



Volume 37

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No. 9

NATIONAL CONVENTION DATES INCORRECT IN LAST MONTH'S ISSUE

The national convention dates listed in last month's issue of the WIFeline were printed incorrectly. The correct dates for the conference are November 12-15, 2014 with travel days on November 11 and 16. This all-important convention is happening at the Best Western Airport Inn in Phoenix, AZ, located near the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Here is a re-cap of what to expect and how to be a part of the convention: the address is 2425 South 24th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034. A complimentary 24-hour airport shuttle service is available, as well as free parking. For reservations please call the hotel directly at (602) 273-7251 or toll-free at 1-800-528-8199.

The discounted rate code is "WIFE" and to get the discounted rate, you must make your reservation by October 11. Be sure and book your room today to get the discounted rate! After this date, rooms may be available, but at a higher rate.

SLEEPING ROOM RATES:

- Single King Room (one king-sized bed)-- \$84.20 with taxes
- Double Standard Room (two double-sized beds)--\$84.20 with taxes
*up to four people are allowed without an extra charge per person.

ADDITIONAL ROOM INFORMATION:

- If you would like a handicap accessible room, let the front desk know when you make your reservation. The hotel only has two available handicap-accessible rooms. Be sure to book your room as soon as possible if you need one of these rooms!
- Complimentary high-speed wireless internet
- The hotel is ADA compliant

We would love for you to be a part of this exciting conference so get your registration in today!



By Ruth Larabee
New York

President's Report

Secretary Vilsack announces grant monies for organic and local food projects

The last fast track law expired in 2007. The law was introduced back in January of this year but failed to gain ground. Now, in September of 2014, fast track is again a top priority with several national and international businesses aggressively seeking the passing of a trade promotion authority through legislation.

The businesses are working with members in states and Congressional Representatives maintaining that fast track would "level the playing field" while opening markets abroad for manufacturers and the American work force.

It is reported that some of our U.S. representatives have voiced an opinion that fast track needs to be done before any other trade pacts (i.e. the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) are negotiated.

Over fifty-two million dollars in grant monies, awarded to encourage and expand the continued growth of the organic industry and local and regional food plans, was announced by United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. Large shares of the grants were sanctioned through the 2014 Agricultural Act in the Farm Bill.

The goal is to support projects that enroll and instruct farmers and ranchers on investments in marketing and opportunities improving the economy of the small to medium size agricultural producers.

Commercial markets will be permitted and encouraged to buy local goods enabling consumers to buy the freshest and high quality, healthy foods including healthy meat. Anne Alonzo, administrator of Agricultural Marketing Service

(AMS) pointed out that the Farmers Markets and Local Food Promotion Program grants help farmers and ranchers across the U.S. with ways to connect with consumers, bringing together rural and metropolitan areas, and "to help meet the demand for locally and regionally produced food". Secretary Vilsack said, "consumers are increasingly demanding more local and organic options."

This builds a very good case for County of Origin Labeling (COOL), as consumers are demanding locally grown food. That shows, contrary to what Canada, Mexico and some food organizations and associations say, consumers want to know where their food comes from and they want healthy food. Certainly, consumers would want to know where their meat comes from, especially when bought at stores or regionally and

would want it labeled. Locally, of course, they would already know where it comes from.

Additional information on India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's visit to Washington D.C. United States diplomats labeled Prime Minister Modi's visit a "triangulation," U.S. vs. China and Japan. They cautioned the U.S. against giving away the "manufacture of American designed weapons in India" within easy grasp of China. China is eager to control, via investments, India's corrupt government system. Oil and gas investors are deterred by financial disputes with Indian officials and hesitate to invest. Global power companies are not keen to enter India's dysfunctional energy market. Yet some U.S. companies are still outsourcing jobs to India away from our American workers.

WIFE 2014 Commodity & Topic Chairs

Beef

Whitney Klasna

Cereal Grains

Jean Wach

Dairy

Kay Zeosky

Energy

Barbara Broberg

Homeland Security

Marlene Kouba

Media

Diane McDonald

Natural Resources/Private Property/Water/Endangered Species

Alice Parker

Rural Life/Farm Finance Communication/Tax/Health

Donna Bolz

Sheep & Goats

Tammy Basel

Sugar

Klodette Stroh

Trade

Pam Pothoff

Transportation

Pat Torgerson



By Jean Wach
Nebraska

Cereal Grains Report

Vomitoxin levels on the rise

Deoxynivalenol is a mycotoxin in wheat that is hard to pronounce but easy to hate. Most wheat farmers just call it vomitoxin or simply "DON." DON, which is caused by fusarium head blight (FHB), is rearing its ugly head once again this crop season.

According to the online Fusarium Risk Assessment Tool, most of North Dakota, along with northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, were at low-to-moderate risk of fusarium head blight. There is plenty of anecdotal evidence from the fields that suggests FHB is a problem that is worth monitoring. Vomitoxin levels are high, and ac-

ording to a farmer from Ward County, North Dakota elevators are refusing to take the crop. "Yields are also down significantly due to head scab," he said.

Another farmer from Ransom County, North Dakota says reports of DON levels from 5 to 7 parts per million (ppm) have been common. Falling numbers are also a concern in wheat that has been out in the field too long; the elevators are rejecting loads now.

Current numbers show the highest DON levels the industry has seen in nine years. Levels were tested across nine states, like Illinois, where levels were as high as 5.2 ppm. Elevators in North Dakota have reported seeing levels that were 10 times higher than what is allowed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Some elevators discount payments as much as \$2.00 per bushel for

vomitoxin levels between 6 ppm to 10 ppm and hardly anyone will take wheat that tests above 10 ppm. Unfortunately, there is a lot of wheat above that level this year. It is so bad in North Dakota right now that grain elevators are telling farmers to store their winter wheat until the market can figure out what to do with it.

University research suggests an integrated management approach works best when dealing with DON. The research encourages farmers to consider strategies that include crop rotation, resistant varieties, fungicides and even tillage to bury disease-ridden residue. Wheat that contains miniscule amounts of DON can even be used as a livestock feed. However, according to this North Dakota study, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established the following limits for various food products:

Beef cattle: 5 ppm; poultry: 5 ppm; dairy cattle 2 ppm; swine: 1 ppm (do not feed to gestating sows or pigs that weight less than 50 lbs; human food products: 1 ppm.

Genetically modified wheat found on Montana experiment station

Unapproved genetically modified wheat has been found on a Montana State University experiment station in Huntley, Montana. The unregulated crop only encompasses a few acres but because genetically engineered wheat has never been allowed in the U.S., there is major concern surrounding the finding.

This unaccepted wheat was found in Oregon last year, which led to temporary bans on U.S. wheat exports to some Asian countries. With the 2013 event still fresh in wheat producers' minds, they are holding their breath until the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) finishes their investigation.



Dairy Report

U.S. dairymen show concern over cheese dispute

by Ruth Laribee

The regulations transcript of the European Union (EU)-Canada, Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) were made public last week on Geographical Indicators (GI's).

The language transfers a segment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) tariff rate quota for cheese to the European Union. It is quite troubling as they awarded automatic security to the European Union for five makes of cheese.

Two of the cheeses, Feta and Munster, are well known and made in many places throughout the world including

the United States. The other three are Asiago, Gorgonzola and Fontina.

According to the report this is completely ignoring Canada's intellectual property laws and current international trade requirement.

Manufacturers that made these cheeses before October 18, 2013 will be able to use the brand names but after that date any of those specific cheeses produced will have to have the added words "kind", "type", "imitation" or "style".

Some of the agreements Canada has made with the EU has the U.S.

dairy industry very concerned. One example is the Canadian reallocation of more tonnage to WTO tariff rate quotas, thereby restricting the limited access the U.S. cheese exporters have to their country.

Also, it would damage the "quality of the cheese market access" that United States cheese exporters were anticipating to increase via negotiations of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TTP). Currently, the transcript has not had a legal evaluation nor approval which is required to make the agreement official.

National WIFE convention boasts acclaimed natural resources speaker

by Korry Lewis

WIFE is pleased to announce that Harriet Hageman, a Cheyenne, Wyoming attorney specializing in the areas of water, natural resources, and private property rights, will be a guest speaker at the 2014 National WIFE Convention. Ms. Hageman is a dynamic and acclaimed speaker, and she will be traveling to Phoenix to address WIFE regarding the Clean Water Act (CWA). Ms. Hageman will provide invaluable insight into many facets of the CWA, including its agricultural exemptions and the renowned "recapture provision". She will also share some key solutions to pushing back against EPA's continued effort to expand its regulatory authority under the CWA.

Ms. Hageman is the sole owner of Hageman Law P.C. in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and is licensed to practice law in Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska. The law firm of Hageman Law P.C. specializes in a variety of natural resource issues, including defending landowners in actions under the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Ms. Hageman works to protect private property rights and numerous other rights and concerns of private landowners.

In April 2014, Ms. Hageman successfully defended a client prosecuted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for violating Section 404 of the CWA when he performed construction and maintenance work on an irrigation ditch traversing his property. After a two-week trial, the jury returned a verdict finding that his activities fell within the CWA agricultural exemptions – an extraordinary win for private property rights. You don't want to miss what Ms. Hageman has to share about this case and the tactics she used to take on the federal government!

Ms. Hageman was raised on a ranch near Fort Laramie, Wyoming. She attended Casper College on a Livestock Judging Scholarship and received her degree in Business Administration from the University of Wyoming. In 1989, she graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law. In 2011, Ms. Hageman was inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. She has handled numerous water and natural resource matters, including Nebraska v. Wyoming, the North Platte River interstate dispute; challenges to the Clinton Administration's Roadless Rule; and challenges to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' management of the Canadian gray wolf population.



By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

Sugar Report

Sugar alliance adopts 'zero-for-zero' policy goal

Stowe, Vermont was the location for the American Sugar Alliance's 31st Annual International Sweetener Symposium, which took place August 4 to 6 of 2014. The highlight of this year's symposium revolved around the depressed sugar prices. The United States sugar price has been dropping and shrinking margin of profits.

The world's biggest exporting countries such as Brazil, Thailand, India, and Mexico account for 70 percent of global exports and subsidy rates in those countries have been rising. Global subsidization has depressed the sugar prices.

The idea that there is global free-trade in sugar is a "mirage," according

to one of the guest speakers, a long-time sugar executive from the European Union, Patrick Chatenay. He said "subsidies are rampant and unequal." Further, he said, "Currency fluctuations make a mockery of tariff trade concessions and can damage competitive sugar producers." But Jack Roney, an economist with the American Sugar Alliance or ASA, said that production is only being maintained thanks to subsidies that insulate foreign producers from low prices. Subsidization rates are quickly climbing, too, which only perpetuates the market woes.

Among the most unfair policies singled out by Chatenay include increased preferential loans coupled with debt forgiveness in Brazil; government mandated transition from rice to sugar production in Thailand; Indian export subsidies and price supports; and government ownership by Mexico.

Chatenay and Roney believe the

best solution is the reduction of global subsidization to bring free-market principles back to sugar. In fact, the American Sugar Alliance has adopted a new policy goal nicknamed "the zero-for-zero sugar policy".

ASA promotes a "zero-for-zero strategy that would eliminate U.S. sugar policy once foreign subsidies are addressed." That strategy, ASA explains, "is a free market approach that rewards the best business people, not the most subsidized." This concept would end U.S. sugar policy once other producers do the same.

American farmers are among the most efficient producers in the world. They are the back bone of this great country. The United States has her freedom and independence because God blesses farmers' hard work to produce food and fiber to feed us. After all, we have to make sure that America is not dependent on foreign countries for its food.

Beef Report

Forbes magazine: GMO debate is over

Forbes magazine is now reporting that the debate about genetically modified organism (GMO) safety is over thanks to a new, trillion-meal study.

The magazine is referring to a just-published study from the Journal of Animal Science. Being called the most comprehensive study of GMOs and food ever conducted, University of California-Davis scientists reviewed 29 years of livestock productivity and health data from both before and after the introduction of genetically engineered animal feed.

Keep in mind that, globally, food producing animals consume between 70 to 90 percent of the genetically engi-

neered crop biomass, mostly by the way of corn and soybeans.

So, what did the study find? That feed containing GMOs is safe and nutritionally equivalent to non-GMO feed. The field data represented more than 100 billion animals, covering a period before 1996 when animal feed was 100 percent non-GMO, and after its introduction when numbers jumped to 90 percent and more. The documentation included the records of animals examined pre- and post- mortem, as ill cattle cannot be approved for meat.

According to the study, there was no indication of any unusual trends in the



By Whitney Klasna
Montana

health of animals since 1996 when GMO crops were first harvested and they say that considering the size of the data set, it can reasonably be said that the debate over the impact of the product is closed: there is zero extraordinary impact.

The full report and scientific paper will be available October 1 at www.journalofanimalscience.org.

Homeland Security Report



By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota

Newly released report exposes holes in U.S. security

USDA Employs Enforcement Agents

Following the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) request in May for submachine guns with 30-round magazine clips, they said there are more than 100 agents employed by their law enforcement division, explaining those agents are involved in the investigation of criminal activities.

It seems this is part of a trend to arm every branch of federal government, whether the individual agency has a legitimate need for a paramilitary force or not.

Influx of U.S. Immigrants on the Rise

Some southern immigrants die before they finish the journey to get to the U.S. and are being buried in unmarked mass graves in a burial park in publicly owned cemeteries in Texas with few rules on how to handle them. Some arrive in body bags with only a name identifying it, written in permanent marker.

There is a surge in rafters arriving in Florida from Cuba. Authorities have already picked up at least 3,000 people who have crossed the 90 miles of water. Another 26,000 have tried the trek since 1995 with at least 16,000 dying on the trip. In 2012, 32,551 Cubans obtained legal U.S. residency. That same year, 145,406 Mexicans got residence, 448,698 were apprehended and 131,818 were deported.

However, a 672-bed detention center has been built and operated by immigration officials in Artesia, New Mexico. It is one of three being built to handle the immigrants crossing our borders with a 95-bed facility in Pennsylvania and one for 850 residents in Texas.

These centers are supposedly being built to warn other countries that the immigrants will be deported. However, the

federal government has released about 70 percent or roughly 66,000 members of immigrant families. About 60,000 of these are from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala and have been sent to various states around the country—Iowa even sent some back.

Gangs in El Salvador walk the streets and randomly shoot whomever they please, whenever and wherever they please if the person or business doesn't pay the extortion rates charged by the gang. The government claims that fewer immigrants are being deported since 2007.

Additional costs are now hitting many cities, especially in the South, as immigrant children enter schools. In Texas, at least 5,300 are attending classes in public schools, causing a shortage of classrooms, teachers, and facilities.

Since the early 1990s, the United Nations (U.N.) has selected more than 250,000 refugees from Islamic countries to be resettled in the United States. Most of them have come from Somalia and Iraq. Syria could soon be the next selected and the refugees will be placed throughout the U.S.

The U.N. has already started referring Syrian refugees to the U.S. for processing. Once the refugees are relocated to an American city, they are quickly connected to an array of taxpayer-funded social services, including Medicaid, food stamps and subsidized housing. Interpreters and tutors are often provided to help bridge the language gap that refugee children will find in local public schools.

Immigration groups push for more foreign refugees to be resettled in America, which results in more federal grants flowing into their treasury. Most of the Syrian refugees will likely be coming from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt and most are Sunni Muslims.

A newly released 2013 report prepared by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the Defense Department concludes that North Korea could destroy the U.S. with a nuclear electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack by using its Unha-3 space launch vehicle to deliver a nuclear warhead as a satellite over the South Pole to attack the U.S. from the south.

Along with the electrical grid system, the critical infrastructures include telecommunications, banking, finance, petroleum and natural gas pipelines, transportation, food and water delivery, emergency services and space systems. The U.S. lacks adequate missile defenses against an attack from the North and on the East Coast.

In April 2013, Pyongyang launched a satellite that was tracked orbiting over the U.S. If the satellite had been a nuclear weapon and exploded above the middle of the U.S., the EMP effect on the grid system would have been nationwide. If one exploded over the East Coast it would knock out the Eastern grid, which services about 70 percent of the U.S. population. An EMP attack on the U.S. would not have to originate from North Korea but could be a missile launched from a freighter off the Eastern U.S. or Gulf Coasts.

At that point, there would be no missile defense capable of halting such an event. With a missile launched from a freighter, it could be difficult to identify who is responsible for an attack. Now there is talk about attacks on our cities, such as New York City, or power grid from other terrorists.

Homeland Security: Continued on Page 9

Natural Resources Report



By Alice Parker
Washington

Clean Water Act

The deadline for getting your comments in to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Clean Water Act is October 20, 2014. If you have not sent comments in yet, it is highly recommended that you do so as numbers do count.

The House of Representatives in early September passed legislation that would block the EPA water rules. The House approved the bill 262 to

152 but it is expected to go nowhere in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Even if it does pass the Senate, the President has threatened to veto it. Representative Steve Southerland (R-FL) a co-sponsor of the bill has said, "The EPA proposal would have devastating consequences on every major aspect of the economy."

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said, "Beyond sounding ridiculous, this rule will impact farmers, energy producers and any private citizens that use their land for economic or recreations purposes." Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) said the EPA rule would hurt his coal-producing state and cost jobs in a trou-

bled economy.

Farm Groups and others continue to oppose the proposed rules saying that the rules will expand EPA's power to include streams, ponds, ditches, and even storm water runoff, which will have consequences for everyone from farmers to small businesses.

Those who are supporting the rules state that it is the "almighty dollar" which is the determining factor and the reason for the opposition's efforts.

We as farmers and ranchers need to remind them that we live in the environment every day and drink the water they are so concerned about.

Do they think we are going to purposely put our families and our own health in jeopardy? If so, they need to come and live with us and walk in our shoes while we try to work through all the regulatory rules that are imposed on us.

They need to experience what it takes and what the cost is to provide them with the most abundant, safe, nutritious and cheapest food in the world.

Endangered Species Act

The debate continues regarding the Endangered Species Act but the only thing that has changed over the last several months is that additional species have been added to the list of "threatened" or "endangered."

Congress is on break for campaigning now so don't think we will see anything happen this year.

Meet New York's FAED Scholarship Winner

Gabrielle Domagala

At a young age I was intrigued by agriculture. From growing up and working on my family's 90 Holstein dairy farm and being involved in the Dairy Princess Program, 4-H, FFA, and WIFE, my interest for the industry I am so passionate about, has only increased as the years continue. I was honored to be selected as one of the national winners for the FAED scholarship. This scholarship is valuable and has become essential in funding my college education. I am currently attending SUNY Cobleskill, majoring in Agriculture Business Management with the focus of Dairy Nutrition. I am ecstatic about the classes I am taking at SUNY Cobleskill that are agriculture and dairy related. I thoroughly enjoy the environment while learning hands-on. I plan on obtaining my Bachelors Degree and one day contribute to the dairy industry and become a Dairy Nutritionist. Along with Dairy Nutrition, I wish to one day play a key role in my family's dairy farm.



--Gabby



By Pam Potthoff
Nebraska

Trade Report

Russia's trade embargo benefits Brazilian ag exports

As the elections draw closer, it is important to find out where the candidates stand on trade. The economic problems in the country can be linked to our ever-increasing trade deficit. Always remember to Buy American!

Russia's trade embargo on agricultural products from the U.S., European Union (EU), Australia, Norway and Canada have led to a big boom for Brazilian agricultural exports. Beef exports have risen 10 percent for Brazil thanks to the embargo. Brazil will also help Russia meet its dairy demand.

After halting trade, Russia lost access to 57 percent of the country's needed dairy product. In September, Brazil sent representatives of 37 private companies to Moscow in hopes of boosting trade. More than \$106 million worth of contracts were negotiated during that meeting,

Chalk-up another one for the European Union and their Geographic Indicators (GIs). The European Union and the Southern African Development Community have signed an economic partnership agreement that includes South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Angola and Mozambique.

Included in the agreement is the protection of products which the E.U. claims should only come from specific geographic regions in Europe. The International Dairy Foods Association says the deal includes names

such as feta, asiago, fortina and gorgonzola cheese. As a result, the African countries could not buy those cheeses from the United States.

Since 2008, the top eight seed companies have acquired more than 70 of their competitors. Currently, Monsanto, DuPont and Syngenta control over half of the global seed market, up from 2 percent in 1996.

Canada is an important export market for agricultural products.

In 2013, the U.S. exported almost 162,000 tons of fresh apples to Canada at a value of \$213 million, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. In 2013, U.S. growers exported 26,253 tons of fresh cherries to Canada at a value of \$131 million.

China lost an appeal on Thursday at a World Trade Organization ruling that found it had broken international trade law by restricting exports of raw materials used in hybrid car batteries and other energy-efficiency products.

The dispute, pursued by the United States in cooperation with the European Union and Japan, emerged after China significantly reduced its export quotas for rare earth elements in 2009, causing world prices to soar and disrupting the global market for the materials. The dispute also involved two metals used in steel alloys, tungsten and molybdenum.

Certain minerals are critical for the production of energy-efficient products, renewable energy systems, electronics and other technologies. Companies—and the Defense Department—continue to be forced to turn to China to make or obtain critical electronics components.

China is the main source (90 percent) of many critical minerals used in electronics manufacturing. They are using that 90 percent advantage to force other industries to come to China, including our military. Doesn't make you feel very safe, does it?

WIFE Supporting Members

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- American Bankers Association
- American Council of Life Insurers
- Monsanto
- Florida, Texas, and Hawaii Sugarcane Growers
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- Western Skies Strategies
- AT&T

In-Kind Contributors

- Miller/Coors
- Rauner & Associates

Rural Life Report



By Donna Bolz
Nebraska

Missouri amendment threatens family operations

As I did research for this month's article, I found two things that I thought were interesting.

On August 5, Missourians voted on a "Right to Farm" constitutional amendment. A coalition of major agricultural corporations and commodity group allies spent over \$1 million to secure its passage. The amendment contained farmer-friendly phrasing and language with unclear legal ramifications: the right of farmers and ranchers to engage in farming and ranching practices shall be forever guaranteed in this state, subject to duly authorized powers, if any, conferred by Article VI of the Constitution of Missouri.

Despite all the family farm and ranch rhetoric from proponents, one thing is clear. It will protect corporate agriculture over family farms and ranches. The coalition that arose in opposition to Amendment 1 was outspent, but not outfought.

By a razor-thin margin--approximately 2,500 votes out of nearly 1 million cast--the amendment passed. Previously, an assault on state anti-corporate farming laws spread from state to state. It culminated in the loss of Nebraska's Initiative 300 and South Dakota's Amendment E, the nation's strongest protections of family farming and ranching against the onslaught of corporate farming. Passage of Amendment 1 is likely to lead to corporate farming assaults on the laws and constitutions of other states.

Those who stood in support of Missouri's family farms, ranches, and small towns will face stern challenges

in their future efforts. We must learn by their example, in preparation for the day when the "rights of corporations to farm" crowd comes to our state.

Gallup, the polling and survey organization, recently reported on the nation's uninsured rate since enrollment in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces began for the second time.

The overall uninsured rate in the second quarter of 2014 (after the initial open enrollment period of the ACA) fell to an historical low. It was the lowest quarterly average recorded since Gallup began tracking the percentage of uninsured Americans in 2008. (In the third quarter of 2013, just before the health insurance marketplaces opened, the national uninsured rate was the highest ever.)

Uninsured rates dropped sharply in almost every state from 2013 to mid-year 2014, again corresponding to the initial ACA enrollment period.

State uninsured rates failed to decline in only five states. Uninsured rates increased in Iowa, Kansas, and Virginia, and remained unchanged in Massachusetts and Utah from 2013 to

mid-year 2014.

Arkansas and Kentucky, two states aggressively expanding their Medicaid programs in rural areas, reported the most significant decreases in their uninsured rates. Most interesting is that state uninsured rates decreased substantially more in states that fully embraced the ACA. Those states that undertook both the ACA's expansion of Medicaid and state-based marketplaces (21 states) had uninsured rate decreases nearly twice as large as the 29 states that had one or neither ACA initiative.

These results demonstrate that, at least initially, the ACA is a success in providing health insurance, decreasing the uninsured rates nationally and particularly in states that have embraced it.

Troubling is the long-term implication of a two-tiered health insurance system -- one set of states aggressively embracing ACA methods to reduce the uninsured and witnessing the results, and another set of states choosing not to do so and seeing their uninsured rates falling less (or actually increasing).

See you at National Convention!

Homeland Security: Continued from Page 6

The U.N., working with the U.S. State Department, has already shipped approximately 115,000 Iraqis to American cities since September 11, 2001.

Refugee families are changing the demographics of their host cities, which have reported culture clashes as they expect and demand communities to adapt to their customs. There are no human rights under the Shariah law for non-Muslims. Iraq has produced the single largest number of refugees resettled in the U. S.

In 2013 alone, 19,488 Iraqis were resettled in America, followed by Burma with 16,299, Bhutan with 9,134 and

Somalia with 7,608. The U.N. has been trying to relocate 30,000 Syrians it considers most vulnerable. The U.S. admits more refugees per year than all of the other countries in the world combined.

The Houston Quran Academy is a private Islamic school, with 260 students paying \$5000 to attend and they want to spread across Houston, the fastest growing Muslim community in the country. There are already 10 other schools there, plus 275 full-time Islamic schools in the country where Quran memorization, along with traditional classes are taught and most students do well on ACT tests (Houston Chronicle).

WIFE Updates

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2015 NATIONAL DUES!

At the 2013 convention, the WIFE membership voted to eliminate the state assessments and increase the national dues to \$60. Please remember to pay your national dues to either your state treasurer or, if you are a Member at Large, send them to National WIFE Treasurer, Shana Baisch at 323 Road 300, Glendive, MT 59330. Your continued support is appreciated! National WIFE will continue to work hard to be your voice on the many issues effecting agriculture today.



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