



Volume 36

August 2013

No. 6



North Dakota woman wins scholarship

Breanna Bregel of Carrington is one of two national winners of the \$500 Marilyn Spiker Memorial Scholarship that is sponsored by the Foundation of Agricultural Education and Development (FAED) and Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE).

Breanna is the daughter of Bruce and Lynelle Bachmeier. She graduated with honors from Carrington High School and will be attending North

Dakota State University in Fargo this fall, majoring in Agricultural Education. She chose this career path because of her passion for agriculture and children.

She has developed a strong interest in agriculture through four years of FFA during high school. She worked at Carrington Elementary School in the After School Program through AmeriCorps for two years. She has also volunteered as a Sunday School teacher, with AWANA, and helped at a bible camp for the past four years.

“North Dakota has been fortunate to have had numerous national scholarship winners,” says Phyllis Howatt of Langdon, the North Dakota scholarship chairman for FAED. “Over the years we have had many qualified contestants who were worthy of the honor. Other national winners were Beth Payne of Elgin in 1999, Teresa Oe of Belfield in 2003, Megan Friedt of Mott in 2006, Katie Dressler of Richardton in 2009, Jayme Balsdon of Osnabrock in 2010, Mercedes Stein of Langdon of 2011 and Rebecca Kronberg of Forbes in 2012,” concludes Howatt.”

President's Report



By Ruth Laribee
New York

A look at COOL's Final Rule and some recent farm bill discussions

A report from Jess Peterson of the United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) informs us of the association's disappointment in a lawsuit filed against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Tom Vilsack in his official capacity as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMA) along with Anne Alonzo in her official capacity as AMA Administrator. Eight organizations have filed a complaint to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia requesting the court to void the USDA's Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) Final Rule. The claimants consist of the North American Meat Association, the American Meat Institute, the American Association of Meat Processors, the Southwest Meat Association, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, the Canadian Pork Council, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Pork Producers Council. The court filing states that the claimants will "seek injunctive relief to halt implementation and enforcement of COOL regulations."

Jon Wooster of San Lucas, California and president of USCA stated, "The World Trade Organization (WTO) recently reaffirmed the right of the United States to label products with Country of Origin information. The WTO ruling pointed out a need for the USDA to clarify the COOL rule. USDA's final rule on COOL did

just that and took a step forward to bring [sic] the United States into compliance at the WTO." Wooster continued to state, "We are disappointed that this action against COOL has been taken. The United States Cattlemen's Association was founded on several basic premises, one being support for the effective and efficient implementation of COOL; we are committed to working with producers and consumers to preserve COOL."

Surveys have shown that consumers want to know where their food comes from and would support more information. This would comprise a range of production processes such as where animals are born, raised and processed, which is precisely what the USDA's Final Rule addresses. COOL has been put into operation for approximately two years, the costs have been insignificant, it has been greatly accepted by consumers and the retail businesses and very importantly, the final rule of the USDA will bring it into WTO compliance.

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) visited here in Lowville, New York last week. The topic at hand was the farm bill. Gillibrand stated that in order for the senate to pass the farm bill, it will have to include the nutrition program. The senator spoke of a comprehensive farm bill that would help farmers and help our "veterans and families" need for food. Senator Gillibrand continued by saying that the House of Representatives need to band together for a farm bill as agriculture is "big business" and is very important to our financial system. The senator is dedicated to speaking out for farmers and producers.

Several years ago, I attended a

meeting in Washington with several U.S. Representatives and a large assembly of farmers discussing the pros and cons of separating the nutrition program from the farm bill. They decided that if they were separated, less attention would be paid to the actual farm bill.

WIFE Supporting Members

VIP Membership

- Bayer CropScience

Executive Membership

- Renewable Fuels Association

Associate Membership

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

Contributor Membership

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

In-Kind Contributors

- Miller/Coors
- Rauner & Associates

Cereal Grains Report



By Jean Wach
Nebraska

More information known on GMO wheat found in Oregon

the company has a test it has shared with other countries that would “fingerprint” the exact variety of wheat that carried the gene. They are currently awaiting samples from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the Oregon farmer to test for the exact variety that emerged. The USDA has said that Oregon wheat is safe to eat and there is no evidence that modified wheat entered the marketplace. To date, no genetically engineered wheat has been approved for U.S. farming.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said the South Korean government had notified USDA that so far, tests on wheat and flour have shown no indication of contamination. Consumers’ unease with genetically modified crops, particularly those in Europe and Asia, led St. Louis-based Monsanto to end the testing of modified wheat in 2005. Many coun-

tries will not accept imports of genetically modified foods and the U.S. exports about half of its wheat crop.

Supporters of splicing in beneficial genes to modify crops say modifications could help wheat grow in places where it is needed. New traits could make it resistant to disease, pests, and like the rogue strain discovered in Oregon, herbicides. Opponents argue that genetic modifications carry potential unknown consequences to humans that consume them and the areas in which they are grown.

Changes to the genes of the crops could affect the durability of weeds, making them and the pests that feed on crops, harder to kill. The wheat emerged in an eastern Oregon field in early May and was resistant to the herbicide Roundup. Oregon State University researchers found that the wheat had a genetic modification Monsanto has used in its field testing.

A genetically modified test strain of wheat that emerged last month, to the surprise of an Oregon farmer, was likely the result of an accident or deliberate mixing of seeds, according to the company that developed it.

During a conference call, representatives for Monsanto Company said that the emergence of the genetically modified strain was an isolated occurrence. They have tested the original wheat stock and found it clean, the company said. “Sabotage is a possibility,” said Robb Fraley, Monsanto chief technology officer. Fraley said

Rural Life Report

Sun exposure is unavoidable but skin cancer can still be prevented

Editor’s Note: The following Rural Life report was inadvertently omitted from the July issue of the WIFeline.

When I saw the following information in the Progressive Farmer magazine, I thought of my grandfather and father. The title reads “Sun Block, Take the proper steps to protect against skin cancer.”

I don’t ever remember them using any sun block. They worked outside,

got a farmers tan and by the end of the summer were really dark. Of course they didn’t have any tractor cabs that protected them from the sun. They did have an umbrella that they used but that was about all they had for protection from the sun.

We all know that sun exposure is just an unavoidable part of farm life. The American Cancer Society (ACS) says cancers of the skin are the most common of all cancers.



By Donna Bolz
Nebraska

The two most frequent skin cancers are basal-cell carcinoma and squamous-cell carcinoma. These two types typically don’t spread to other

SUN EXPOSURE: Continued on Page 4

Feed Grains Report



By Janell Roe
Nebraska

Renewable Fuel Standards questioned

A study by Iowa State University on the value of ethanol found that adding ethanol to gasoline has decreased the price of gasoline by \$1.09. Recently, the American Petroleum Institute (API) has been arguing about the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and many believe misleading consumers and Congress. Over the last century, the fossil fuel industry has been collecting government subsidies, tax credits, and other forms of support. The API is asking that the RFS be eliminated.

The RFS was created to guarantee that renewable fuels would be used in transportation fuel. This act was created in 2005 and by 2012 the same act required 7.5 billion gallons of renewable

fuels to be blended with gasoline. The program was then expanded to include the blending of ethanol with diesel. It now requires that 36 billion gallons of ethanol be blended into fuel by the year 2022. The key reasons for implementing this standard are reducing greenhouse gases, reducing imported petroleum and growing the renewable fuels industry (EPA, 2013).

API and several other agri-business trade groups don't believe there is enough corn to supply both corn for food and corn for feed. Yellow field corn is mainly used for livestock feed and not human consumption. The USDA states that 210 million bushels of corn go toward cereals and other products, 270 million bushels go toward glucose and dextrose, 250 million bushels go to starch and 505 million bushels go to high-fructose corn syrup. In addition, the USDA is forecasting near record corn planting and production. They have projected corn production to be close to 14 billion bushels,

meaning the price of corn could drop \$2 per bushel for the 2013/2014 year (American Corn Growers Foundation, 2013).

Only the starch portion of corn is used to produce ethanol. The byproduct from ethanol, distiller's grains, and other nutrients like protein and oil are still fed to livestock. From one bushel of corn, roughly three gallons of ethanol can be made. This ethanol is then blended with gasoline which, in turn, has been saving consumers money (American Corn Growers Foundation, 2013).

The API would like to eliminate the RFS. This standard was put in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease dependence on foreign petroleum, and expand the renewable fuels industry. API believes that the supply of corn is too small to provide corn for both food and feed. Whether for or against the Renewable Fuels Standard, it has been proven to decrease the cost of fuel to consumers.

SUN EXPOSURE: Continued from Page 3

parts of the body and aren't life threatening. The lesions caused by these cancers may need to be removed and the procedure can be expensive. Cancerous lesions start showing up when you reach your fifties and sixties, after many years spent working in the sun.

A third, more severe type of skin cancer, is Melanoma. This type can spread to other parts of the body if not removed which can make it life threatening. Melanoma accounts for less than 5 percent of skin cancer diagnoses but causes a large percentage of skin cancer deaths.

Basal-cell and squamous-cell carcinomas typically show up on the most sun-exposed area of the body. They can appear as raised bumps on the skin that may ooze or become crusted. Melano-

mas look like moles but have an irregular shape or color. If the mole is larger than the size of a pencil eraser, grows or changes over time, is not the same color all over and is irregularly shaped, you may want to have a doctor examine it.

As we all know, when you work on the farm it is hard to avoid frequent, long-term exposure to sunlight.

The first method of protection is clothing. Broad-brimmed hats that cover the ears and back of the neck are good. Wearing long pants and a shirt with sleeves and a collar protects exposed skin. Sunglasses protect your eyes and sensitive skin from damaging UV rays.

Sunscreen of an SPF (sun protection factor) of 15 or higher is rec-

ommended. Research has shown any sunscreen that advertises one-time application or waterproofing probably doesn't have those capabilities. You will want to apply it several times a day and very liberally. Most sunscreen today is available in convenient tubes that fit in your pocket.

Remember--in terms of sun protection, you want to apply the sunscreen for a lifetime because most of these cancers of the skin are cumulative in nature.

It is also important to protect your skin from sunburn. The intense damage done not only causes cosmetic damage by causing wrinkles but can also lead to melanoma.

Enjoy the sun and don't forget your sun screen.



By Alice Parker
Washington

Natural Resources Report

Industry is unhappy with ESA listing of the White Bluffs bladderpod

The Endangered Species Act continues to play havoc for the natural resource industries. The following article published in the *Tri-City Herald* tells a story of what those in the industry are doing to stop a listing that will impact their livelihoods and ability to stay in business. We have been granted permission to publish it in the WIFeline.

The affected area is part of the Columbia Basin Irrigation District. For those of you who were at the convention in Kennewick in 1989 and on the tour of the Hanford area: if you looked directly north across the Columbia River you were viewing the area they are trying to close down by listing the White Bluffs bladderpod plant.

ENDANGERED CLAIM FOR WHITE BLUFFS BLADDERPOD QUESTIONED

By Geoff Folsom, *Tri-City Herald*
Published on July 22, 2013

The White Bluffs bladderpod doesn't really exist.

That's according to the results of a DNA test, funded largely by area farmers. The results of the test were announced Monday, the last day of a public comment period for the White Bluffs bladderpod's proposed endangered species listing.

About \$25,000 was collected to pay for DNA research on the White Bluffs bladderpod at the University of Idaho, Franklin County Commissioner Brad Peck said Monday. Many area farmers sought to disprove the belief that the yellow flowering plant grows only in an area along the Columbia River in Franklin County.

Farmers fear the declaration of critical habitat for the plant could affect their ability to irrigate or cultivate their fields.

West Richland agronomist Stuart Turner, with permission from the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, collected three bladderpod samples along the White Bluffs to compare with bladderpod samples taken from five Washington counties, as well as one sample each from Idaho and Oregon.

University of Idaho DNA expert Court Anderson's research determined there was no genetic deviation between the White Bluffs bladderpod and the other samples -- meaning genetically it is the same as the common Douglas's bladderpod.

Turner said that means the plant is not endangered and that Fish and Wildlife has no legal basis to push forward with its endangered species listing for the bladderpod, which would declare up to 419 acres of private land near the Hanford Reach National Monument in Franklin County as critical habitat.

"They were 100 percent matches," Turner said. "Normally, if you hit about 96 percent, you think they are a very close match. When you hit a 100 percent match, it means they are the same species."

Turner said Anderson worked on DNA studies for Fish and Wildlife in the past.

Peck questioned why Fish and Wildlife wouldn't do its own DNA test. He said the test commissioned at the University of Idaho was an exhaustive one, but Fish and Wildlife could have done a more simple test for around \$5,000, a fraction of the more than \$600,000 it is spending on the process of listing the White Bluffs bladderpod.

"The federal government has an obligation to get the best available science," Peck said after a news conference at the courthouse. "It's shameful that we had to do Fish and Wildlife's job for them. We certainly hope that, from this experience, they will go forward and do this type of testing elsewhere, so that other communities don't have to go through the same nonsense we've encountered."

Brad Thompson, listing and recovery division manager for Fish and Wildlife's state office, said the agency would need to review the report before commenting on it.

"We are looking forward to receiving

all comments from the public, including the genetic analysis that may have been performed by people, so we can make an informed decision," he said.

Kent McMullen, chairman of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee, said he hopes the research will show other communities how to deal with the more than 700 proposed endangered species listings that are the result of a settlement between Fish and Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity.

It could even lead to challenges of decades-old endangered species listings.

"There seems to be an incestuous relationship between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the environmental organizations that are bringing the lawsuits," said McMullen, whose group advises county governments on agricultural issues. "It's a follow the money situation."

"Turner said he told Fish and Wildlife officials that he hopes the agency will be able to work with DNA researchers in the future.

"Listen, this is a sea change," he recalled telling them. "DNA is a really, really strong tool and you guys can save a lot of money by using this technology."

"Attorney Toni Meacham said the report would be submitted electronically to Fish and Wildlife by the 5 p.m. Monday deadline for public comments. She said farmers and Franklin County are not lining out a lawsuit.

"We have to be prepared to move forward if they ignore this data," she said.

Fish and Wildlife, which reopened the comment period after an outcry last year for a lack of notice for a comment period for the White Bluffs bladderpod listing, is expected to make a decision on the listing in November.

Noah Greenwal, an ecologist in the Center for Biological Diversity's Portland office, said Fish and Wildlife used solid science when protecting the White Bluffs bladderpod.

"The agency can hardly be faulted for not considering a study that hadn't even

ESA: Continued on Page 8



**By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota**

Homeland Security Report

A closer look at immigration reform

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is an enormous organization with 22 departments and more than 240,000 employees. It was created in response to the September 11, 2001, attacks and focuses on sectors including aviation, border security and cyber-security. A former governor of Arizona, Secretary Janet Napolitano has resigned as head of DHS and will become president of the University of California. A new one has not yet been named.

Congress discovered in early June that up to 20 million private medical and financial data records of veterans in this country have been hacked. We know Chinese hackers went inside the system. What are they going to do with it and who else might be able to access that information when the government can't even protect records of veterans? The DHS was supposedly watching the data at the Veterans Administration (VA) (Newsmax).

Authorities are estimating that the U.S. is catching only 40 to 50 percent of the people who cross our borders illegally as the DHS is being secretive about the number. Drone surveillance has helped cut the crossings. The turn back rate is about 23 percent (Byron York, columnist).

Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, is not happy about government benefits going to dead people. The Government Accountability Office found almost 1,300 records of people whose recorded age of death was between the unlikely ages of 111 and 129 and records of almost 1,800 people who received Social Security numbers before the government had put them into use. In addition, 130 people were counted as dead before they were born. The Office of Management and Budget estimates that in 2012, improper federal payments regis-

tered almost \$108 million (Newsmax).

DHS has awarded contracts for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas to replace the lab on Plum Island where animal diseases have been studied. The utility site alone would be 87,000 square feet just for the heating and cooling systems and emergency power supply. Obama asked for \$714 million in his budget. Plum Island is supposed to close by the end of 2021 (DHS).

The immigration reform bill would make it illegal for employees to discriminate against the millions of newly documented illegal aliens who would be granted provisional status. Cases of such discrimination would be referred to the Justice Department. The text of the bill makes it an "unfair immigration-related employment practice" for a "person, other entity, or employment agency, to discriminate against any individual because of such individual's national origin or citizenship status" (WND).

The YouTube channel Patriot News Organization has a training video from the DHS that depicts a fake news broadcast about a police SWAT team raiding an American house and arresting "extremist" members of a "local militia group" for possession of illegal firearms and planning to commit terrorist attacks. They use it to help train all of the deputized agencies during a crisis and everyone that would be involved in such an event". Exactly when the video was made is unclear, but some documents were uploaded in 2009 and 2012 (DHS).

The new requirement for background checks on illegal aliens being helped under the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which grants a two-year deferment from deportation, has been dropped. DACA does not apply only to minors who came to this country illegally but actually created a new chain of migration, so immediate relatives of DACA requesters could be approved for amnesty. Documents reveal that the DHS's U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) abandoned the requirement for background checks late last year to keep up with the flood of amnesty applications

sparked by Obama's plan. The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) requires a "coordinated, uniform and efficient" system of background checks be used for all applicants. INA also requires USCIS to maintain "direct and continuous" contact with the FBI and the CIA to determine whether an illegal alien is ineligible to enter or remain in the U.S. due to criminal conduct and other disqualifying factors. To ensure that illegal immigrant applicants are not registered in any crime databases, INA requires that USCIS remain in contact with law enforcement agencies. Emails from September 5 to November 14 show agency pressure not to turn any illegal alien applicants away for failing to show a valid ID. An October 3 memo directs workers that "biometric processing should not be refused if an applicant does not present an acceptable ID" and to report every two weeks the number who appeared for biometrics collection during that period. In support of the DACA initiative, USCIS is to set up 40 additional biometrics workstations. On November 9, 2012, President Obama said, "Please put all DACA work on hold until further notice" (DHS).

As federal agencies like the Department of Homeland Security are buying up ammunition stockpiles around the country and shipping large quantities overseas for use by the military, the Obama administration is now pushing states to mandate "green ammunition" that is free of lead. Stores are limiting purchases if they have the desired caliber at all. Health care advocates are arguing that lead bullet fragments, especially in game such as venison, are neurotoxins that can harm children and developing fetuses. Supporters of traditional lead ammunition say that there is no study to show any danger to people who eat game that has been killed with it. Developing "green ammunition" has been slow as the government is looking at alternative metals. The Department of Defense purchasing program outlines regulatory guidance, such as Executive Order 13423, in "Green Purchasing" on a variety of products. The government's Green Procurement Program now includes ammunition

DHS: Continued on Page 11

Trade Report



By Pam Potthoff
Nebraska

Chinese purchase could affect U.S. hog production

The Chinese-owned Shuanghui (Shang-who-e) International Holdings, Ltd. would like to buy the U.S.-owned company Smithfield Foods. Hearings were held by the Senate Agriculture Committee last week on the acquisition. According to the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007, the U.S. can reject an acquisition of a U.S.-based business by foreign investors if the sale would potentially disrupt the critical infrastructure of the U.S. Seventeen farm, consumer and trade groups sent a comprehensive, 12-page letter to nine of President Obama's cabinet members urging them to reject the proposed sale. They reasoned the sale would "pose an unacceptable national security risk, undermine the safety and security of the U.S. food supply, threaten the environment and economy of rural communities, provide significant taxpayer-financed technology and intellectual property to foreign competitors and raise the cost of food for American consumers."

Because Smithfield is currently a significant supplier of pork products to the U.S. military, the group fears China would control a portion of the food supplied to our troops. While that might be true, it pales under the reality that China now supplies many vital components for our military equipment and weapons. That reality should have raised red flags concern-

ing our national security a long time ago.

Another issue is just how safe would the food supply in America be if the Chinese management team runs Smithfield on U.S. soil as China's food supply is managed on Chinese soil. China's food supply has suffered from the persistent trend of "economically motivated adulteration." The letter suggests the purchase could bring the less rigorous Chinese food manufacturing standards and business culture to the U.S. and Smithfield could lower its food quality and safety practices. Would the USDA Inspection Service, hampered by budgetary restraints, be able to keep pork that does not meet U.S. standards from entering the marketplace?

But the influence could go in the other direction with Smithfield's vertically-integrated hog production methods being successfully installed into pork production in China. The purchase would buy China the knowledge and technology used in vertical production. Would it be possible for China to move from the current system of pork production using a vast network of small producers to a highly efficient, vertically-integrated system that would produce enough

pork to meet their own needs and maybe even export pork to the U.S.? That would be devastating to U.S. pork producers. Is it possible? Probably. Is it probable? Not very because China already has a huge environmental pollution problem and raising large numbers of hogs in small areas would lend exponentially to their waste management challenges. Plus, China would have to import the grain to feed the hogs so it would be easier to just import the meat.

China's per capita pork consumption last year was 86 pounds, up from 70 pounds in 2002. The U.S. per capita pork consumption was 58 pounds last year, down from 77 pounds in 2002. If the acquisition goes through, U.S. pork producers would be guaranteed a share of the expanding pork market in China in the near-term. That would help compensate them for a declining U.S. market.

The Chinese takeover of Smithfield demands some deep examination. Questions like "What will sending more pork to China do to U.S. supplies?" and "What will the acquisition do to the already fragile concentration in the pork industry?" need to be answered.

Even with some immediate advantages for U.S. pork producers, there still seems to be a funny odor about the whole deal. Nebraska Senator Mike Johanns may have expressed this best when he said, "There is something really offensive about the reality that they could do this here, but a company like Smithfield couldn't do the same in China."





By Barbara Broberg
Montana

Energy Report

Natural gas update

A local oil man made the observation that natural gas is available in many American homes.

It was his thought--keep in mind that oil men tend to be innovative thinkers--and he said this was a very old concept from just being around petroleum...

Many homes already have access to natural gas for their furnaces and water heaters because it was an easy extension to think of attaching the car to the system and "filling 'er up". He said at his house he had looked into a home compressor system to actually compress the natural gas for the purpose of putting it into their home-based transportation vehicles. At the time, though, a natural gas compressor was much too expensive for making a vehicle fueling station at home pay off. Compression was needed so enough natural gas could be put in for a significant range of miles.

He continued the conversation by saying regulations today and safety concerns by the ordinary citizen might cause some glitches at first--but the fact remains that the infrastructure is already in place to use natural gas more extensively.

In the July 2013 issue of *Light & Medium TRUCK* magazine, www.lm-truck.com, there is an advertisement--the "Attention!" comment at the top of the page says, "No more chicken or egg questions: Asking for truckers to Bring on their trucks" because there are now natural gas refueling stations. A company called Clean Energy (Nasdaq: CLNE) has finished 76 liquefied natural gas (LNG) stations in 2012. They are completing more in 2013. The station locator can be found at www.cnglng.com

stations.com or you can download the iPhone app.

So we come forward to today's push to use natural gas.

The Clean Energy website, www.cleanenergyfuels.com, clarifies LNG and compressed natural gas (CNG) and goes on to use "L/CNG" as a dual designation. And it introduces natural gas vehicle (NGV).

Natural gas comes out of the ground. It can be a by-product or a product of petroleum exploration. It can also be produced by digesting waste; then it is called "bio-gas."

This article today seeks to work out more information on why this is such a compelling topic in the news.

You have probably seen gas flared off and wondered "Why doesn't somebody use that for heating or something?" and "I wonder what it would take to pipe that over to my house so I could have free heat and cooking."

Well we are here. There are new fields of natural gas being obtained. Engines have been developed to exploit natural gas as a vehicle fuel. As mentioned above there are gas stations ready to serve this growing NGV vehicle population.

Industries are poisoning themselves to be near natural gas fields for

the--maybe not free but cheaper--fuel nearby. And as the oil man mentioned earlier, if you are near it, why not use it in the vehicle too.

Now we are becoming clear on who will use LNG and who will want CNG. Big rigs prefer LNG because the liquid aspect gives greater roaming capacity while moving more freight. CNG is used in smaller vehicles. The clean energy people say CNG moves into your tank at a rate of 5-10 gallons per minute. Further, they mention how quickly natural gas dissipates, believing it is actually safer to be around than our common volatile gasoline. In the same category, why don't they decide whether to CNG or LNG it...well it looks like the station will convert LNG to CNG for you at the pump if you want CNG.

So I hope this helps. Recently there was a field crop tour that took us through an area that had several natural gas compressing sites (compressing the natural gas to move the product away from the production site and into the pipeline--to move it to your home among other places). The facilities have been around so long they are just a part of the landscape. People have been using this stuff for years and it looks like we will be driving it into the future.

ESA: Continued from Page 5

been conducted yet," he said. "It is also noteworthy that the study has yet to be peer reviewed and is based on a very small sample size. If, however, it does turn out that the new research meets peer review and shows the bladderpod not to be unique, then there is a process for the agency to consider the new information and remove protections."

Richard Nielson, an alfalfa and wheat farmer who owns 15 acres in the proposed critical habitat area, said Fish and Wildlife made mistakes in the process.

"I frankly feel they felt they were dealing with a very unsophisticated populace," he said. "I think we're proving that maybe Goliath came up against the wrong David." Nielson also said that Fish and Wildlife state Director Ken Berg told him that the agency had performed its own DNA testing when he visited his farm July 10, something Berg denied in an interview with the Herald the next day.

On Monday, Thompson said he wasn't aware of any DNA testing performed by Fish and Wildlife.



By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

Sugar Report

Farm bill and the importance of sugar program

As of July 18, 2013 (this report submission date) the farm bill has not been passed by the members of United State Congress. In mid-June the House rejected a \$939 billion measure, H.R. 1947, that would have authorized agriculture and food-aid programs for the next five years. Nutrition programs have been handled in the farm bill since 1977, marrying the interests of urban and rural lawmakers. I am giving you repeated information but I believe that U.S. taxpayers should be aware of what is happening in our country and how it will affect them and their loved ones.

The duration of a new farm bill will be from 2014 to 2023 and its mandatory spending uses 77.9 percent of it for nutrition programs. The special nutrition programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act of 1966 include the special sup-

plemental nutrition program for women, infants and children (WIC) and the school lunch and breakfast programs. Food stamp and food distribution programs were authorized by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, emergency food assistance programs were authorized by the Emergency Food Act of 1983 and the commodity supplemental food program was authorized by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973.

Our lawmakers in the Senate and House of Representatives extended the 2008 Farm Bill until September 30, 2013 for all programs which contained baseline funding. The thirty-seven programs which did not contain baseline funding were not extended. Those programs not extended include the energy title and livestock disaster programs. Please bear in mind the disaster program ended in 2011.

Paul Ryan, Republican Vice Presidential nominee in 2012, voted against the farm bill. He represents an agriculture-heavy district in southern Wisconsin, including CNH Global NV's Racine-based farm equipment manufacturer, Case Cor-

poration. Who knows what will happen but increasing food stamp cuts in the senate version will not be the answer. Agriculture economic activity totals trillions of dollars. I believe feeding American children and families should be this country's first priority.

The sugar program represents the sugar beet, sugar cane and corn sweetener industries in this country...it should be a part of the farm bill. The sugar program operates at no cost to taxpayers. The U.S. Congress should be very careful about U.S. agriculture. Farming and ranching are a renewable resource. As long as we have the farmers to produce our needs we will continue to provide jobs for 24 million workers in America and \$1.3 trillion to our gross domestic product. We export more than \$50 billion in products that help feed people in countries around the world.

World population is expected to reach 7.9 billion by the year 2020; the demand for food will be increasing.

How will the hungry people be fed? One thing is for sure; it can't be done without American farmers.

Dairy Report

Disagreement among dairy community

New York's former member of the House of Representatives once told me, if everyone is complaining about the bill you just passed, you are probably right on. This seems to be the case with the new dairy title of the farm bill that passed the House this week. No one seems to be satisfied with it. About half of the voices from the cooperatives, etc. are in agreement with the Goodlatte/Scott Amendment (passed by the House) while the rest think that farmers need the Dairy Security Act (passed by the Senate). The issue seems to hinge on how far dairy farmers want to go in the direction of quota systems.

The dairy title that passed the House

removed the nutrition title which includes food stamps and a host of other programs. They feel those programs should be dealt with later.

The version that passed the Senate contains the Dairy Security Act which penalizes 100 percent of the milk produced over a dairyman's allowable milk marketings. Many feel that producers whose milk is marketed for Class I, has higher quality milk or are paid for higher components will pay higher penalties.

Another problem—the House version of the dairy title, which leaves out the nutrition programs, is causing a real headache. Our senators and many others are out cam-

paing against the split farm bill. I'm sure it will be corrected since President Obama has stated that he will veto any farm bill that does not include those nutrition programs.

Either way, Congress will recess August 2 and will not reconvene until September 9th or possibly later. It seems highly unlikely that the two versions will reach any agreement at all before that time.



By Kay Zeosky
New York

Rural Life Report



By Donna Bolz
Nebraska

New salt study findings differ from those of the past

A report that came out recently about salt has some interesting findings. This report has changed years of public health warnings. A group put together by the government says there is no good reason based on health outcomes for many Americans to lower their sodium consumption down to the very low levels recommended in national dietary guidelines. Those levels, 1500 milligrams (mg) of sodium a day, or a little more than half a teaspoon of salt, were supposed to prevent heart attacks and strokes in people at risk including anyone older than 50, African Americans and people with high blood pressure, diabetes or chronic kidney disease. These groups make up more than half of the American population. Some influential organizations, including the American Heart Association, have said that everyone, not just those at risk, should aim for that very low sodium level. The heart association reaffirmed that position in an interview with its spokesman even in light of the new report. The new expert committee, commissioned by the Institute of Medicine at the behest of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said there was no reason for anyone to aim for sodium levels below 2300 mg a day. The group examined new evidence that had emerged since the last such report was issued in 2005. "As you go below the 2300 mark, there is an absence of data in terms of benefit and there begin to be suggestions in subgroup populations about potential harms," said Dr. Brian L. Strom, chairman of the committee and a professor of public health at the University of Pennsylvania. He explained that the possible harms included increased rates of heart attacks and an increased risk of death. The committee was not asked to specify a healthy amount of sodium and did not make any recommendations about how much people should consume. Dr. Strom said people should not eat too much salt but he also

said that the data on the health effects of sodium were too inconsistent for the committee to say what the upper limit of sodium consumption should be. Prior to 2006, almost all studies on salt and health outcomes relied on the well-known fact that blood pressure can drop slightly when people eat less salt. From that, and from other studies linking blood pressure to risks of heart attacks and strokes, researchers created models showing how many lives could be saved if people ate less salt. The United States dietary guidelines, based on the 2005 Institute of Medicine report, recommend that the general population aim for sodium levels of 1500 to 2300 mg a day because those levels will not raise blood pressure. The average sodium consumption in the United States, and around the world, is about 3400 mg a day, according to the Institute of Medicine— an amount that has not changed in decades. "There are physiological consequences of consuming little sodium," said Dr. Michael H. Alderman, a dietary sodium expert at Albert Einstein College of Medicine who was not a member of the committee. As sodium levels plunge, triglyceride levels increase, insulin resistance increases, and the activity of the sympathetic nervous system increases. Each of these factors can increase the risk of heart disease. "Those are all bad things," Dr. Alderman said. "A health effect can't be predicted by looking at one physiological consequence. There has to be a net effect." Medical and public health experts responded to the new assessment of the evidence with elation or concern, depending on where they stand in the salt debates. "What they have done is earth-shattering," Dr. Alderman said. "They have changed the paradigm of this issue. Until now it was all about blood pressure. Now they say it is more complicated." The report, he predicted, "will have a big impact." Bonnie Liebman, director of nutrition at the Cen-

ter for Science in the Public Interest, an advocacy group that has taken a strong position against excessive salt consumption, worried that the public would get the wrong message. "It would be a shame if this report convinced people that salt doesn't matter," Ms. Liebman said. The American Heart Association agrees with her. Dr. Elliott Antman, a spokesman for the association and a professor of medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, said the association remained concerned about the large amount of sodium in processed foods, which makes it almost impossible for most Americans to cut back. People should aim for 1500 mg of sodium a day, he said. "The American Heart Association is not changing its position," Dr. Antman said. The association rejects the Institute of Medicine's conclusions because according to him, the studies on which they were based had methodological flaws. The heart association's advice to consume 1500 mg of sodium a day, he added, is based on epidemiological data and studies that assessed the effects of sodium consumption on blood pressure. The Institute of Medicine committee said it was well aware of flaws in many of the studies of sodium, especially ones that the previous Institute of Medicine committee relied on for its 2005 recommendations. Much of that earlier research, committee members said, looked for correlations between what people ate and their health. But people with different diets can differ in many ways that are hard to account for. Even the ways previous studies defined high and low sodium consumption varied widely. So here is the information. Who do you believe?



By Jacquelyn Sistrunk
Alabama

Specialty Crops Report

It has been unfamiliar territory for U.S. cotton farmers

2012 was one of the worst droughts the nation has faced in decades. Fast forward to 2013, one of the wettest springs on record. Cotton producers were late getting seeds in the ground.

Water, or the lack thereof, can have a serious impact on a cotton farmer's bottom line. Drought in the southeastern United States for the past three years has been overcome by ex-

cessive rainfall in 2013. Alabama has received 53 inches of rainfall as of July 20. Sufficient rainfall causes excessive growth of the cotton plant to shade out weeds; excessive rainfall causes excessive growth of weeds and grasses to outgrow the cotton plant. Cotton is NOT a wet weather crop. Due to excessive water, cotton roots need not go deep into the ground to find moisture, therefore, should it turn dry before harvest, cotton will wilt and die due to shallow roots. Too much rain has drowned many acres of cotton in the Southeast.

Weeds have grown faster than the cotton plants because farmers cannot spray herbicides due to muddy fields. Cotton pests are on a rampage because farmers cannot spray pesticides. Neither tractors nor hi-boys will stand up in boggy fields.

The cotton farm's biggest challenge in 2013 is the wet fields. Missouri, Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, the Carolinas and Mississippi have all received an abundance of rain. Farming appears to always be "feast or famine." This year farms have been blessed with Too Much Rain!!!

DHS: Continued from Page 6

with the apparent aim of using the program to force ammunition manufacturers to switch from lead to non-lead bullets. Until they are available, the government continues to buy "all" lead-based ammunition in pre-production from major manufacturers. Even the U.S. military is supposed to shift to "green," non-toxic or lead-free composite projectiles and could cost four times as much. Some lead-based ammunition is being imported from South Korea, Turkey, Brazil, Bulgaria and other countries to make up for existing shortfalls. The FBI says that the "green" ammunition will never be acceptable since firearms would need to be adjusted at great individual expense to handle this new ammunition, leading to possible jamming and potential damage to firearms. The U.S. House voted to stop the DHS from buying millions of rounds until a report on the government's need is assembled. The government has 1.6 billion rounds, enough for a 24-year supply, of ammunition on hand. Meanwhile there is a shortage in New York, Texas, South Carolina, Illinois, Vermont, Alaska, California, Nebraska, North Dakota and Indiana. It is "ammunition hoarding" (WND).

National WIFE Convention Additional Information

Sleeping Room Rates:

King Suite- \$99.00 plus 14.75% tax
Includes 1 king size bed and 1 queen size sofa sleeper
(If there are more than 2 people in the room, there is an extra \$15.00 per person charge)

Double Suite- \$99.00 plus 14.75% tax
Includes 2 double beds and a queen size sofa sleeper
(If there are more than 2 people in the room, there is an extra \$15.00 per person charge)

- If you would like a handicap accessible room please let them know when you make reservations.

More Information:

- Complimentary "cooked-to-order" breakfast
- Complimentary nightly "Manager's Reception" in the evening
- Complimentary high speed internet access
- Each room has a microwave, refrigerator and coffee maker
- ADA compliant throughout the hotel
- Conveniently close to Northfield Shopping Center, dining and entertainment--they're only 1.5 miles away

WIFE Updates

REGISTRATION AND HOTEL INFORMATION for the NATIONAL WIFE CONVENTION NOVEMBER 20 -23, 2013

The convention site for the National WIFE Convention is the Embassy Suites Denver Aurora Hotel, which is located near the Denver International Airport (DIA). The address is: 4444 North Havana Street, Denver, CO 80239. If you are coming in from the east or west on I-70, you will need to take exit 280. The hotel will be on the north side of I-70. A complimentary shuttle service is offered to and from DIA as well as anywhere within a five-mile radius of the hotel. For reservations please call the hotel directly at (720) 587-5095. The fax number is (303) 371-4634. Reservations can also be made through Embassy Suites Nationwide phone number: 1-800-EMBASSY (362-2779). The code you will need to receive the discounted rate is "NWC." The final date to make reservations is October 25. After that date rooms may be available but at a higher rate. Their website is: www.embassysuitesdenver-aurora.com

Turn to page 11 for more information on the convention



WIFeline
a publication of
WOMEN INVOLVED
IN FARM ECONOMICS
Published monthly except June and November

Erin Slivka, Editor
6074 PN Bridge Rd
Winifred, MT 59489
(406) 462-5474
eslivka@mtintouch.net

Change Service Requested

Shana Baisch
323 Road 300
Glendive, MT 59330



PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
GLENDAVE MT
59330
PERMIT NO 147