



LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

By First Lady Mikey L. Hoeven, ND

We hear it all the time. What exactly is leadership? "What is a great leader?" or "Be a leader, not a follower." What do leaders do that makes them leaders and can leadership be learned?

Fortunately for all of us, it can be learned. Webster's Dictionary defines leadership as the "ability to lead". Former President Ronald Reagan stated, "A leader, once convinced a particular course of action is the right one, must have determination to stick with it and be undaunted when the going gets rough." Regardless of the definition, good leaders are in short supply - especially as women.

How do we believe in ourselves so that others can believe in us, too?

It has been said that each of us will influence 250 people in our lifetime. Think about that. We will each leave a heart-print of ourselves on over 250 people in our world, which is why our thoughts, our words and our actions need to be impeccable.

We have the responsibility of leadership.

Each of us can be a leader, yet most surveys indicate women greatly underestimate their influence. Whether or not you realize it, you are a leader - with much influence. Your opinions are listened to and acted upon every day.

Here are some tips that I have found particularly useful to me, not only in my role as First Lady, but for life in general:

1) Go After Your Passion. Helen Keller once said "is there anything worse than being blind? Yes! The most pathetic person in the whole world is someone who has sight, but has no vision." Figure out what you feel passionately about, formulate your game plan, and then execute. Have a dream and vision that is greater than you - preferably one that will make this world a better place. In the Office of the First Lady we are striving to combat the underage drinking problem in our state because North Dakota ranks among the highest in the nation in that arena. **We feel passionately about this endeavor** as it is our dream to make North Dakota a better place for our children to live.

2) Know your strengths and weaknesses

To be leaders, we need others to help us reach our goals.



We inspire teamwork, but each of the team members comes to the table with some of the skills needed to accomplish our objectives. We need to surround ourselves with people who can fill in the gaps.

3) Network. I can't stress enough the importance of networking. Become involved in your community. Volunteer, join organizations, sit on boards - this is a tremendous opportunity for you to get to know people and for people to get to know you! Meet other women, not only in the farming community, but in others as well.

4) Strive for excellence - to some degree, being a perfectionist in the workplace is a good thing. Striving for excellence will help motivate others around you to do the same. However, there is an old Chinese proverb, one of my favorites, that says, "perfect is the enemy of good" which simply means, know when to say, "this is

as good as it gets!"

5) Be Persistent. Determination is critical to being a good leader. Don't always take no for an answer if someone says, "we can't do this because of various reasons...." Usually you can figure out a way it **can** be done. If I had a nickel for every time our office has hit a brick wall over the last 8 1/2 years, you'd be amazed. You have to be persistent and try other ways of accomplishing your objectives - you can never give up!

6) Dependability. It is crucial that you fulfill your commitments. Building a reputation for keeping your word when you've made a promise is critical to the success of your business. You are only as good as your word.

7) Mentoring and I think this is something that we, as women, can do to help other women entering the workforce to reach their full potential. Extend yourselves to other women. Be available to them not only as a professional, but as a friend as well.

I'd like to share with you my own personal philosophy. I let God be my guide. After we got involved in political life, I learned very quickly that I couldn't do this all by myself and that I needed a greater source of strength. I dedicate each day to expanding my territory in a way that may help others and please God. This is the direction I feel God is leading me.

As potential leaders, what direction are you heading? What direction are you leading the 'over 250' people who you are influencing?

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TAMMY'S TOPICS

By Tammy Basel, SD
National President

WIFE is truly a grassroots organization. It is even in our mission statement "Women Involved in Farm Economics is a grassroots organization committed to improving profitability in production agriculture through educational, legislative, communicative and cooperative efforts."

Members set policy and the direction that we use to accomplish these goals. Proposed policy is written in communities all over the nation and presented at the annual meeting. Even if you cannot travel to Syracuse, New York, for our 33rd annual national convention your policy will. Policy is very important to the way WIFE conducts business.

Hopefully you are making plans for attending the convention. New members, long time members or anyone interested in WIFE is encouraged to come.

Please make arrangements to attend the opening Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, November 11, at 6:30 p.m. The Resolutions Committee will meet earlier in the day at a tentative time of 1:00 p.m. Commodity topic chairman, who are experts in their areas, will conduct caucuses on Thursday afternoon. Guest speakers will cover the dairy crisis, health care and the cap and trade legislation on Friday. That evening we will install our newly elected officers. On Saturday morning membership will help set priorities for the coming year. New York WIFE has found some great tours for us for Saturday afternoon and some well deserved time to enjoy the great area we are visiting.



PEANUT WINNERS

By Jacquelyn R. Sistrunk, AL
National Peanut Chairman

The Southern Peanut Growers met in Panama City, Florida, in July to honor its tenth class of winners. Growers from Georgia, Texas and Virginia were the winners.

With the current farm bill, peanut producers know they must make good yields and the awards program recognizes the best peanut farmers in the world.

These farmers recommend timely fungicide application and well-maintained equipment.

"Rotation is the key to making good peanuts year after year," said Welbon Shook of Texas. He rotates with cotton, goes four years between peanut crops, uses rye as a cover crop, and does not skimp on irrigation.

Looking ahead to challenges facing peanut producers, the farmers must decide which crops to grow in order to survive, as \$350 per ton peanuts is less than desirable. The water issue is a big challenge.

Most peanut producers believe yield is the name of the game; however yield and profitability do not always go hand-in-hand.



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ABANDONED PIPELINES

By Stephanie Trask, SD
National Property Rights Chair-
man

A landowner makes plans to build on a parcel of his property and discovers that it contains a 300-foot length of inactive pipeline. Upon contacting the governing state agency, he is told that the pipeline is deemed “abandoned” and is given the name of the associated pipeline company.



The landowner contacts the pipeline company and is told that, while regulatory authorities deem the pipeline “abandoned”, the company still owns it and will look into the matter. Later, the landowner is contacted by a subcontractor of the pipeline company, with an offer to remove the 300-foot of pipeline for \$51,000, at the landowner’s expense.

A comparative estimate from a local contractor prices the one-day job between \$1,000 and \$1,500. Unfortunately, the landowner is not at liberty to hire the contractor of his choosing because the abandoned pipeline is still property of the company. However, the company, while claiming ownership, does not assume responsibility for maintenance or removal of the pipeline.

The result is that the landowner is left to shoulder the cost of removal, by a qualified environmental contractor of the company’s choosing, to alleviate the pipeline company’s liability for an environmental hazard associated with removal of their “abandoned” pipeline.

This is an actual scenario involving a landowner in central Texas and the situation is all too common.

While the term “abandonment” is generally understood to mean “given up entirely,” defined in federal regulation abandonment means “permanently removed from service.” The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has guidelines for abandoning pipelines but does not continue oversight after abandonment criteria have been met. There are virtually no guidelines, criteria, or regulations at either the state or federal level to determine ownership of abandoned pipelines.

On further investigation, the Texas landowner discovered other areas where the same pipeline had been cut and removed. The pipeline company continued to own the easement. However, the company obviously did not feel the responsibility either to maintain or “give up” the right-of-way to the landowner. The Texas landowner has a pipeline to nowhere.

According to an article by David Howell, in the July, 2009 Pipeline Gas Journal, abandoned pipelines are usually identified by the parent companies as liabilities and ignored. The reasons Howell identified included: possible environmental problems, possible opportunity for future use, no applicable company policy, ignorance of potential profits and ignorance of potential liabilities.

Additionally most pipeline companies, when asked, will deny the existence of abandoned pipelines under their ownership, maintaining instead that they are only temporarily

idled.

Another aspect to this issue that Howell brings up, is the “fixture” nature of the pipeline. According to attorneys, if the pipeline company has given up the easement, through formal recording, back to the landowner then they are also “giving up entirely” ownership of the pipeline which has become a fixture to the easement. The legal opinion is that pipelines and appurtenances to pipelines are part of the package of, or fixtures to, the easements they are on. These fixtures stay, and if the easement reverts to a landowner, then the pipeline reverts as well.

Usually, however, this formal transfer never takes place and ownership of the pipeline remains with the company until, and unless, someone takes the initiative to clear it up, likely requiring a court order in each jurisdiction (county).

The potentially good news is that ownership, first and foremost, is determined by contract. The originally negotiated right-of-way agreement or contract is the law. For a landowner considering easement negotiations with a pipeline development company, it is vitally important that the provisions of the contract address abandonment, removal, and reversion of ownership after the term of the pipeline easement.

(Source: Pipeline Gas Journal, July 2009)



ALABAMA WIFE toured the Alabama 4-H Center in Coumbiana, Alabama, on July 16. The 4-H Center was built by using recycled materials from the area. The 4-H Center is used for 4-H groups as well as individual groups for meetings during the year. There are cottages for overnight stays and food is served. Our WIFE group enjoyed a meal there. They stress outdoor activities to get the feel of nature. There are nature trails and outdoor learning labs about our environment.

After lunch we went into a beautiful setting overlooking the Lay Lake for our meeting. The same officers were elected to serve in 2010. They are President Mary Ann Sheppard, Vice-President Marjory Johnson, Secretary Edna Cope and Treasurer Jo Gibbons.

We left the 4-H Center and went into Columbiana to tour the Harrison Washington Museum. This museum has a big collection of President George Washington’s documents, furniture and mementos.

We then traveled down I-65 to Peach Park where we enjoyed ice cream. It was a long day but an enjoyable one for all members.

SAVING OUR ROADS

By Donna Bolz, NE
National Transportation Chairman

I hope all of you are planning to attend the National Convention in Syracuse, New York this year. All of you are invited to attend my caucus. The way it looks now, we will be having a movie hour. I will bring the popcorn. Stay tuned for more info.



There are examples from all over the United States of how bad the roads and bridges of this country have become. Recently many Interstate bridges have been found to be close to collapse. Officials had to close the Jordan Bridge, which is a busy 80- year-old span over the Elizabeth River in Chesapeake, Virginia, when its condition hit zero on a 100-point scale.

President Obama and Congress have made public works central to their economic stimulus plan. Over the next 18 months, the government is expected to spend nearly \$30 billion to jump-start an overhaul of the nation's highway infrastructure. The goal is to put Americans back to work rebuilding thousands of miles of aging and deficient roads and bridges.

How did things get so bad? When President Eisenhower signed the 1956 act funding the interstates system, road building was a national priority with no expense spared. Later generations failed to invest in the same way. "We just haven't been keeping up with the maintenance and preservation," says John Horsley, executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). "Highways and bridges wear out."

Today, 47,000 miles of Interstate highways are a half-century old. Other vital highways are at, or near, retirement age. AASHTO ranks one in four of our nearly 600,000 bridges as structurally deficient or obsolete. Add to that the fact that the number of vehicles on our roads has quadrupled since Interstates were built.

Money isn't all that is needed, experts say. A solution also will require new ideas about how we design, build, finance, and maintain our transportation system. For example, Missouri has developed a new road building doctrine called "Practical Design." When Missouri engineers design highways, they aim not to build perfect projects but to build good projects that give you a good system. On some projects, the new approach achieves identical standards with the old. On others, the differences often are invisible to motorists. This type of thinking has stretched Missouri's road dollar considerably. Today, 83 percent of that state's highways are rated as good.

With officials thinking outside of the box and coming up with other solutions, the road and bridge system will be improved. With money coming in from the stimulus package there will be more jobs for Americans, building American infrastructure, to make the country stronger.

WHAT IF?

By Dianna Reed, KS
National Dairy Chairman



With the continuing crisis going on for our nation's dairymen, not knowing if the price will rebound, "if" farms can hold out long enough for that to happen and hoping a solution can be found to stop the volatile price on a long term basis, the fact remains that we are losing dairies on a daily basis. The question has been asked, so if we lose all of our U.S. milk, which we pray to God that we won't, where will our milk come from??

Milk used to be a local commodity many years ago. A farmer milked the cows, put it in bottles and delivered it to local customers. As we progressed and demand became greater, technology took over and milk began to move from one region to another with the aid of refrigeration and wheels. Natural boundaries were no longer there as streams were crossed, mountains were flattened, and ships have containers. There are no longer any boundaries between states. Milk can be transported in trucks from one region to another with minimal reduction in temperature.

Likewise, health regulations are no longer the barriers to the movement of milk they once were. Decades of cooperative efforts, between academia, federal, local and state governments and the industry, created and maintained the Interstate Milk Shippers (IMS) list and the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). The PMO with its universal rules has eliminated health regulation as a barrier impeding the flow of milk into a locality. Instead the PMO aids milk as it readily flows unimpeded by local health laws throughout the nation. Now it aids in milk traveling internationally into the U.S.

So "What If" anyone wanting to ship milk in from Canada or Mexico wanted to ship milk into the U.S.? This could happen! A group of Canadian dairy farmers last year shipped milk into New York and New York could not stop them from marketing milk because they were on the IMS list. The imports ended only because of an injunction by the Canadian government. The Ontario farmers were bound by a quota system which dictates how milk produced there is marketed. The state of New York permits Greek dairies and plants to market Greek style yogurt as Grade A in the U.S. Florida inspectors are certifying Spanish dairy farms and facilities. Simply stated, plants and farms anywhere in the world can obtain IMS status. The IMS lists eight milk shippers located out of the U.S. - four in Canada, two from Spain and two from Greece.

So "What if", because of cheap labor, EPA regulations, milk price, a person moved his cows to Canada or Mexico to milk them but still had a U.S. based operation and was able to meet the IMS and PMO regulations and then shipped their milk into the United States - no boundaries, no tariffs, no obstructions? Would then the question of where your milk would come from be so far-fetched? Interesting question "What If?"

NOMINATIONS

Anyone interested in running for a national office is encouraged to give it some serious consideration. Nominations can be made from the floor as long as the candidate has her chapter and state endorsements. Some of the chairmanships open include Cereal Grains, Oil Seeds, Energy, so look them over. New people in a position always give a new perspective and outlook. You are needed. Do say yes!

FOOD SAFETY BILL

By Jenifer Felzien, CO
National Legislative Chairman

Here is a summary of the Food Safety Enhancement Act 2009. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce has drafted a new food safety bill, HR 875, that was introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). The bill has come out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Agriculture Committee. Hearings have been held this summer on this proposed Act. On April 23, 2009, the Act was referred to the committee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry. The last time I checked, the bill had over 40 sponsors.



1. It creates an up-to-date registry of all food facilities serving American consumers. It requires all facilities operating within the U.S., or importing food to the U.S., to register with the Food and Drug Administration.
2. It generates resources to support and FDA oversight of food safety: It requires registered facilities to pay an annual registration fee of \$1000 in order to generate revenue for food safety activities at the FDA. It requires registered facilities to pay FDA's costs associated with re-inspections and food recalls. It allows FDA to charge fees to domestic firms requesting export certificates for exported food.
3. It requires all U.S. facilities and food importers to implement safety plans that identify and protect against food hazards. It requires safety plans for fresh produce.
4. It increases inspections of food facilities. It sets a minimum inspection frequency for all registered facilities. High-risk facilities are to be inspected once every six to 18 months and low-risk facilities once every 18 months to every 3 years.
5. It improves traceability of food and would require food producers, or holders, to maintain the full pedigree of the origin and previous distribution.
6. It enhances the safety of imported food. As an additional layer of protections, FDA can require food to be certified as meeting all U.S. food safety requirements by the government of the country from which they originated or by qualified third parties.
7. It expands laboratory-testing capacity.
8. It provides strong, flexible enforcement. It provides FDA with new authority to issue mandatory recalls of tainted food. It strengthens criminal penalties and establishes civil monetary penalties that FDA may impose on food facilities that fail to comply with safety requirements.
9. It creates a fast-track import process for food meeting security standards.
10. It enhances the safety of infant formula to assure the safety of new infant formula before it goes on the market.
11. It advances the science of food safety. It directs the Secretary to include food in a more active surveillance system to assess more accurately the frequency and sources of human illness.
12. It enhances the FDA's ability to block unsafe food from entering the food supply.

13. It directs the FDA to assess the use of carbon monoxide in certain foods.

14. It enhances the transparency of a program called "generally recognized as safe" or GRAS. It requires posting on FDA's website of documentation submitted to FDA in support of GRAS notification

15. It requires country-of-origin labeling and disclosure. It requires all processed food labels to indicate the country in which final processing occurred. It requires food manufacturers to identify the country of origin of all ingredients on their websites. It requires country-of-origin labeling for all produce.

16. It creates an up-to-date registry of importers.

17. It requires unique identification numbers for facilities and importers

18. It creates a dedicated staff for inspection of foreign food facilities.

19. It grants FDA new authority to subpoena records relating to possible violations. It provides protection for whistleblowers that bring attention to safety information.

WIFE needs to follow the Draft of the Food and Safety Enhancement Act of 2009 closely. I urge WIFE members to become aware of these proposed changes and let your congressman know how you feel.

DEB DRESSLER for First Vice-President

Deb Dressler, a candidate for National WIFE First Vice-President, ranches with her husband, Russell, in southwestern North Dakota. They operate a commercial cow-calf ranch with feed grains. Russell and Deb have two grown children and four grandchildren.

Deb has been a WIFE member since 1991. She has held state and national WIFE offices. She enjoys promoting the rural way of life and educating consumers on the importance of agriculture. America does have the most abundant and safe food supply.

Deb is a graduate of North Dakota State University with a bachelor of science in Animal and Range Science. 4-H is an integral part of life and Deb has been a leader for twenty-six years.

Deb's hobbies include spending time with grandchildren, riding horse, reading and promoting agriculture. She is looking forward to attending the National WIFE Convention to be held in Syracuse, NY, this November. Happy Trails

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

MEDICARE AND BILLS

By Cynthia Thomsen, NE
National Rural Health Chairman

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, created by Congress in 1997, recommended more than \$200 billion in cost cuts in the last year alone that the Congressmen have ignored. Peter Orszag, the White House budget director, wants to reconstitute the commission as an independent agency whose recommendations would automatically take effect--unless Congress stops them.



Hospital and doctor groups are already lobbying against this proposal. Some at the Department of Health and Human Services are worried about losing power to the new agency.

Mr. Orszag also wants to change federal spending on health care. He wants doctors to focus on better care, not more care.

Mr. Orszag sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi saying that he wants this new agency with power to cut spending and put changes in Medicare. The single more important thing to do is control health-care spending. He feels the reason we have such disjointed and skewed incentives is that the system is excessively political.

One idea is to build a culture of wellness. Today 75 percent of our \$2.2 trillion health care bill is spent on treatment of chronic lifestyle and obesity-related diseases, most of which could be prevented or managed more responsibly. Today our system is paid to cut, fix or prescribe. Focus needs to be patient centered rather than system-centered.

Tax credits are pricey, but could easily be made deficit-neutral by capping the employer-sponsored exclusion. Literally every serious health economist or expert in the country recommends doing it.

Replace the current tax exclusion with more individual control over the purchase of medical services. - *(Source: Wall Street Journal, July 24, 2009)*

"If your insurance covers a charge that is an error, that cost over time will be absorbed and everyone has to pay it," said Dee Knoke of ProMed Advocates of the Midlands.

Dee Knoke worked for over 20 years as a certified medical assistant employed by health care providers. She saw many patients lose their tempers as they worked through their medical bills and insurance statements.

Today she and Tami Bass operate ProMed Advocates of the Midlands in Johnston, Iowa. These ladies search for billing errors and help their clients decipher billing and insurance statements. They can be found on the web at www.billadvocates.com.

People need to study their medical bills. Too many contain duplicate charges. Coding is the key to detecting these charges. Every procedure has a code. There are thousands of codes. You have to request hospitals to mail a detailed itemized statement. Some errors are clerical. If a wrong code is typed it could raise the cost by \$5,000.

People are too quick to pay a bill. Never simply pay a

miscellaneous charge without requesting a specific accounting. If the grocery store charged in this manner you would not pay the bill so why pay medical bills in this manner.

Watch for out-of-network costs. Before any surgical procedure ask the surgeon if members of his team are on the same insurance network. Try and negotiate out-of-network bills.

Uninsured folks are often unaware that they qualify for discounts from providers.

Getting it in writing before a procedure or surgery is done will help patients learn about the bill and make arrangements to pay for it later.

Clients can get help in selecting an insurance company from Knoke and Bass. Help is there if we know where to look. *(Source: Successful Farming August 2009)*

MARLENE KOUBA for Area 1 Director

I joined WIFE in 1981 and have been State Secretary, President and Treasurer as well as being state editor of the ND WIFE Digest since 1984.

In 1995 I got involved on the national level as secretary and then held chairmanships in education, endangered species, natural resources, transportation and energy before serving as vice-president for two years.

In November of 2006 I was appointed as editor for the national newsletter, the WIFeline, and have thoroughly enjoyed it. Sometimes it gets hectic but that is part of the job.

My husband passed away in 2005 but I have remained on the farm. I no longer farm but help my son and family, who live in the same yard, as needed. This year he raised winter wheat, spring wheat, canola and durum.

The promotion of agriculture has long been one of my crusades. I have been teaching Ag in the Classroom to grades K-6 since 1994 with a different commodity each year. Our team of three repeat some commodities after 6 years so every child gets something new each year. We have covered over 30 commodities during these years. We found that we have to learn before they can learn.

I am also active in various organizations on the local, county and state level so there is no dull moment in this household.

You elected me as Area 1 Director for 2009 and I would appreciate your vote to continue the position for another year. Your support is much appreciated.

MARY ANN MURRAY for National Secretary

As the current National WIFE Secretary, I, Mary Ann Murray, throw my hat in the ring for another term as National WIFE secretary.

I ranch and farm along with husband, Lige, and son, Walter, in Garfield County, Montana. We are located in east central Montana. We raise Angus cattle and wheat. I am very interested in issues affecting agriculture and our way of life.

I have held many of the state offices including president as well as serving on the national level as commodity topic chairman, resolution chairman and area director.

I would appreciate your support.

WEATHER PROBLEMS

By Gwen Cassel, NY
Sheep and Goat Chairman

Here in Northeastern United States we have been experiencing weather this summer that could be thought of as a bonus by some. Instead of hot days, we have been having cooler than normal weather. But in addition to the coolness we have been having lots of wet conditions, including rain. In New England and into most of New York's farming areas, it has been so wet that it has been difficult to harvest even first-cut dry hay. In addition to rain and gloomy weather, we have been experiencing heavy dews every morning well into August, through all of June and all of July.



Wet weather grows grass well, but it "dilutes" the concentration of nutrients in the grasses. More volume must be eaten to obtain the needed components for ewes and does to produce rich milk for their young. More volume must be grazed by lambs and kids to grow into healthy youngsters. Wet weather can grow large plants with long stems, but can reduce palatability for young stock. Clipping to keep pastures short and lush takes extra effort, time and cost.

If the weather was not so wet, hay could be taken from grazing areas before stock was put on these areas to eat as their grazing demands grow. But with the inability to make dry hay, fields have to be managed. Sometimes this means a first cutting with a second cut later in the summer but one bale contains all! Or clipping is necessary. Some are resorting to chopping and ensiling the grass for haylage or cutting it wetter, baling and wrapping for baleage. This change to fermented hay next winter will cause adjustments for some producers at feeding time. Young animals are more susceptible to Listeriosis which can occur from improperly ensiled matter. So it may mean feeding adult stock separate from young stock.

An additional concern this summer is caused when the hotter temperatures moved in during August, but the weather remained wet and humid. Without good dry sunshine, internal parasites can multiply quickly and animals can become susceptible to high burdens at unexpected times. Worms multiply fast in hot, humid conditions and control or treatment of animals may be necessary more often or at "unusual times" in some areas.

In the Northeast, we have an additional parasite that can affect sheep and goats. "The meningeal worm is an internal parasite (*Paralaphostrongylus tenuis*) of the white-tailed deer that usually completes its life cycle in the deer without causing significant problems. However, when unnatural hosts, such as sheep and goats, become infested with meningeal worm, the parasite moves into the brain and/or spinal cord and causes neurological problems that can be fatal. Llamas and alpacas are even more susceptible to meningeal worm infection than sheep or goats. Cattle are not known to be affected. Meningeal worm is not a health concern to humans." To be affected with "deer worm," animals must ingest snails

while grazing on wet grasses, which are very prevalent this year. Snails support one life-stage of this parasite. "Deer worm" is especially insidious when present in a sheep or goat. A slight limp may be noticed or an animal may turn a foot in a strange way early on. If left untreated the animal may lay down and be unable to get up. Treatment is possible with several dewormers given daily for several days, along with anti-inflammatory drugs.

For some, a bright note might be that, The "USDA's Farm Service Agency announced in the Federal Register the specific requirements for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LIP provides disaster assistance for producers with livestock losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather such as hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011."

(Sources: Maryland Small Ruminant Page, Sheep Industry News)

SHANA BAISH for Second Vice-President

My husband Justin, my mother-in-law and I ranch in the Badlands of Eastern Montana where we rely on our commercial cow herd for our living. We have two sons who are both currently enlisted in the Marines. We were able to home school our sons all the way through high school and enjoyed the time it allowed us to spend with them and their help on the ranch. My mother-in-law and I also have a dinosaur hunting business where we take guests into the Badlands to hunt and excavate fossils. If we can find any spare time, we enjoy family and friend get-togethers, which the majority of the time involves working with cows and horses or hunting and camping.

Justin and I both come from generations of agriculture and are very concerned with the growing number of threats that face the producer in the United States today. I joined WIFE because I think that if we work together we have a chance of making a difference. We would like to keep an independent family farm or ranch a viable business option for our sons to come home to some day.

I presently hold the Second Vice-President position and wish to run again for the same office.

RESOLUTIONS

It is time to start thinking about resolutions that you may wish to turn into policy for WIFE. The resolutions should come from your state meetings and will be voted on during the convention. At this time each national commodity and topic chairman should be reviewing their section in the policy book to see what needs to be changed, updated or deleted. This is your chance to speak up at the grassroots level. Suggestions for any updates or changes in the procedure manual should be sent to Mary Ellen Cammack by September 27.

Calendar of Events:

Deadline for WIFEline reports - September 25
Deadline for submitting resolutions - September 27
November 11 - 14 - National Convention, Syracuse, NY

SUGAR SYMPOSIUM

By Klodette Stroh, WY
National Sugar Chairman

The 26th International Sugar Symposium, sponsored by the American Sugar Alliance (ASA) and corn sweetener industries, and was held in Park City, Utah on August 3, 2009. The American Sugar Alliance is a well-organized coalition, which represents sugarbeet and sugar cane producers and processors in 19 states.



A loophole in the current North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and large candy companies lobbying to bring cheap sugar into the United States was the focus of this symposium.

We have been having a surplus of sugar for the past two years. As a result sugar prices have plunged lower than the cost of its production. According to the executive director, Dr. Peter Baron, this year worldwide sugar supplies are at their tightest level since 2005/2006. The reason behind the world sugar shortage is a significant shortfall of sugar production in India, China and Europe.

Jack Roney, the director of economics and policy analysis for the American Sugar Alliance, said "Sugar is the most distorted commodity in the world because of subsidies and, although generally at depressed dump price level, it is prone to wild supply and price swings." He explained that 80 percent of the sugar grown around the globe, including U.S. sugar, is consumed in the country where it's grown, rather than dumped on the volatile market. "U.S. cane refiners continue to have more than adequate supplies of raw sugar," he said.

It was also reported that the supply of sugar in the United States in our factories is fine. Factories are operating at less than full capacity because the demand for refined sugar is not great. Beet processors still have refined sugar to sell. Food manufacturers are not having any trouble in locating refined sugar supplies.

More than 100 countries produce sugar and American producers are among the most efficient. More than half of the world's sugar is produced at a higher cost than in the U.S.

"American consumers have nothing to fear because the U.S. sugar policy helps stabilize domestic supplies and prices and is designed to operate with little to no cost to the taxpayer," Roney added.

The NAFTA has not been fair to American sugar farmers. The chairman of the budget committee, Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND), addressed the free trade agreement loophole. He called the U.S. sugar industry a "multi-billion dollar economic engine." Senator Conrad explained that we made bad trade agreements in the past. "Loopholes are so big in the NAFTA language that you could drive a sugar beet truck through them." The loophole Sen. Conrad was referring to allows the country of Mexico to turn a handsome profit by sending the sugar it grows to America and then importing cheaper, subsidized sugar from other countries to meet its domestic needs. "We need to plug these loopholes," he said of the provision, which has led to sugar market uncertainty since taking hold January 1, 2008.

Under NAFTA, Mexico sent more sugar to the United States this year than ever before - 1.45 million tons. U.S.

refined sugar prices are currently almost identical to sugar prices at this time last year and as far back as the Jimmy Carter Administration.

At this time world sugar prices, which reflect a highly subsidized sugar dumped on market by a handful of countries, are at a 28-year high because of anticipated sugar shortages outside of the U.S.

There is no subsidy for America's sugar farmers. They are among the most efficient in the world.

American farmers can compete with any foreign farmer but it is impossible for U.S. farmers to compete against foreign treasuries.

I wish a prosperous and successful harvest for American sugar beet and sugar cane farmers.



Al Peal, Klodette Stroh, Jack Roney

RUTH LARIBEE for Area 3 Director

My name is Ruth Larabee and I live in Lowville, New York. For 42 years my husband Glenn and I owned and operated a dairy farm. The land is now being used for crop farming growing alfalfa and corn. We have four children, ten grandchildren (ages 7 to 32) and 3 great grandchildren (from age four to five days). One of our sons is working towards a beef operation on another parcel of land we formerly owned. He has some registered beef and this year has a few Holstein calves. Larry has said I could come and work anytime I wanted to, so actual farming is back in my life!

Since 1981 I have served on the Lowville Town Board, serve as Lector at our church and am secretary for the Mountain View Prevention board, an educational organization preventing substance abuse.

In the 1980's I joined WIFE and have served as State Dairy Chairman and am currently State Trade Chairman. I served as National Dairy Chairman, National Trade Chairman, and am currently Area III Director.

Agriculture and WIFE are important to me. WIFE is made up of different commodities which bring about many different issues but working together we do make a difference. Together we have one common goal and that is to better the life of our American farmers, ranchers and consumers.

This last year has brought about new challenges and learning experiences as a new Area Director. It has been a privilege and I would appreciate the opportunity to serve the WIFE organization as Area III Director for a second term.

MANY THANKS!

Our thanks to all of you who had my family in prayers, thoughts, called or mailed cards during this trying summer. My husband, Randy, is doing very well and the doctor expects a full recovery although that may take 12-18 months. We have also been busy reshingling houses and fixing broken windows from our two hail storms.

Thanks! Mary Ellen Cammack

H1N1

By Frances Rohla, NE
National Pork Chairman

The National Pork Producers Council asked federal agricultural officials for \$250 million to help their industry during financial crisis caused by the H1N1 flu, also called "swine flu". Secretary Tom Vilsack said there wasn't any money.

A 44-year-old North Carolina shopper said she would not buy pork because of the name "swine flu" but a 69-year old shopper thought it was ridiculous and she was going to keep on shopping for pork. Dr. Tom Roy, a veterinarian and North Carolina director of Livestock Health, feels that pork producers will just have to live with the incorrect naming of the flu as "swine flu".

Health and Human Services Dr. Robin Robinson had said that they would have 120 million doses on hand by October 15, 2009. He now says there will be only 45 million on hand but hope to have the full 195 million by the end of October.

The main ingredient in making the flu shot are "eggs" and apparently they get fewer doses from an egg than they get from other flu (or regular) shots. Health authorities have delivered new "seed strains" of the virus to manufacturers.

Australia will fill enough flu shots for their own people before shipping the flu shots to the U.S.

It took health authorities longer to develop the tests, called reagents, required to ensure doses are at the proper strength before they are cleared for use.

In Trenton, New Jersey, a small study, conducted by a federal scientist, shows the Novavax Inc. experimental vaccine against H1N1 was produced in just weeks versus several months for standard methods. This vaccine works in animals but will not be ready for commercial use in the U.S. for a couple of years.

Novavax has a home office at Rockville, Maryland. The vaccines the company produces use what is called a virus-like particle technology to build a structure-like virus but without the genetic material inside that a virus needs to reproduce.

The particle-sets of proteins assembled through genetic engineering are injected and attach to immune cells which recognize the particles as they would a virus.

Traditional flu vaccines have their key ingredient incubated in chicken eggs.

Dubai, United Arab Emirates has banned the import of pork. In most of the Muslim world they consider pigs unclean animals and do not eat pork because of religious restrictions.

The origins of the "swine flu" H1N1 aren't known, though the "swine flu" H1N1 strain has similar genetic makeup to a swine flu virus that has been present in pigs for almost a decade.

On July 28, 2009, Quebec, Canada, found H1N1 influenza in a hog herd. The provincial agriculture food and fisheries ministry (MAPAQ) said that the labs of the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease in Winnipeg had no case in any other herd or human has caught the virus. A MAPAQ spokesman does not know where the virus came from. The herd was treated and there was no animal loss.



FRANCES ROHLA for National Pork Chairman

I am Frances Rohla. My husband, Henry, and I have raised pigs, corn, soybeans and alfalfa. I also had a flock of laying hens, selling eggs on a route for many years. My flock numbered 260 plus young pullets on the yard each year. I never lost chickens to fox or skunks until one year three skunks enjoyed them for a while. We got rid of the skunks and had to give our dog a tomato juice bath.

For forty years I have helped in the summer time, such as feeding at night, helping to load hogs to go to Omaha or I became a nursemaid when momma pig couldn't have her piglets. We ground all of our feed whether it was for pigs or chickens.

Our three children always helped on the farm. Henry, Jr., farms; Louise lives at Louisburg, Kansas, with husband, Russel, and their two children; and Duane lives by Kearney, Nebraska with wife, Deb, and their two children.

Your vote for me to continue as your National Pork Chairman would be appreciated.

LISA GOODHEART for National Feed Grains Chairman

Lisa (Nelson) Goodheart was raised and still lives in Jewell County, Kansas. Her mother, Ila Nelson, is a long-time member of WIFE. Lisa owns land with her two brothers and feels a strong emotional attachment to the family farm. She is not currently actively involved in the farming operation but still keeps in touch and is interested in what is going on. Lisa and her husband, Todd, live on six acres with their family of "critter children."

She is a secretary for four United Methodist churches plus runs the office that houses the county Food Pantry and Helping Hands Fund. She volunteers in areas that focus on helping Jewell County and looks for ways to promote the rural way of life.

If elected, this will be her third year as National Feed Grains Commodity Topic Chairman.

KLODETTE STROH for Sugar Chairman

Thanks to President Tammy Basel, WIFEline editor Marlene Kouba and all members of the WIFE organization for their diligent work and dedication to America's agriculture. It is an honor for me to be a member of this noble organization.

As the National Sugar Chairman I have learned so much about the sugar industry. My husband Rick and I operate our own farm and our family is also involved in our operation. We grow dry beans, barley and alfalfa hay for our Black Angus cattle. It is a privilege for me to serve our nation's agriculture because I believe American farmers are the founder of this great nation.

NATIONAL CHAIRMEN

Just a reminder that you are in charge of a caucus during the convention. During this time you can review policy that is in the book and/or present a short program/discussion on your topic. Handouts are usually welcome.

CEREAL GRAINS

By Phyllis Howatt, ND
National Cereal Grains Chairman

The 2009 United States spring wheat production is forecast at 548 million bushels, up slightly from 2008. Durum wheat production is forecast at 98.0 million bushels, up 15 percent above 2008. Barley production is forecast 207 million billion bushels, down 14 percent below 2008.

Wheat with vomitoxin may be used as a safe affordable feed for swine when properly incorporated into the diet. Wheat is usually too expensive to be used as a livestock feed but with the vomitoxin it could provide low-cost feed ingredient for pork producers and an alternate market for grain producers. Normal wheat is a better grain than corn for pigs because it contains 31 percent more lysine and 375 percent more available phosphorus needed in their diet.

Vomitoxin (Deoxynivalenol or DON) is a mycotoxin that may be produced in wheat and barley grain infected by Fusarium head blight (FHB) or scab. FHB may infect grain heads when wet weather occurs during the flowering and grain filling stages of plant development. The occurrence of FHB does not automatically mean that DON is present, but a high level of scabby kernels in the harvested grain means DON will likely be present. Levels of DON do not necessarily correlate with levels of physical damage in grain. The concentrations of DON in grain are expressed as parts per million (ppm). One ppm is equivalent to 1 pound in 1 million pounds, 1 penny in \$10,000, 1 minute in two years, or 1 wheat kernel in 80 pounds of wheat. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) established DON advisory levels to provide safe food and feed. Unlike aflatoxin in corn, DON is not a known carcinogen. Furthermore, grain with DON would have to be ingested in very high amounts to pose a health risk to humans, but it can affect flavors in foods and processing performance. Human food products are restricted to a 1-ppm level established by the FDA. This level is considered safe for human consumption. The food industry often sets standards that are more restrictive. DON causes feed refusal and poor weight gain in some livestock if fed above the advisory levels. These levels are ten ppm for grains and byproducts for beef older than four months and poultry if it doesn't exceed 50 percent of the diet and five ppm for swine if it doesn't exceed 20 percent of their diet.

European varieties of barley are being studied at the North Dakota State University's (NDSU) breeding program. Several of these originated at breeding companies in Germany. Representatives of one of these companies recently visited the Institute of Barley and Malt Sciences and NDSU research plots. The company in Germany has produced more than 200 registered varieties including cereals, rye, hybrid wheat, malting barley and other grains. The company has more than 20 breeding stations and 100 trial sites.

North Dakota has had below normal temperatures and rainy weather across the state has been delaying crop development and the small grain harvest. The farmers are hoping there won't be an early frost and are looking for a long warm fall to bring this crop to market.

(Source: AGWEEK, ND, can be followed on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/AgweekMagazine>.)



ANIMAL WELFARE

By Mary Ellen Cammack
National Beef Chairman

Janice Swanson, Michigan State University professor and director of animal welfare, was asked to define animal welfare and gave the following response. "Cattle producers should understand that the term is commonly used by the public when they ask questions about the care, use and treatment of animals. There is still a core understanding among the public that animals are in a purposeful relationship with humans and this relationship carries social obligations."



"Within the industry and scientifically, we tend to separate out the social components of animal welfare and prefer the term 'animal wellbeing' when speaking more directly about the animal relative to its biological response to conditions of housing, handling, etc. However, what producers don't want to do is place themselves in the position of arguing against the welfare of the animal."

Swanson also went on to explain why animal welfare is becoming a more urgent concern in the livestock industry. The urgency is the speed with which the public dynamic is changing, relative to socially acceptable animal-production practices or systems. California's Prop 2 sent a message to the rest of the country that citizens are attracted to and interested in issues of farm-animal welfare and willing to act if given the opportunity. The livestock industry needs to determine how to achieve a level of public transparency that will satisfy the public's need to know, while allowing producers to be comfortable with, how they raise and handle their livestock. What the public wants to know most is that the animals that went into their food supply lived and died well.

(Source: BEEF magazine, August 2009)

In addition to the above information, I recently attended a large regional livestock show and, on the youth beef show day, observed a young exhibitor, showing a "seasoned" yearling beef heifer. The show halter had been fitted with a double chain, (which fits below the animals chin) and those chains had been fitted with narrow spikes. As a producer and former cattle exhibitor, this was very disturbing and prompted me to speak to show organizers. I explained that this is an unacceptable practice and, if it bothers a producer, someone that is not familiar with livestock handling would definitely not view this as a positive method. This is the very type of situation that could eliminate a youth show for everyone and would reflect badly upon all exhibitors, not just the individual who choose to use that harsh method.

WIFE needs to develop policy dealing specifically with livestock welfare. Consider this within your state when you are reviewing our existing policy book and please submit all recommendations to me by September 27, 2009.

www.WIFeline.com

TRADING PARTNERS

By Ruth Laribee, NY
National Trade Chairman

Trade between Australia and China has just taken a giant step forward. An agreement has been reached in which Australia will export liquefied natural gas (LNG) to China at a cost of \$41 billion. The Asian gas and oil company PetroChina has approved a deal to buy 2.25 million tons per year even though the gas field has't been developed yet. The Gorgon Project is being developed and operated by the "Australian subsidiaries" of Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and Shell. Chevron has been in Australia for fifty years plus and has invested with other companies exploring Australia's Northwest offshore areas. In the Gorgon Project Chevron's share is at 50 percent while the other two companies share is 25 percent each. This major project with proven reserves, in what is called the Greater Gorgon area, would have the comparable energy of an oil field of 2.25 billion barrels. It is estimated within the area there could be over 40 trillion cubic feet of gas which is projected to continue for forty years.



Australia's Chevron Managing Director, Roy Krzywosinski, declared the Gorgon Project is important nationally and internationally because of the enormous resource base, the benefits economically and a probability of ten thousand jobs during construction. The companies have worked with, and have the approval of, the Federal Environmental Minister, the Honorable Peter Garrett, to keep the integrity of the area, to stay away from special conservation areas and to keep environmental impacts at a minimum.

Two other countries joining together in trade ventures are China and Japan. China is becoming Japan's largest trading partner, now surpassing the United States.

Mexico's President Felipe Calderon is reaching out to Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva for a free trade agreement. Calderon is presenting the concept of a trade pact with Brazil before the Mexican political members and industrial businesses. Latin America's largest markets are Brazil and Mexico. With the economic downfall and the outbreak and problems of H1N1 flu, inappropriately named the "swine flu" Mexico has had a double hit. Mexico has a history of exporting as high as 80 percent of their goods and services to the United States. They are also a trading partner of Canada. Now with the United States in a deep economic state, there are fewer jobs and that affects the U.S. and Mexico. The Mexican migrant workers have traditionally sent their money home. Now that amount is less or non-existent. President Calderon, in meetings with the president of Brazil, will be visiting the oil firm Petrobras.

The United States has outsourced its oil, its jobs and now maybe its food. Our number of farmers are declining and imports are rising. For example dairy Section 6.25 is allowing the concentration of imports in the hands of a powerful few. The dairy import assessment could take us down the road of being held hostage to WTO rules with no chance of appeal as individual citizens because only government officials can petition the WTO.

WIFE supports fair trade for our American producers and consumers.

(Sources: BBC News, the Associated Press, NY times, Bester News, International News)



WIFeline

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CHINESE MEETING

By Vernice Balsdon, ND
National Oilseeds Chairman

"U.S. production agriculture has advanced tremendously in the last decade. Implementing new practices, systems and technology continue to improve our yields, and quality and management techniques gives us the ability to provide food for a growing world," said North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring (pronounced Goring) upon his return from a six-day event in Beijing, China.



Goehring's presence at the World Soybean Research Conference provided an opportunity to meet with representatives from around the world including researchers and academia. The commissioner represented the United Soybean Board (USB) at its conference which is held every five years.

Goehring also took the opportunity to meet with individuals to identify China's and Korea's needs concerning various commodities such as meat, wheat, corn, soybeans, sunflowers, peas and dry beans. "I feel an obligation to our farmers and ranchers to do what I can to establish working relationships through friendships with foreign buyers, agriculture specialists and government dignitaries."

"Korean import tariffs add 110 to 125 percent to the cost of a bushel of grain. This virtually doubles the price of grain to processors and ultimately the people," he said.

Past working relationships with Korea have resulted in the pending United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KFTA). Congressional approval of the KFTA would allow some U.S. commodities like wheat, corn and soybeans for crushing to be duty-free immediately. Other tariffs on dairy products like skim and whole milk powder and food-grade soybeans would be phased out over a five-year period.

Goehring said KFTA would add stability to agricultural markets that are currently experiencing an oversupply of product such as our dairy industry. It would have an immediate and significant impact on the price of fluid milk. However, there is keen competition for exporting privileges to these countries, and the U.S. is not the only country that has been cultivating trade relationships with Korea. Australia, Russia, China, Mexico, Canada and other countries are actively seeking FTAs with Korea. "We can provide some of the highest quality products to the world. We just need access to the marketplace. It's putting a face on our commodities."

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Registration

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33rd National Convention - November 11-14, 2009
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