

Bakken Formation

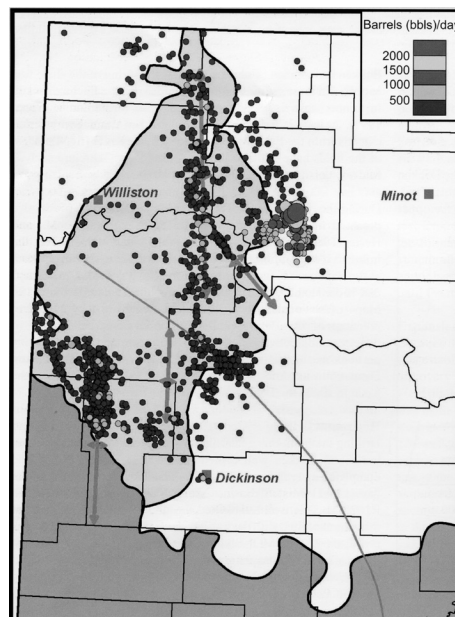
By Marlene Kouba

Oil and gas production from the Bakken Formation provides an excellent case study of the successful development of a natural resource through sophisticated drilling and technologies. The Bakken Formation is located in the middle of the Montana-North Dakota border on the North Dakota side in the Williston to Dickinson area.

The history of the Bakken development spans almost 60 years. The first vertical well was drilled in 1953. It came online on December 6, 1953 at a rate of 536 barrels of gravity oil and 770 cubic feet of gas per barrel per day. Casing problems forced the well to be plugged and abandoned after 55 months of production during which 279,252 barrels of oil and 108 barrels of water were produced. Most of the wells in that Antelope Field were drilled during the 1950s and 1960s. During that time, 44 vertical wells were drilled with an average initial production of 217 barrels of oil, with one well producing as much as 890 barrels.

The success of those wells depended upon natural fracture networks in the Bakken and Three Forks (Sanish) Formations, which is below the Bakken, to supply enough oil for many years. It is strongly influenced by tectonic fractures which probably opened through tensile failure. Natural fracturing stimulated by the relatively small hydrofracturing technology of the era appears to have allowed for the otherwise "tight" reservoir rock in the field to yield oil and gas at commercial rates.

Between 1960 and 1975 production outside of the Antelope Fields were established in a few wells. The discovery of the Three Forks Pool in 1961 was of great importance. A well was drilled to 13,018 feet but was abandoned in August of 1964 after producing 57,840 barrels of oil. The sec-



Light gray is Bakken Formation. The white is under and around the Bakken and called Three Forks.

ond phase of Bakken activity occurred in the late 1970s and early 1980s. At least 26 fields have been established along this trend. During this period, the potential of oil-prone shale began to emerge.

Drilling methods changed radically after the first horizontal Bakken well was drilled in 1987. Horizontal drilling continued along a 200-mile-long by 30-mile-wide strip of land referred to as the Bakken Fairway. Horizontal drilling along the Fairway peaked in 1992 and drilling slowed for the remainder of the 1990s and basically ended by 2000.

A discovery in eastern Montana marked a significant advance to the development of the Bakken again. Since that discovery, more than 600 horizontal wells have been drilled in the 450-square mile field from which more than 200 million barrels of oil have been recovered. The Parshall Field in

Mountrail County, between Williston and Minot, has a cluster of wells that produces more than 2,000 barrels a day. Currently the field is producing an average of about a million barrels of oil per month from 127 wells.

In 2005, the Department of Mineral Resources estimated that just under 14 million barrels of oil were recoverable from the Bakken and the Three Forks below it with the technology of that time. By 2008, just three years later, changing technology places the reserves at 2,089 billion barrels of recoverable oil. Even though the Bakken itself has not changed, our ability to extract oil from it has, so that as technology advances our ideas concerning the future possibilities of this resource must as well. North Dakota now ranks fourth in the nation in production of oil, behind California, Texas and Oklahoma.

Continued on page 5

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TAMMY'S TOPICS

By Tammy Basel, SD
National President



July 19, 2010, was a typical summer day in South Dakota--a little cooler than normal but a nice day. By mid-afternoon clouds were starting to build and some storm warnings were broadcasted on the television and radio. The storms were a ways away so a mother and two of her children went out to check livestock on the motorcycles. The preteen children had helmets on but the mother did not. When they were more than a mile from the house and in a pasture, a storm quickly developed. Knowing that they could not make it back to any shelter in time they took shelter on what was nothing more than a rolling hill. Hunkered down, golf ball-sized hail and 70 mph wind pounded the mother and children for over ten minutes. When it was over the family was alive but in bad condition, the ambulance came to take them to the hospital. The windows, siding, and roof of their house were smashed to bits. The cars were totaled. Mom and her children are home from the hospital but nursing bruises and swelling all over their bodies. A person can never say that would never happen to me because it can and this is the time of year to think about summer storm safety.

Many people are killed and seriously injured by storms each year. Some people did not hear the warnings and others did not believe it would happen to them. If you watch a storm developing, it can be mesmerizing and can almost be hard to stop watching to become prepared for what is approaching.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have published the following guidelines about a few different dangerous weather conditions.

The NWS continuously broadcasts warnings, watches, forecasts and other non-weather related hazard information on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR). The average range of the 1000+ NWR transmitters in the United States is 40 miles, depending on topography. For the best performing NWR receivers, NWS suggests that you look at devices that have been certified to Public Alert standards. These radios meet certain technical standards and come with many features such as: Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME), a battery back-up, both audio and visual alarms, selective programming for the types of hazards you want to be warned for, and the ability to activate external alarm devices for people with disabilities. Like a smoke detector, an NWR can wake you in the middle of the night to alert you to a dangerous situation.

When conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop, a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch is typically issued. NWS meteorologists then use information from weather radar, Skywarn spotters and other sources to issue Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Warnings for areas where severe weather is imminent. Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Warnings are disseminated through a variety of means, such as local radio and television station broadcasts, the Internet, and other communication services provided by America's Weather Industry. Warnings are also broadcast in

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Continued on page 3

SUGAR IMPORTS

By Klodette Stroh, WY
National Sugar Chairman

With a new Farm Bill just around the corner, we have to watch the foreign trade situation. There is the possibility of a new sugar marketing stipulation. An advantage of a new Farm Bill stipulation will be that the United States crop will be harvested and processed five months ahead of the market demand and Mexican imports will be known. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, USDA must wait until April 1 (except for emergencies) to decide how much sugar should be coming to our markets and if any should be imported above the minimum required trade agreement.



On April 23, the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an increase of imported sugar--right around 200,000 tons of additional sugar for the current fiscal year which will end on September 30, 2010. USDA's action indicated that the Farm Bill is operating as intended and gives USDA the time and the tools it needs to ensure adequate supplies of sugar in the United States. The sugar policy operates at no cost to taxpayers.

This year's sugar beet crop was planted weeks earlier than usual in many producing areas which could result in a tremendous yield similar to last year. As we all know, lots can happen between planting time until the sugar beets are actually harvested. USDA will watch the crop closely to make sure a large crop is accounted for in their estimates. Additional foreign sugar imports into the United States market will jeopardize the financial ability of U.S. sugar beet and sugar cane processors to meet their market's needs in the future. Under the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Mexico has an unlimited sugar export access to the United States market. Sugar users, mainly candy companies, are calling for an additional 800,000 tons of sugar, which would clearly oversupply the market and collapse the price.

We have to make sure to let our lawmakers, who will be working on the 2012 Farm Bill, to know that the U.S. Congress has designed a sugar policy that is working for the consumers at zero cost and is providing jobs and revenues in 18 sugar-growing states. Sugar farmers have been providing safe and affordable sugar for American consumers for many years. We have to help our sugar industry to stay intact as we are all of one body. Sugar cane, sugar beet and corn sweetener farmers are vital to the United States economic recovery. Agriculture is the backbone of our country and we need to stay together to provide food for our people.

BIOGRAPHIES

For all those who are running for office and have the proper endorsements in, start thinking about what you want to write about yourself. Biographies/campaign articles will be in the September WIFeline. Your stories need to be submitted to the Editor by August 25 and that date will be heard sooner than you think.

Tammy's Topics

Continued from page 2

the impacted area on NWR. Local emergency management and other public safety officials are notified because they lead your community's response to the hazard. Working with our nation's Emergency Alert System (EAS), NWR is truly an "all hazards" radio network, making it a great source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. Please visit www.weather.gov/nwr for more information.

What to Listen for...

Tornado Watch—NWS meteorologists have determined that tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. Know if your location is in the watch area by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, visiting www.weather.gov or by tuning into your favorite radio or television weather information broadcast stations.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch—NWS meteorologists have determined that severe thunderstorms are likely to occur in your area. Watch the sky and stay tuned for NWS warnings.

Tornado Warning—NWS meteorologists have determined that a tornado is occurring, or likely to occur within minutes, in the specified area. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning—NWS meteorologists have determined that a severe thunderstorm is occurring or likely to occur. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property.

My neighbors and friends are lucky to be alive. The mother has spent her whole life on the ranch where she now lives when the storm hit her and her children. She is familiar with Western South Dakota storms and knows what a dangerous sky looks like. This is just a reminder that we all need to be more weather wise.

Membership Information:

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DUES

You can pay your dues anytime between now and January 1. During the last convention, the annual dues were raised to \$40.00. Keep that in mind when you have your meetings and send them in. All those running for office must have them paid before the convention.

www.WIFeline.com

OILSEED USE

Phyllis Howatt, ND
National Oilseed Chairman

The countryside around here is filled with fields of bright yellow canola flowers along with some blue flax flowering fields. This is a critical time of year for farmers as they are wondering if they should spray with fungicide as it costs a lot of money and no guarantee of a profit to pay the cost of application.

The name Canola comes from the combination of Canada and oil low acid. It is grown predominantly in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and North Dakota. The United States is Canada's largest canola buyer.

After harvest the canola is delivered to a crushing plant where it goes through an oil-removing process leaving oil for edible and inedible uses, and a meal byproduct. Canola is used to make shortening, margarine and salad oil, as well as cosmetics, hydraulic fluids and suntan oil. Canola is lowest in saturated fat, highest in monounsaturated fat and is a rich source of vitamin E and essential fatty acids. Most of the meal is sent to dairy operations to be used as feed in south-western United States.

Wyoming farmers are contracted by a Minnesota company to grow sunflowers. In future summers the Bighorn Basin may be dotted with many more bright yellow sunflower fields. Numerous farmers may be interested because of a devastating sugar beet freeze last fall. Some beet farmers still have acres of frozen beets in the ground. Sunflowers would be able to absorb the extra protein remaining in the soil without adverse affects, unlike barley or another crop. Sunflowers could work really well for farmers in that situation. Sunflowers are known as a hardy crop and they have flourished in the Basin's growing conditions in past years.

Soybeans can produce approximately 42 bushels an acre. An acre will make over 2500 gallons of soymilk or more than 40,000 eight ounce servings. One acre of soybeans provides approximately 18,000 rations of soy protein.

Miso is a fermented soybean paste that is similar in consistency to nut butters. It is considered an umami flavor, which is a fifth flavor after sweet, salty, sour, and bitter. In Japan, making miso is an art. It is a basic cooking ingredient and condiment that is aged like wine and cheese. One tablespoon of miso provides 2 grams of protein, manganese, copper, sodium and is high in vitamins B12 and omega "fatty acids."

There are so many different uses for all oilseed products that new items show up every year, so be on the look out for them in your areas.

FAED

Dues are due for Foundation For Agriculture Education and Development (FAED). They are only \$5.00 for an individual, \$10 for a family and \$25.00 for supporting them. Make check to FAED and send to Pat Torgerson, Box 132, Lambert, MT 59433, or Phyllis Howatt, 1409 12th Ave., Langdon, ND 58249.

Dues and donations are used to help fund scholarships and grants.



HEALTH TIPS

By Cynthia Thomsen, NE
National Health Chairman

There are three signs that sunglasses are not safe. Don't buy glasses unless a label says they provide at least 99 percent UV protection. A dark lens has nothing to do with it. Choose big, celebrity-style frames that span your eyebrows and cheekbones for more sun blockage. Always replace worn-out specs, which can strain eye muscles, leading to headaches.

No, stress does not give you an ulcer. Most ulcers (sores in the lining of your esophagus, stomach, or small intestine) are caused by H. pylori bacteria. Another common cause is regular use of drugs which can irritate your stomach lining. Stress can make your symptoms worse, though and that is one reason that doctors often recommend stress-lowering lifestyle changes along with medicines such as antibiotics or acid-reducing drugs.

Boost your brain power. If you already get plenty of carbohydrates, start lifting weights. Cognitive function of older women who strength-trained once or twice a week improved nearly 12 percent compared with those who did simple stretching exercises. The challenge of learning and mastering different moves can improve brain health. An empty stomach can make you more impulsive. When you have enough calories, you can focus on the outcome of tough choices. Do a brain activity such as crossword puzzles and then rest. The brain replays images so you are more likely to remember them.

A Harvard study showed that headaches are likelier on days that are warmer than average. Dehydration makes pain worse, so drink plenty of water and stay inside when it is muggy if possible. This makes the blood vessels in your brain more flexible so they can withstand changes in air pressure that cause pain.

If used with certain other depression drugs, St. John's Wort could cause side effects, including serotonin syndrome (a buildup of the brain chemical). Indigestion suffers often take licorice capsules but when combined with diuretics for high blood pressure or laxatives, it could cause a serious dip in potassium levels.

For healthy weight loss, you must cut calories and work out—not one or the other. Exercisers can improve blood pressure, insulin sensitivity and LDL cholesterol. There is no reason to torture yourself to drink eight 8-ounce glasses of water a day if you don't like it or can't do it. Make a habit of sipping a little often to consume enough every day or add some herbal tea to your meals.

Our metabolic rates fall by an average of 10 percent as we age because we become more sedentary. It is also due to a decline in cellular activity (exercise) so we need to watch what we put on our fork or spoon. Eat less sweets and more fruit.

Rather than depending on exposure to sunshine, it is better to get more vitamin D into your diet by taking a daily supplement of 1,000 IU of vitamin with D3 which also helps your bones.



DAIRY BILLS

By Dianna Reed, KS
National Dairy Chairman

H.R.5288 was introduced in Congress by Jim Costa (D-CA) on May 13, 2010. The Dairy Stabilization Program Act of 2010 amends the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture of USDA to publish in the Federal Register a proposed order to establish the dairy price stabilization program that shall apply to all dairy facilities within the contiguous United States that produce milk for sale commercially. It sets forth program provisions.

Another package proposed by National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) includes converting current safety nets, such as price supports and Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC), to a margin production program. This plan would be run by the Farm Service Agency but there is no cost base coverage that essentially would cover catastrophic situations. There is also a voluntary, partially subsidized, supplemental program. This proposal would maintain federal-order Class I differentials and replace current product formula pricing and all its problems with a competitive pay price as the basis.

Also, under the NMPF plan, when margins (milk prices less feed costs) have fallen to a trigger level two months in a row, dairy farmers will receive only a certain percentage of the base marketing's. USDA's Ag Marketing Service would collect the money that is not paid to them. Those extra funds would be used to stimulate consumption of dairy products here and abroad. NMPF intends its proposal to be an all-or-none package, which is understandable, but not without political risk.

The Costa bill would involve industry nominees (a political battleground) forming a 30-producer board to work with the Ag Secretary to establish allowable milk production growth rates based on the Milk-Feed Price Ratio. Those who expand beyond the current allowable rate would pay a market access fee given the option of paying fees that apply to all milk or just "new" milk. Collected fees will be returned to those who did not expand.

The International Dairy Food Association (IDFA) is a self-described representative of the nation's dairy manufacturing and marketing industries and their suppliers, with a membership of 550 companies within a \$110-billion a year industry. IDFA is composed of three constituent organizations--the Milk Industry Foundation, the National Cheese Institute and the International Ice Cream Association. IDFA is arguing against supply management because they seem to be happy with low prices paid to producers while collecting high prices from the consumers.

NMPF's plan and the Costa plan potentially address demand as well as supply although there would be concerns about the margin protection portion. Both of these plans put price control back into the hands of the producers, not the manufacturers. A one or two percent increase or decrease in production swings the price greatly and dramatically.



BAKKEN FORMATION

(Continued from page 1)

In May, 2010, about 155 oil companies drilling and pumping oil in North Dakota's Williston Basin put out 9.189 million barrels of sweet crude, the most in one month. Each drilling rig can complete a new well about every month. Each well drilled now drains oil from 640-acre or 1,280-acre spacing units. Last year the state produced a then-record 78.7 million barrels of oil or an average of 6.64 million barrels per month. This year the prediction is to go above 100 million. The number of wells producing oil also set a record in May. There were 4,893 wells, up 83 from April and some of the wells have been producing since 1955. The number could be over 5,000 by now.

About 95 percent of the new drilling is in the Bakken and Three Forks Formations that started the boom four years ago. Counties in western North Dakota include Divide, Burke, McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, Golden Valley, Billings and Stark.

Natural gas, considered a byproduct of oil drilling also is being produced at record rates—9.29 million cubic feet (MCF) in May, setting a daily record of a daily average production of 299,275 MCF. Natural gas production is setting new records. Two major plant expansions plus gathering pipeline expansions were announced in April.

The price of North Dakota sweet crude remains relatively high, at \$62.46 in mid-July. Usually any time that prices get much below \$50 a barrel, drilling activity slows in North Dakota.

The deep-water oil spill in the Gulf makes the state's oil look much more attractive and companies are pushing their rig count higher than it would normally at current prices.

(Sources: Stephan Nordeng of ND Dept. of Mineral Resources and Dickinson Press)

ETHANOL BLENDS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said in mid-June that it was waiting for the Energy Department to complete tests of a 15 percent ethanol-85 percent gasoline (E15) blend in vehicles built after 2007 and expected to make a final decision this fall. This is the second time they have delayed a decision. There is also no decision to approve immediately the use of 12 percent ethanol blends for all vehicles. Carmakers now have several models that will run on as much as 85 percent ethanol but other engines and tanks are being tested to ensure than can handle the higher blend. Federal law directs EPA to decide on such waiver requests within 270 days (nine months) of receiving them. Last December they said they would decide by mid-2010. This delay also has a constraint on the ethanol industry. Ethanol production exceeds demand under the E10 cap which is capping industry growth and development as well.

The net energy gain from converting corn into ethanol fuel is increasing. For every British thermal unit (Btu) of energy required to make then 2.3 Btu of energy are produced. This is up from 1.76 Btu in 2004 as farmers are producing more corn with fewer inputs such as land and energy. Greenhouse gas emissions were 10 percent lower, too.

TRADE ISSUES

By Ruth Larabee, NY
National Trade Chairman

The new farm bill in 2012 will hold the key for the United States versus Brazil trade dispute. The U. S. Trade Representative's office has declared a "framework" with the goal of resolving the trade conflict against the U.S. Since the World Trade Organization ruled against the U.S.



cotton subsidies, Brazil has made threats to place a 10 to 30 percent tariff on an extensive list of U.S. produce and merchandise. They have tagged pharmaceutical medical equipment, autos, cotton, wheat, potatoes, cherries, pears and nuts, to name a few. The Brazilian countermeasures were scheduled to start on June 21, 2010, and the estimated cost to the U.S. would be \$560 million. The "framework" is only a "temporary resolution" until the 2012 farm bill.

Numerous business organizations from the U.S. and the European Union (EU) are pressing the trade officials of both countries to revive the DOHA round of free trade talks, believing the round still to be the "best hope" to stimulate growth in a fragile global economy. The business groups have put together a large agenda of ideas which they feel will be significant to help strengthen the world markets. They disapprove of the existing programs that have failed and want "Non Agriculture Market Access" to be the center of revived negotiations.

Some farm groups and several U.S. Representatives are pressing for easing trade negotiations with Cuba on agriculture exports and relaxing the ban on travel. According to several farmers in Texas, exports would have greater affect in cultivating Cuban democratic desires. Rice would be a main export, as Texan rice farmer Curt Mowery states, "They love American rice". Those in opposition say human rights violations and child labor issues continue and to remove the ban on travel would help Cuba, not the U.S. The other situation is Columbia, which is an American ally, and has had trade stalled for a long time because of labor and human rights issues. But it is reported that Columbia has made progress and has ratified all eight International Labor Organization conventions but Cuba is still in violation.

The European Parliament has called upon the European Commission to either ease the regulations of cloning on EU producers or look for a way to manage the imports. They are huge importers of the products but are concerned about the "widespread and unregulated" cloning of animals in the U.S. and other countries. The EU reports that because the United States, Argentina and Brazil are not regulated, they are not up to the EU standards and are unable to prove their products are not cloned, so all such items should be banned.

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) proposal for the 2012 farm bill, called "Framework for the Future", is meeting resistance from others in the dairy industry. It is a controversial plan which calls for a "margin protection" insurance system and other groups are pushing their own supply management proposals to counter the NMPF plan. Supply management, while gaining support as a solution to low farm

milk prices, remain unpopular with many farmers who see imports rather than domestic production as the real problem.

(Sources: *Farmers Guardian, Capitol Press, NASDAQ, Jerry Hagstrom, New York Times, Washington Monitor*)



CLASSES OF BEANS

By Diane McDonald, ND
National Beans, Peas, Lentils Chairman

I would like to tell you about some of the different classes of edible beans grown in the United States. They include, but are not limited to, pinto, black, small red, cranberry, pink, garbonzo, great northern, navy, kidney (both dark and light red), white kidney, large lima, baby lima, small white and blackeye. The majority of the edible beans are grown in approximately 19 states. North Dakota ranks #1 in the nation for production of both pinto and navy beans.

Each year there are between 1.8 and 2 million acres of beans planted. About 20 percent of the beans grown in the United States are exported. As a nation we consume five to six pounds of beans per person in a year. This compares to 20 pounds in Mexico and 25 pounds in Great Britain. The five most popular beans used in our country are pinto, navy, great northern, red kidney and black.

There are 12 key nutrients in dry beans: folate, manganese, magnesium, iron, selenium, zinc, fiber, protein, copper, potassium, carbohydrates and calcium. They are naturally low in sugar, sodium and calories, while also being very low in fat and cholesterol-free.

The U.S. Dry Bean Council has a website that includes many good recipes and information. You can go to www.dry-beancouncil.com/recipes.

ADDRESS CHANGE?

If there is a change in your address, please call or email the EDITOR rather than mailing it. - Phone 701-563-4560 or email: mkouba@ndsupernet.com

Calendar of Events:

Deadline for WIFeline reports — August 25
National Convention — November 17-20

WIND POWER

By Marlene Kouba

Sens. John Kerry (D-MA) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT) have unveiled a climate change bill that sets targets for the U.S. to reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions with a carbon cap-and-trade system and contains provisions addressing multiple energy sources. The 987-page bill, The American Power Act, includes support for renewable energy technology research and development, but it does not contain a renewable electricity standard, something the wind power industry views as crucial to ensuring meaningful deployment. It contains components that include transportation, manufacturing and, of course, energy. The bill provides a broad package of financial incentives for nuclear power as well as support for natural gas-fired generation and development of carbon capture and sequestration for coal-fired plants.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) released a study, called the Western Wind and Solar Integration Study (WWSIS), regarding which wind energy would provide up to 30 percent of the electricity for a large part of the Western U.S. The WWSIS is the Western counterpart to the high-profile NREL study that examines high wind penetrations in the Eastern Interconnection, which encompasses approximately 70 percent of the U.S. population.

According to the WWSIS findings, obtaining 35 percent of the Western region's—electricity from renewable energy is technically achievable, with 30 percent provided by wind and five percent by solar energy. The study found that adding more wind would reduce overall power system operating costs, save consumers money and protect them from fuel price volatility. Achieving 30 percent wind could reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by up to 45 percent, nitrogen oxides by up to 50 percent, and sulfur dioxide by 30 percent.

When former President George W. Bush was governor of Texas, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a comprehensive technical study showing that wind could provide 20 percent of the nation's electricity by 2030—a share as large as that provided today by nuclear power or natural gas.

Beckmann Volmer, a producer of major steel components for wind turbines, has announced it will locate a new manufacturing facility employing about 300 people, and potentially 500, in Osceola, Arkansas. The company, a direct supplier to turbine manufacturer Nordex, will invest \$10 million in the new facility, where the staff will be employed at an average hourly wage of \$18. The announcement shows the geographic ripple effect of the wind power supply chain and how component producers prefer to be near the customers they supply. The company is headquartered in Germany and also has operations in Poland and China. Nordex, which installed its first 2.5-MW turbine in 2000, has over 1,000 installed worldwide. The company's new manufacturing plant in Jonesboro, Arkansas, will produce its N90 and N100 mod-



els beginning this fall. Fellow turbine assembler, Mitsubishi, is also building nearby.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) in Washington announced the start of construction on the 343-MW Lower Snake River Wind Project in Garfield County. The utility has finalized negotiations for 149 2.3-MW wind turbines for the first phase. Construction will create up to 150 temporary jobs, with eventual commercial operations creating as many as 25 permanent jobs. The utility said it is building Phase 1 now, in part, to meet its longer-term renewable energy requirements under Washington's Initiative 937, but also to protect against energy-market price volatility and a possible cost on carbon emissions in the future. More than 98 percent of the 40,000 acres of leased

farmland will remain available for crops once the wind facility enters operation, with farmers receiving lease and royalty payments for participating in the project.

Investment in new transmission in Texas will potentially save typical Texas residential consumers between \$160 and \$355 annually on their electricity bills while spurring economic development. The combined investment in new wind turbines and transmission lines will create \$30 billion in economic gains, employ thousands, and bring in almost \$2 billion in additional state and local taxes. The Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ) is expected to help the state annually conserve approximately 17 billion gallons of water, reduce carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 16 percent, and cut nitrogen oxide emissions by up to 13 percent. Wind turbines do not require fuel other than no-cost wind, their cost of operation does not increase the more they are used. So, as more wind power becomes available on the market, it has a greater influence on wholesale market prices. The net result is a lower overall cost of electricity. This results in reductions in rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers that exceed the long-term cost of the CREZ investments. This effect already has been seen in the West Texas wholesale market for electricity.

The Oklahoma House of Representatives passed legislation that would create a non-binding 15 percent-by-2015 renewable energy goal. Qualifying sources would be wind, solar, and geothermal power, as well as conservation. To foster the development of wind power, the bill also calls for the state to get more transmission built.

The Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) said it has enough interest from wind power developers to revive plans for the high-voltage transmission line. Developers of nine wind projects generating a total of 1,870 MW near the proposed site of the cancelled coal-fired Big Stone II power plant have signed up to take part in a study to build about 100 miles of new 345-kV lines from the South Dakota state line into Minnesota. The transmission project previously had been scrapped when the proposal to build the 500-600-MW Big Stone II plant near Milbank, South Dakota, died last year.

PORK TOPICS

By Frances Rohla, NE
National Pork Chairman

INVENTORIES: In July, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas reported hog inventories are below from 2009 figures but up in 2010. The September-November 2010 projections are going to be down one percent from the same quarter in 2009.



YOUTHS: At the World Pork Expo, the Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus program was given for youths to practice giving shots into a banana to see if they were giving proper injections. Colored water was used to see how and where the injection went through the banana. Teaching the youths was PQA trainer, Jodi Sterle, Texas A&M University Extension swine specialist. PQA was started in 1989 as a voluntary program to help promote pork safety and pig well-being. PQA is voluntary but across the country shows are requiring the training in order for youths to exhibit.

GOOD PRODUCTION PRACTICES: You and your vet should have a health plan in place. The plan should include a vaccination plan, parasite, rodent and pest control, and cleaning and disinfecting procedures. 2. Use a veterinarian/client/patient relationship. Follow label instructions and know the withdrawal period. 3. Know which antibiotic is being used. Antibiotics do not replace good management and proper animal care. 4. Keep track of which animals are treated, such as a permanent ID, ear notches or tattoos, ear tags, paint brands or when animals are sick, use marking crayons. 5. Keep a notebook handy for records that includes date treated, animal identification, product used for treatment, amount given, who gave the drug and withdrawal time. 6. Use proper storage, labeling, inventory of all drug products and medicated feed. Mark the bag of medicated feed when started. 7. Learn proper way to give injection or the proper placement of medication depending on the age and size of animal. Injections are given five different ways—intramuscular, or in muscle; subcutaneous or under the skin; intranasal or in the nasal passages; intraperitoneal or in the abdominal cavity and intravenous or in the vein. If a needle is bent, never, never straighten it out but discard it as it may break off under the skin. Mark the bag of medicated feed when started. 8. Always follow appropriate on-farm feed processing and commercial feed processor. 9. All animal caretakers, whether family members, friends, or farm employees, should be trained on proper caring for the animals. 10. Provide proper swine care. This includes clean bedding, heat in wintertime or cool in summertime. Always have clean water and proper feed. For information on PQA training, go to www.pork.org.

(Source: Jennifer Bremer of High Plains Journal)

OOPS!

Sorry for the goofs in the last edition. I moved Lisa Goodheart to SD and the names of people in the photo on back page were omitted. They are Vernice Balsdon, Jayme Balsdon, and Phyllis Howatt.

AG PROGRAMS

Ag-related programs are affecting several states in various ways.

In Georgia, the state revenue has dropped from \$22 billion to less than \$18 billion, leaving lawmakers to scramble to meet the constitutional mandate for a balanced budget. One possibility is exemptions from sales taxes of which there are more than 200 and some are vital to agriculture, such as seed, fertilizer and equipment. Many farms will be in jeopardy if those exemptions are lost.

In North Carolina, lawmakers are facing a shortfall of about \$1.2 billion in their second year of the \$19 billion state-spending plan approved in 2009. The state's farmland preservation trust fund is one in jeopardy although \$2 million was set aside for it. Another plan would cut 27 positions from the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service which would reduce the department's \$50.5 million budget by almost \$2 million.

Growers in Michigan rely on their Agriculture Department but more cuts are possible. In April two apple shippers lost about \$200,000 because they didn't have the personnel to do the required inspections in time for shipment. Greenhouse growers and vegetable producers are also affected.

A petition drive for a November 2011 ballot measure in Mississippi is being promoted. The measure would discourage government entities from taking private property for economic development by prohibiting its use for those purposes for 10 years. In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a city could take away people's homes and turn the property over to a private party to develop. The Court used the expected increased tax revenue as justification for its decision. The Mississippi House and Senate approved a bill that would prohibit the taking of such private property but the governor vetoed it.

The Louisiana State University says that their seafood is safe and consumers should not be concerned about the safety of eating it following the oil spill. All there seafood sold in retail stores and supermarkets, as well as in restaurants, is safe to eat. Fishing areas affected by the spill are closed to fishing and oyster collection. Retailers obtain their seafood from non-closed waters. Seafood deemed unsafe will not be allowed on the market and they are testing daily.

ESTATE PLANNING

Few things are as heart-wrenching as a dispute among family members after a death. Here are five easy steps you can take to prevent heartache: 1. Plan professionally. Your legacy is important. A professional can design a well-planned plan that considers all your assets and wishes. 2. When planning your estate, choose more than one person who you trust to make decisions for you in case you are incapacitated or gone. 3. Tell your family what will be in the plan so it won't be a surprise to them. 4. A "no contest" clause disinherits anyone who challenges your wishes as stated in your will or trust. It could stop litigation. 5. Make sure to keep your plan current so nobody or assets are omitted. When families feud there are no winners--only losers.

FREIGHT LEGISLATION

By Donna Bolz, NE
National Transportation
Chairman

As we know, WIFE was founded in part to improve conditions for the family farmer through following legislation both on the local and national levels. It is our responsibility is to stay current on legislation that affects us.



Senate bill S.3629, that was introduced recently, is the Focusing Resources, Economic Investment and Guidance to Help Transportation Act of 2010 (FREIGHT ACT) and one of many to watch. This bill was introduced by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) with co-sponsors Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA). This bill will improve the efficiency, operation, and security of the national transportation system to move freight by making investments and promoting partnerships that advance interstate and foreign commerce. It will transform America's transportation policy and investment by focusing on the freight network that allows goods and commodities to move about and reach their markets. The FREIGHT Act provides an approach to infrastructure investment that addresses the nation's commerce needs while providing a foundation that will also help our nation meet its energy, environmental and safety goals. The bill also calls for the creation of a new National Freight Infrastructure Grants initiative which is designed to focus funds where they will provide the most public benefit.

"Poor planning and underinvestment in our transportation infrastructure has led to increased congestion at our ports, highways, airports, and railways, and increases the cost of doing business. If we want to help U.S. businesses succeed and create new jobs, we need a freight transportation system that works better and can grow with the changing needs of the global economy," said Sen. Lautenberg in his statement.

The major goals established by the FREIGHT Act are:

1. Reduce delays of goods and commodities entering into and out of ports that serve international points of entry;
2. Increase travel time reliability on major freight corridors that connect major cities;
3. Reduce by 10 percent the number of freight transportation-related fatalities by 2015;
4. Reduce national freight transportation-related carbon dioxide levels by to percent by 2030; and
5. Reduce freight transportation-related air, water, and noise pollution and impacts on ecosystems and communities on an annual basis.

The bill was sent to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation committee after being read twice. My challenge to you is to continue to follow legislation and let your voice be heard. WIFE members are a powerful force.

FIBER IN DIET

By Lisa Goodheart, KS
National Cereal Grains Chairman

We know we should eat more fiber, but it's hard to do it. Whole grains are a natural source of fiber. Food developers increase fiber in food by using whole-grain and bran ingredients.

There are two categories of fiber--insoluble and soluble. Insoluble fiber sweeps material through the digestive system, while soluble fiber forms gel-like materials in water and helps regulate cholesterol and glucose levels. Oats and barley contain soluble fiber in the form of beta-glucan. Barley has 10 to 12 percent total fiber and four to six percent beta-glucan, compared to whole-wheat flour which has 10 percent insoluble fiber and no soluble fiber. Barley has a nondigestible hull which is usually removed during processing. Pearled barley is the result of removing the bran layer, which also means it is no longer considered whole-grain.

When relying on whole oats or barley instead of concentrates to deliver the recommended daily intake of fiber in a single serving in a food bar, developers face some challenges. The difficulty comes in determining how much sweetener to add, not only for taste but to bind the product and hold it together. There could be limitations on how much grain, and ultimately how much fiber, can be put into a food bar when relying on whole grains alone. Binding and flavoring ingredients will dilute the fiber per serving, which makes it difficult to meet the daily fiber intake recommendations in a relatively small bar.

Whole grains provide additional nutrients, but moisture retention can be a challenge because the bran and fiber want to absorb water. Reducing the size of the bran is one way to address the problem. Technology is being utilized to grind, micro-pulverize and put the bran back in the original starch and make whole-grain. More fiber can be added by keeping the hull from the grain in the final product.

Barley ingredients in the form of kernels, flakes or flour have been used in tortillas, breads, pilaf, pasta, cereals, cookies, crackers and snacks. The barley used in these products has a unique carbohydrate composition. It has more than 30 percent fiber and greater than 12 percent beta-glucan. It also has 30 percent less starch than typical barley. Bakers have to add gluten when using barley, as they do when using white whole-wheat flour. In order to make a heart-healthy claim, formulators may incorporate a concentrated beta-glucan product. A barley-extracted soluble fiber with 70 percent beta-glucan can build viscosity and control moisture.

Most Americans fall short of the recommended daily amounts of whole grains and fiber. These components are associated with cardiovascular and digestive health and an increase in fiber is associated with lower body weight and decrease in abdominal fat. Women might also find that they have a lower body-mass index when they increase their fiber intake.



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SAGE HENDERSON

Sage Henderson, daughter of Douglas and Sally Henderson of Alliance, Nebraska, was the second winner of the FAED Scholarship that is worth \$500 towards college expenses.

She wrote "Growing up on a ranch has given me first hand experiences and numerous opportunities. In the future I would like to have an impact on the bovine and equine industry by learning the aspects of their reproduction and having an impact on being able to change and conduct their genetic makeup to better the industry and its standards. To obtain this goal, I plan to attend Colby Community College in Colby, Kansas, to study Animal Science. After two years I plan to transfer to the University of Nebraska to complete my degree in Animal Science and receive my Masters Degree in Reproductive Physiology. Following my completion of school, I plan on working in the agricultural field to be making a difference in the livestock industry by producing the best quality of livestock that are in demand today."

The Foundation for Agriculture Education and Development (FAED) and WIFE join together to offer this scholarship to any woman entering the first or second year of college in technical or specialized training studies.

RESOLUTIONS

All members are encouraged to review the policy booklet and suggest editorial or clarification changes to the respective Commodity/Topic Chairmen.

Bring any new resolutions to the convention in Billings in November. States should submit resolutions as prescribed by the Procedure Manual, use extra caution not to duplicate resolutions and make the "therefore, be it resolved" portion of the resolution complete and relevant.

1. Delegates from the Association submitting a resolution shall be prepared to explain resolutions.
2. Resolutions must be written to conform to a national situation. State names and reference must be removed. Resolutions pertaining only to state issues should not be submitted.
3. Resolutions must be written in proper form. If not in proper form the committee may reject the resolution.

ASIAN PEARS

Asian pears (sometimes called Oriental pears) are native to Asia. Washington and Oregon grow 98% of all U.S. commercial pear crop. Asian pears are crunchier than the common pears. They are usually picked before they are ripe, as pears do not ripen well on trees. Asian pears are high in vitamin C and dietary fiber.