



Volume 38

May 2015

No. 5

## FAED scholarship winners announced

The Foundation for Agricultural Education (FAED) would like to announce the scholarship winners for 2015-2016. A record number of entries were received this year. All of the eight entries were excellent candidates. Those chosen are as follows: Claire Endres from Carrington, North Dakota, who states, "I believe agriculture will become more technologically advanced, create endless job opportunities and become the primary industry that will keep our society thriving for years to come." Claire says her most important goal is to have a meaningful and enjoyable occupation. She wants to wake up everyday excited to work and know that she is going to make an impact in someone's life. Claire is the daughter of Greg and Jody Endres. She plans to attend North Dakota State University this fall.

Hattie Cramer from Camp Crook, South Dakota believes that "an increase of American society participation in agriculture will move American agriculture forward positively to create strong communities that support each other." Hattie's goals for the future include having a successful mixed animal veterinary practice in Harding County. Hattie is the daughter of Russell and Mary Cramer. She will start her second year of college this fall at South Dakota State University.

Skylar Stenson from Wibaux, Montana believes that technology provides a fantastic opportunity for ranchers, farmers and others to show the world how they operate. She states, "it is important for the farmers and ranchers to tell their story and not listen to groups that paint the agricultural community in a bad way." After graduating from college, Skyhler plans to go to veterinary school and return to a place in rural Montana to utilize her new skills. Skylar is the daughter of Kip and Adele Stenson. She will attend Montana State University in the fall. Thank you to all who entered.



Clair Endres, North Dakota



Hattie Cramer, South Dakota



Skylar Stenson, Montana



By Linda Newman  
Montana

# President's Report

## '21 ways to get a second chance'

I think Spring is here! I am looking out over our fields and pastures here in North Central Montana, and they are "greening up" quite nicely! The trees are budding out and the grandkids brought me a bouquet of wildflowers when we branded this weekend!

It is a super busy time of year for us right now, so this month's article is taken from an article I ran across on the Internet a while back that I thought was quite pertinent to everyone in agriculture or in whatever realm we find ourselves. It is taken from an article written by Lolly Daskal, President and CEO of Lead From Within.

### 21 WAYS TO GET A SECOND CHANCE

Sooner or later, we all need a second chance. Here's how to give yourself room to succeed when things haven't gone well so far.

When we get things wrong--and it happens to us all sometimes--the only difference between failure and success is our attitude.

When we give ourselves a second chance we open up the opportunity to do better next time, to grow beyond our past failures and go beyond what we know we are capable of.

Here are some times to give yourself a second chance--to show you can be better and do better.

1. When decisions become difficult. Remember your values and mission and what you stand for. Give yourself a second chance by leading with

your values.

2. When you're angry. If anger gets you in trouble, make a commitment to learning to manage your emotions. Give yourself a second chance by leading with emotional intelligence.

3. When you're mired in negativity. So much of what we think of as reality depends on our perceptions and outlook. Give yourself a second chance by leading with positive thoughts.

4. When you want to be respected. If you want respect from others, you must first give it. Respect begets respect. Give yourself a second chance by cultivating respectful leadership.

5. When you realize you don't actually know it all. The only true wisdom is knowing how little we actually know. Make a point of asking questions and listening. Give yourself a second chance by learning from others.

6. When you need to improve. One of the best routes to any second chance is to invest wisely in yourself. Give yourself a second chance by leading with personal development.

7. When you are prone to gossip. Pay attention to your words and make sure that what you say is important, truthful, and kind. Give yourself a second chance by leading with character.

8. When you've been dishonest. The truth may hurt for a little while, but a lie will hurt you forever. Give yourself a second chance by leading with scrupulous honesty.

9. When you lose steam don't think of what you need but of what you can give. It energizes you and helps others as well. Give yourself a second chance by leading with generosity.

10. When you've been slacking. Spend some time unlocking your

"why." Give yourself a second chance by leading with your personal mission.

11. When you're bragging. Remember that we grow not through impressing others but through humility. Become known as one who takes genuine joy in the success of others. Give yourself a second chance by leading with modesty.

12. When you're frightened of failure. Everything you have ever wanted is on the other side of fear. Fight your fears or you will be in battle with them forever. Give yourself a second chance by leading with courage.

13. When you're habitually late. The person who honors time shows they respect other people's time. It's the best impression you can make. Give yourself a second chance by leading with punctuality.

14. When you have doubts. Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will. When you bump into doubt, take action immediately. Give yourself a second chance by leading with faithfulness.

15. When you are exhausted. Shore up bad habits of sleep and nutrition and stress, and move beyond the bad feeling to discover determination and energy. Give yourself a second chance by leading with perseverance.

16. When you are moving too fast. Remember it's not how you start but how you finish that counts, and speed is less important than stamina. Give yourself a second chance by leading with endurance.

17. When you are unhappy. Happiness comes from doing something meaningful--from the endeavor, the pursuit of a goal. Give yourself a second chance by leading with commitment.

*President's Report: Continued on Page 7*

# Natural Resources Report



## BLM looks to increase holdings, asks for more funding

### ENDANGERED SPECIES

Interior Secretary Sally Jewel has reversed the proposed federal protection for a type of sage grouse in California and Nevada. The Mono Basin Sage Grouse no longer faces the threat of extinction as the result of voluntary conservation efforts and range improvements. The improvements were initiated by ranchers, local governments, private land owners and public land management. Secretary Jewell also stated that it should be encouraging to those trying to prevent the listing decision of the sage grouse in 11 western states. She is quoted as saying, "There is no reason you can't have a healthy state with a healthy economy and a healthy ecosystem. By working together, you can have it all"

As usual, there are those who are opposing her decision. Some have accused Secretary Jewel of caving to pressure from those who fear federal protection would mean dramatic restrictions on livestock grazing, energy exploration and other development of public lands (*The Capital Press*).

### CLEAN WATER ACT: WATERS OF THE U.S.

On April 3, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent a revised Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) proposed rule to the Office of Management and Budget for review. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, her assistant and Jo-Ellen Darcy, Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), posted an update on the controversial rule. They were letting critics know they had heard their complaints. Since the rule was proposed over a year ago they have received more than one million comments from farmers, manufacturers, business owners, hunters, anglers and others. Over 400 meetings have been held across the country. Although the new rule language has not been released, the Administrator and Assistant Secre-

tary claim it will better define "how protected waters are significant." Tributaries will be more clearly defined.

The proposed rule of the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers has been too broad and those broad terms have previously been struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court. In a case called "Rapanos," although it was not a majority decision, Justice Kennedy spoke about the "significant nexus" test saying water must have significant nexus to a traditionally navigable water way.

The proposed rule is an attempt to expand the definition of "tributary" to in-

clude any water that contributes flow either directly or through another source. That rule goes beyond Justice Kennedy's holdings. He said the Clean Water Act wouldn't apply to drains, ditches and streams remote for navigable water. The agencies involved are going much further than we have seen before, which is leaving a reasonable person guessing at the meaning of the rules.

The question has been raised: If the rule goes through, is there any recourse at the state level? A suggestion has been made that we speak to the local conservation districts. You can also contact the office of your Attorney General (*Water Strategies, The Daily*).

### FEDERAL LANDS

On April 15, the subcommittee on Federal Lands Oversight met to review federal land acquisition polices and the impacts on communities and the environment. At a hearing last month regarding the agencies budget request, it was expressed there is a burning desire to increase their holdings while admitting to large and growing backlogs of deferred maintenance. Most federal land acquisition is authorized by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (LWCF). The Act expires in September. This will give Congress an opportunity to thoroughly examine its missions and to make adjustments.

The major controversy is a result of the sweeping federal land acquisitions taking place and the request to increase funding by 373 percent, allowing for more spending within this purpose as the BLM proposes. (*The Daily*).

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By Pam Potthoff  
Nebraska

# Trade Report

## U.S. trade deficit on the rise

When applying for a loan, wouldn't it be wonderful if you could convince your banker to only look at your income and forget about your expenses? That is the technique used by many proponents of granting trade promotion authority to the president. They cite the wonderful statistic that, according to data from 2012, America's trade with the 11 other nations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership was worth roughly \$1.8 trillion, up 46 percent over the previous three years. However, they fail to mention the trade deficit with these eleven countries.

The 25-year cumulative deficit with 11 countries in the Trans Pacific Treaty (TPT) was \$32 billion. The 2014 trade deficit with those 11 TPP countries was \$3.7 billion.

Sure, we export a lot of stuff to these nations, but we import more. If my net income was negative, no banker would want to do business with me. The same is true of trade. We shouldn't be looking for new ways to import more than we export.

In April, the Trade Promotion Authority bill came out of committees in both the House and the Senate. The ENFORCE Act, with a currency manipulation adjustment clause, passed separately from the TPA bill in the Senate Finance committee. In the TPA bill, currency manipulation corrections focus on consultations and negotiations rather than on enforcement. In other words, it doesn't have much bite.

In the House, there wasn't a currency manipulation item included. It does not contain enforceable negotiating "instructions" for the President but rather contains unenforceable negotiat-

ing "objectives". Translated, this means that Congress has some items that it would like to have in a treaty but the President does not have to put them in before Congress will approve the treaty. This is an age-old political trick to make it appear that someone has taken a stand but later they can pass the buck on down the line.

Both versions contain the same "fix the VAT problem" language as in the 2015 TPA, the 2002 TPA, the 1974 TPA and others. There is no teeth in that language either.

The House version requires the President to consult more with Congress and to provide the classified texts of trade negotiations to any member of Congress who requests them. The public would have an opportunity to review a treaty for at least 60 days before the President signs it.

These are steps in the right direction but they don't address balancing our trade, so we export as much as we import.

The beef industry, in particular, has pushed the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) as an opportunity to increase beef exports. As with the example cited at the first of this message, no mention is being made as to the amount of beef imported.

As a nation, beef imports are increasing, causing the percentage of the U.S. beef supply that is imported to increase from 13 percent in 2011 to 18 percent in 2014. Imports are overshadowing exports and the U.S. continues to accumulate a persistent trade deficit in live cattle, beef, beef variety meats and processed beef.

Like the 20 previous free trade agreements, the TPP will create an imbalance in trade by facilitating more imports without creating a corresponding opportunity to increase exports.

The U.S. 25-year cumulative trade deficit with the world is \$19 billion. Last year alone, our trade deficit with the

world was \$1.2 billion. This is not sustainable.

A WIFE alert has gone out for calls to both Senators and Representative as soon as possible to tell them to vote "No" on the Fast Track bill that is formally titled "The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015." You can reach your members of Congress by calling the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and asking for them by name.

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By Barbara Broberg  
Montana

# Energy Report

## In the world of energy, advances know no bounds

This month, this energy report has some bits and pieces that are of interest. In no particular order, here they are.

**TIRES:** If you have tried Trelleborg tires, you may understand low air pressure tires. Michelin has a line of tires out that are low pressure, including some designed for the latest in field sprayers--the sprayers with tall thin wheels (6 feet or so in diameter). So, if you have been in on tire troubles for sprayers, maybe these Ultraflex tires can help.

The words in use for the AD2 (Advanced Deflection Design) tires are IF, which stands for "Increased Flexion" and VF, which is short for "Very High Flexion." On April 17 of this year, the *Prairie Star* had the original article on the subject. Firestone also has this type of tire available. Know your tires! In normal tires, under-inflation is a factor in 20 percent of accidents. This, according to the telemetrics company Telogis.

**ALTERNATIVE ENERGY** is at a tipping point. The electric companies are capable of managing and measuring power coming in. The accountability is there to manage the finances of electricity going and coming. The companies that take care of the alternative energy are mature now. Consumers are using the alternatives. Wind, solar and the newer fuels are available and used by increasingly more diverse industries. All the pieces are starting to come into place.

**ENERGY POLICY** is complex. NERC, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the watcher of the U.S. electric grid, has a new report regarding being concerned about the future of the grid. QER, the First Quadrennial Energy Report, via the Department of Energy at the federal level, also has a

latest report. There needs to be coordination from somewhere. The Administration in Washington, D.C. has some bearing on the pieces here. E & E publishing's EnergyWire at [www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net) has a new initiative called Power Plan Hub. The Hub may serve to be a coordinator of getting some confusion out of our energy and electricity future (*EEnews*).

**MICROGRID DC:** Direct current electricity moves faster through the wires with less power loss. Direct current is more efficient going long distances. Direct current is used in many electric applications. However a microgrid is a defined area where electricity is used, often an area using a defined type of electric generation (*EEnews*).

**QUIET RACE CARS:** There are electric race cars. What would it be like to not have the sound or smell that is normal to racing. Look at the article titled "Racing goes electric: At the track with Formula E, the first e-racing series" at [arstechnica.com](http://arstechnica.com).

**EXTREME WEATHER/STRESSES:** Across many industries there are infrastructure improvements going on to strengthen and improve facilities, to increase the safety and improve the structures in case severe conditions occur. Because severe conditions do occur, there are now ways to beef things up without rebuilding.

**WATER TREATMENT FOR FRACK OR SALINE WATER:** From the University of Colorado Boulder, with help from New Mexico State University, we are hearing about breaking water molecules up into positives and negatives, allowing it to become a power producer. See what the universities wrote about this at [pubs.rcs.org/en/content/articlepdf/2015/ew/c4ew00050a](http://pubs.rcs.org/en/content/articlepdf/2015/ew/c4ew00050a). One company using the technology is Bioelectric Inc. out of Denver, CO. More information can be obtained at [bioelectricinc.com](http://bioelectricinc.com).

And finally, there is a nice tribute to wheat farmers on the King Arthur Flour website, [kingarthurfLOUR.com](http://kingarthurfLOUR.com). The regard to farmers was made on a blog for Earth Day, which was celebrated on April 22. The author of the article is PJ Hamel. Do read some of the comments.

National Grid, a power company in eastern United States, had an informal energy informational advertisement. It was helpful in seeing what a power company does to "keep current" on issues and infrastructure. Some comments were not championing electricity and all things associated with this energy.

Since the 70s, which ushered in Earth Day, we have learned a lot. We have the 20, 30, even 40 years of information which now needs to be sorted by artificial intelligence. We have more choices in how to live, what to eat and what devices to connect and communicate with. Keeping positively moving forward in energy decisions is important. I am pleased to share positive energy today... and send it to all of you as we move into the summer crop season.

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By Marlene Kouba  
North Dakota

# Homeland Security Report

## Allegations say Visa program is misused by U.S. companies

At taxpayers' expense, the current administration has begun to fly unaccompanied minors from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras to the United States, if the "children" under 21 have a parent legally residing in the U.S. The children will enter as refugees, and the ones who don't qualify as refugees will be admitted under parole.

U.S. District Judge Andrew S. Hanen of Brownsville, Texas, refused to grant the government's petition to lift the injunction he imposed preventing the Obama administration from implementing its series of executive actions to delay the deportation of up to 5 million illegal aliens. The illegal immigrant minors are no longer known as Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) but will be officially known as Central American Minors (CAMS) and will be eligible for a special refugee/parole that offers a free one-way flight to the United States.

The project is a joint venture between the Department of Homeland Security and the State Department. The program is titled "In-Country Refugee/Parole Program for Children in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras with Parents Lawfully Present in the United States." There is no cap on the number that may be allowed into the country. Paroles can be granted to applicants under the age of 21, even if their parents are in the United States illegally or may even include the parents themselves.

Documents are presented in both English and Spanish on the State Department website, along with a list of approved affiliates throughout the United States. On Nov. 14, 2014, U.S. officials said that chil-

dren deemed refugees will be allowed to work immediately upon entry in the U.S., applying for permanent residency the next year and for naturalization five years later. The Mexican government plans to issue a new "Regional Visitor Card" to provide documentation for them to remain in Mexico as long as it takes to get to the United States. The Guatemalan border with Chiapas, Mexico, now seems to be our southern border. (United Nations)

A popular visa program is allegedly being misused by U.S. companies to lay off thousands of American workers and replace them with foreign labor. The allegations have caught the attention of a bipartisan group of 10 senators who are calling for a federal probe of the firing and hiring practices at Southern California Edison (SCE), California's second-largest utility.

The incidents are concentrated in the Information Technology field, and involve American workers being replaced by H-1B visa holders. The program is supposed to be used to bring in temporary skilled workers with highly specialized skills not readily available in the U.S. They are often used in the technology sector to bring in engineers and computer programmers. A worker described how when the two vendors were picked--Infosys and TCS, both major Indian companies--SCE employees were told to "sit with, video chat or do whatever was needed to teach them our systems." If they did not cooperate "we would be fired and not receive a severance package." The company explained that it's reducing its information technology department (*Associated Press*).

Hundreds of Puerto Rico's residents qualified for federal disability benefits in recent years because they lacked fluency in English. The Social Security Administration's (SSA) inspector general ques-

tioned the policy in April since Spanish is the predominant language there.

Under Social Security regulations, individuals are considered less employable in the United States if they can't speak English, regardless of their work experience or level of education. About 95 percent of Puerto Rico residents above age 5 speak Spanish at home, and about 84 percent say they do not speak English "very well."

The inspector general noted that a nurse who speaks only Spanish could be considered "unskilled" under current Social Security standards. A claimant's inability to communicate in English can lessen the relevance of work experience and education, potentially making it more likely the claimant will receive disability benefits. The SSA is making preparations for a potential rule change (*Washington Post*).

Social Security numbers (SSNs) have been given to 541,000 illegal aliens by Homeland Security by the end of fiscal year 2014, to work under the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy since its inception. For individuals who are granted deferred action by either ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) or USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services), USCIS shall accept applications to determine whether these individuals qualify for work authorizations during this period of deferred action. It has no substantive right, immigration status or pathway to citizenship as such benefits can be conferred only by Congress. But an illegal immigrant who receives a SSN will be able to draw federal tax credits, Social Security retirement and disability benefits (*CNSNews*).

DHS has said several ISIS terror group members were arrested by federal authorities in Texas. Yet they also say there is no imminent danger of ISIS breaching

*Homeland Security: Continued on Page 8*

# Feed Grains Report



By Donna Bolz  
Nebraska

## Seed treatments and fungicides offer plants different benefits

Caren Schmidt, technical market manager at chemical producer BASF.

The added protection from in-furrow applications is a benefit, but Warren Pierson, coordinator at the Field Extension Education Laboratory at Iowa State University, wonders if it comes at a cost. He says, "There is a concern about using the same products multiple times over a season. In general, the amount of active ingredient introduced to the seed or seedling is adequately achieved through seed treatments. Applying a single class of fungicides, even though in different forms, can possibly lead to fungicide resistance problems."

Some of the benefits they have seen are greater cold tolerance, increased earlier season vigor and uniform emergence. In-furrow fungicide isn't on the radar for soybeans yet, as the crop is typically planted later and at a higher seeding rate (*Progressive Farmer*).

Every corn seed and emerging seedling deserves a chance, which is why Mark, a farmer from Beaver Creek, Minnesota, plans to lay down fungicide in the furrow this spring. Fungicide is designed to protect seedlings. This will extend the area of protection to get corn seedlings off to a good start. Mark tried fungicide in the furrow last year on corn and has seen great results.

Prior to this he was applying the fungicide by plane. He thought it saved money by doing this as they already had the equipment. In-furrow fungicide use is standard practice for crops such as potatoes, sugar beets and some vegetables. This practice offers soil disease protection, improved root growth, increased early-season seedling vigor and improved stress tolerance.

Fred Below, University of Illinois crop physiologist, says seed treatments and fungicides work differently, "Seed treatment is important, but it's protecting the seed. Fungicide is protecting the seedling, and that's an important distinction." Seed treatments and in-furrow fungicides offer different windows and zones of protection.

"Depending on the active ingredient, seed treatments typically provide about 10 to 14 days of immediate protection on the seed against seed and soil borne diseases. An in-furrow fungicide treatment extends the zone of protection so not just the seed, but the zone where the roots grow is protected. In-furrow fungicide applications likely extend the window of protection," says

### *Did you Know?*

On average, women farm operators have achieved a higher level of schooling than the general population.

45 percent of female-operated farms/ranches specialize in livestock.

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[americasfarmers.com](http://americasfarmers.com)

### ***President's Report: Continued from Page 2***

18. When you procrastinate. Establish habits of discipline and diligence by pledging to do whatever you are doing much better than it necessary. Give yourself a second chance by leading with excellence.

19. When you've broken a promise. Failing to meet your commitments is a serious goof. Again, the cure is to go beyond expectations. Deliver more, better, and faster than promised. Give yourself a second chance by leading with resolve.

20. When you've failed. If nothing else, failure sets you up to welcome change. Let go of the past and work hard on changing the present. Give yourself a second chance by leading with agility.

21. When you feel you have nothing left to give. When you least feel like it is when it's most important to seek out every opportunity to give. It doesn't have to be money--time, attention, appreciation all count. Give yourself a second chance by leading with giving.

There are hundreds of ways to give yourself a second chance.

Whatever it is you need, the important thing is to take yourself closer each day to becoming the truly successful and happy person you are meant to be ([www.inc.com/lolly-daskal/21-ways-to-get-a-second-chance.html](http://www.inc.com/lolly-daskal/21-ways-to-get-a-second-chance.html)).



By Klodette Stroh  
Wyoming

# Sugar Report

## Export markets could jeopardize national security

My dear mother was a faithful person, and a farmer at heart. I have fond memories of her bountiful and beautiful herb garden. She was a herpetologist, and used ancient Assyrian herbs to heal the sick. She taught my sister and me to have a great respect for farmers. My mother always told us, farmers are in a partnership with God. They are the stewards of God's land, as they feed and clothe his people. We have treasured her wisdom and passed it along to our children.

Spring time is so beautiful in Powell. Once again, farmers are busy working on their equipment and land to grow the safe and bountiful crops for our nation. One American farmer provides food and fiber for 97 individuals in the United States, and 32 individuals abroad.

The agriculture sector is suffering from unfair foreign free trade agreements. It would be beneficial if our government were to implement a col-

or-coded system to monitor agricultural free trade negotiations with foreign countries. The national security of the United States is compromised each time we enter into free trade talks and contracts with developing foreign countries. Sugar farmers are hopeful to put a stop to sugar illegally imported from Mexico.

*Did you Know?*  
Of the 3.3 million farm operators in the U.S., 1 million are women!

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The International Sugar Organization stated that the "2015 global output is set to exceed demand for a fifth straight year, leaving the biggest stockpiles on record." Cane harvests have now expanded into India, and Thailand. Farmers in Brazil, the world's largest producer, are ramping up exports to take advantage of a tumble in

the exchange rate that has swelled their profit margins.

Sugar prices are down more than 30 percent since last summer, currently trading a hair below 13 cents per pound. Free trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have proven to be costly to the United States government. In 1996 and 1997, the first year of NAFTA, the United States government spent \$64 billion dollars to aid farmers. This was due to the price of wheat, barley, sugar and beans dropping and continuing along that same path.

The United States agricultural sector should not be compromised at the expense of foreign nations. Agriculture is the cornerstone of our nation's economic stability, securing our nation as a superpower in this world. It contributes more than \$3.1 trillion dollars to our gross domestic product and, as it stands, there is more than \$50 billion dollars in products exported to safely feed hungry mouths in other countries. If we jeopardize our farmers, we will effectively and systematically jeopardize our nation's security.

### ***Homeland Security: Continued from Page 6***

the nation's southern border. There are two training camps west of Ciudad Juárez which target the New Mexico towns of Columbus and Deming for easy access to the United States. The gangs are formed in jail and use "coyotes" to help move them into New Mexico. Some of their activities are planned for regional universities; the White Sands Missile Range; government facilities in Alamogordo, New Mexico; Fort Bliss; and the electrical power facilities near Anapra and Chaparral, New Mexico (WND).

Immigrant gangs in Houston, Texas have become a threat in crimes that involve human smuggling, sex trafficking, prostitution, robbery, kidnapping and extortion. They target Latino-owned small businesses and charge "rent" to avoid consequences, such as harming relatives back in Latin America. Teenagers who resist joining them are often beat up or killed (*Houston Chronicle*).

Arivaca, Arizona, has an organization that was formed in 2012 by residents involved in providing humanitarian aid on the border. Arivaca is a small rural community located in the militarized zone of the border region between the United States and Mexico. Arivaca is a vibrant rural community of about 700 people. As with many border communities, residential life in Arivaca has been deeply impacted by mass migration and the arrival of thousands of Border enforcement agents and infrastructure to the area. They provide food, water and medical aid to those crossing the border out of a concern for human dignity and helping others, regardless of immigration status (Arizona rancher).





By Jean Wach  
Nebraska

# Cereal Grains Report

## Deal gives Saudi-backed company access to Canadian grain exports

A Saudi-backed company agreed to buy a majority stake in the former Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) in a 203 million dollar deal that gives it access to grain exports from Canada. Bunge Ltd. and state-owned Saudi Agricultural and Livestock Investment company (SALIC) will acquire a 50.1 percent stake in CWB through a joint venture, White Plains, New York-based Bunge said Wednesday in a statement.

The transaction is expected to close in July. SALIC was established in November 2011 to secure adequate food supplies for Saudi Arabia. The Riyadh-based company makes investments in countries with surplus grain and the

transaction announced today fits exactly within their vision. "We have surplus exportable grain that's available in Canada," announced the chief executive officer of the Bunge-SALIC joint venture G3 Global Grain Group.

The federal government ended the Winnipeg-based Canadian Wheat Board's seven-decade marketing monopoly on wheat and barley on August 1, 2012 in an effort to increase competition in grain-handling. Since then, the company has acquired Mission Terminal Inc., Prairie West Terminal Ltd., Great Sandhills Terminal LTD., and announced the construction of four grain elevators.

The government had given CWB four years to submit a commercialization plan to the minister of agriculture. The federal government isn't concerned

about a Saudi-backed company buying a stake in the former Canadian Wheat Board, Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said Wednesday at the press conference. Industry Canada has approved the acquisition. Pat Martin, an opposition Member of Parliament from Manitoba, said "It was a sad day for the Canadian grain industry," noting that the former wheat board protected farmers from the "agrifood giants who are now taking over." They have taken a six or seven billion dollar business, legislated it out of business, and handed it over to American and Saudi businesses that, until recently, were its greatest competitors.

The acquisition is the third major deal in 15 months involving a state-owned company from a grain importing country buying control of a food commodity trader. In February 2014, COFCO Corp., China's largest grain trader, bought a 51 percent stake in Dutch-based trader Nidera B.V. The deal valued Nidera at \$4 billion, including debt.

In April, COFCO agreed to pay \$1.5 billion for a 51 percent stake in Noble Group Ltd's agricultural trading unit. As major importers such as Saudi Arabia and China take control of grain trading companies, they could bypass the traditional giants of the industry: Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., Bunge, Cargill, and Louis Dreyfus Commodities B.V. The four firms are known as the "ABCD" of grains because of their initials.

Saudi-Arabia is the world's largest importer of barley, and among the top 15 for sorghum, corn and wheat, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Time will tell how this might impact cereal grain prices for the farmers in the United States. (*Ag Web Daily*).

### WIFE 2015 Commodity & Topic Chairs

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**Cereal Grains**

Jean Wach

**Energy**

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**Sugar**

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**Trade**

Pam Pothoff

**Transportation**

Pat Torgerson

# WIFE Updates

**Don't forget to pay your national WIFE dues...just fill this in, cut it out and throw it in the mail!**

## 2015 NATIONAL WIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$60

MAIL TO:

Women Involved in Farm Economics  
Attention: Shana Baisch, Treasurer  
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Glendive, MT 59330  
jsbaisch@midrivers.com

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2015 DATES TO REMEMBER:

✓ **May 27**--Proposed bylaw changes must be in to Jennifer Folzein at [gjfelz@KCI.net](mailto:gjfelz@KCI.net)

✓ **June 17**--Board of Directors conference call scheduled for 6 PM, MDT

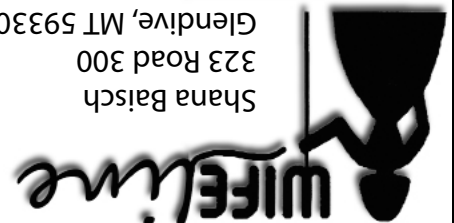


**WIFeline**  
a publication of  
WOMEN INVOLVED  
IN FARM ECONOMICS  
Published monthly except June and November

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