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GIPSA

By J. Dudley Butler,
Administrator of the USDA/
Grain Inspection, Packers
and Stockyards Administra-
tion

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) fosters fair competition, provides payment protection, and guards against deceptive and fraudulent trade practices by administering the Packers and Stockyards Act. The Act prohibits unfair, deceptive, and unjust discriminatory practices by market agencies, dealers, stockyards, packers, swine contractors, and live poultry dealers in the livestock, meat-packing, and poultry industries. The P&S Act provides an important safety net for livestock producers and poultry growers in rural America.

Our mission is to protect fair-trade practices, and ensure financial integrity for competitive livestock markets. We will continue our enforcement of the Act because today's livestock and poultry markets require the fairness that the Act affords all market participants. For rural America to thrive, producers must thrive. To thrive, you must operate in a fair market. We at GIPSA will do our part to ensure there is balance and integrity in the marketplace.

In the coming months GIPSA will issue a final rule that addresses the information that live poultry dealers must furnish poultry growers, including requirements for the timing and contents of poultry growing arrangements.



GIPSA also will publish a proposed rule to address the increased use of contracting in the marketing and production of livestock and poultry by entities subject to the P&S Act. The rule will seek to clarify conduct in the livestock and poultry industries that represents an undue or unreasonable preference; prohibit certain conduct because it is unfair, unjustly discriminatory or deceptive, in violation of the P&S Act; and ensure that producers and growers have the opportunity to fully participate in the arbitration process if they choose.

In addition, we will be holding the first-ever "Workshops on Competition in Agriculture" jointly with the Department of

Justice to explore competition issues affecting the agriculture industry in the 21st century and the appropriate role for antitrust and regulatory enforcement in that industry. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on agricultural competition issues and the workshops by December 31, 2009. The public and press will be invited to attend the hearings. We anticipate that the first of the series of workshops will take place in March, 2010. Check the GIPSA web site (www.gipsa.usda.gov) for agendas and schedules for the workshops.

I encourage you to participate in the upcoming rulemaking process, and to take part in the USDA/DOJ workshops on competition.

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TAMMY'S TOPICS

By Tammy Basel, SD
National President



National WIFE will be working with The Hand That Feeds Us. Please take some time to go to the website as we will be discussing this great opportunity at convention. The following is from this great group.

It's no secret that urban news outlets have been critical of farmers and farm policy in recent years—much of it a direct result of an aggressive spin campaign by a handful of well-heeled and vocal opponents.

Ironically, the same farmers who are being attacked for being “giant agribusinesses” lack the resources to defend themselves. That's why many ag groups have pooled their resources together to jointly fund a program to build better relationships with big-city reporters.

The American Sugar Alliance, along with colleagues from the peanut, rice, cotton, corn, sorghum, and ethanol industries, recently kicked off a campaign called The Hand That Feeds U.S. to answer agriculture's critics and explain why farmers and farm policy are so important to the nation's future.

“It makes no sense that we're being demonized in many of the nation's top media markets,” said Linda Raun, a rice grower from Texas who is a spokesperson for the campaign.

“It's not the journalists fault,” she continued. “We haven't done a good enough job telling them our story. We've been negligent in explaining that farmers feed and clothe every person in this country, employ 20 percent of the nation's workforce, and will be at the center of America's economic recovery.”

Andy Quinn, a Minnesota corn and ethanol producer agrees. “We're the best farmers in the world, but we're far from being master communicators. For too long, we've let a handful of environmental extremists and coalitions bankrolled by big business define our industry in the news.”

Quinn and Raun believe the project is a good first step in helping agriculture set the record straight. The multi-year effort will consist of a webpage, www.TheHandThatFeedsUS.org, as well as a series of face-to-face meetings with reporters across the country. The site, which went live on May 11, includes a series of profiles on farmers, farmer-owned cooperatives, and opponents of farm policy.

One of these profiles features Moorhead, Minnesota-based American Crystal Sugar Company and explains that the sugar beet industry is 100 percent farmer owned and would not exist today if farmers hadn't stepped up to replace private investors fleeing the business because of low profit margins.

“We plan to build long-lasting relationships with journalists and show them that family owned and operated farms, not giant agribusinesses, are the true face of agriculture,” explained Texas cotton farmer and coalition member Steve Verett.

Even though the farmers admit they'll never be able to match agriculture's opponents dollar for dollar, they do have some high-profile cheerleaders on their side. Top Democrat and Republican Members of Congress published an open letter to the news industry “respectfully urging [reporters to] take the time to learn more about this effort, U.S. farm policy, and the farm and ranch families that keep America fed.”

WIFE SUPPORTING MEMBERS CONTRIBUTOR LEVELS

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Renewable Fuels Association

Executive Membership

American's for Secure Retirement
DuPont
Edison Electric Institute
Farm Credit Council
Monsanto
New Holland
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Associate Membership

American Council of Life Insurers
CropLife America
Florida, Texas & Hawaii Sugar Cane Growers
North Bridge Communications
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Agriculture Council of America
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American Sugarbeet Grower's Association
Miller/Coors Brewing Company
Mitchell Oilfield

In-Kind Contributors

Kimmitt, Senter,
Coates & Weinfurter
High Plains Journal
Rauner & Associates



GLOBAL TRADE

By Ruth Laribee, NY
National Trade Chairman

In July of this year the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) started a process looking into "standards related measures" that obstruct the United States producer's right of entry to foreign markets. One specific standard limiting U.S. agricultural exports is the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations. Since September 24, the USTR has placed notices on the Federal Register asking for comments from the public in order to collect data for USTR's National Trade Estimate Report in Foreign Trade Barriers and for updated reports on standards-related measures and sanitary and phytosanitary trade barriers. You can make your comments at www.regulations.gov.



The standards-related measures are a system for registration or labeling regulations, mandated design or process policy and certification or testing methods. These standard-related measures affect industrial and agricultural products which include food quality and food nutrition labeling systems. The SPS measures are put in place to protect the life or health of humans, plants and animals from the danger of disease, pests, contaminated additives and toxins. These measures can also regulate the course of action for quarantines, disease free areas and inspection policy. USTR Ron Kirk reported that it is our goal to level the global playing field and to make sure that our American manufacturers, workers, farmers and ranchers be able to compete for commerce globally, to sell more and bring back home the benefits of our trade agreements. Kirk is looking for this to save and to create new jobs here in the U.S.

The USTR staff met in Korea with customs officials from Japan, Korea, China, Chinese Taipei and the European Union. This is the first time such a meeting was held to discuss trade problems in counterfeit semiconductor products. The importance of this is that there is a rise in the use of semiconductors in the technology of medical devices, mobile phones and satellites, to name a few, and there is a need to fortify efforts globally to stop the increase of counterfeit semiconductors. The group confirmed their promise to enforce and protect property rights.

Brazil and cotton are back in the news and a new word has emerged. Cross retaliation, which means that retaliation can occur and be imposed not only on the one issue or commodity being challenged, but in other areas as well. It is being reported that the World Trade Organization (WTO) panel awarded Brazil \$294.7 million against U.S. cotton subsidies. This was much less than the \$206.8 billion they had been seeking. But Brazil is strongly advocating that the panel allow them to retaliate against the U.S. exports in intellectual property rights and services. They will prepare a list of what U.S. products they will retaliate on as soon as they get the word from the WTO. Brazilian officials are looking for the retaliation to bring an end to U.S. subsidies and claim the total retaliation could reach \$800 million. One area they are looking at is for the pharmaceutical companies of Brazil to

be allowed to produce medicines protected by U.S. patents. The Foreign Minister Celso Amorim of Brazil said, "We are going to choose the sectors that least affect us and most affect the U.S. On a new front Brazil is challenging what they say is U.S. protectionism of ethanol production as they are claiming the U.S. policies are hurting their export chances. Cross retaliation is not a very big word but it holds a very large ramification for U.S. agriculture.

The G20 group summit in Pittsburgh has brought about the possibility and probability of what is called the "New World Order". There will be a new central bank system under the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Headlines see the G20 group policing the new World Economic Order while the G20 group shapes the New World Order with lesser role for U.S. markets and many others. China and India will have a larger role. The group has agreed to give communist nations and developing countries more voting power, a greater place for international institutions and developing markets and regulate some salaries in the private sector. Banks will have tighter regulations. It's reported the group has approved the allotment of \$250 billion in "Special Drawing Rights", the artificial currency that the IMP uses to pay financial credits of its member nations. According to Alex Newman "the move is akin to a central bank such as the Federal Reserve creating money out of thin air" but it will be at a worldwide level. The G20 group committed to work towards reducing the large export control imbalances of countries like Japan and China and the U.S. with its massive debt.

WIFE supports fair trade for American producers and consumers.

(Sources: USTR, NY Times, Reuters, ICTSD, Fox News, Gulf Times)

PEANUT EXPORTS

By Jacquelyn R. Sistrunk, AL
National Peanut Chairman

The peanut industry recognizes the seriousness of current economic conditions as well as the continuing battle against hunger at home and abroad.

With a record 2.5 million ton crop in 2008, the industry is in a unique position to feed the hungry with a low cost, high nutritional-commodity.

USDA estimates that the total peanut exports reached 750 million pounds in 2008. This included peanut kernels, unshells, and prepared products such as peanut butter.

For 2009, the industry needs thirty percent less than 2008 or 1,800,000 tons to meet demands. A depressed economy is a peanut butter booster. Peanut butter accounts for 60 percent of the U.S. market. As the dollar declines, U.S. peanuts cost less and exports increase. Variables like weather and market price make matching acreage to demand a gamble. But isn't that the nature of farming?



www.WIFEline.com

CAP AND TRADE

By Sheila Massey, NM
National Energy Chairman

The talk around the country continues to focus on climate change legislation, otherwise referred to as cap-and-trade. Forums have been held to address the issue and many calls, emails and faxes have been sent opposing it. There are those who support it, as well. By now your Senators have been back in your states after the August recess and I'm pretty sure they got an ear full on Health Care and Cap-and-Trade.



An article released by Reuters indicates that Senate Democrats are set to unveil legislation to cut greenhouse gas emissions, kicking off what is likely to be a battle in Congress as lawmakers tussle over the economic impact of controlling global warming. The bill co-authored by Massachusetts Senator John Kerry and California Senator Barbara Boxer has not been released. It is reported to be very similar to the narrowly passed House version which called for a 17 percent cut in carbon emissions below 2005 levels by 2020, and about an 80 percent reduction by 2050. It would also require companies to acquire permits for the right to emit carbon. Initially about 85 percent of the carbon permits would be provided to companies for free. Another source said the Senators are contemplating requiring a 20 percent cut in greenhouse gases by 2020. Any climate legislation in the Senate likely faces an uphill battle, as lawmakers from heavy industrial states in both parties have raised concerns about burdening companies with additional energy costs.

As the debate on climate change legislation continues, numerous articles can be found related to this very important issue. Quite honestly both sides (Democrat and Republican) make good arguments for their point of view. In reality, this issue, like many other issues, boils down to politics and on which side of the aisle a member sits. This is where you and I, as voting constituents, come into play. It is our job to continue to review the facts and draw our own conclusions on how the various pieces of legislation will affect our lives. After doing that, it is our job to voice our views to our elected officials. It is not the job of Congress to tell us what is or will be good for us, it is our job to tell them.

If I attempted to report all the information in this article that I have read regarding cap-and-trade it would take volumes. I am instead listing some links that you can go to and read for yourself what I have found to be very interesting. These links provide good food for thought and are in some instances real eye-openers.

http://www.newsmax.com/headlines/cap_and_trade/2009/09/17/261416.html

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/ci.A+Secret+White+House+Power+Grab+Is+In+Full+Swing.opinionPrint>

<http://www.dtnprogressivefarmer.com/dtnag/common/link.do?symbolicName=/ag/blogs/template1&blogHandle=policy&blogEntryId=8a82c0bc239b24620123bfcd94ec01d7&showCommentsOverride=false>

DEER/CAR COLLISIONS

By Donna Bolz, NE
National Transportation Chairman

The explosion in the deer population has led to an increase in deer-car collisions. This will only increase as the deer population grows and habitat near urban areas is destroyed to make room for development. According to the National Safety Council, there were 530,000 animal related accidents in 2003. These collisions caused 100 deaths and 10,000 injuries. The average cost per insurance claim for collision damage is \$2,800 with costs varying depending on type of vehicle and amount of damage. When you add in auto claims involving bodily injury, the average rises to \$10,000. So you are driving along and a deer appears on the side of the road. What do you do? Below are several defensive driving tips to avoid hitting a deer.



Be especially attentive from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise. These are the highest risk times for deer vehicle collisions.

Drive with caution when moving through deer-crossing zones, in areas known to have a large deer population and in areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland. Deer seldom run alone. If you see one deer, others may be nearby.

When driving at night, use high beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic. The high beams will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.

Slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.

Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path, but stay in your lane. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.

Always wear your seat belt. Most people injured in car/deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.

Do not rely on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors to deter deer. These devices have not been proven to reduce deer/vehicle collisions.

If your vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch the animal. A frightened and wounded deer can hurt you or further injure itself. The best procedure is to get your car off the road, if possible, and call the police. Then contact your insurance agent or company representative to report any damage to your car. Collision with an animal is covered under the comprehensive portion of your auto insurance policy.

NOMINATIONS

Anyone interested in running for a national office is encouraged to give it some serious consideration. Numerous positions are still open but competition is always good. Nominations can be made from the floor as long as the candidate has her chapter and state endorsements. If considering one, be sure to get your endorsements to Gwen Cassel prior to the election during the national convention. New people in a position always give a new perspective and outlook. You are needed. Do say yes! If helped is needed, all you have to do is ask.

“SUPER SAGE”

By Phyllis Howatt, ND
National Cereal Grains Chairman

Mikkel Pates, staff writer for Ag-week Grand Forks Herald, wrote the following article “Death of a Super Sage” and it is reprinted with his permission.

The Great Norman Ernest Borlaug is dead. For those too young to remember, it was Borlaug, 93 at his death, who described himself only as a “temporary success” in fighting world hunger.

Borlaug received bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Minnesota, so the institution and state forever have a claim to his fame. I have been a member of the North American Agricultural Journalists since 1979. On my occasional trips to Washington for the annual meetings, we often heard from Borlaug through those years.

Always thoughtful and passionate, behind those steely blue eyes, Borlaug had an inner core strength that seemed to offer truth in the face of political rhetoric and hidden agendas.

In the book, “Enough: Why the World’s Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty” authors Scott Kilman and Roger Thurow colorfully describe Borlaug’s storied career.

From Iowa, Borlaug started his education in the proverbial one- room schoolhouse. He flunked the U of M entrance exam, went to a general college for a two-year degree and then transferred back to the University, where he wrestled and studied forestry. When a forest ranger job didn’t work out, he shifted to plant pathology under Elvin Charles Stakman.

In 1944, he was sent to Mexico and worked in the International Wheat and Maize Improvement Center. Also on the scene was Henry Wallace, a publisher-politician from Iowa.

In 1940, Wallace (later Franklin D. Roosevelt’s vice president) went to Mexico, where Stakman and others were working on implementing “scientific farming.”

The poor Mexicans couldn’t afford hybrid corn seed, but scientists taught them how to plant a few varieties of inbred seeds and allow them to cross-pollinate. Yields jumped 10 percent to 25 percent and the farmers could save seed.

Meanwhile Stakman and Borlaug focused on wheat stem rust. Borlaug was sent around the world looking for wheat plants with natural immunity. The work was painstaking—Borlaug used tweezers to remove the stamen, or male part, of a young flower and then apply pollen to the pistil, or ovary, of another plant. Then he’d place a bag over the flower to block other pollen.

Borlaug bucked the system by shuttling newly harvested seed from plots near Mexico City to Mexico’s Pacific Northwest at the Yaqui Valley. The intrepid scientist is said to have used a double-barreled shotgun to bag ducks and scare off bandits.

“At night he slept on the second floor of the grain storehouse to avoid rats,” the writers of “Enough” account.

In four short years, Borlaug had seeds to promote. He



lured farmers to plot tours with free beer and barbecued beef. By 1951, 70 percent of Mexican wheat was from Borlaug varieties. The wheat shortage ended, farmers prospered and could afford fertilizers. By 1960, Borlaug had extended his work to develop dwarf varieties to counter the lodging problem. Mexican yields reached 50 to 75 bushels, instead of the 11 bushels when he started. The Mexicans called him “Super Sage.”

In the 1960s, Borlaug extended his reach to India, to prevent mass hunger in a country that grew by 10 million a year. He was a celebrity in Asia, and used his fame to get government officials to help with fertilizer, credit and subsidies. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi replaced the flowerbed in front of her residence with Borlaug’s wheat.

On December 10, 1970, he collected the Noble Prize for agricultural science—A Peace Prize. When Borlaug heard the news of the prize, he thought it must be a joke. It wasn’t!

TAMMY BASEL for National President

As your current National President I have no problem keeping my days full with National WIFE, State WIFE and the duties involved in managing the ranch business.

My husband and I live in western South Dakota on the ranch where my grandmother homesteaded. Both of us have spent our whole lives in production agriculture. A record production of hay was harvested this summer and it will be fed to the sheep and cattle this spring and winter. Our son and his family are part of our working ranch. Another son, although not on the ranch with us, is committed to the ranching communities.

Partly due to WIFE’s great reputation in Washington DC, this spring the Secretary of Agriculture asked me to serve on the Grain Inspection Packer and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA) advisory committee and I accepted. GIPSA administrator Dudley Butler pays close attention to what the committee recommends. There are many different advisory committees and I would highly encourage WIFE members to participate by submitting their names to serve whenever possible.

South Dakota WIFE strongly believes in youth education—Our goal will be to reach over 1,500 students in the spring of 2010. Many people, even those living in a rural state, really do not know where their food and clothing come from. American farmers and ranchers are the greatest stewards of the land. We have a great story to tell and must do better at telling the story of agriculture.

NOTICE!!

Dues will be discussed during the National Convention in Syracuse, New York. If you will not be present, please let one of your state delegates or any of the Board of Directors (listed on page 2) know how you feel about an increase. This is your organization and your opinions are needed.

SUGAR vs. SYRUP

By Klodette Stroh, WY
National Sugar Chairman

The human body is God's creation and his masterpiece. Our body has the natural ability to sustain itself by choosing the needed nutrient to enhance body's health.

Mr. John S. White, an export biochemist from Illinois and founder of White Technical research, has worked with the beverage industry. He says that there is "no nutritional advantage to substituting sugar" for high-fructose corn syrup. Sufficient studies in the past few years demonstrate no metabolic differences between the two and how they are handled in the body. White says sweeteners only account for about 10 percent of the calories.

The idea of substituting sugar for high-fructose corn syrup is simply a marketing decision. White describes sugarbeet, sugar cane, and corn sweetener as botanical products and they are all the same. (Note: I personally like the taste of sugar in Pepsi-Cola products.)

Using sugar beets in Pepsi-Cola has been having a positive return for rural towns such as Powell, Lovell, and Worland in Wyoming. There is a Pepsi-Cola bottling plant located in Worland. The increased use of sugar has been bringing prosperity to many farmer-owned cooperatives in Moorhead; Minn-Dak Farmers Co-op of Wahpeton, North Dakota; Western Sugar Cooperative in Lovell, Wyoming and Wyoming Sugar Cooperative in Worland, Wyoming. Billings, Montana has one of the updated sugar beet factories in our area, as well. The annual economic impact of sugar in North Dakota is \$1,061,300,000, in Montana by \$188,500,000 and in Wyoming by \$160,000,000.

The American Sugar Alliance is a strong national coalition of sugar beet, sugar cane and corn sweeteners in America and they stand behind our American farmers. Science has been proven that sugar and corn syrup give our body the same nutrients.

Agriculture is the backbone of our country and I like to think of the sugar industry as an important part of the backbone. We need all sectors of agriculture to function properly and provide food for our nation. Our farmers and our industries need to work together because there is room for every one in this economy.

Please bear in mind that under the sugar program provision in the Farm Bill there are 41 foreign countries that have a sugar quota to export their sugar into the United States. Though we don't grow enough sugar in America, it is better to use our own sugar before using foreign countries' imported sugar when their quota kicks in.

Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) has been named the new chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. She is the first woman in history to occupy the Senate Ag committee chairmanship.

The American Sugar Alliance released the following statement applauding her selection. "Senator Lincoln has proven time and time again that she is a champion for production agriculture and we are thrilled that she was chosen to lead



the Senate Agriculture Committee. Hailing from Arkansas, Lincoln knows the importance of agriculture to the country's economy and understands how vital it is for America to maintain a safe, affordable, and abundant supply of homegrown food and fiber. While sugar is not produced in her state, the Senator has been a strong supporter of sugar policy and we look forward to working closely with her for years to come."

HOG ISSUES

By Frances Rohla, NE
National Pork Chairman

The Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense Center or FAZD (pronounced FAZ-dee) was founded in 2004 as a Department of Homeland Security Center. The FAZD Center develops products to protect the United States from foreign animal and zoonotic diseases. "Foreign" means exotic to the United States and "Zoonotic" means "transmissible between animals and humans".

At least 60 percent of all human pathogens are zoonotic, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and 75 percent of recently emerging infectious diseases appear to be zoonotic. Learn more about the FAZD Center by visiting its web site at www.fazd.tamu.edu.

Under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FAZD brings government and industry together to plan prevention of massive disease outbreaks that could cripple the nation by disrupting the food supply chain.

The FAZD Center leverages the resources of 18 universities, five national laboratories and three Department of Homeland Security Centers across 16 states and Puerto Rico.

Two million dollars was the penalty for Tyson Fresh Meats, the world's largest beef and pork supplier, for pumping animal waste into the Missouri River on August 20, 2009. They did not adequately treat the wastewater. The discharges caused high levels of toxicity to aquatic life in the river. The average discharge per day is five million gallons of treated wastewater into the river.

Cargill Pork has eight priority animal-welfare assurance objectives of handling, production, transportation and harvest of hogs. Cargill is committed to meet their social and moral responsibilities to animals that are the food supply.

Cargill committed more than two years ago to adopt group housing rather than using gestation stalls. The company has met the initial goal of having 50 percent of contract farms using group sow housing. Cargill also requires all of its truck drivers to be certified in humane handling of livestock. Cargill Pork has developed animal rescue teams to respond to emergencies on the roads when accidents happen.

FAED

Please bring or send an item for a silent auction during the national convention. The item should be able to travel through airports so don't make it too large or heavy. Money raised will go to the FAED scholarship fund. Three \$500 scholarships were awarded in 2009. Grants to chapters are also awarded.

Treasurer Pat Torgerson



MILK PRICING

By Dianna Reed
National Dairy Chairman

Milk pricing--what might be the answer? Right now our current system, product formula pricing, is so full of problems that our industry must get serious about alternatives. We need a straight-forward and adaptive milk price discovery tool that eliminates the endless bickering, hearings and litigation we have seen.

Product formula pricing seems logical. Most milk gets turned into cheese, butter, and nonfat, so doesn't it make sense to price milk based on what those products are worth? The system requires formulas that convert product values to milk prices or, actually, prices of protein, butterfat, and other solids.

But there is a fly in the ointment, so to speak. There has to be an agreement over product yields and the never ending "make allowances", the assumed cost of converting milk into dairy products. So which product prices do you use? Are the prices credible? What opportunity is there for prices to be influenced by some interested party that could be influenced by some unintentional factor? What happens when one formula factor such as dry whey gets way out of line?

Thousands of hours and perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars, a good bit of them dairy-farmer dollars, have been spent haggling over the details of formula pricing. There are some who would like to see a return of using competitive pay prices as our base price. The old Minnesota-Wisconsin price was determined by a survey of what Upper Midwest plants were paying for Grade B milk. That seemed to work without a lot of volatility or controversy until there got to be so little Grade B milk. Why wouldn't the use of a similar price survey work for Grade A milk focusing on areas of strong competition for milk in the Upper Midwest and perhaps elsewhere? Then there are some who would advocate a sort of hybrid scheme involving competitive pay prices that would be adjusted for current product prices. That is basically what happened when the basic formula price replaced the M-W price.

Maybe we should consider some form of contractual agreements between producers and buyers, co-ops and proprietary plants. They would need an agreed-upon price for a certain amount of milk over a period of time. Maybe we should consider a nationwide base program with the higher base in higher usage areas.

Improving the problem of setting milk price won't be easy. It is a situation where everybody involved, buyers and sellers alike, are going to want more than they are going to get. Compromise won't come easy but something definitely must be done.



HEALTH WEBSITES

By Cynthia Thomsen, NE
National Rural Health Chairman

Individuals need to take charge of their health as the nation seeks an answer to health insurance. Daily walking is a good way to start. Even a short walk is good for the sunshine and talking with neighbors with a smile on your face. Simple changes make a difference.



Below is a list of online resources of information about common care issues in Nebraska: Answers for families is at www.answers4families.org is a site for Nebraskans with special needs and their families and Nebraska 211 at www.ne211.org helps identify available health and human service agencies and programs in the state.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance Nebraska www.pparxNE.org (or call 1-888-4PPANOW) is designed to help low income, uninsured Nebraska residents get free or discounted brand-name medicines. This provides a single point of access to more than 275 public and private patient assistance programs including more than 150 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.

Here is a list of National web sites: National Women's Health Information Center www.womenhealth.gov; American Cancer Society www.cancer.org; American Diabetes Association www.diabetes.org; National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC) www.diabetes.niddk.nih.gov; American Dietetic Association www.eatright.org; American Heart Association www.americanheart.org; American Lung Association www.lungusa.org; American Stroke Association www.strokeassociation.org; Cancer Information Service (CIS) www.cancer.gov; Cancer Research Foundation of America www.preventcancer.org; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov; Healthfinder www.healthfinder.gov; Kaiser Family Foundation State Health Facts www.statehealthfacts.kff.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?; Leukemia and Lymphoma Society www.leukemia-lymphoma.org; Lupus Foundation of America www.lupus.org; MedlinePlus www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/; National Association of Rural Mental Health www.narmh.org; National Dairy Council www.nationaldairyCouncil.org; National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/hearttruth/index.htm; National Kidney Foundation www.kidney.org.



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Membership Information:

Yes, send me information about becoming a member of WIFE. I am interested in the grassroots organization.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Send above form to the
National Membership Chairman
Alice Fairfax - 27248 Goodwill Chapel Rd.
Sedalia, MO 65301

PROMOTE AGRICULTURE

Mary Ellen Cammack, SD
National Beef Chairman

This past week the Sioux Falls *Argus Leader* published an article in the Life section titled "Cut Back on the Beef—Meatless Mondays promotes a healthier family diet" Here is the link to that article:

<http://www.argusleader.com/article/20090923/LIFE/909230314/1004/life>



Producers have become accustomed to reading articles that originate from the east or west coast of this great land called America, but not so used to having such articles in the heart of beef country. The movement is growing by those who believe livestock should not be for the dinner table and is contributing to the greenhouse gas effect. We have missed the boat, somewhat, and now need to play catch-up to tell "our" story to the consumer. It is vital that everyone in production agriculture connect with the consumer and tell the story we have lived for generations, rather than let them develop that picture from environmentalists and other activist groups.

Beef check-off dollars are at work for us by promoting our product and conducting research to help promote our product. Every beef producer should participate in the Masters of Beef Advocacy program to present and promote our product. This program helps to organize the facts and give the individual confidence to present those facts to the consumer.

http://www.beefboard.org/news/08_1010News_MBApress-Release.asp

Producers could become involved with the local school districts, as WIFE President Tammy Basel has done with the Agriculture and Natural Resource Day. This program, within the Rapid City community, has grown to reach more than 1,200 students, teachers and parents. What began as a one-day event has expanded to a two-day event. Another community will begin the program in May 2010 with approximately 600+ students. The story of agriculture must be told by the producers in order for the consumer to hear the "real" story. If we do not become responsible for that, our way of life will cease to exist as we know it today. Promote, promote, promote!

BILLS OF CONCERN

By Jenifer Felzien, CO
National Legislative Chairman



Producers have had the opportunity to sign up for the newest conservation program in USDA from August 10 through September 30, the Conservation Stewardship Program. This program was offered across the United States. The minimum requirement was that a producer has to meet one resource of concern on their operation, such as soil erosion, wildlife or water quality. Your state will then determine what resources are of concern and then will determine eligibility. Your entire farm will have to meet the resource of concern and then be willing to meet one additional priority resource of concern within the five-year contract. The program is new and producers will not know at signup time what the reimbursement rates will be. You will know more about the program after you have made the initial signup and a more detailed account will become available after October 1, 2009.

The Trade Reform, Accountability, Development Act, H.R. 6180 would do the following: require a review of existing trade agreements and renegotiation of existing trade agreements based on the review, set terms for future trade agreements, express the sense of the House of Representatives that the role of Congress in trade policymaking should be strengthened and for other purposes. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Michael Michaud (D-ME) and is in the House Ways and Means Committee and House Rules.

S.3083 is sponsored by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH). It sounds the same as H.R. 6180 but expresses the sense of the Senate that the role of Congress in trade policymaking should be strengthened and for other purposes. It is in the Senate Finance Committee.

S.460 is a bill to amend the Agriculture Marketing Act of 1946 to foster efficient markets and increase competition and transparency among packers that purchase livestock from producers. It is sponsored by Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and is in the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee.

S.807 is a bill to reduce fuel prices and improve national energy security by increasing domestic supply, reducing excessive speculation in the markets, and promoting long term security through alternative energy sources and for other purposes. Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE) is the sponsor and it is in the Senate Finance Committee.

As we prepare for our fall harvest or fall seeding please keep safe and keep your congressional delegation informed on WIFE issues. Keep Safe!

SAFFRON

Saffron, the world's most expensive spice, is the stigma from a crocus flower. Each flower yields three stigmas which must be hand-picked. An estimated 200,000 flowers need to be harvested to yield one pound of saffron. Local prices range from \$2,800 to \$3,800 per pound. However it is used in very small quantities in most recipes. The striking yellow color and distinctive flavor is associated with paella and risotto.

National Convention

Make plans now to attend the national WIFE convention in Syracuse, New York, on November 11-14.

Registration form is on back page.
Watch for further information.

Calendar of Events:

Deadline for WIFEline reports - November 25
November 11 - 14 - National Convention, Syracuse, NY

PREDATOR CONTROL

By Gwen Cassel, NY

National Sheep and Goat Chairman

When raising small ruminants such as sheep and goats and their resultant lambs and kids, predator control is an important concern in most areas of the U.S. and is necessary in many situations. The American Sheep Industry (ASI), along with 84 other agricultural organizations, have signed on to a letter to legislators stating concerns and needs with protecting the national sheep flock. (For more information see, www.sheepusa.org/In_Support_of_Wildlife_Services). But just how do ranchers and farmers protect animals that are prey to predators such as coyotes, wolf, and bear?



When sheep are free-grazed in large numbers in open areas in the west, the shepherd must be diligent in the care and concern of the sheep. There are times that the flock must be defended and protected. To aid in this, guardian dogs are often used as natural protectors. These are dogs that have been specially bred to be willing and able to live with the sheep, think of the sheep as their “pack,” and will actively protect sheep, goats and other small livestock and poultry while at the same time not hurt their charges. In the smaller holdings of the far western U.S. and in the east, guardian dogs are also used the same way, but are contained in the field with the sheep and lambs or goats and kids. If the flock lambs indoors, often the dogs are in the barn during lambing and some make excellent helpers during multiple births, helping to clean lambs. This has to be moderated by the shepherd, as some dogs get too eager and can damage the bond forming between ewes and lambs.

There are several breeds of dogs that are considered guardian dogs (“guardian” dogs as opposed to “guard” dogs which are trained for police work and search and rescue). Guardian dogs are often breeds that are large in size with thick coats and that tend to be somewhat independent of humans while bonding strongly to the flock or herd. Many guardian dogs whelp their puppies right in with or beside the flock and, from a young age, think of themselves as “one of the flock.” Breeds of guardians include, Great Pyrenees, Maremma, Akbash, Komondor, Anatolian Shepherd, and a number of rarer breeds including the Sharplaninac, Caucasian Owtcharka and more. Each breed has certain styles of working. Maremmas usually want to stay right with the flock and guard closely. Great Pyrenees are better known for guarding a larger territory around the flock or herd. Specific dogs may have strong breed characteristics, or may be an individual with combined tendencies. We have two Great Pyr purebred sisters—one is a true GP, and the other has tendencies closer to that of a Maremma. When they work together they complement each other! For best results with guardian dogs, make sure that those obtained to guard livestock are from continuous breeding lines who are performing these duties. More information about various breeds can be obtained at, www.lgd.org.

Dogs work individually, in pairs or in groups. With large

flocks in large open areas there may be several guardian dogs working together with the flock. Care is fairly easy for these dogs. They are generally independent needing food and water daily and if fed a kibbled food, they should be fed only non-ruminant feed if sheep can reach the food. Generally they will not use housing even if provided! We moved a dog house with the sheep for about two years before we could convince the neighbors that the guardian dogs would not use them, preferring to bed down on a high spot, or nestle-up to a sheep in very cold weather. A healthy dense coat keeps them warm, and we brush them each spring and fall to complete their shedding and give them a chance to put on a full, dense coat for the next winter

In the eastern part of the U.S., electric fencing is often used to also protect the livestock from predators. Metal mesh fence or electrified metal strand fence is often used. The polywire strands or polywire mesh fencing is charged with a high voltage, low impedance electric charger made specifically for this type of fence. Generally, predators do not want to deal with good, hot electric fencing, but when only wires are used, some predators can “jump through” the fencing. Having the backup of good guardian dogs helps to assure that animals will remain safe.

On our farm we are visited regularly by singles and pairs of Eastern Coyotes (DEA explains that these are wolf/coyote cross). In the summer we hear their young being trained to hunt, the adolescents yipping and screaming in excitement when chasing around the pond to catch molted ducks and geese. In addition we have black bear on the property, including a mother and two cubs seen in one of our fields. Our two Great Pyrenees are our greatest investment for the safety of our sheep and lambs, along with our good electric chargers. Even the crows leave the lambs alone when they are young and vulnerable. Predators are less of a concern, but we are still respectful of them and always evaluate situations as most sheep and goat producers must do.

MINCEMEAT

Mincemeat pie was first made centuries ago in England as a way to stretch a small amount of meat by adding apples, dates, and various fruits. The mixture was preserved with cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice plus some rum or brandy. Very little meat is now used.

TAPIOCA

Pearl tapioca is made from starch from the root of the cassava plant. It is created by forcing the moist starch through sieves. Cassava is a shrubby, tropical perennial plant that grows about 15 feet tall in poor soils in the temperate zones. The edible parts are the tuberous root and leaves. The root is dark brown and can be up to 2 feet long. Cassava is a vital staple for about 500 million people. Its starchy roots produce more food energy per unit of land than any other staple crop. Its leaves are commonly eaten in parts of Asia and Africa providing vitamins and protein. It compares to potatoes except it has twice the fiber content, a higher level of potassium and about 20 calories per serving. It can also be used as vegetables, grated to make pancakes, dried and ground into tapioca flour, or sliced and made into snack chips.

BIOFUEL FEEDSTOCKS

By Lisa Goodheart, KS
National Feed Grains Chairman

Sorghums and perennial grasses are promising biofuel feedstocks to be used in the production of biomass. Corn is the biofuel feedstock of choice for irrigated land but sorghum and grasses are being developed for dryland areas. In extremely dry areas, perennial grasses will be the crop of choice and sorghum has the ability to produce better than corn when it is hot and dry.

Two types of sorghum are being tested: dual-purpose forage sorghum and photoperiod sensitive forage sorghum. Dual-purpose sorghum produces both grain and stover (leaves and stalks). Currently, the ethanol industry is grain-based but if and when it evolves to use the whole plant, the dual purpose sorghum will be ideal.

In some climates, photoperiod sensitive forage sorghum does not produce any grain, which may sound like a contradiction, but it would save having to separate the grain and the biomass. Photoperiod sorghum is a plant that needs just over a 12-hour day length to trigger flowering. In Kansas that occurs in early October, so all it produces is stems and leaves all summer long. This sorghum will grow anywhere because you don't have to worry about when the freeze occurs in the fall relative to grain fill.

Scientists are also studying sweet sorghum, which grows eight to twelve feet at maturity and thrives in dry conditions. This sorghum has 16 to 22 percent sugar content. The advantage to sweet sorghum is that pressing the juice out of the stalks produces sugar water that is ready to ferment. No pre-treatment is needed like is necessary when using grain or biomass to expose the sugars. The drawback to sweet sorghum is that it has a tendency to fall down because it is tall and lanky. This seems to only cause harvesting problems, not yield problems.

Perennial grasses, including big bluestem, switch grass and miscanthus, are also being studied. Miscanthus is the big yield winner so far but it is a cross between two ornamental grasses, which makes it sterile. Miscanthus has to be propagated by root stocks, similar to splitting and planting irises. Obviously hand planting is not something someone is going to do in a 100-acre field. Establishing perennial grasses is a challenge for "grain people", who are used to planting corn, sorghum or soybeans and seeing signs of a crop in a week to ten days. One concern about miscanthus is that it can spread by rhizomes, which brings to mind johnsongrass, which is an evasive weed. Miscanthus does not produce seed, however, so that should help contain it.

The cellulosic biofuels industry is just beginning, so it is estimated that it will be at least three years before the true usefulness of these crops is known.

SARSAPARILLA

This is the dried root of certain trailing or climbing, tropical American plants of the genus Smilax. An extract made from these roots is used in making soft drinks, such as root beer and in medicine.



SOYBEANS

By Vernice Balsdon, ND
National Oilseeds Chairman

Three ag-related companies have signed major contracts to supply 2009 food-grade soybeans to South Korea soy food importers worth about \$5 million. The purchase agreements call for companies in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin to export a combined total of about 275,000 bushels of identify-preserved soybeans to the Korean Federation of Soybean-Curd Industry Cooperatives. The cooperative represents 12 Korean tofu processing cooperatives.

Tofu (also known as soybean curd) is a soft, cheese-like food made by curdling fresh hot soymilk with a coagulant. Traditionally the curdling agent used to make tofu is nigari, a compound found in natural ocean water, or calcium sulfate, a naturally occurring mineral. In recipes, tofu acts like a sponge and has the ability to soak up any flavor added to it.

The South Dakota Soybean Council and the Soybean Association sponsored the annual Soy Biodiesel Ice Cream Social in Mitchell. They served soy ice cream, soy cookies and doughnuts, free samples of soy products and gave away several chances to win soy biodiesel. Soy biodiesel is a domestic, renewable fuel for diesel engines derived from soybean oil.

One 60 lb. bushel of soybeans produces 11 pounds of soybean oil. About 90 percent of this oil is used in food products and the remaining 10 percent is used in soy ink, biodiesel, plastics, crayons and more.

Monsanto has completed regulatory submission in Brazil for Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans. It will provide protection from feeding damage caused by lepidopteran insect pests in the country. This is the first biotech insect-protected product in soybeans and Monsanto's first biotech product targeted for a market outside the U.S. Commercialization depends on pending global regulatory approvals.

In one year, the U.S. exports more than 136 million bushels of soybeans in the form of poultry and red meat products. Paraguay is the world's fourth-largest soy exporter but only has 3.8 million metric tons for 2008-2009 which is 43 percent lower than the previous year.

NORTH DAKOTA WIFE held their annual meeting on September 18. Officers re-elected were Vernice Balsdon as president and Deb Dressler as secretary. Several members agreed to try to sell some rifle raffle tickets. Vernice Balsdon and Phyllis Howatt will not be running for national chairmanships of oilseeds and cereal grains so those positions are open. There were 22 resolutions submitted for the policy book and procedure manual. President Vernice Balsdon



www.WIFeline.com

RURAL COMMUNITY FORUM

By Pam Potthoff, NE
Immediate Past President

The purpose of the Rural Community Forum held in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, on September 28 was to help the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) chart a course to bring rural communities into the new 21st-century economy. Introducing the topic and then answering questions were U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Nebraska U.S. Senator Ben Nelson, Nebraska Congressman Adrian Smith and Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman.

Sec. Salazar gave the agenda priorities for the Department of Interior as (1) climate change, (2) preserve nature's grandeur and tell America's story and (3) connect to young people and get them reconnected to the great outdoors. He said our young people spend an average of six hours daily using our new technology in a sedentary environment and only four minutes a day outdoors.

Sec. Salazar applauded the new Farm Bill for opening up a new chapter of opportunity for Rural America. He argued it was time the forgotten Rural America was remembered because food security is dependent upon a prosperous Rural America.

Sec. Vilsack reminded the audience that the national treasures have been entrusted to the Department of Interior. The culture and heritage of Americans are found in these national treasures.

Sec. Vilsack predicted a \$33 billion decrease in farm income this year. He said the stimulus would provide help for those transitioning from bad times to good, build much needed infrastructure (including electrical transmission lines and \$9 billion for broadband technology) and create new economic opportunities for Rural America.

A wide variety of subjects were covered during the question and answer period including global marketing, Plum Island relocation plans, NAIS, pork purchases by USDA, proposed revision of the Clean Water Act, biotechnology, how to educate government decision makers, and many more. All questions were answered directly with very little weaseling.

Sec. Vilsack pointed out that in Nebraska in the past eight to nine years, 25 percent of all money in the Rural Development Grant Program has been spent on convenience stores and hotels sending the message, "it is great to visit but you don't want to stay too long."

In answer to a question from a labor union member, Vilsack said the Stimulus Package gave directions to look at wages earned. Stimulus wages were to be above average.

Sec. Vilsack's hope is that, over time, current programs will make Rural America "the place to be". He said the information gathered at the 21 Rural Community Tour meetings and those in the future will be studied and will play a part in developing programs that will promote success for Rural America.

Sec. Salazar summed up the session by saying, "Ameri-



ca needs to learn food should not be taken for granted. What we can produce today may not always be true. If you don't have food, you will not have economic stability."

USDA has announced another Rural Community Forum will be held on October 5 in Bath, South Dakota. No other forums are currently listed on their website but, if one comes to your neighborhood, you won't want to miss it.

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The story of Syracuse begins with the land covered with swamps and bogs and with a large forest surrounding a clear, freshwater lake. The first people to live in this area were the Haudensaunee, or the Onondaga Nation, was part of the powerful Iroquois Confederacy, whose territory included the Syracuse area. It lies in the confines of Onondaga County. It was also once inhabited by the Iroquois and Mohawk Indians. French trader Pierre Esprit Radisson developed a settlement there sometime in the 1600s.

Large pieces of land in the Syracuse area had been given to Revolutionary War officers by the Federal government. An ex-soldier from New Hampshire named Ephraim Webster traded with the Onondagas and built a trading post still known today as "Webster's Landing."

The water in the swamplands was salty. Salt was very important as a way to "cure" meat so it would not spoil. But in Syracuse, all anyone had to do was boil the water from the area's salt springs. When the water was boiled away, salt was left. Syracuse's nickname is the "salt city" because of all the salt in the swamplands.

Syracuse was first known as Bogardus Corners. The first postmaster named it "Syracuse" after the original Syracuse (Syracusa in Italian) of Sicily and a village began just in time for the opening of the Erie Canal in 1824. The city was built because of the Erie Canal which continued to run through the heart of the city until the mid-1920's.

The present appearance of Syracuse was shaped in the years after the Civil War, a time when salt manufacturing began to decline. But Syracuse's many businesses and diversified industries assured the city's continued economic prosperity. Candle makers, beer brewers, steel producers and manufacturers of furniture, caskets, bicycles and cars helped the city to flourish. Many goods were made by companies that took advantage of Syracuse's good transportation system, its central location and its ready, skilled labor force.

Syracuse is the fifth largest city in the state. In 2000, the city population was 147,306, and its metropolitan area had a population of 732,117. It is the economic and educational hub of Central New York, a region with over a million inhabitants. Syracuse is also well-provided with convention sites, with a downtown convention complex and, directly west of the city, the Empire Expo Center, which hosts the annual Great New York State Fair.

The city has functioned as a major crossroads over the last two centuries, first between the Erie Canal and its branch canals, then of the railway network. Today, Syracuse is located by the intersection of Interstates 81 and 90, and its airport is the largest in the region. Syracuse is home to Syracuse University, a major research university, as well as several smaller colleges and professional schools. Among Syracuse's businesses are Penn Traffic Company, Magna International, Niagara Mohawk, Oneida Nation and Lockheed Martin Corporation.

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Registration
Women Involved in Farm Economics
33rd National Convention - November 11-14, 2009
Doubletree Hotel Syracuse
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East Syracuse, NY 13057

HOTEL RESERVATIONS
Call the Hotel at 315-432-0200
Room rate for 1-4 is \$99.00 plus 13% tax
Deadline for reserving rooms is October 16

Return to: Melinda Sorem Registration: \$175.00, spouse \$165.00
26561 NW 208 RD After Oct. 28, \$200.00, spouse \$185.00
Jetmore, KS 67854 One day registration: \$75.00
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Make checks payable to: Women Involved in Farm Economics

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