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No. 9

CHINA

By Marlene Kouba, Editor

Remember when an item stamped with "Made in China" was considered cheap and often termed as "junk"? China now wants to be known for higher quality items, such as computers, televisions, furniture, cars and more.

China has been using some of its \$2.5 trillion foreign currency reserves to buy up natural resources across Africa while building up their infrastructure. They have completed more than 200 major projects and much of it is financed by loans from the Chinese government's Export-Import Bank. The object is to have access to their oil, coal and other minerals. This year they will invest \$800 million to develop the Zambeze coal reserve in Mozambique. They have spent \$37.9 billion in Africa since 2005. In 2008, they spent \$6 billion on infrastructure but in exchange they will get almost 11 million tons of copper and 620,000 tons of cobalt during the next 25 years.

China's interest in Africa began in the 1960s when it involved the United Nations. They joined the World Trade Organization in 1999. In 2001 their investment was only \$10.8 billion but that went up to \$106 billion in 2008. Today their main goal is access to oil. To beat out competitors, Chinese firms often underbid contracts by 40 percent and then offer financing from the Chinese government. Sometimes there are kickbacks as much as 50 to 100 percent and sometimes the projects never get built.

The worst problem for Africa is that China brings everything to the projects--concrete, steel, machinery and workers for the projects. There is no job creation for the local economy but long term indebtedness to China. About 50,000 Chinese workers were sent to Angola to rebuild their infrastructure. Some laborers are convicts that are housed near the project site.

Here are some of the projects going on in Africas: Algeria—road construction for \$7 billion, housing and infrastructure, \$6.2 billion in Chinese automobiles. Libya—railroad project worth \$2.6 billion and \$1 billion housing projects. Egypt—\$2



billion for oil field development and \$680 million for an aluminum smelter. Sudan—agriculture projects with \$1 billion and a dam. Ethiopia—telecom projects valued at \$1.5 billion. Niger—oil field development worth \$5 billion. Mosambique—port upgrade, a dam, agricultural equipment and coal field development. Nigeria—railroad system valued at \$8.3 billion, a dam worth \$1.5 billion, real estate development for \$1.4 billion and two power plants. Cameroon—road renovations worth about \$100 million. Gabon—world's largest iron mine project worth about \$3 billion. Congo—mine construction for \$6 billion, 1800 miles of railways, 2000 miles of roads, hundreds of clinics, hospitals and schools and two new universities plus a cement factory. Angola—infrastructure projects worth about \$10 billion, including \$1 billion for a port. Zambia—copper smelter construction and operation. Zimbabwe—weapons, mining and agriculture investments.

Is all of this building good for the future of Africa? You decide.

The Emma Maersk is one of three ships commissioned by Wal-Mart to bring all of their goods from China. Two more will be completed in 2012 for a total of five. The Emma Maersk holds 15,000 cartons or a net cargo of 123,200 tons. It has a 207 foot deck beam which is too big to fit through the Panama or Suez Canals and is 1,302 feet long!! It is strictly transpacific. This monster transports goods across the Pacific in just 5 days!! It has a 14 cylinders in-line diesel engine (110,000 BHP) with a cruise speed of 31 knots. The goods arrive four days before the typical container ship (18-20 knots) on a China-to-California- run. The full crew is just 13 people on a ship.

The ship was built in Denmark in five sections. The sections were floated together and then welded. The command bridge is higher than a 10-story building and has 11 cargo crane rigs that can operate simultaneously to unload the entire ship in less than two hours. Silicone painting applied to the ship bottom reduces water resistance and saves

Continued on Page 7

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TAMMY'S TOPICS

By Tammy Basel, SD
National President



Have you made travel arrangements for the National WIFE Convention in Billings, Montana? Preconvention meetings will be on November 16, the National Convention will be on November 17 and 18 and tour dates are November 19 with a special extended tour on November 20.

Sometimes I have attended conventions for other organizations and when I get home someone would ask, "What did you learn?" and I would shrug my shoulder and not really recall anything. This will not be the case if you attend the banking panel on November 17. Members of the panel will represent Farm Credit Services, a large bank and the small main street bank. They will discuss just what are the differences between these banks, how will the new regulations affect us at the production agriculture level, or what is going to happen to agriculture loans and interest rates.

Following the banking panel there will be a presentation on some interesting new technology that is being put into practice by some Montana WIFE members. Exhaust from the tractor is funneled down and injected into the soil, so the tractor captures carbon and puts it back into the soil instead of putting carbon into the atmosphere.

Thursday is jam packed with informative speakers and WIFE business. Of special note will be the private property mini-seminar.

I was visiting with Sue Krentz about how things were going since the murder of her husband by the suspected illegal immigrant. Things are rough but she is one very strong lady. There is no end to daily struggles she shared with me. Rob, her husband, had a fused back and a recent hip replacement and was scheduled to have another hip replaced (ranchers have a way of out working their body). A four wheeler was difficult to ride and the family ranch had just replaced the four-wheeler with a utility vehicle. This new machine was just six weeks old at the time of the murder and has since been impounded for evidence. So Sue is left to make payments on a brand new utility vehicle and never gets to use it. The ranch needs the use of the machine, yet how can they afford a different machine and still make payments on the one in the locked evidence lot.

When I asked Sheila Massey of New Mexico WIFE about how she felt the situation on the U. S.- Mexico border was going, this is what she said, "We hear the President of the United States continuously state on national television that our southern border is more secure than it has ever been. If given the opportunity to visit with him face to face, my questions to him would be "Mr. President, if our border is safer than it has ever been, then why is more and more of the area of the United States north of the southern border being designated as "the corridor" where it is unsafe for travel. Why, Mr. President, are travel advisory signs being erected in more and more areas of America north of our southern border? Why, Mr. President, are government agencies who have business to conduct south of Interstate 10 in south

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Continued on Page 7

TRANSPORTATION TODAY

By Donna Bolz, NE

National Transportation Chairman

This month's article contains several topics of interest. The first is information that you might not think affects you, but does it?

Studies show that the health risks of pollution from shipping have been underestimated. One giant container ship can emit almost the same amount of cancer and asthma causing chemicals as 50 million cars. Pressure is mounting on the United Nation's International Maritime Organization to tighten laws governing ship emissions around the world. The U.S. government has imposed a strict 230 mile buffer zone along the entire U.S. coast. Research shows that pollution from the world's 90,000 cargo ships leads to 60,000 deaths a year in the U.S. alone and up to \$330 billion per year in health costs from lung and heart diseases. The buffer zone that has been put in place will save an estimated 8,000 lives a year.

Moving on to another subject, a recently released study shows increasing congestion in popular tourist destinations, inadequate roads to serve agricultural and energy output, and cities that are not connected to the Interstate system all require immediate attention and investment to make sure that America's rural areas stay connected. This study is from the Washington-based American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). AASHTO's "Connecting Rural and Urban America" suggests using federal legislation to address the issues.

Key issues from the study include the following:

- During the next 30 years, 80 percent of the nation's population growth is expected to concentrate in the South and West.
- Sixty-six cities with populations of 50,000 or more — including one state capital — do not have immediate access to the Interstate system.
- In 2008, almost one out of eight people aged 65 and older lived in rural areas. That elderly population exceeds 9.6 million people and relies heavily on rural roads and public transit systems for transportation.

As stated above, more investment is needed in America's rural transportation system to keep agriculture, energy products and freight moving; improve access for travel, recreation and tourism industries; connect new and emerging cities; and ensure reliable access to key defense installations, according to AASHTO. "Improving connectivity and mobility for the 60 million Americans who live in rural areas is just as important as improving mobility for those who live in metropolitan areas," said AASHTO Executive Director John Horsley. "Rural states are essential to the nation's success, not only to meet the needs of their own citizens, but also to maintain their part of the national network on which the U.S. economy depends."

The AASHTO report offers a three-point plan to address the problem through any reauthorization of federal transpor-

tation legislation:

- Continue to fund rural portions of the Interstate Highway System and other federal-aid highways that connect America
- Double federal investment in rural transit systems to meet rising demand
- Expand the existing capacity of the Interstate system, upgrade rural routes to Interstate standards, and connect newly urbanized areas to the Interstate system.



PEAS

By Diane McDonald, ND

National Beans, Peas and Lentils Chairman

Dry peas most likely originated in northwest Asia. In Thailand they have been found in caves that are more than 11,000 years old. Dry peas are dried naturally by the late summer sun. They are most commonly split during processing. They are sorted and then they are bombarded against a baffler, which causes them to split in two. This also helps speed up the cooking time.

Americans are most familiar with green peas, but yellow peas are also grown in the Palouse region of the United States. Yellow peas are most commonly consumed in Scandinavia and have a slightly different taste than green peas.

Dry peas are a cool season crop with a relatively shallow root system. Dry peas naturally add nitrogen to the soil, so the crop following the dry peas generally yields more than the same crop grown after cereals or oilseeds.

Dry peas are high in fiber, low in fat, and cholesterol free. University studies have shown they have a beneficial effect on heart health. They also say that flour produced from dry peas is gluten-free and can benefit people with celiac disease. Food use of dry peas includes canning, split, and whole dry markets, as well as flour, starch and fiber. These products are then used in baked goods, baking mixes, soup mixes, breakfast cereals, processed meats, health foods, pastas and purees.

Dry peas are also used for livestock feed. They are a good source of energy and contain amounts of digestible energy comparable to wheat. Feed peas are high in amino acids and lysine. The amino acids in feed peas are highly digestible by hogs and poultry. They are a good source of protein for use in cattle feed.



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Calendar of Events:

National Convention — November 17-21

Deadline for WIFeline reports — November 25

SAFFLOWER

By Phyllis Howatt, ND
National Oilseed Chairman

Safflower is an annual, broadleaf oilseed crop found in the grain production area of the western Great Plains. Evaluations of safflower began in 1925, but the seed had a content that was too low for profitable oil extraction. The Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station worked for many years to develop varieties with higher oil content.

Safflower is an annual species in the same plant family as sunflower. This crop is adapted to dry land or irrigated cropping systems. Each seed germinates and produces a central stem that does not elongate for two to three weeks, and develops leaves near the ground in a rosette, similar to a young thistle. The slow growth of seedlings in early spring often results in a weedy crop. The strong central stems with variable numbers of branches grow to between 12 to 16 inches depending on environmental conditions. Safflower can compensate for hail damage with little yield loss once branches have developed. The crop is more drought tolerant than small grains as it has a taproot that can grow to eight to ten feet if subsoil temperature and moisture allow. Stiff spines develop on leaf margins of varieties at about the flowering bud stage and make it difficult to walk through the fields.

Branches usually produce one to five flower heads. Flower heads, about one inch in diameter, are usually yellow or orange although some varieties have red or white flowers. Flower buds form in late June and flowering starts in mid-July and continues for two to three weeks. Each flower head produces 15 to 30 seeds with seed oil content usually between 30 to 45 percent. Seeds are enclosed in the head at maturity, which prevents shattering before harvest and somewhat delays the feeding loss from birds. Seeds usually mature in September which is about four weeks after flowering ends. Safflower usually needs 110 to 140 days to mature in the upper Midwest.

Safflower is ready to harvest when most of the leaves turn a brown color and very little green color remains on the bracts of the latest flowering heads. Stems should be dry, but not brittle, and seeds should be white and hand thresh easily. The crop should be harvested as soon as it matures in order to avoid the seed discoloration or sprouting in the head that can occur with fall rains.

Safflower was originally grown for the flowers that were used in making red and yellow dyes for clothing and food preparation. Now this crop supplies oil, meal, birdseed, and foots (residue from oil processing) for the food and industrial products market. It is primarily grown for the oil.

Commercial production became concentrated in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. California grows approximately 50 percent of the safflower in the United States with North Dakota and Montana growing most of the domestic production.

There are two types of safflower varieties, the type that produces oil that is high in monounsaturated fatty acids (oleic acid), and the type with high concentrations of polyun-



saturated fatty acids (linoleic acid). When compared to other vegetable oils either type of safflower is very low in saturated fatty acids.

The experiment stations in Williston, North Dakota, and Sidney, Montana, have been involved in research on both safflower plants and the oil. Some fry tests have been done at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Instead of raising your low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol or "bad cholesterol" associated with cardiovascular disease safflower lowers it. French fries and potato wedges made from the MN15620 variety and prepared in safflower oils could be a healthy eating choice. There are no noticeable taste differences from fries and wedges being cooked in other oil. You can eat these products and they will not be detrimental to your health. They can actually help it.

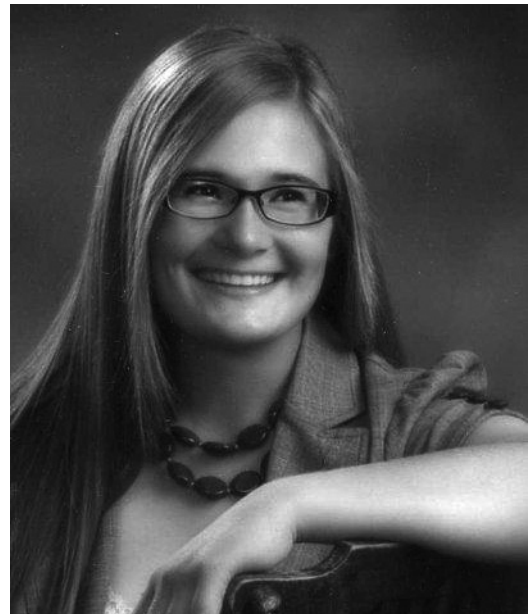
LUNCH

By Jacque Sistrunk, AL
National Peanut Chairman

If you wish to be politically correct, go 'green' by eating a plant-based lunch—a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. We can save our planet with one sandwich at a time and one day at a time. Eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches is 'eating green' or 'green eating'. Join the Save-Our-Planet group by eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.



FAED WINNER



Sage Henderson was one of two winners of a \$500 Marilyn Spiker Memorial Scholarship for Foundation for Agriculture Education and Development (FAED). She is the daughter of Douglas and Sally Hendeson of Alliance, Nebraska. There was a write-up about her in the August issue of WIFeline. The other winner was Jayme Balsdon, daughter of Paul and Lana Balsdon, of Osnabrock, North Dakota,

COURT RULING

By Klodette Stroh, WY
National Sugar Chairman

It has been difficult for me to write about the negative sugar industry news. I never thought Judge Jeffery White would make such an unreasonable decision to halt Roundup Ready sugar beet seed. I truly believe that the United States sugar program operates in a fair condition toward foreign sugar producers and this program enhances America's economy. Roundup Ready sugar beets have helped to keep our fields free of noxious weeds and increased sugar production with a benefit of lower cost to American sugar producers.



The court's ruling will be affecting eleven sugar beet growing states. According to this ruling they will have to change from genetically-engineered sugar beet seed to conventional sugar beet seed, but any sugar beet seed crops that were planted by August 13, 2010, will be sold. This means that this year's (2010) Roundup Ready sugar beet root crops that have already been planted will be processed and sold as sugar. In the meantime, there is hopeful action. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has been requested to authorize seed and root-crop plantings under a combination of permits and other regulatory measures.

More than 1,100,000 acres of sugar beets are grown in 11 states and are processed in 22 sugarbeet factories. The sugar beet industry creates 88,200 full time, direct and indirect jobs for people across the nation. Montana, Idaho, Washington, Colorado, Nebraska, North Dakota, Minnesota, California and Wyoming are among these 11 sugar beet growing states.

The sugar cane production is hauled to eight refineries and 18 mills process sugar cane that is raised in four states: Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana and Texas. The production and processing of sugarcane creates 71,900 full time direct and indirect jobs.

The sugar beet and sugar cane industries need each other to maintain a balance of production to benefit American taxpayers. The court decision which is holding back Roundup Ready sugar beet seed will have a very devastating effect on the United States sugar industry. I am afraid our country will be in need of more imported sugar from foreign countries. This may open the door for foreign countries to sell their sugar to our market with a high profit in their pocket. The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service must comply with environmental statutes, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Foreign countries that will be shipping their product to our country may not have such compliances but nobody will question it.

Common sense is a gift of God and I truly hope and pray for the good of America that our laws start being applied wisely. The sugar industry provides 146,000 jobs and \$10 billion of economic activity in 18 states.

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DAIRY LABELS

By Dianna Reed, KS
National Dairy Chairman

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) has submitted comments to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to crack down on improperly labeled imitation dairy products. NMPF is asking FDA to scrutinize whether the packaging of such foods is giving consumers accurate information.



Public comments are being accepted on what types of point-of-purchase nutrition information, including the product labels on the packages as well as store shelf tags, should be conveyed to shoppers. NMPF stressed to FDA that the actual name of the food on the package, one of the most basic pieces of information that appears on every packaged food, does impact consumers' food purchasing decisions and conveys crucial nutritional information about the product.

Consumers expect dairy products, like milk and yogurt, to contain specific nutrients and, by extension, when they see a plant-based product with 'milk' or 'yogurt' in its name, they expect those products to contain protein, vitamins, and minerals that are equivalent to their dairy counterparts.

Plant-based foods and beverages naturally do not contain the same nutrients as dairy foods, so are fortified. NMPF conducted a survey of commercial products with fortification and found there was a significant variability among the nutrient profiles of the plant-based products and all were inferior to the dairy foods they were trying to imitate.

On the average a consumer spends less than 15 seconds looking at food packages before making a decision. Consumers rely on images or visual cues and text on the front of the package, including the name of the food, rather than making detailed comparisons of the nutritional facts. FDA needs to remember that this behavior is important when labeling a product, especially when the product is a non-dairy alternative using dairy terminology in its name, like "soy milk" or "rice yogurt."

Consumers do not understand the regulations surrounding standards of identity but do understand the health benefits of dairy food. Nutritionally inferior, formulated plant-based imitators are trying to use the dairy halo of good health by incorporating dairy terminology into the names of their foods.

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

TRADE

By Ruth Larabee, NY
National Trade Chairman

Mexico and Canada formally requested the World Trade Organization (WTO) to take action against the United States mandatory country of origin labeling (MCOOL) policy for pork and beef. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association representative, John Masswohl, says the law establishes a financial "disadvantage" to Canadian livestock sales in the U.S., has cost their beef producers approximately \$300 million and their exports of hogs are down almost 50 percent. They also claim that U.S. buyers, in order to recover extra costs as a result of MCOOL, are bidding less for Canadian cattle. The U.S. law requires companies to track and notify customers of the origin of meat and other agricultural products at each phase of production including retail. According to reports, the WTO will not rule on this issue until July of 2011.

The U.S. Senate will delay action on major food legislation until after the November elections. H.R. 2749, the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009, would authorize the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) to inspect and register food processing facilities in the U.S. and other countries and reject any domestic or imported food item found in violation of hazard analysis and risk-based preventative controls.

Several months ago I wrote that many countries were buying land in their neighboring countries to grow food. Food security, food shortages, raising prices, carbon footprints, increased population and the potential for biofuels are some of the reasons for the agricultural "land grab". The World Bank put out a report that the buying of land has increased ten times within the last ten years. According to some claims approximately 80 percent of the land has been "banked" at this time which means it is not in production. Investors are also looking at large markets such as palm oil producers or yield-increasing technology companies.

Reports of abnormally high cheese yields in California, potentially involving imported Milk Protein Concentrates, (MPC's) has the attention of many people across the United States. The controversial practice reportedly involves the use of dairy proteins, including cheap imported MPC's, and sodium gluconate in a process developed by publicly funded research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While conventional cheese making processes yield about ten pounds of natural cheese per hundredweight of raw milk, yields of over thirteen pounds of cheese per hundredweight have been reported in California in recent years. The development coincides with the deep depression in farm milk prices in the past two years. Some dairy leaders are now fingering the process as a new culprit.

When China held the Olympics it was reported that they shut down many of the plants nearby because of so much pollution. Pictures showed how it was affecting the foliage in and around the area. Some new studies are showing that in 2007 the greenhouse gas emissions for China were approximately 14 percent higher than the United States. That report was put out by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. The United States has rules and regulations that



our industries, whether agriculture or manufacturing, have to live by while China does not have any. With the outsourcing of American jobs and trade, the number of higher emissions for China has just begun.

China continues to manipulate their currency generating a large surplus. There is a renewed push at the congressional level to correct the severe problem.

(Sources: US Trade Washington, Investors Chronicle, The Canadian Press, USTR, CPA Trade Reform, Reuters)

CEREAL GRAINS

By Lisa Goodheart, KS
National Cereal Grains Chairman

For plant breeders working on the next generation of wheat varieties, the report that the first sequence of the wheat genome had been "cracked" was welcome news. There is considerable work to be done, as the raw data is incomplete and must be refined, but the progress on the sequencing effort is noteworthy.



Wheat is considered to be one of the major food staples in European agriculture, as well as in India, China and Africa. Global wheat production has been under threat in recent years from increasing demand and climate change. The severe drought and wildfires in Russia, as well as flooding in Pakistan and mudslides in China, recently made wheat prices spike and created worldwide concern about possible wheat shortages. Genome sequencing will help plant breeders select traits for healthy yields, which is crucial to meet increased demand from growing populations and to overcome challenges such as shortages of land, water, and fertilizer. By sequencing the wheat genome, specific genes can be identified and manipulated to increase tolerance to drought, produce better grain quality, and increase resistance to crop diseases.

Due to advances in DNA technology, sequencing the wheat genome only took a year compared to fifteen years for the human genome. The wheat genome is the largest to be decoded to date, and this was accomplished with the help of advanced sequencing technology. It is five times larger than the human genome and is a very complex structure. This breakthrough will enable scientists and breeders worldwide to use it in a new breeding method called macro-assisted selection that could result in increased speed and efficiency of plant breeding. It is expected that the wheat varieties that will come to the market in the next five to ten years will be more resilient and robust, which should smooth out the "booms and busts", such as variety breakdowns due to new races of wheat rust and other plant diseases.

NOTICE OF FAED ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Foundation for Agricultural Education and Development will be held on Friday, November 19, 2010, at 7:30 a.m. at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, in Billings, Montana.

CHINA *Continued from page 1*

317,000 gallons of diesel per year. Construction cost in U.S. money is over \$145 million per ship. Its first trip was on September 8, 2006. The History Channel noted on March, 2010, that all of these containers go back to China empty—we send nothing back on those ships. About 91 percent of Walmart products are made in China. Who is buying all of these goods? You can tell by the crowds in the stores. How many jobs in the U.S. and Canada have they replaced?

China's middle class is growing. The average income for urban residents is \$2,310 and rural residents get about \$697. More than 20 million rural Chinese move to cities annually and that will continue. More money means changing diets for the people. However, even though China has one of every five people on the planet, they only have seven percent of the world's arable land. China is the largest world importer of soybeans, buying one out of every two bushels the U.S. exports. They produce about half of the world's hogs and use soybean meal for their commercial hog operations. They also now raise more poultry than any other nation and have a 70 percent share of the world's aquaculture production. They have bought almost no corn as they still raise some. By the end of 2009, China was a major customer for distiller's dried grains from the ethanol industry.

China is also aggressive in Latin America. China played a big role in upgrading Cuba's air defense system and has a presence at two Cuban military facilities that can be used to collect U.S. intelligence data. China has become the second-largest exporter to Mexico after the U.S. where they are more of a rival than trading partner. With help from China, Colombia's Sinopec completed an \$800 million deal to acquire a 50 percent share of an oil company, Ominex de Colombia. Mexico supports China's bid to formally join the Inter-American Development Bank. An El Salvadoran company expects to sell 100,000 Chinese-made Chery cars in Central America this year and another 300,000 next year. Hutchison Whampoa has a 50-year lease on management of ports on each side of the Panama Canal. Port operations allow it to monitor military and commercial traffic and potentially to deny transit through this strategic port. Another Chinese company, Cosco Pacific, is among the bidders for development of a rival port on the Pacific side of Panama. China may also participate in the \$5.2 billion canal expansion. Venezuela is has the most extensive military cooperation with the Chinese in Latin America outside of Cuba. It has purchased three JYL-1 mobile air defense radars and is considering buying fighter jets from China. The two countries signed \$11 billion in energy and transportation agreements. China will also participate in the construction of three refineries for oil while Venezuela guarantees uninterrupted deliveries to China.

Zinc, nickel, lumber, mining & oil equipment lead China's fastest-growing exports to the U.S. while tobacco, corn and precious metals are popular American imports in China. China exported US\$287.8 billion worth of merchandise to the United States in 2006, up an impressive 130 percent in just four years. America is the number one trading partner for China's exports. Chinese imports from the U.S. rose 31.7 percent to \$55.2 billion in 2006 and up an even more impres-

sive 150 percent since 2002. In terms of the merchandise flow between the two countries, America's trade deficit with China was \$232.5 billion in 2006, up 125 percent from 2002. The U.S. trade deficit with China increased 15.4 percent in 2006 – significantly down from the 24.5 percent deficit increase in 2005 from the year earlier.

Continued from page 2

TAMMY'S TOPICS

ern New Mexico being required to have armed guards when they travel to our area to conduct business? If our southern border is more secure and safer than it has ever been, then I ask you, Mr. President, what is wrong with this picture? Wake up, Mr. President, and put the safety and welfare of American citizens first and foremost. That is what the President of the United States should do. Stop turning a blind eye to what is happening in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Illegal immigrants and the crime they are involved in is bringing our nation down....one law-abiding citizen at a time."

Karen Bud-Fallen will end the evening with information about what environmental groups are doing.

Montana weather in November can be an adventure! Tours on Saturday will be in Billings or nearby so you may not get to see the beautiful open spaces the area has to offer. However that can be remedied by going on the Sunday tour to the Murray Ranch when you can get out of town and see the remote places some WIFE members live in plus see where the dinosaurs roamed.

CONVENTION

Montana WIFE members are excited to be hosting the 2010 National WIFE Convention and welcome all of the National WIFE members to the Billings Hotel and Convention Center in Billings, Montana, on November 17-21, 2010.

Plans are underway with several informational events such as a banking panel which will address agriculture lending issues and a private property rights forum with several notable participants. And, of course, we are working on several "entertainment" avenues for the lighter side of the convention.

As you know, November weather in Montana is quite unpredictable, so most of the tours that we are planning will be in the city of Billings. Another attraction that might be of interest to WIFE members that weekend is the large Holiday Craft Show at the Metra Park Expo Center—and, remember, Montana doesn't have a sales tax, so you might want to bring an extra suitcase to do some Christmas shopping!!

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Billings!

Linda Newman, Montana State WIFE President

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 national convention.

FOOD SAFETY AND PROJECTS

By Cynthia Thomsen, NE
National Health/Finance Chairman

Recently a lady from California told of two new magazines at a museum. They are *Mary Jane Farm and Urban Farming*. Supposedly Mary Jane Farm is equal to Martha Stewart in fame for new rural readers who are following the rural trend today. Check them out by putting [www.](http://www) in front of the names and adding .com to the end. You will be surprised at what you see. The first is more like a California-type magazine while the other looks pretty good.

Folks want to raise their own chickens and produce eggs. It is the fastest rural industry and producers can't keep up with demand. A producer of cattle, chickens and milk lives nearby and has grown to the point of having a delivery route for his products in Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska. He has a newsletter and a website for his customers to place their orders. He began by going to Farmer's Markets in three locations. For help in establishing his business, he signed up for the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP). To do so, you are required to take their four sessions on how to run a business before qualifying for a loan. For more information, go to www.cfra.org/reap.

With food safety being such a top subject today, you can understand why consumers are seeking a safe source of food. As the consumer is further removed from the farm and its background, you understand their need to connect with grassroots groups.

The thin pamphlet "An Adaptive Program for Agriculture" is authored by the Research and Policy Committee of the Committee for Economic Development (CED). The website, www.ced.org, says "The Committee for Economic Development is an independent, nonpartisan organization for business and education leaders dedicated to policy research on the major economic and social issues of our time and the implementation of its recommendations by the public and private sectors." The name sounds harmless. However, this CED committee is comprised of about 200 CEOs of major corporations, with a few academics included. There are no agricultural people unless you count the president of King Ranch, Inc., and agricultural business people like Continental, Heinz, Deere and Company, Oscar Mayer, Hormel, General Foods, etc. This is a program laid out over 50 years ago to industrialize agriculture. To make it happen farm prices had to stay low enough and long enough to make it work. The CED put out a series of "plans" for various aspects of American life, schools, local governments, money distributions, foreign affairs, etc. A 2007 report recommends a market-based universal health-insurance system that allows consumer choice of a health plan with a systemic restructuring of the health-insurance system. Check it out at your local library. It is Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 62-19145. When you find the article, it has probably never been checked out by anyone.



WTO-COOL

By Mary Ellen Cammack, SD
National Beef Chairman

The World Trade Organization (WTO) met in Geneva, Switzerland on September 14-15, 2010. Canada and Mexico have charged that the United States Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) has violated the WTO agreement. Canada has maintained that COOL has caused that country approximately \$300 million dollars of economic harm. While the United States did not challenge that allegation, it did argue that those impacts were due to market participants, not any United States government requirements. The U.S. focused on two points: 1) COOL was designed to inform consumers, not restrict trade and 2) COOL has not caused any segregation or other negative impact on Canadian cattle. Mexico, along with several third party countries, also participated in the WTO dispute panel.

Canadian Premier Brad Wall would prefer a "North American Label" rather than COOL which distinguishes meat processed in the U.S., but from Canadian livestock as a Canadian origin. Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) said, "Having a Canadian label is not so bad. Consumers in America appreciate the fact that countries like Canada, which is our largest trade partner, provides a safe and secure quality agricultural product."

Alejandro Gomez, outside legal counsel to the CNOG, which is the Mexican Cattlemen's Association, maintains that COOL has caused a \$40-\$60 drop in the per-head price of Mexican cattle imported into the United States and has limited the number of larger packers willing to take the cattle.

This hearing was the first opportunity for the three-person WTO dispute panel to personally engage with Canada, Mexico and the United States as well as "third party" countries. The panelists were well prepared as written statements were submitted over the summer and the panelists asked many probing questions. This review process is lengthy. Both sides will now have five weeks to prepare written answers for the questions posed by the panel. A second oral hearing will take place in December which will be followed by more written submissions. A final panel report is scheduled for July 2011. An appeal is expected regardless of the decision, which could take another year and push it into 2012.



BIOGRAPHY

The experience of writing for the WIFE paper has been excellent. I appreciate folks forwarding material to help write useful material for the involved members and informing those who are reading the paper. Please consider voting for me to continue with the position of National Health, Farm Finance, and Communication Chairman. Cynthia Thomsen

TENTATIVE CONVENTION AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:00 am Executive Committee
10:00 am Budget and Finance Committee
11:00 am By-law Committee
Lunch on your own
12:00 -- 5:00 pm FAED meeting
1:30 - 2:45 Media Workshop
3:00 - 4:30 Banking Panel
4:30- 5:00 Craig Henke, Emissions injection system
4:30 Nominations Committee
5:30 - 6:30 Supper
6:30 pm Resolutions Committee

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

7:00 am State President's Breakfast
7:00 am Breakfast for all members
8:00 am - 9:45 am Board of Directors
9:45 am -10:00 am Break
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Convention opens
12:00 - 1:30 Susan Metkaff
1:30 - 1:45 break
1:45 - 2:45 John Munsel
2:45 pm - 5:00 pm Convention
5:15 pm - Supper
6:00 pm Private property mini-seminar
United Property owners of Montana,
Western Legacy, Karen Bud-Fallen
Sue Krentz -- invited

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:00 am - 8:00 am Election
7:30 am - 8:30 am FAED Breakfast
8:30 am - 9:15 am Caucus - Beef, Sheep and Goats, Pork ,
Rural health
9:15 am - 10:30 am Caucus - Dairy, Private Property, Cereal
Grains, Peanuts
10:30 am - 11:30 am Caucus - Sugar, Trade, Transportation
11:30 pm - 12:00 pm New officer Caucus
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch, Susan Metkaff
1:45 pm - 4:00 pm Convention
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm Break
4:15 pm - 5:30 pm Convention
7:00 pm - Banquet

SATURAY, NOVEMBER 21

7:30 am - Breakfast
8:30 am - BOD TOURS

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21

Extended farm/ranch tour to Mary Ann Murray Ranch

POSITIONS OPEN

The National Convention will soon be here. Numerous positions and some offices are still open with no one endorsed for them. The offices of vice-president and secretary are open and both are needed for our organization to function. Several chairmanships are vacant, too. Seriously think about applying for one of the above and get your endorsement ready before you get to Billings.

FOREIGN HOLDINGS

By Marlene Kouba

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) routinely releases news reports on "Foreign Holdings of U.S. Agricultural Land" and can be found on their website. Check them out at [HYPER-LINK "http://www.fsa.usda.gov"](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) www.fsa.usda.gov. and type in Foreign Holdings in the Search box.

This year it reports that foreign persons have an interest in 1.7 percent of all privately held U.S. agricultural land and 0.98 percent of all land in the nation. This is a 1.3 million acre increase from 2008. A breakdown by acreage includes forest land—59 percent, cropland—14 percent, pasture and other—27 percent.

Countries with foreign persons holding the largest amount of land include: Canadians—over 7.7 million acres or 34 percent, Netherlands—almost 3.9 million acres or 17 percent, United Kingdom—over 1.5 million acres or 7 percent and Germany—over 1.4 million acres or 6 percent.

The states with the highest share of foreign owned land includes: Maine—2.82 million acres or 15.7 percent, Hawaii—8.8 percent, Washington—7.6 percent, Nevada—5.3 percent, and Alabama—5.1 percent.

FSA's reports are in compliance with the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978. The law was created to establish a nationwide system for the collection of information pertaining to foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land. The regulations require foreign investors who acquire, transfer or hold an interest in U.S. land to report to the Secretary of Agriculture. The data is then reported annually to Congress.

BUSHMEAT

Unusual meats are a delicacy in Paris but many are illegal because of diseases ranging from monkeypox to Ebola. Most of it arrives from Africa and is smoked or dried. Bushmeat is on many menus. However it could be crocodile, monkeys, large rats, small antelopes, pangolins or anteaters. Almost 40 percent are on the International Endangered Species list. Researchers estimate that about five tons of bushmeat arrive in Paris each week. Bushmeat is widely eaten and sold in Central and West Africa with Central African Republic, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo being the main sources.

CRICKETS

There are more than 2400 species of crickets (seven in North America) and some have been around for more than 300 million years. They vary in length from a tenth of an inch to two inches. The name means "to creak". They have two pairs of wings--one set for flying and one that produces the chirp. Field crickets eat seeds, small fruits, dead insects. House crickets are European imports and dine on food scraps. They have excellent eye sight and hearing. Their hearing involves highly sensitive organs below the knees of their front legs. Their songs are for calling, courting and fighting and are produced by scrapers on one forewing rubbed against teeth on the other. The wings act as amplifiers. The rate varies with temperature. Eggs are planted in soil or plant tissue. They live only two months.

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Registration Women Involved in Farm Economics 34th National Convention - November 17-21, 2010

Billings Hotel & Convention Center
1223 Mallowney Lane - Billings, MT 59101

RESERVATIONS

Call the Hotel at: 1-800-537-7286 or 406-248-7151
www.billingshotel.net Courtesy shuttle to and from airport
Room rate for 1-4 is \$64.00 plus tax
Deadline for reserving rooms at above rate is November 1

Return to: Gladys Walling
PO Box 55
Winifred, MT 59489
406-462-5330

Registration: \$165.00, spouse \$135.00
After Nov. 1, \$175.00, spouse \$145.00
Optional tour on Nov. 21 is \$20.00
Friday night banquet only \$20.00
Private property mini seminar only \$25.00

Make checks payable to: Women Involved in Farm Economics

Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

National Position: (specify) _____

Please check all that apply: State President () BOD Delegate () Member () Guest ()

Check if roommate needed () Special diet required: _____

(We only share your name with others looking for a roommate. You must make arrangements and book your room.)