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WIFE members make connections on D.C. trip



WIFE President Ruth Larabee discusses issues with Billy Senter at the WIFE Board of Directors meeting in Washington, D.C.



WIFE members listened to legislative aides at the annual pizza party in the nation's capital.



WIFE members pack gift bags for the speakers they heard while on the Washington, D.C. trip.

Board of Directors Notice

The Annual Board of Directors' Conference Call meeting will be June 18, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. MST. Number to call: 605-477-3000 code 182545.



By Ruth Larabee
New York

President's Report

Ag specialty plates offered

cal Society of Buffalo, Park zoos, Sea life aquariums, and other animal health associations.

Where I live in upstate New York, we are very fortunate to have a veterinary clinic with 15 veterinarians, some who treat small and some who treat large animals. There was never any problem getting a veterinarian day or night. They also have a clinic in Carthage which is about twenty minutes away. Some states are as fortunate and others are not as they live many miles from their veterinarians making care for their animals more difficult. But whether they are close or far away they still must have legal permission to carry controlled substances if

needed.

More than 8,000 Californians have signed up for new license plates for "California Agriculture." It will put the words "food, fiber, fuel, flora" front and center. The specialty license will cost between \$50 and \$98 in addition to regular registration fees and also depending on what else is requested. Proceeds from the license plate will go to the National Future Farmers of America and other agriculture education. A spokesman for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Steve Lyle, stated "we want our young people to have all the educational opportunities they can". The average age of farmers in California is nearing 60.

Representative Kurt Schrader (D-OR) has introduced a bill H.R. 1528 which may be referred to as the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2013 (AVMA) to amend the Controlled Substance Act (CSA) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) policy. The reasons stated are that the DEA perceives the regulations in the CSA are deemed illegal and at present prohibits veterinarians from carrying controlled substances enabling them to treat animals away from their place of business which is the registered location. The Veterinary Medicine Associations have been notified by the DEA that a legislative change would be needed to permit veterinarians to lawfully give all inclusive care to animals.

The explanation of why this is needed is that the change is important to rural regions as that is where most large animals are located and the veterinarians must go to them as it certainly would not be reasonable or realistic to bring the livestock into the clinic or place of business. A second reason stated is that the controlled substances are used for research and disease control services. This might also include our State Veterinarians and those veterinarians that use tranquilizers to catch and relocate unsafe wildlife. Another consideration is the controlled substances need to be able to be taken to where the animal is, not only for "animal health and welfare but for public safety." At this present time there are over 100 organization signatures urging Congress to pass this bill. The change in the ruling not only concerns our farm animals including the Veterinarian Associations for bovines, equine, swine, wildlife, and small animals but also involves Zoologi-



By Jacquelyn Sistrunk
Alabama

Specialty Crops Report

Health concerns create new markets

About 15 million people in the United States suffer from food allergies. Sorghum may be the answer to their problem. Flour made from sorghum helps people suffering from a gluten allergy or celiac disease. These people are sensitive to the slightest amounts of the protein in wheat flour and other cereal grains.

For people suffering from peanut allergies there is a creamy spread made from roasted kernels of sunflowers. 3.3 million people in the US suffer from peanut allergies. Since peanut allergy presents a severe health threat to children, 20 percent of schools have banned all peanut products.

A food allergy is a condition in which the body's immune system mistakenly reacts to a food protein like gluten, by releasing antibodies into the blood. Allergic reactions can include itching, difficul-

ties in breathing, swelling of the mouth and throat, vomiting, and sometimes loss of consciousness. Milk, eggs, wheat, soy, peanuts, tree nuts, fish and shellfish trigger 90 percent of all reactions. Celiac disease is a digestive disorder suffered by gluten intolerance. Gluten-free sorghum flour provide sufferers with many good tasting food products.

Sorghum is packed with phytochemical compounds whose cancer fighting antioxidant properties are found in blueberries, red wine, and dark chocolate. Therefore sorghum could play a role in reducing colon cancer and inflammatory bowel disease. Tannins in sorghum slows livestock digestibility, however, tannins in sorghum helps humans fight obesity and diabetes. Sorghum, relegated to livestock feed for the most part, has finally made food for humans and may prove to be just what the doctor ordered. Health concerns are creating new markets for specialty crops.

Homeland Security Report



**By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota**

Retired Lt. Gen. William G. “Jerry” Boykin warns that America is well along the pathway that other societies have used to turn their populations into submission. Lt. Gen. Boykin’s concern is that the six steps being done in America today.” He lists them: 1. nationalize major sections of the economy (the corporate bailouts), 2. redistribute wealth (the man appointed to head Medicare said health care is “nothing but a redistribution of wealth”), 3. discredit opposition (calling returning vets, proliferators and others a terror threat), 4. censorship (“hate crimes” legislation aimed at Christian pastors and others), 5. gun control (Washington’s present agenda), and 6. a constabulary force (one to control the population). Prior to the election in 2008 the presidential candidate said “We cannot continue to rely on our military in order to achieve the national security objectives that we’ve set. We’ve got to have a civilian national security force that’s just as powerful, just as strong, just as well-funded as the military forces.”

On April 1 Border Patrol agents from the Yuma Sector arrested six drug smugglers and seized 209 pounds of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$104,500. The agents were using their night vision equipment 10 miles southwest of Gila Bend when they caught them. The group of Mexican nationals had entered the United States illegally through the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. (Yuma Sun)

On April 2, the Associated Press (AP) announced that it is banishing the phrase “illegal immigrant” from its famous stylebook. The world’s largest newsgathering outlet now advises reporters that “illegal” will “only refer to an action, not a person.” AP directs writers not to use the terms “illegal alien, an illegal, illegals or undocumented” anymore, except in direct quo-

Videos document flood of border crossings

tations. How long will it be before illegal border crossers, illegal visa overstayers, illegal deportation evaders, document fraudsters and illegal alien traffickers are all referred to as “our fellow Americans”? AP explains that it wants to stop labeling people. In 2010, one writer said that foreign law-breakers should instead be labeled “undocumented workers” or “undocumented immigrants.” The AP agreed. Together, the terms describe a person who resides in a country unlawfully by residency or citizenship requirements. Now they don’t even use the term because they believe “it dehumanizes those it describes and we find it to be linguistically inaccurate.” (AP)

Thousands of grade school children are daily crossing the southern border to go to school in every town along the area. They live in Mexico but they walk across the border like crossing the street and the American taxpayers are paying the bills. Many schools would close if not for them. What are they being taught? (Fox News)

Ranchers along the Arizona border have reported the prolific traffic of illegal aliens and drug traffickers, but their reports are being ignored. Now a group of concerned citizens called Secure Border Intelligence has released daily video and audio documenting the flood of illegal traffic flowing into the state of Arizona. It seems the promise of amnesty and citizenship is drawing thousands more illegals. Some are backpacking large containers of water and drugs. (Godfather Politics)

The Department of Homeland Security had featured a page on their website about the many ways in which DHS helps to keep our nation safe. The page was entitled, “A Day in the Life of Homeland Security.” DHS will: Pre-screen 2 million passengers, Screen 1.8 million passengers for explosives and prohibited items at 448 airports, Perform 200 inspections of air carriers and airports infrastructure, Screen 100 percent of cargo and vehicles entering the U.S. from Canada and Mexico, Patrol 3.4 million square miles of U.S. waterways, Seize 19,040 lbs. of drugs at/

near U.S. ports of entry, Train 350 members of law enforcement, faith-based, academic and private sector communities to respond to active shooter scenarios, Train 5,880 federal, state and local emergency management personnel, Train 2,100 officers and agents from 90+ federal agencies as well as 125 international, state and local officers and agents, Engage the public through “If You See Something, Say Something.” Does the last one mean they want a nation of snitches for everyone to be afraid to say anything at all in public? DHS insists that the Boston event only proves we need more security measures. (DHS)

Sequestration means that two percent of the projected increase of the budget is being cut and this was the president’s idea after a tax increase to increase the debt ceiling was defeated. It is part of the Budget Control Act of 2011. As part of the sequestration, work furlough notices have been sent to thousands of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) personnel because of budget cuts. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), said Homeland Security’s effort to identify \$3.1 billion in cuts for fiscal 2013 would result in a reduction of more than 5,000 Border Patrol agents. He said border security and the detention of those who violate U.S. laws are at the core of Homeland Security’s (HS) mission. HS officials have told Congress that they don’t have a way to effectively measure border security or how successful the government has been in its multimillion-dollar effort to better secure the border. Beginning in mid- April, the agents each will lose 14 workdays through September. On March 2 the Border Patrol’s normal 10-hour work shifts were ordered cut to eight hours. The elimination of overtime pay could cost field agents an average of \$7,000 a year. In 1992, the Border Patrol had 4,200 agents patrolling 7,500 miles of border with Mexico and Canada but today there are 21,400 agents, with the majority along the Southwest border. Most of that growth occurred from 2001 to 2009 under President Bush. (AP)

Feed Grains Report



By Janell Roe
Nebraska

Farmers anxious to get crops planted

Planting progress has been delayed due to moisture and cold temperatures this spring. A majority of the major corn producing states have barely begun planting. While farmers may feel the need to head out in the field, it is important to remember a few issues that can occur if corn is planted in wet or cold soil.

By April 21, only 4 percent of the U.S. corn crop had been planted in comparison to the 26 percent that was planted last year at this same time. Over the past five years, the average planted corn crop for this time in April is 16 percent. Only two states are keeping up with their corn planting averages: Texas and North Carolina. Several states such as Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota have planted little to no corn acres. Most farmers do not believe they will be able to hit the fields until May 1. Last year farmers began planting almost a month earlier. It is too early to say if corn acres will be affected by the heavy moisture; however, experts are beginning to compare this year to 2008 when similar conditions existed. In 2008, the average yield was 153.9 bushels/acre. The delayed planting trends are looking to continue. When less than 10 percent of corn is planted during this time, historically, the amount of corn acres increases while the yield decreases (Agweb, 2013).

Although farmers are anxious to get in the field, planting corn early in wet soil can be detrimental to corn

plants. If soil is still fairly wet, planting and other activities can compact the wet soil impairing the corn plants roots. These roots will grow incorrectly and be more susceptible to diseases (Agweb, 2013). In addition, wet soil can cause soil crusting which also harms the plants ability to emerge and grow. Saturated soil will not only inhibit plant growth but will also limit oxygen accessibility, leaf area development, and photosynthesis. Yellow leaves and partial dead roots are indicators of saturated soil issues (Monsanto, 2010)

In addition, planting corn while the soil temperature is less than 50 degrees can cause germination and emergence problems. Corn needs 100 days on average with the soil temperature at or above 50 degrees in order to surface. This period can range from 90 to 150 days. The cool soil can lead to asymmetrical corn emergence. Seeds planted in soil cooler than 50 degrees may suffer during germination as well. Most good quality hybrid seeds are less susceptible to chilling injuries during germination. C

hilling injury occurs when dry seeds soak up cold water from rain or snow. The seed will swell causing the cell membranes to become stiff and burst. This can result in deferred seed development, dead lateral seminal roots, or increased seminal roots. This damage will cause the plant to decrease or stop absorbing nutrients, have limited growth, and become more vulnerable for diseases and pests.

There are several symptoms that typically occur when plants suffer from cold injury: seeds will expand and not germinate, plant deformity often by corkscrewing, observable damage on the root stem as it emerges, and weak or no primary root or root stem (Monsanto, 2010).

Corn planting delays due to weath-

er is occurring in all of the major corn producing states. Last year roughly 16 percent of the United States corn crop was planted on April 21st in comparison to the 4 percent planted this year. Corn that is planted too early in cold or wet soil can have emergence, development, and germination issues. Yellow leaves, dead roots, and corkscrewing deformity are signs of this type of plant damage.

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

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Membership

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

In-Kind Contributors

- Miller/Coors
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**By Kay Zeosky
New York**

Dairy Report

Sequestration cuts eliminate monthly milk production report

Because of sequestration cuts, the USDA's monthly milk production report will be eliminated for the next six months through September 2013. Manufacturers of dairy products won't know what supplies are available or how they have been marketed.

It might also be hard for the National Dairy Board and their farmer members to determine what dairy promotions are working and what are not on a current basis. While dairy products are so perishable, the impact of the sequestration cuts will be more influential than for most other commodities. It will be interesting to see how this lack of information affects prices paid to dairy farmers.

Japan is now the third largest importer of US cheese behind Mexico and South Korea. That's good news for our dairy industry. The Philippine market for dairy products is growing fast. At this time it ranks fourth and jumped by 50 percent in 2011. Their imports from the US were expected to reach \$328 million for 2012. Our exports depend totally on the value of each country's currency.

New York State has finally surpassed California in yogurt production. Sales of Greek yogurt are growing so fast that the industry projects it will need 15 percent more milk over the next few years. Many different programs have been developed to encourage regional dairy farmers to expand or increase production.

Kudos to Shatto Milk Company

of Osborn, Missouri. As well as their standard chocolate and strawberry milk, they have developed and are marketing several new flavors including cotton candy, chocolate cherry, banana, orange crème, and coffee.

Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension, predicts prices of \$18.55 for August and September milk prices and believes \$19.00 for September and October are still very possible.



**By Deb Dressler
North Dakota**

Legislative Report

Work on Farm Bill will resume in May

contact them and remind them of the importance of passing a farm bill.

National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS) has released a detailed question-and-answer resource laying out the facts about crop insurance and dispelling some of the most common arguments against crop insurance put forth by its critics.

"Crop insurance is the single most important risk management tool available to farmers today, and the public needs to understand why it is so valuable, how it benefits taxpayers and how it helps maintain a stable agriculture for the benefit of consumers," said Tom Zacharias, president of NCIS.

"Crop Insurance: Just the Facts" is housed in a new tab on the Crop Insurance Keeps America Growing website page "About Crop Insurance" where it will be continuously updated.

For every \$1 spent on food, farmers receive less than 12 cents for the raw products.

There are several legislative issues pertinent to WIFE members. The number one priority is a Farm Bill.

May movement of a farm bill is looking more likely in both chambers of Congress. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) said he would like that chamber to take up a farm bill in May. This means the Agriculture Committee would have to mark-up immediately after Congress returns from a planned one week recess on Monday May 6. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R -OK) has said his panel plans to mark up their bill on Wednesday May 15, although neither the Senate nor House Agriculture Committees have made formal announcements on mark-up timing. When the congressmen are home on their spring break,



By Pam Potthoff
Nebraska

Trade Report

Two trade issues demand immediate action by WIFE

There are two trade issues demanding immediate action by all WIFE members.

President Obama has presented a plan to revamp international food aid (including Food for Peace) to allow more flexible, cash purchases overseas rather than shipping commodities from the U. S. Foreign Aid is when one country sends large amounts of money to another country to help them in a financial crisis. Historically, the U.S. has sent much of its food aid in the form of commodities raised in the U.S. This new policy would allow food to be purchased from other countries (maybe even our biggest competitors) and sent as aid to countries in need.

Established in 1954, the Food for Peace program didn't get its full name until John F. Kennedy's administration in the 1960s. In the decades since, it has grown to be a staple of American foreign policy with average annual costs of \$1.8 billion since 2002.

About \$1.47 billion from the Food for Peace program would be reallocated to three accounts, the biggest designated for emergency assistance. The White House promises that 55 percent of the funds would still go to buy and ship American commodities, but that's a big drop from today and could have grave consequences for some carriers, farmers and workers.

WIFE has long supported the use of ONLY U.S. grown products in foreign aid programs.

WIFE policy Trade, page 32, #2 states, "WIFE encourages the continuation of the Export Enhancement Program (EEP) with utilization of domestic

supplies."

WIFE policy Trade, page 34, # 24 states, "WIFE supports the use of only domestically grown products for PL 480 and all other foreign aid programs."

The other trade issue is the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act (HR 1276) which amends the Tariff Act of 1930 to include as a "countervailable subsidy" requiring action under a countervailing duty or antidumping duty proceeding the benefit conferred on merchandise imported into the United States from foreign countries with fundamentally undervalued currency.

If Congress wants to focus on job creation and economic recovery, they need to stop foreign currency cheating that offshores U.S. jobs, companies and supply chains.

WIFE Policy, Trade, Page 32 #4 says in part "WIFE insists. . . all future trade agreements must address . . . trade-distorting effect of currency manipulation.

WIFE Policy, Trade, Page 33 #11 states, "WIFE believes trade agreements must now address . . . while also seeking transparency with regard to currency..."

HR 1276 has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Currently this bill has 80 co-sponsors.

WIFE Membership

There has been a mixup on the membership list, and letters have been late going out to those members who have not paid their 2013 dues. Those of you who know someone who has not paid, please contact that person and ask them to send their dues to the treasurer. You are important to the WIFE organization because you speak up for agriculture. It is important to know that WIFE is working to improve legislation in Congress that affects you on the farm. When you go to the grocery store to buy food for your family, you know that WIFE has worked hard to get legislation passed so that

your family can eat safe food.

I have been a member of WIFE since 1979. I am thankful for each year that WIFE is speaking for me and all farmers. We have not finished our goal yet. The population is predicted to increase by millions in the U.S. by 2020. We may not be here, but our children and grandchildren will benefit from us planting the seed for getting good legislation in place for the future.

Please send dues of \$40 to Shana Baisch, 323 Road, Glendive, MT 59330. WIFE needs your support.

Please contact me if I can be of any help.

Mary Ann Sheppard
National Membership Chairman
4966 Co. Rd. 30
Shorter, AL 36075
Ph. 334-727-7737
email: marygo29@aol.com





By Barbara Broberg
Montana

Energy Report

Energy and environment can coexist in the U.S.

Reading this WIFeline may mean you are a WIFE member. We all gravitate to this WIFE organization to for different reasons. The WIFeline Commodity Topics certainly spoke to me when I was new member. We were new at farming, I knew a little about the farming, but we were not on farm mailing lists. We did not receive farm publications, advertisements, or other farm literature. (After 20 years on the land, it seems my farm address fills a bushel basket with mail every week). In the beginning, though, I was troubled to read 'farmer-speak', when the farm related material DID start to arrive. I went to a grain grower meeting in the first few months of farming- I vowed out loud to them to read their newsletter. I read it, but it was so hard. It seemed you had to know what the word meant to put it into context.

Publications were written to farmers, by established farm informants. The words in WIFeline seemed to be written by real people. For me the words were a breath of fresh air. WIFeline had alot of subjects, varying viewpoints, and some wit and wisdom worked in to the pages. It was so refreshing. This was a help to bridge the gap between my Wisconsin grandfather's five milk cows with hay and corn and tobacco to this grain farm in Montana.

On this farm, cattle and horses are on the other side of fences (when I'm caught up on fencing, and singing America the Beautiful), and in predictable spots on distant hillside: four neighbors' herds share this scenic arrangement. So how could it really and truly be a farm here if there was no barn with milk cows?

I now know that WIFE members often ARE farmers, and actually ARE established farm informants! So thank you WIFE for helping me to take farm-

ing very seriously and to understand the complexity of farming more clearly. It is appreciated.

It was one of our Montana WIFE ladies that helped me see what "The Grid" is. She had been invited to attend a program on electricity transmission. She used the word 'grid', and I remember thinking "what?" This was a while ago; there was a large power outage in the north east part of the United States. It turns out that the north west United States had plenty of power during that time. But existing power transmission lines could not move the electricity east (or south).

Well, now, 2013 we have all this "alternative" energy. Wind, solar, and other "alternatives" have augmented the other game changers like the oil boom in North Dakota, so generating facilities are giving and taking energy in all kinds of ways-whether there is a user close by or if the electricity is generated far away. Canada, a country available all across our north border, also feels strongly they can add to our energy supply when and where needed.

So, there are things happening as far as the grid is concerned; electricity is more mobile and nimble because of creative planning, and physical work projects by the power industry. The industry now sees a variety of sources- before alternatives there used to be more agency 'walls'-now it seems ideas flow more freely. And through all this, remember the electric coop speaker in New Mexico who described lengthy meetings with numerous agencies - the meeting was dealing with issues 14 years from now. Generating electricity for our future is happening today.

"Firming" is another electric industry word. I'll use it in this paragraph. Natural gas is increasingly harnessed (it was formerly almost a by-product). Nat-

ural gas can help make coal into a liquid fuel, it can be the "firming" fuel for electricity generation when wind mills don't turn due to weather or specific demand somewhere. Natural gas is being a low cost energy source allowing innovation for all kinds of industry in middle America, which used to be too far from anywhere. Wind is writing 25 year contracts to their electricity, helping to make themselves very viable, and indispensable-no longer in need of subsidies to function.

Some huge technological advancements: electric motor innovation; computer controls on various equipment making extreme efficiency possible; constant research /development proving ways to do things better. Managers, economists, and power company officials are describing improvements to their industry. The power people say we are using less energy- they say we are being more efficient. They say we have enough energy to sustain economic growth, we can continue to do trade with the world, we can keep moving the U.S. into the future. It is possible to have our energy and our environment. There is enough. There will be enough.

Again, (we touched on this last month) the need for carbon tax was heard in discussions-those who exude carbon need to give back to the area they affect. There will be nuclear power in our future. Nuclear will be smaller and very manageable. Clean air, clean water, clean industry all seem compatible when industry leaders talk. Safety is often a matter of education, so industry makes safety a clear goal. A clear culture of safety can allow a worker to value their place in the world more.

Two of our WIFE ladies wrote to comment on this optimistic feeling. Looking at energy issues this month, this is the overwhelming feeling to share. Thanks for being part of WIFE.



By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

Sugar Report

Farm policy is important

Paul Harvey says it all in this well-thought-out statement: "And on the eighth day God looked down on his planned paradise and said, 'I need a care taker,' so God made farmers." Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) members traveled from states of Colorado, Montana, North and South Dakota, New York, Washington and Wyoming to Washington, D.C. WIFE is a grass roots organization to represent U.S. farmers and ranchers.

During the visit to United States Department of Agriculture, USDA's James Radintz, the director of the Farm Service Agency, informed the group of having money in their budget for direct loans to help young farmers start farming. He said there will be a limit of \$300,000 dollars for operating expenses and \$300,000 for machinery purchases. USDA Undersecretary Edward Avalos welcomed WIFE by wearing his red colortie (Red is WIFE's official color).

Crop insurance has been a very sensitive issue during this year's Farm Bill discussions. The 2008 Farm Bill has been extended to September 15, 2013. Farm Bill is an amendment to the permanent law of 1949 and it has an interesting history. In 1938 the U.S. Congress passed The Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1938 and in the 1949 Agriculture Act ("Act 1949"), which have been repeatedly suspended by several farm bills. In case of failure to enact a new farm the old 1949 Act would again become legally effective and often this Act has been called "permanent law". The core operation of the federal crop insurance program is protected under the permanent law. This means the federal crop insurance

program would not be affected if neither an extension of Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 ("FSRIA") nor a new farm bill were enacted.

Duration of the new Farm Bill will be from 2014 to 2023 and its mandatory spending is 77.9 percent for nutrition programs. These nutrition programs include the special nutrition programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act of 1966, including the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children and the school lunch and breakfast program; the commodity and supplemental food program authorized by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973; food stamp and food distribution programs authorized by the Food Stamp Act of 1977; and emergency food assistance programs authorized by the Emergency Food Act of 1983.

Commodity programs' share is 6.6 percent, crop insurance's share is 8.7 percent. Conservation program has a share of 6.6 percent and others are 0.3 percent. American taxpayers and lawmakers can clearly see majority of farm bill funding is to assure nutrition for our children.

As a farmer, irrigator and water commissioner for Shoshone irrigation district, the National Blue Ways System was on my mind during my visit with our honorable Representative Cynthia Lummis, Senator Enzi and Senator Barasso. We all know our state of Wyoming has a unique geographic situation. The Continental Divide subdivides the state into four major drainage basins. Rivers such as Missouri, Columbia, Colorado and Great Salt Lake Basins are in Wyoming. This geographic feature has made Wyoming the "Headwater of the West." Buffalo Bill Dam Reservoir is the source of water to over 97000 acres of land in Park and Big Horn counties. I have been very concerned about Wyoming people's

water rights and how the National Blue Ways System would interfere with land owner water rights or irrigator's way of irrigating in this state. The Wyoming delegation should be commended for their support and protecting Wyoming water laws.

U.S. consumers spend 10 percent of their incomes on food; this is the lowest of any country. Federal Crop Insurance mainly helps farmers to insure crops during the bad weather. The fact is that spending on farm policy including crop insurance was down over 20 percent in five years. Farmer commodities add over 37 billion in trade for U.S. economy which will help to reduce this countries record high deficit. The truth of the matter is that farm supports cost Americans just 2 pennies per meal, and accounts for less than one quarter of 1 percent of the federal budget.

Farmers and ranchers spend over \$329 billion on seed, tractor equipment, fertilizer, and labor.

As national sugar chairperson I am concerned about America's sugar industry. The sugar price has collapse because subsidized sugar has been imported from Mexico and elsewhere. Opponents of sugar policy – namely large food manufacturers – have launched an aggressive lobbying effort to strip the USDA of the tools Congress gave it to deal with crippling oversupplies caused by subsidized foreign sugar. American farmers have to face a devastating 50 percent sugar price reduction. There is no business that can afford such financial setbacks.

The sugar program operates at no cost to taxpayers and gives a fair trade to import sugar from 41 different countries. Please contact your Congress people to support the sugar program.

Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of this country. Eliminating farm policy will not balance the budget, but it would damage our economy and jeopardize our security.



By Donna Bolz
Nebraska

Rural Life Report

Bed bugs can be controlled

They have been in the news recently. You can find them in places from homeless shelters to high class hotels and many places in between. Bed bugs are everywhere. So how do you know when you have bed bugs and how do you get rid of them?

A recent press release from two federal agencies, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have focused on the national concern about the misuse of insecticides when treating bed bugs. Authorities have documented improper and dangerous treatments done by pest control applicators and landlords, as well as apartment dwellers and homeowners who have attempted do-it-yourself treatments.

In the US and other developed countries, bed bug infestations have been on the increase since 2000. Media attention

about this problem has increased public awareness about this pest problem. There is an increased paranoia in some individuals who develop rashes of unexplained bites. These individuals are sure they have bed bug infestations, but cannot find the insects. These individuals often want to have their home treated, even though bed bugs cannot be found. What looks like an insect bite can sometimes have other causes like allergies, skin irritations and infections. Even drug/prescription medications and medical condition can have unwanted side effects like prickling of the skin or the feeling like something is crawling on the skin.

At times, people use chemicals to get rid of insects they cannot see. Some of these insecticidal products are skin irritants and actually cause a rash or what appears to be bites. This is why it is important to find bed bugs before actions are taken. Bed bugs hide during the daytime and are active at night, so finding them can be tricky, but a thorough examination of the area around the bed will nearly always find them. Many people believe bed bugs are too small to see but adult bugs are ¼ inch long and both immatures and adults leave black fecal spots where they hide.

In a home setting, the box springs is the most common place bed bugs will be found. The box springs in a wooden frame, nailed or stapled together and covered with fabric. The bottom is covered with a dust cover stapled to the frame. This dust cover is made of a gauze-type material, which get ripped easily. Bed bugs are flat and can easily squeeze in the area between the staples. To find bed bugs in the box springs, turn it upside down and tear off the dust cover. Look for bugs and fecal spots near where pieces of wood are nailed together, where there are knots or splits in the wood or to where fabric is stapled to the wood. If you cannot find bed bugs, hire a pest control company to do an inspection

or hire an inspection company that has a bed bug sniffing dog. If bed bugs still cannot be found, the natural conclusion must be there is no bed bug infestation.

Do not hire a pest control company to do treatments or attempt insecticidal treatments yourself. Since bed bugs live in areas of the home where people sleep it is important to minimize exposure to pesticides and only use products in these areas if it is necessary to eradicate a bed bug infestation. Ethical pest control professionals will not treat for pests that are not present. Even if bed bugs are found, Barb Ogg, a University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) Extension Educator doesn't recommend a do-it-yourself treatment because research studies have shown bed bugs throughout the United States have a high level of resistance to pyrethroid insecticides, which are the products most commonly found in hardware stores and other places where people buy pesticides.

One study shows it takes more than 10,000 times more pyrethroid insecticide to kill these resistant bed bugs compared with laboratory strains never exposed to pyrethroids. These products are not very effective at the labeled rates and it would be unhealthy to douse your home with the amount needed to kill bed bugs. There are more effective (non-pyrethroid) products but they are primarily sold to professionals through pest control distributors.

Over-the-counter foggers like bug bombs are also pyrethroids and not effective in controlling bed bugs. Susan Jones, a researcher at Ohio State University, found only small percentage of exposed bed bugs died even when only 3 to 10 feet from the fogger itself. Bugs in a harborage area, which is the most likely location for them, were not killed at all. Clearly the purchase and use of over-the-counter foggers is a waste of money and increases unnecessary exposure to inhabitants.

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Beef Report



By Sue Krentz
Arizona

Labeling is still an issue for beef producers and the meat industry

in how to shop for and prepare beef and pork. Over 350 cuts of beef and pork will have the new labels. For example, a “beef loin top sirloin steak, boneless” is now just a sirloin steak. A pork butt will be a Boston roast and described as a bone-in pork shoulder

Check out www.MeatTrack.com for retailers to integrate into their scale label programs.

It is not a bad idea for those of us who have local meat shops to help them out by passing along this helpful website.

The National Pork Board and Beef Checkoff Program worked on this program and believe the changes will help customers to understand the different cuts of meat, and how to prepare them..

GRAZING FEES INCREASE

In the West, where we graze on federal and state lease lands, our grazing fees are going up. This is because of the formula that we use when our beef prices go up the grazing fees will go up. We do hope as this happens that the monies that are raised will go to the proper places. In Arizona, our state grazing fees support 15 beneficiaries; common public schools receive the most. On federal lands our grazing fees are split up 25 percent to the local forest service office, 25 percent to county coffers and they support schools and roads, and 50 percent go to the federal government. This money goes to the Range Betterment fund The fund is used for range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement, including grass seeding and reseeding, fence construction, weed control, water development, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Many of us in the West have suf-

fered from the devastating wildfires that have ravaged the grazing allotments in the West. It would be better if they would use proper tools such as grazing that benefit the local forest service, the county, schools and roads instead of burning it up. In many cases sometimes the ground is so burned and then if it does not rain the ranchers do not get to put their cattle back on the forest allotment; that means all the beneficiaries lose income.

HEALTH CARE

Many of my ranching friends are finding the health care bill a little hard on them. Many have been informed by their doctor they won't take Medicare patients any more. This is a hardship as many of us rural residents already live 30 to 100 miles from medical care, and now we have to search for a new doctor or health care provider. I do hope it gets figured out soon.

IMMIGRATION

The border is still not secure. I remind you that Article 4 Section 4 of the Constitution says the federal government is to protect us from invasion both domestic and foreign. My concern is if we get an animal disease it will wipe us all out, and I am not sure how we will recover.

Argentina is aggressively beefing up its Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) inoculation campaign. Argentina seems like far away till the disease is at your door and they are killing your cattle, so please keep the pressure up to help us secure our border.

I wish you all a successful summer. May the rain come, the grass grow, and we all live free and safe on our own land.

I was very disappointed to miss the WIFE meeting in D.C. The newsletter showed how much fun you all had but how much information you found out to report back to the membership.

I had an awful case of the shingles and for about two weeks I was flat on my back. It took me that long to get well enough to drive home. Now one deals with the pain. I had the shingles in 1976 when Rob and I started dating. The doctors assured me then that I had such a bad case I would not get them again. Well that was a misdiagnosis. Many of the doctors felt it was from the trauma from the accident as it was all over my left side of my head and face and in my hair. I am better, just dealing with the pain and itching. Not much medication one can take and the shot the doctors say wont help now. It costs about \$205 and one has to be over 60 which I am not over that hill yet. So I will have to see. I recommend you getting the shot.

BEEF INFORMATION

Meat groups all over the nation have met to change the labels to aid retail customers at the market. These standards were approved by the industry wide Cooperative Meat Identification Standards Committee (ICMISC) for new Uniform Retail Meat Identification Standards (URMIS).

The goal is an opportunity for retailers to build consumer confidence



By Jean Wach
Nebraska

Cereal Grains Report

World experiences low grain supply

U.S. and Canada wheat production stirs controversy. The United States and Canada tend to get along very well, but sometimes even the best of neighbors have disagreements. The wheat industry finds itself wrapped in controversy as farmers on both sides of the border struggle to buy varieties and sell their grain fairly.

An important change came last August with the implementation of the Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act in Canada. This Act changed the way Western Canadian wheat and barley farmers market their grain by removing the mandatory requirement to sell their crops through the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). The CWB has been the sole buyer of Canadian wheat since 1935, now farmers have more options when marketing their crops.

Dismantling the CWB's monopoly has not been a comprehensive solution, either. Grading inconsistencies between the U.S. and Canada are a concern for some farmers who want to market their crop in both countries. The problem going north right now is the Canadian varietal act.

To get a grade, wheat in Canada must be an approved variety. If it's not, it has to be graded as lower value feed wheat. Although there are positive aspects of the CWB's demise, there are some potential unintended consequences of the change. As a

matter of marketing policy, CWB restricted the range of varieties Canadian farmers could plant.

One outcome of this policy is that the majority of row crop production in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta have an incentive to plant hard red winter wheat or canola. Now these incentives may shift.

The much bigger issue over the next few years is if Canadian growers demand and receive wider options on what they can plant. It won't happen overnight, but if Canada taps into hard red spring wheat varieties, the country could significantly affect the market, resulting in an influx of as much as 20 percent more red spring wheat. That could jeopardize the premium market that hard red spring wheat farmers in states like Montana and North Dakota currently enjoy. The world wheat market is very liquid. There are a lot of buyers and a lot of sellers. Because of that, the market factors can be more complex than corn or soybeans.

The coldest start ever to the wheat growing season in Kansas and freezing weather across the southern Great Plains are compounding damage to U.S. crops already hurt by the worst drought since the 1930s. Wheat sown from September to November went dormant over the winter as drought left crops in the worst condition since at least 1985.

Growth resumed in March, and temperatures this month in Kansas, the largest U.S. grower, were the lowest in more than a century for areas that produced about half of the state's harvest last year. Mean temperatures across four of nine crop districts in Kansas in the first 18 days of April were the lowest since record-keeping

started in 1895.

The cold snap came as analysts, traders, farmers, and buyers prepared for the Wheat Quality Council's annual three-day tour of Kansas fields starting April 30. The group will issue a forecast for the harvest which starts in June.

Global supplies will drop to the smallest in four years as production declines from Argentina to Russia to Australia, the U.S. government estimates.

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WIFE Notices

- **Proposed Bylaw** changes due to Jenifer Felzien (gjfelz@kci.net) by May 20, 2013. Jenifer Felzien, 2946 County Road 53, Sterling, CO 80751-8912.
- **Nominations**, including chapter and state endorsements for Officers, Commodity and Topic chairmen, due to Nominations Chair Klodette Stroh, 980 Road 5, Powell, WY 82435, strohfarms@tritel.net, by May 20, 2013.
 - All officers are elected at the annual convention and serve a one year term or until their successors are elected. (President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer)
 - Area Directors are elected at the annual convention and serve a one year term or until their successors are elected. (Area I and Area II)
 - All Commodity and Topics of Interest Chairmen shall be elected at the convention and serve a one year term and can serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive one (1) year terms.
 - All candidates must have the endorsement of their Chapter and Association or the endorsements of 5 Regular members in good standing. Their Association must be current on WIFE Assessments. Nominations from the floor will be accepted if written endorsements are in the hands of the chairman.
- The current Commodity/Topic Chairmen are:
 - Beef
 - Cereal Grains (Wheat, Barley, Oats)
 - Dairy
 - Energy
 - Specialty Crops (Cotton, Peanuts, Rice, Tobacco)
 - Natural Resources, Private Property, Water and Endangered Species
 - Pork
 - Homeland Security
 - Rural Life (Farm Finance, Tax, Health, Communication)
 - Sheep/Goats
 - Sugar
 - Trade
 - Transportation
 - Grains (Dry Beans, Lentils, Feed Grain, Oil Seeds)
 - Homeland Security

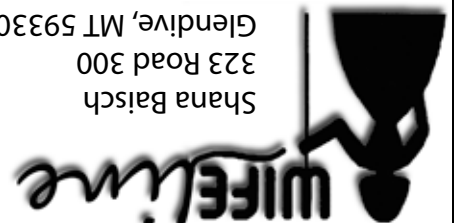


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