patch. Good luck and thanks for participating!

Quilt Fundraiser

The quilt was made by Immediate Past National WIFE President Linda Newman and it is beautiful! Be sure to sell your tickets. If you need more tickets please contact Linda Newman at (406) 861-6296 or dlnewman@itstriangle.com or President Froese at (719) 469-7749 or kerry.froese33@gmail.com



Beef Report by Jennifer Jones

Effective August 1, tariffs on frozen beef imports into Japan will go up from the present level of 38.5% to 50%. The increase will hit frozen beef imports from countries that do not have an economic partnership agreement with Japan. That includes the U.S., as well as Canada and New Zealand.

An eleven-year-old cow in Alabama has tested positive for BSE (Mad Cow Disease). The confirmed case marks the fifth positive case in the U.S. since 2003. The USDA stated the animal never entered slaughter channels and at no time presented a risk to the food supply or to human health. This case comes just as China has resumed imports of US beef. The first shipment arrived in China on June 19.

The Ranchers-Cattlemen Legal Action Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) and Cattle Producers of Washington (CPoW) filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington against the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The suit alleges that USDA regulations that allow beef and pork to be classified as "domestic products," even when those meat products are imported from other countries, confuse consumers and harm American farmers. The complaint argues the USDA regulations violate the text of the Meat Inspection Act. The Act requires that the more than 800 million pounds of beef born, raised and slaughtered annually in other countries and then imported to the United States should include labeling indicating the meat's country of origin.

In addition to the regulatory changes this suit demands, COOL is also expected to be an issue in the NAFTA re-negotiations President Trump has told Congress he plans to undertake. NAFTA currently restricts labeling on imported live cattle and hogs from Canada and Mexico, even though more than 90 percent of consumers say they want to know whether the meat they eat was born, raised, or slaughtered abroad. WIFE members are urged to contact their Congressional Delegation and ask them to support COOL.

To increase the accountability of the beef checkoff, urge your U. S. Senators and Representatives to co-sponsor the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) and the Voluntary Checkoff Act.

Also, ask your State Auditor, Attorney General and Budget Committee to audit the federal beef checkoff dollars in your state. Under the federal Beef Checkoff Program, each state's beef council keeps up to 50 cents of the \$1 federally-mandated fee. In 2005, these dollars were declared government taxes rather than producer fees, yet unlike other federal funds handled by the states, they are

neither audited nor appropriated. Demand your tax dollars be audited and appropriated.

Finally, if possible, request a state level checkoff refund. Checkoff tax payments are mandatory, but in more than a dozen states a refund from the state-level checkoff program is available. Each state has its own regulations and process.

WIFE beef producers stand in solidarity with the producers suffering from drought and fires in the Northern Plains. Our prayers and hearts are with you.





Ruth Larabee
Trade

The administration is looking to renegotiate NAFTA thereby working to get better trade deals and lower the United States trade deficit. There is speculation of meetings in August but in the meantime the U.S. Trade Representative has started the process. Robert Lighthizer, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) sent a document of seventeen pages to our congressional leaders outlining ways to decrease the trade inequality of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). It includes language to expand access of United States commodities we export to Mexico and Canada in the three nation pact. The text provided a list on future trade agreements concerning: ending a trade dispute process banning the U.S. from engaging in anti-subsidy and anti-dumping cases, manipulation of currency, trade deficits, regulation impediments, subsidies, unjust pricing configurations, and non-tariff obstructions on agriculture. It has been noted in other opinion pieces that country of origin has not been included.

The bilateral trade agreement with the United States and China is being called a "Herculean Accomplishment" by Commerce Secretary Ross. Granted it is very good for our farmers and ranchers that China will be importing U.S. beef. On the other hand we will be importing cooked chicken from China with an explanation in the Associated Press from Secretary Ross that "we do not intend to endanger anybody's health or safety in the U.S.". Incorporated in the agreement Chinese companies will be able to reach deals to buy United States produced liquefied natural gas. It's reported that the Energy Department has approved 19.2 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas to be shipped out to China and other "interested countries" when such deals have been negotiated.

Already several U.S. companies are looking to be an exporter of the liquefied natural gas and are inquiring about permits to erect amenities to process the product. China is looking to lessen their air pollution by using less coal. It was noted that the U.S. consumers of natural gas could be paying higher prices but Secretary Ross stated, "It's not as though this is going to wreck anybody's pocketbook" plus as natural gas prices are low "there is plenty of room to go back up".

Last year, 2016, U.S. trade with China of goods and services was approximately \$578.6 billion. Exports were \$169.3 billion and imports were \$478.9 billion leaving the U.S. with a trade deficit \$309.6 billion. In some of the statistics that number was \$347.0 billion. Either way it is too much.

As has happened with other past administrations China and the U.S. will be holding top level talks soon, but this time they will be working towards a one year plan under USTR Secretary Ross, with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang.

As reported in the United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) there is facts that several shipments of beef "did not pass U.S. safety standards". The U.S. trade ban on beef from Brazil needs to stand.

ADDITIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

This partial opinion information has just been reported by the Coalition for a Prosperous America. As written: "The Trump administration concluded its second round of Comprehensive Economic Dialogue talks with China. The first round yielded initial promises from China in areas of beef, energy and financial services. China appears to have refused any further concessions to rebalance its distorted trade relationship with the U.S). To read the rest of the article log on to www.prosperousamerica.org.

It's been reported that a Japanese company (trading house) Marubeni has paid \$170 million to owners Sun Capitol Partners of Creekstone Farms located in Arkansas City, Kansas. They have already purchased a very large feedlot in Australia. With the two business interests it is said they are looking at being a top beef exporter to China. Marubeni projected sales of \$620 million by 2020. With China now owning Smithfield (pork) I wonder how is that going to affect our U.S. farmers by 2020?

Another news item, the Japanese are looking at raising the tariff on frozen beef imports from 38.5 percent to 50 percent if those imports exceed 17 percent. That will not include top steaks or muscle cuts that are the Japanese favorites. While Mexico, Chile and Australia are exempt because of EPAs the United States and a few other countries are not.



Sugar **by Klodette Stroh**

American farmers have proven to feed our people and provide for many around the world. More than 100 countries produce sugar and American producers are among the most efficient. More than half of the world's sugar is produced at a higher cost than in the U.S.

The U.S. is the second - largest net importer of sugar after Russia in the world. The WTO and NAFTA trade agreements require the U.S. to import sugar from 41 countries, about 15 percent of our market, whether we need the foreign sugar or not. Comparing American sugar farmers and our industry with foreign countries we discover American sugar farmers don't receive a red cent subsidies for producing sugar. on the other hand, 110 foreign countries subsidize sugar production, consumption and trade in some way. This makes sugar one of the most heavily subsidized and therefore distorted markets in the world. Present sugar program give stability to the U.S. sugar prices and ensures plenty of sugar in our grocery shelves.

Sugarcane had been one of the most important and celebrated crops cultivated widely in India. The rapid developments in sugarcane cultivation and sugar industry in India has earned her prestigious position among sugar producing nations in the world. India sugar production hold the second position, next to Brazil. The Sugar Industry has become a pivot for the socioeconomic transformation of rural India.

Country of India heavily subsidizes its sugar farmers. History indicates sugar cane has been of the first crops grown in India. Its cultivation and uses are mentioned in ancient Indian literature. Many ancient travelers have seen and mentioned about sugar cane in India. In Indian language sharkara or sugar is made from sugarcane juice. The earliest record of establishment of first sugar factories in India dates back to 1610 by Captain Hippon at Masulipatam and Petapoli on the Coromandel Coast, and subsequently one at Surat on the West Coast by Captains Best and Downton in 1612. Sugarcane is grown by a large number of farmers its command area supply, marketing and payment to the farmers. India's Government regulated sugar production and sales.

According ASA report India is likely to raise the import tax on sugar to 50% from 40% in an effort to stop the flow of subsidized, dumped supplies from foreign competitors. The import tax hike will be helping India's frames billions in farm debt forgiveness this has been a tactic by government to help their farmers for years. This method is to provide low-interest or interest-free government backed loans to create a subsidy to Indias sugar growers.



According to the report by American Sugar Association ASA a note earlier this month, by Bank of America Merrill Lynch predicted that India could forgive up to \$40 billion in farm debt ahead of the 2019 elections, according to The Financial Times. And that's in addition to the \$5.6 billion in debt India has already forgiven this year for 21 million farmers, according to CNN Money.

India's latest action adds to the growing body of evidence supporting the need for stopping subsidized and dumped sugar worldwide.

U.S. sugar producers support this kind of subsidy-free, free-trade system. It's known as the Zero-for-Zero sugar policy by U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL). And under the plan, the no-cost U.S. sugar policy would be rolled back in exchange for the elimination of foreign subsidy programs that prop up inefficient producers who dump subsidized sugar into the global market.

Our American farmers can compete in a fair arena against any farmer in the world, and produce safe and quality crop, that I promise you, but U.S. farmers cannot compete against the foreign governments that subsidized their production.





Food and Our Health by Mary Ann Unruh, ND

According to Consumer Reports, farmers rank second only to construction workers in noise-induced hearing loss and digital hearing aids have a 117 percent markup. Researchers at John Hopkins Medical Center also found a correlation between untreated hearing loss and dementia.

Here are eight basic causes of hearing damage:

SMOKING can increase hearing loss by 70%. Smoking and passive smoke can increase risk by one-third, according to a study from Western Michigan University.

AIRBAGS in vehicles save lives, but can also damage hearing. One study found that 17 percent of people in accidents where airbags were deployed suffered permanent hearing loss.

DIABETES can cause nerve damage and hearing loss. According to the American Diabetes Association, hearing loss is twice as common in people who have diabetes when compared to those who do not have the disorder.

SHINGLES. Herpes zoster, or shingles, usually occurs in people aged 60 and older and is caused by the virus that causes chicken pox. If the shingles virus affects the ear (Ramsay Hunt syndrome), it can cause hearing loss in the affected ear.

MEASLES. There have been several recent measles outbreaks in the United States. Ear infections are a complication and in about one in ten cases measles cause permanent hearing loss.

CHEMOTHERAPY. A study by Oregon Health and Sciences University discovered that hearing loss from platinum-based drugs occurred in 61 percent of patients.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE. An Indian study found a clear link between hypertension and blood pressure readings of adults aged 45 to 64. Researchers believed that high blood pressure accelerated hearing loss normally associated with aging.

VIAGRA or similar drugs were twice as likely to report hearing loss as those who had not taken these drugs. The medication increases the blood flow which could cause damage leading to hearing loss.

If you use ear buds use the 60/60 rule. Limit bud use to 60 percent volume for 60 minutes a day. Hearing loss can also be caused by loud sounds, head trauma and brain tumors.

In December of 2016 the US Food and Drug Administration rescinded a requirement for patients to get a medical evaluation before getting a hearing aid. That rule cleared the way for over-the-counter personal sound amplifying devices (PSAPs) which helps people with mild or moderate hearing loss. Some aids can run from \$ 400 or the more sophisticated up to \$9,000.

ALL GRAINS by Phyllis Hoskin

Harvest time is here for some and getting close for others. According to most reports I've read, the crops in the Upper Midwest are all going downhill fast. Anywhere from 2% to 15% in different areas.

Between drought, hail, and fire, will there be any crop to harvest? The combines are going on winter wheat in our area now and we are praying that they can finish before things go too wrong. We have been a little luckier in our county this year as we have had a little more moisture than most of the state. And 70% of the county can be irrigated. Most of the farmland in Montana is dry land. We have had fire as close as 60 miles, north and south of us, and several smaller ones. But nothing like other parts of the state.

Right now the largest one in the U.S. has burned close to 300 thousand acres in Garfield County. Many houses, out buildings, fences, and livestock have been lost. As happens with farmers everywhere, help is coming in from all over.

Some times we think non-farmers don't care what happens out in the country but they do and want to help however they can. One lady put out a call for bottled water to send. She left her car open at work and within a short time her car was full and more cases stacked on the ground. She took it to Billings to someone taking a truck with donated items. Even from people who lost so much last spring in that huge fire.

Kerry wrote in her May report how green and good every thing looked when she drove through there. And as she said, with the blessings of God and the generosity of so many, we can all make it. Wishing each of you a good harvest.





Marlene Kouba
Homeland Security

A friend from near Houston wrote: “My blond haired, well mostly military cut (so you can't really see the color!), blue-eyes, pale skinned younger son had a problem of standing out in south Texas among the Tejanos. He never drives the River Road that runs along the Rio Grande River border between Texas and Mexico as the kids can throw rocks from Mexico at the cars on the American side so certainly the adults can shoot rifles at the same! He never goes shopping across the river either for that same reason plus he can't take his pistol across into Mexico. His Latino wife, who was born in south Texas, does not cross the river either, as she was Asst. District Attorney in two counties along the border and might be recognized in Mexico. Her sister makes one trip once a month or so across into Mexico to get the list of pharmaceuticals and dog flea meds etc. for every one in their large family and that's it. The drug cartels have taken over all the Mexican provinces along the whole border so not even Tex-Mex's feel comfortable crossing.”

A new drug is being smuggled into the U.S. by Mexican drug cartels. It is shipped from labs in China. Originally developed as a tranquilizer to immobilize elephants and rhinos, it is about 10,000 times more powerful than morphine. It is called carfentanil and drug dealers will sell anything they get their hands on. It is extremely dangerous and is hitting the Midwest resulting in fatal overdoses.

Illegal immigrants have already brought at least 20 diseases that America had eradicated. Be sure your immunizations are up to date.

Sanctuary cities are basically located in cities along the coasts and all of Connecticut. A large percentage are criminals. Some of the children who cross the border are over 18. Sanctuary schools are public schools and only ask for proof of residency not citizenship. Many are coming here are under the age of 18 with their parents. Today about 1 in 4 students in the U.S. public schools are immigrants.

China's intelligence network includes 25,000 spies now operating in the U. S., plus another 15,000 American recruits. The spies have four missions: obtain military weapons-related technology, "buy" senior U.S. officials personally, "buy" family members of American political or business elites and penetrate the American internet system and infrastructure with malicious software. They have already penetrated all the major defense weapons suppliers of the U.S. government. Officials keep the spies in line by holding their family members and relatives hostage.

When lawmakers in Howard County, Md., declared their intention to make the county a sanctuary for people living in the country illegally, various residents remembered where they came from and wanted a better life. One in five residents was born abroad and the bill was defeated. The new citizens are happy that [illegal border crossings have declined](#).

Washtenaw County in Michigan, has given initial approval to a new set of policies that welcome all migrants, whether legal or illegal, criminal or law abiding. The county and its main city of Ann Arbor are

already sanctuary jurisdictions, but now they are expanding their policies that give all sorts of favorable treatment to refugees and immigrants. There is also a plan to use taxpayer money to fund programs that aid all immigrants, including those facing deportation and free legal help.

The Trump administration has pledged 5,000 new agents along the southern border. The U.S. Border Patrol now has 19,828 agents serving but many are sitting at desks filing paperwork. Only 17,026 are earmarked to the southwest border. Considering work shifts and the terrain agents need to cover, the ratio of agents to immigrants is about 5 to 11,000.

ICE has concluded a nationwide sweep of suspected gang members with 1,378. Of the total arrested, 933 were U.S. citizens and 1,095 were confirmed as gang members or affiliates. Also, 104 of those arrested were affiliated with the dreaded MS-13 gang, eight of whom crossed the border as unaccompanied minors. During the operation, more than 200 firearms, narcotics like cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl and marijuana and \$491,763 in U.S. currency were seized. The greatest activity took place in the Houston, New York City, Atlanta and Newark, N.J., areas.

Remember Elan Gonzales who arrived from Cuba when he was 5 by himself on an inner tube on the Florida Coast in 1999? His mother died on the trip and he was sent back to live with his father. He is now 20 years old and studied industrial engineering in college. He became a close friend of Fidel Castro who visited him every year on his birthday. He would like to visit America again. About 25,000 Cubans have come to America since last September. Smugglers have been dropping off Cubans in Mexico with cards to get into the U.S.

A company in Texas, called GEO Group, is building a \$110 million facility with 1,000 beds that will be used as a detention center in Houston for immigrants as part of an expansion of ICE programs without the mayor knowing about it and is against it. There are three others near Houston and they already have a 1,500 bed detention center. More than 60 percent are already housed in for-profit prisons under government contracts. The purpose is to hold them until they go to court or are deported. Over 600 firms are drawing up plans to build a wall.

About 63% of Texans strongly support allowing illegal immigrants to become citizens after a long waiting period, payment of taxes and a penalty, passing a criminal background check and showing they can speak English fluently. More than 140 languages are spoken in Houston schools.

The projected growth in the Muslim population by 2016 is 70 percent compared to 32 percent for the Christian population.

An estimated 44,000 illegal immigrants—including around 11,000 from Mexico, 10,000 from China, and 2,000 from the Philippines—live in San Francisco. The San Francisco Public Defender's Office launched a new unit on May 23 dedicated to representing illegal immigrants faced with deportation.

Chris Anken Dairy

Why should we choose real genuine U.S. dairy products; because real milk, cheese, and yogurt offer a unique package of nine essential nutrients that both children and adults need. Dairy products provide a variety of nutrients in our everyday lives. Most of us cannot receive an adequate amount of calcium for good health, without dairy products in our diet. Protein in milk is complete, and it includes all essential amino acids in appropriate amounts. Real milk and dairy products are man's greatest source of calcium. Ninety-Nine percent of the calcium in the bones and 1 percent is in the extra-cellular fluids of the human body. Remember blood is boss; if it needs calcium, it will take it from the bones. A person is vulnerable unless he or she obtains sufficient calcium from his or her diet. Calcium deficiency in the bones doesn't show in x-rays until 30-50 percent of the bone calcium is gone, which is the biggest problem. Dairy foods play a major role in bone health. Inadequate calcium and dairy food consumption among children results in a higher risk of osteoporosis and life-threatening fractures later in life.

Real Dairy Milk is the Number (1) food source for three of the four nutrients identified by the federal government as falling short in the diets of both children and adults. Calcium, potassium, and vitamin D, are these nutrients lacking in our diets.

Experts agree that real dairy foods deserve a special place in the diets of children and adults. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, several nutrients critical for growth are lacking in the diets of children and adolescents. These nutrients are calcium, magnesium, vitamin A, and potassium; and (Real) Dairy foods provide all of these.

There is a significant public health concern with the shortfall in these nutrients. That's why the government encourages adults to consume three servings of low-fat and fat-free dairy products daily and children to consume two; so calcium, magnesium, vitamin A, and potassium is not lacking in the diet.

Eating the recommended servings of low-fat and fat-free dairy foods can also lower blood pressure in adults. Studies also associate consuming low-fat and fat-free dairy foods can also lower risks of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes, as well as osteoporosis by lowering the risk of these chronic diseases, and by consuming real dairy foods may also help reduce health care costs.

For Dairy, there was a very important opening and one that was a much needed positive change in school lunch policy. Schools could only serve non-fat flavored milk in the school lunch line, since 2010. This resulted in much less milk being consumed by students and certainly has been a contributing factor in the decline of fluid milk sales over the last several years for dairy. Kids were throwing out their school milk; because of the non-fat flavor taste, and wouldn't finish their milk, and it was getting thrown in the trash.

If children start drinking milk at a young age, they will more than likely continue to drink milk as adults. Kids need healthy fat in their lives, their brains are growing fast and so are bodies. The new proclamation USDA COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL MEALS issued by Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on May 1, 2017 calls for 1% flavored milk to be offered as part of the school lunch package in school breakfast and lunch programs. Our only wish is that it would of included 2% and 3.5%, but it is surely a stride in the right direction. Congress has put legislative wording in the Omnibus spending bill to require USDA to offer low fat 1% flavored milk in the future. Under the previous administration, low-fat flavored milk option were eliminated in school meal and other lunch school programs. This made the consumption of school milk declined, as did participation in school lunch programs. The spending bill also included language prohibiting the adoption of school meal sodium levels below the first target set by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The IDFA (International Dairy Foods Association) had filed comments with the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) asking for cheeses to be exempt from the voluntary sodium-reduction plans, saying the goals were likely to be unachievable without sacrificing product, food safety and other critical product qualities.

Real Dairy is getting an upgrade in school meal programs. U.S. public schools will get greater room in meeting meal program nutritional requirements, and students will get more flavorful dairy options as a result of USDA proclamation and approval of a federal spending bill.

If you have not read Nina Teicholz, Book "THE BIG FATSURPRISE Why Butter, Meat & Cheese Belong in a Healthy Diet". You need to read her book and look at the research and nutritional science that is needed for our children and adults in our society. With eight years of evidence why this striking study will make you eat butter, meat, and cheese again. So Eat Butter, Drink whole milk, and feed it to your whole family. Even stock up on creamy cheeses, and sausage, and yes bacon too.

(1 percent fat) flavored milk offered in the school lunch package is a step in the right direction for our children and their growth. Non-fat flavored milk is not appealing to kids, (1 percent fat) flavored milk tastes better.

So choose real genuine U.S. dairy products; because real milk, cheese, and yogurt offer a unique package of nine essential nutrients that both children and adults need. An make an American Dairy Farmer happy when you choose a glass of milk with fat instead of non-fat, it is better for you.

God Bless the American Dairy Farmer and his or her family!

Belinda Groner Energy

President Trump stated that pulling the United States out of the Paris Agreement would protect American workers from devastating economic impacts.

The World Resources Institute estimates it would cost America \$170 billion. This would intentionally make certain oil and gas reserves (part of the valuation of major energy companies) worthless since they could never be accessed as part of the cap on warming and would then effectively transfer the wealth away from oil companies and to other energy players. The Paris Agreement has no method of enforcement for violations, so it seems like a more voluntary agreement.

The Obama Clean Power Program and the Paris Agreement worked closely together. The Supreme Court issued a stay on the Clean Power Program in February 2017. The Clean Power Program has mandated that power plants cut emissions by 26% to 28% by 2020.

Several states disagreed with President Trump's decision. Washington, New York, and California have led in forming the U.S. Climate Alliance. Additional states joining the Alliance include Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia. The Alliance is committed to reduce emissions 26% to 28% from the 2005 levels.

There is a concern the Alliance violates the Interstate Compact Clause, Article 1, Section 10, Clause 3 provides that "no state may enter into an agreement or compact with another state or a foreign power," without the consent of Congress.

Coalition for a Prosperous America

By Pam Pothoff

WIFE joined the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) very early in its existence. Then National President, Pam Pothoff, has served on the Board of Directors of CPA since WIFE joined. This has involved monthly conference calls allowing input from WIFE, interviews, a promo video and lobbying in Washington, DC. The relationship has also kept WIFE current on evolving trade policy.

CPA has slowly moved into a leadership position on US trade policies. The CPA position is very similar to WIFE's with emphasis on FAIR trade instead of FREE trade. Dan DiMicco, leader of President Trump's transition team for trade, has taken over the role of CPA Chairman. He is still in contact with the President's advisors and extends the CPA arm into the White House. This is one more way agriculture can be heard by our elected officials.

CPA has been excellent in promoting trade issue beneficial to farmers and ranchers. Recently they have issued press releases promoting COOL, a ban on imports from Brazil, the need for the GIPSA rules, and backing US dairy producers in the dispute with Canada.

CPA is a good friend of WIFE, providing a speaker for convention, requesting our input on agricultural issues, and presenting our policies when lobbying in DC. To find out more about CPA go to their website, prosperousamerica.org.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All resolutions are due by Friday, October 20, 2017 to Korry Lewis, National WIFE Resolutions Chair, kLewis@hagemanlaw.com. Contact Korry with any questions at (307) 757-6872.

Commodity/Topic Chairs shall schedule and host their respective conference calls on or before Monday, October 30, 2017. Contact President Froese for more information and/or questions.

The 41st Annual National WIFE Convention will be held November 9 – 11, 2017 in Cheyenne, WY at the Little America Hotel. Committee meetings will be held on Thursday morning, Nov. 9th and convention will begin at 1 pm on Nov. 9th through Saturday afternoon, Nov. 11th with installation and banquet that evening. Registration information will be mailed or e-mailed with more information about the convention before September. Watch your mailbox or e-mail inbox/spam folder for convention details

Biography for Homeland Security Commodity Chair Marlene Kouba:

Marlene Kouba:

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 18 years ago. I have 9 children (including twins), 21 grandchildren (including triplets) and 11 great-grandchildren.

This year my sons are raising winter wheat, spring wheat, durum, canola, sunflowers, corn and buckwheat. We have had a total of 3.73" moisture this year. At least 27 of the 53 counties are under extreme drought.

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 of a monthly newsletter and taught Ag in the Classroom for 21 years. On the national level, I was secretary for 2 years, vice president for 2 years and editor for 4 years. Over the years I have also been the national chairman for Education, Transportation, Endangered Species, Energy and currently Homeland Security. I enjoy a challenge.

I would appreciate your support to continue to represent you as the National Homeland Security chairman.

Biography for Sugar Commodity Chair Klodette Stroh:

I like to thank all members of WIFE organization 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, barley 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.

Sincerely,
Klodette Stroh

Biography for National Wife President Kerry Froese:

Kerry Froese from southeast Colorado is seeking re-election as National WIFE President and would appreciate your support to continue as the leader of WIFE. Kerry and her husband, Jacob, purchased a farm near Cheraw, CO at the end of 2016 and stay busy with hay production and specialty crops. Kerry co-owns the family-owned trucking company with her brother, Keith, and enjoys keeping the books and maintaining the office for the third generation business. She loves working outside and enjoys helping on the family ranch where she grew up. Kerry and Jacob have a toddler daughter and are expecting a baby in January.

Kerry joined WIFE in 2012 and has held offices at the local, state and national levels. She has been truly inspired by the women in WIFE and looks forward to sharing her passion for agriculture to improve our way of life going forward.

Biography for National Natural Resources Commodity Chair Nominee Jillane Hixson

AGRICULTURE: Owner / Operator - fourth generation family farm, (HIXSON FARMS) producing wheat, milo, millet, and feed. Along with two brothers, actively involved in our family farm operation, located in southeast Colorado. Actively involved in water, soil conservation, property rights, & various agriculture issues.

LAND OWNERS UNITED: One of the founding board members, established to unite/organize land owners with **Conservation Easements**. A decade (2007 -2017) of diligent efforts in lobbying and testifying before the Colorado State Legislature, in pursuit of resolutions with the Colorado Governor, General Assembly, State Agencies, and various Legislative Committees, to resolve the ongoing issues that began in 2003, and continue to present day.

IBM (1981 – 2009): Various positions spanning: Printed Circuit Board manufacturing, Research & Development, Imports & Exports, Financial planning, cost analysis, contract administration, and business controls expertise for commercial contracts, in distribution, engineering, & manufacturing. Managed contracts with annual budgets exceeding \$150M.

** 1998 Recipient of prestigious award: "Top 1%" Performers (of 250,000 IBM employees). .*

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY 1976 - 1981

Arizona Biltmore Phoenix, AZ Front Desk & Resort Operations
Cow PalaceLamar, CO Front Desk & Events Coordinator

CIVIC ACTIVITIES / ORGANIZATIONS

- # Colorado Agriculture Leadership Program
- # WIFE (Women Involved in Farm Economics)
- # Land Owners United
- # Sage Brush Meadows (new Nursing Home for Lamar, CO)
- # Lamar Area Hospice Fund Raising
- # Domestic Safety Fund Raising
- # Lamar Chamber of Commerce - Honkers

National WIFE Board of Director's June Conference Call Meeting Summary of Major Decisions

24 WIFE members were present on the call. A quorum was established.

Approved minutes were read from the March 2017 Board of Directors meeting and were requested to be placed on file. A discussion was held on the minutes being approved from convention. The 2016 Convention minutes were approved by the National WIFE Executive Committee and requested to be placed on file. Copies of these minutes will be distributed by e-mail or hard copy to all members.

Correspondence - Senator Lee from Utah is requesting WIFE members that have been negatively affected by a checkoff program to submit written comments to President Froese. The Checkoff Reform Bill will likely be an amendment to the Farm Bill.

Treasurer's Report will be distributed to all members by e-mail or hard copy in the mail.

Old Business: 12 members went to DC trip with 4 being new members. WIFE went during Ag Week.

New Business: 2017 National Convention will be in Cheyenne, WY, Nov. 9-11th with travel days on the 8th and the 12th. Executive Board will host the event. All states are asked to pitch in.

Nominations Report: Chairman Cathy Scherler gave the report. She read the rules for the offices and chairmen.

President- Kerry Froese

V-President- Diane McDonald

Treasurer-Jenifer Felzien

Area I Director- Deb Dressler

Recording Secretary- vacant

Area II Director- vacant

WIFE Commodity/Topic Chairs:

Beef- Elisabeth Erickson-Noe and Jennifer Jones

All Grains- Vacant

Energy- Belinda Pierce Groner

Specialty Crops- Mary Ann Unruh

Homeland Security-Marlene Kouba

Natural Resources- Jillane Hixson

Rural Life- vacant

Sugar- Klodette Stroh

Trade-vacant

Transportation-vacant

Dairy-vacant

These are members in good standing and are eligible for election. Nominations report was approved.

Lisa Goodheart will send the proposed amendments for Bylaws/Procedure Manual changes to Secretary Murray. Bylaws/Procedure Manual report was approved.

2017 RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO PROCEDURE MANUAL from North Dakota:

1. The positions of both Area Directors shall be deleted.

Reason: Area Directors do not often contact their state presidents or relay information from the Board of Directors (according to guidelines). With the president often contacting the state presidents directly and with fewer state associations at this time, it seems some of the duties of the Area Directors could be done by the Vice-President or Past President. Their duties would then be excluded in various locations in the Bylaws and Procedure Manual. This would take effect in the 2018 election year.

Placement : See 2015 Bylaws, page 4, Delete Article X; Procedure Manual, Page 3, Delete all on Area Directors

2. The position of Membership Chairman shall be deleted.

Reason: The states are already sending a list of their members to the national treasurer and the editor also has a list. It has been a long time since the membership chairman has led a membership campaign or written articles for the WIFeline, even though both are listed under her duties. This would take effect in 2018 election year.

Placement: See 2015 Procedure Manual, page 8

3. A phrase shall be added to a current procedure:

Having five members at a meeting endorse a candidate is bypassing the Chapter and State Association's duties when a phone call, email or text could possibly solve that issue. By a nominee getting such an endorsement, why does anyone need to have state and chapter endorsements? Although there may be cases when a candidate no longer has a Chapter, but she could join with another Chapter and/or State Association before the convention so she could get such endorsements. (Example: Alice Parker when her chapter in Washington disbanded and she joined with Montana.)

With an added phrase, the procedure would read: Candidate(s) shall have the endorsement of their Chapter and Association or five (5) regular members in good standing **if the nominee does not have a Chapter and/or State Association.**

Placement: See 2015 Bylaws, page 4, Article IX, Section 2; Procedure Manual, Article XII, Section on Nominating Chairman, Section D; Convention Rules, page 12, Section 6.



Diana Adam, Editor
9601 42nd St SE
Minot, ND 58701

