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Nelson encourages WIFE members to be proactive

By Ruth Laribee
New York

William J. Nelson, Vice President of CHS Corporate Citizenship, spoke to members at the annual National WIFE Convention in New Mexico, sharing facts, financials, and fun. CHS Inc. is a Fortune 100 organization founded in 1931 and is owned by United States agricultural cooperatives, farmers, ranchers and thousands of preferred stockholders across the United States. There are 17 directors, all full time producers. The company supplies crop nutrients, energy, food and food ingredients, grain, and livestock feed in addition to business solutions including insurance and financial and risk management services.

The company moves grain to customers for seven months but has to outsource the other three months. CHS operates petroleum refineries/pipelines and manufacturers, and it markets and distributes Cenex brand refined fuels, lubricants, propane and renewable energy products.

Cenex is taken from the last two words (central exchange) of Farmers Union Central Exchange, which was established in 1931. CHS today is a combination of many mergers of farmer owned cooperatives. The company has joint ventures including with Cargo in processing, Temko for a shipping facility, and Mitsui & Co. for Ventura Food LLC, which



William Nelson, VP Corporate Citizenship and President CHS Foundation, with WIFE Executive Committee members Shana Baisch, Dianna McDonald, Deb Dressler, Tammy Basel and Ruth Laribee.

manufactures vegetable oil based products. Ventura Foods owns and distributes the consumer brands Marie's Dressing, Dean's Dip, and others.

Nelson said the company is being responsible with a net income in 2010 of \$502.2 million. Total assets in 2011 are \$8.7 billion. It is ranked first on the National Cooperative Bank Coop 100 list of cooperatives and mutuals. Several billions have been returned to the owners and stockholders.

The CHS Foundation, of which Nelson is the President, is the major giving entity of CHS Inc. As part of the CHS and of the CHS stewardship focus, the CHS Foundation is seen by Mr. Nelson as an investment in the young people who are the

future of rural America, agriculture, and cooperative business via education and leadership development. 4-H equips today's youth with the knowledge and skills to become the next generation of leaders in the production, science, technology and business of agriculture. CHS and the CHS Foundation pledged \$120,000 over the next two years to 4-H, the largest out of school youth program, which provides hands on science, engineering and technology (SET), citizenship and healthy living programs to youth across the nation. The contribution will be used to develop ag science learning activities within the Project Pathways system, a complete dig-

Continued on Page 3

President's Report



By Deb Dressler
North Dakota

WIFE president addresses members in New Mexico

Following is President Dressler's welcome to those attending the WIFE national convention:

Welcome to all WIFE members, spouses and honored guests. A special thank you goes to past national

WIFE presidents attending the 35th anniversary of WIFE. WIFE was organized in Sidney, Neb., on Dec 6, 1976, for the purpose of promoting prosperity in agriculture. Founders Mickey Spiker and Fran Grant were playing bridge one evening and discussed their husbands' discouragement and depression with working so hard yet receiving prices for grain and livestock below the cost of production.

They decided action was needed, and they set the plan in motion. After choosing a name, a local reporter interviewed the ladies and was impressed with their ideas and gave them press coverage. Seventy ladies from Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming attended the meeting. With a massive letter writing campaign, the organization grew to become a local, state, and nationally respected and viable grassroots organization.

While reading the 30th anniversary WIFE history book, I realized the WIFE founders were a dynamic and passionate group. It brings me back to my first national convention I attended in Bismarck, North Dakota, in 1991. I had recently joined the Hebron chapter and was coerced to participate in the media training. My husband and I were awed by the energetic group of women from all across the nation who were well versed in issues facing agricultural producers. While

working in the media room, Jenifer Felzien and Jonny Hammonds soon became my mentors. Heartfelt thanks goes out to these WIFE members who gave me my start in WIFE! I wasn't aware of the red color that WIFE wore, but now my closet has more red in it than any other color. From that humble beginning 20 years ago, I am honored to have served as president of one of the most respected agriculture organizations, be it on the hill in DC or in the country. The friendships and lasting support I have gleaned through WIFE are truly priceless.

I have always wondered how many millions of volunteer hours WIFE members have donated of their time and talents to make what WIFE is today and has been for the last 35 years. Our children were 15 and 11 when I joined WIFE. They helped stuff, fold, and address press releases. Many WIFE members in this room and those that have passed had younger children than I. Accolades go out to those members.

Husbands of WIFE HOWs must also be commended for keeping the home fires burning, the farms' and ranches' daily business going, being chief cook and bottle washer, and most of all a support system for WIFE members when we come to bumps in the road. Would all the husbands of WIFE please stand for a well-deserved thank you from WIFE. I always joke that HOWs get to visit and tour while WIFE members toil at the meetings. Where would we be without our families' great support system?

We all can relate to the trials and tribulations of starting up as young farmers or ranchers. That is why WIFE was founded 35 years ago. I urge all of you to go out and tell your story. As in the mission statement of WIFE it states, "Profit is necessary if the farm is to succeed from generation to generation." How many nights have you worried how the bills are

going to be paid with cost of production high and low commodity prices or floods, drought, hail, and blizzards? Farmers and ranchers are true stewards of the land.

On one of my first trips to DC, I was accompanied by husband Russ and son Ty. My husband told the story of a particular spring snowstorm during calving. We all had been trying to save chilled calves as they were born. Russ said we were caught up and I could take a few hours to catch up in the house.

No sooner had I drawn a nice tub of bath water than there was another chilled calf that needed the hot water immersion. Sarah McClendon smiled at the story and impressed upon our son to learn from the rural work ethic and our many freedoms we have in America. I would never have met a respected press woman like Sarah if not for WIFE.

Help America grow-buy American. If we all try, we can make a difference. I challenge everyone to buy American when possible and be mindful of the tag "Made in the USA." Maybe if we ask for American labels, more will come to the forefront.

WIFE's mission's statement: "Dedicated to improving profitability in production agriculture through educational, legislative, communicative and cooperative efforts" still holds true today. WIFE will continue to work as a catalyst to bring cooperation between farm organizations.

Thank you to all members of the executive committee, commodity and topic chairmen, standing committees, state presidents, and individuals. I wouldn't be here today without your many volunteer hours you have so graciously shared.

Go forth and tell your story. Help America grow-buy American.

Be a part of the wheel that goes around telling the story of American agriculture.

National Convention News

WIFE members encouraged to be proactive

Continued from Page 1

ital platform which will replace printed learning materials and activities. This will be put on-line for youth to use.

Nelson told the group he grew up on a farm and put hay in with a hay loader. One can see the enthusiasm Nelson has for the Foundation and 4-H. In a current news release, he stated "We're proud to partner with 4-H in preparing these up and coming leaders for a strong future in the agriculture industry."

Since 1946, the CHS Foundation has given away \$285,500 in scholarships, helping 211 students at 75 colleges and universities, and expects the amount given will be over \$300,000 next year. The company has several different programs, i.e. Rural Youth Leadership (4-H and

FFA); Beginning Ag Teachers (getting ag teachers in touch with industry); and Women in FFA, (FFA was originally started for young boys in farming, but we are seeing more women coming up through the ranks). They also have Agriculture Health and Safety Issues, Farm Safety for

Just Kids, Agri Safe, Safety Day, and others.

They provide masks and equipment, as Nelson said some kids have a 10 percent lung problem from spraying tanks, etc.

CHS gave North Dakota \$100,000 when the flood disaster hit. They are involved

with Pathway Health Services, providing electronic health recording; specialist jobs, providing business support for the Mayo Clinic; and recruiting interns for the Internship and Student Employment Services,

Nelson declared that we in ag have to be proactive.

Members tour dairy plant

*By Dianna Reed
Kansas*

WIFE members attending the National Convention were awarded the opportunity to tour F & A Dairy Products. This plant was built in 1965 and is located just outside of Las Cruces, N.M. F & A processes many different cheeses including Mozzarella, Muenster, and Provolone.

On the day of WIFE's arrival, they unfortunately were not processing any cheeses, but members were able to view the packing of the Munster cheese. The cheese is fed into the packing room on conveyor belts where it

is sliced into 5lb blocks, put through an orange solution, and put into a plastic sleeve. It then goes into a chamber where the water is blown off of the package, and then sealed with vacuum heat.

F & A receives about 3 million pounds of milk per day from many of the surrounding dairies. It is then separated before the cheese processing begins, which takes about 3 hours before it arrives to the brine vats. The whey that is separated from the milk is dried and sold for use in many other dairy products.

The water that is taken from the whey process is then recycled for many other uses in the plant. Much of the cheese processed at F & A is shipped to the mid-west and east coast. Even though it was a short tour, it was very interesting and informative.

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National Convention News

Public lands panel addresses wilderness designations

By Alice Parker

Attendees at National WIFE Convention learned about “Public Land Access—Wilderness Designation and Environmental Extremists Impact on America’s Economy, Productivity and Security.” The panel consisted of Dr. Jerry Schinkendanz, President, People for Preserving Our Western Heritage Land Status; Carol Richardson, Retired Educator; Gene Wood, National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers; and Dr. John Fowler, Chairman, Linebery Policy Center for Resource Management. Topics covered by the panelists were “How We Got Here”; “Federal Lands and Border Security”; Border Security and Federal Wilderness Designation”; and “The Cost of Wilderness.”

Dr. Schinkendanz presented an

overview of the history of early settlement and the influences on the settlement. Influences were the Native Americans, the Spanish and Angelo influences, and Land Acquisition, (i.e. Louisiana Purchase, Texas Annexation, Mexican Cession, Gadsden Purchase, Civil War, and the Transcontinental Railroad). In those days, news traveled as fast as a horse could walk. The Homestead Act of 1862 gave homesteaders 160 acres if they were 21 and not a member of the Confederated Union. The Act was enlarged to 320 acre in 1909.

Land could be purchased for \$1.25 per acre, but the Act included an improvement provision that was mostly used to meet the requirements of the Act. In 1916, the Stock Raising Homestead Act expanded ownership to 640 acres. Other influences included the Railroad

Grants, which gave a 10 mile strip of land on each side of the railroad; the Mining Claims Act of 1872; development of Land Management Agencies; the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act; and the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976, which stopped homesteading and stopped land disposal.

Mr. Wood stated that 245million acres are under the Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction with 143,400 acres on international boundaries. Wilderness designation is the most restrictive with basically NO access to anyone. Illegal entry is a violation of the law, but only a minor offense. Most of those coming across the Northern border have criminal records.

There have been 113 agents murdered in the line of duty. H.R. 1505 National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act has been introduced in Congress. WIFE members were encouraged to consider contacting members of Congress to support this legislation.

Ms. Richardson has prepared a film, “Federal Lands and Border Security,” that is available for viewing. The word Wilderness is proposed to be changed to “Conservation and Protection Act.”

Dr. Fowler spoke about the “Cost of Wilderness.” The land tenure system is 78 million acres, which includes 9.2 million acres in National Forest and 1.39 million acres in Wilderness. We are empowered by our constitution with State Sovereignty.

We must have data to go along with the emotional issues when addressing issues important to us. Wilderness was first designated in 1924. The economic impacts are polarized. In the Southwest region in 1910, livestock numbers were 1.4 million head. In 1998, the number had decreased to .2 million head. The Wilderness Act of 1940 created Forest Grazing regulations, and the 1964 Act had Forest Grazing Guidelines. These regulations and guidelines have had a negative adverse impact to local economics. Available data is inconsistent.

Fine dining in New Mexico



The owner of La Posta addresses the WIFE Convention attendees at the no-host dinner there. He welcomed the group and gave a history of the restaurant.

National Convention News

Catlett delivers keynote to members in Las Cruces

By Barbara Broberg

Dr. Lowell Catlett of New Mexico State University spoke to WIFE in Las Cruces. He was yet another fine speaker that Sheila Massey was able to encourage to speak to the members. He said she used The Mom Factor on him. He is a coveted keynote speaker, a foxy Futurist!

He was raised in Texas on a 1,000 head in-a -good -year cattle on wheat operation. While we knew New Mexico as The Land of Enchantment, our good Dr. called it the Land of Entrapment as he described walking with his dogs by the river, watching the color of the mountains change. It changes you, and you can't leave!

He told convention attendees that his parents were a work unit. His dad helped give perspective to Lowell's college education: "Something that's knowable doesn't mean it's worth knowing."

He said that marriage is an institution that functions AND works. In his dad's words, "There ain't any job titles on this spread of land." Catlett said his mom was "the best cowboy on the place. She did it all-then went in to cook supper."

Catlett has worked as a professional economist for 30 years. He gave all the statistics to show that this is a time of concentrated wealth with more disposable income (after taxes, housing, basics and food) than ever before in history. To keep an economy growing, it is important to keep purchasing. He said, "My wife won't let me go to Home Depot or Lowes

alone" and that each lady has 17 pair of shoes; that's three pair every six months.

He shared a few quotes: "The concept of history creates optimism."

Henry Ford - "Faster horse? No, I gave them a car."

Steve Jobs - "American people don't know what they want...I want to help them find it."

Agri-Tourism

Twenty percent of the agri-tourism sector is hunting. When hunters happened onto the Catlett Ranch, his dad said, "Make sure you close the gate."

Food

Ten years ago, the organic sector was almost non-existent. Today it is 4 percent and growing. Beef is a growing sector. More steakhouses and more prime steak are available. In contrast, Catlett said, "Dad put beef on the table every night, but it was spent mother cows. More like 8 hours cooking first!"

Catlett said that this is the golden age of agriculture. Calories on the table? What kind of calories? The market is looking at gluten free beer. A woman says she could sell 6 percent more ORGANIC! vodka. People are pursuing health at the spa. The future may be five acres, a little ranch, a sustainable energy source, conservation farming methods, and a niche market.

Catlett said you can rise above poverty: three things work: 1) Graduate from high school; 2) Have a full time job; 3) Be part of two parents



for your children.

Today, people have 80 percent more money than their parents. "And they want free-range chickens!" Catlett said. "Do you know what free-range chickens eat!? I'll take mine fed on corn and soybeans thank you".

People with money are spending more on: 1) Entertainment; and 2) Pets. For farms, that translates into alternative, possibly organic food for Fido.

The best crop to harvest is stupid people, according to Catlett. But who is that? When the flat screen was 14 years old, someone said, "We can put a screen like that on a phone." His generation (that's us ladies) said, "Why would we do that?" Today the present growing generation has never lived without a cell phone, and they are untethered EXCEPT for a cell phone. Eighty-five percent of "phone use" is other-than-phone! Steve Jobs said, "If you are gonna carry

it around, make it DO something." WWII was when the wrist watch came into its own. Now it's a fashion item to wear a watch, and you get the time-of-day off your cellphone. The Blackberry "phone" is built by nerds for nerds. It's the apps!

Beef

Beef is a display counter of pink stuff at the grocery aisle, according to Catlett. This generation doesn't cook. They assemble food. You can now have your Blackberry look the meat label QR (quick response) code, and the Blackberry brings up a chef showing how to work with the the meat and what else to bring home from the store to optimize the food experience. It can possibly a link to your medical record to see if the meal is within the parameter of your doctor's recommendation.

We are part of this: two people. A couple working together. A unit that works. This is the golden age of agriculture.

National Convention News

Ag official discusses Farm Bill changes with WIFE

By Pam Potthoff
NE WIFE President

At the WIFE National Convention in Las Cruces, New Mexico, Larry Dominguez, Director of Industry and Agency Programs for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, gave his predictions concerning the 2012 Farm and Agriculture Act. Dominguez reminded WIFE that the current Farm Bill allocates 10 percent for crop insurance, 12 percent for commodities title, and 9 percent for conservation. The bulk of the program, 68 percent, goes to food assistance, which is also called the Nutrition Program.

Historically, the Farm Bill enjoys a lengthy developmental process involving all the stakeholders through national listening sessions and later a comment period, the USDA through its leadership, and the Agriculture Committees of the House and Senate. Dominguez said the 2012 Farm Bill will be budget driven, a product of the deficit reduction process and, as such, only a small component of the total program. The USDA has been relatively quiet on the sidelines and only the leadership of the House and Senate Ag Committees are involved. That means that basi-

cally only four people (and their staffs) are working on the final product. They may be influenced by lobbyists, but there has been no formal citizen input as they work.

The Super Committee, formally the Joint Select Committee on Budget Reduction, will use reductions in the Farm Bill to meet the monumental challenge of cutting \$1.5 trillion from the federal budget. Because of the specific timeline required for the Super Committee, the 2012 Farm Bill approval process has been gutted. There is little transparency as the bill is written by four committee leaders, no time to review or no way for Congress to act on the proposal before it goes to the Super Committee.

The reality of the 2012 Farm Bill, according to Dominguez, is there will be less money to work with. On October 14, the Ag Committees' leadership offered a \$23 billion cut, which included \$13 billion to the commodity title, \$6 billion for conservation, and \$4 billion for nutrition.

Dominguez expects a safety net of some kind will replace revenue-based risk management program, thus, eliminating direct and counter-cyclical payments, loan deficiency, ACRE and SURE.

Dominguez foresees plenty of bicker-

ing, lobbying and attempts to include earmarks in the final package. If the proposal is not completed in time for Super Committee deadlines, the committee could take the \$23 billion reduction and put in language for jurisdiction to allow the ag committees to continue planning. If the Super Committee does not finish its work, all programs are to take a 9 percent budget cut.

Dominguez reminded WIFE the Farm Bill has always been called the Farm Bill and that makes those outside of agriculture think producers get it all. There is a need to educate the general public on the source of their food. Dominguez said, "With a full stomach and good food supply, consumers rarely think about or don't know at all where that food comes from."

Dominguez concluded by challenging WIFE members to continue to aggressively tell the story of agriculture.

NASCOE executive addresses WIFE

By Doris Ourecky

Dale R. Fowers, SW Area Executive National Association of County and State Office Employees (NASCOE), spent all day Friday and Saturday with WIFE members at Convention. He shared a little about his life, telling about growing up on a farm in Utah, and said that when people find the blood that flows in their veins, they are more clear thinking.

What is going to turn around the economy? Mr. Fowers said that people need to pay more attention to ag and buying American products.

The three principals that this nation was built on were 1) Ag – if you wake up hungry, you can't think straight; 2) Min-

ing; and 3) Industry.

People want FOOD more than FREEDOM. Just think about it: cattle won't run out of a gate when you feed them well.

The greatest teachers teach with symbols. He will always know when he sees ladies in red and also the lady with the pitchfork that we are the Women Involved in Farm Economics.

NASCOE represents the employees of the FSA. He expressed NASCOE's appreciation for WIFE and said that we are on the same page.

Mr. Fowers was one of the few speakers who spent time attending the commodity/topic caucuses and the group tours.

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National Convention News

Sapphire Energy develops breakthrough technology

By Marlene Kouba
National Energy Chairman

Sapphire Energy was founded with one mission in mind: to change the world by developing a domestic, renewable source of energy that benefits the environment and hastens America's energy independence.

What began as a debate among friends in early 2007 on how to create the perfect biofuel by integrating the principals of industrial biotechnology has become today's Sapphire Energy, with facilities in Las Cruces and Columbus in New Mexico plus San Diego and Orange Country in California.

With the support of respected investors, including: Arch Venture Partners; The Wellcome Trust, the world's largest biomedical research charity; Cascade Investment, an investment holding company owned by Bill Gates; and Venrock, the venture capital arm of the Rockefeller family, their vision is becoming a reality.

Sapphire has already developed breakthrough technology to produce fungible, drop-in transportation fuels—including 91 octane gasoline, 89 cetane diesel, and jet fuel—all out of algae, sunlight, and carbon dioxide (CO₂). They call it Green Crude. This algae-based fuel is renewable, is produced in the United States, has a low carbon footprint, is price-competitive, and fits into existing energy infrastructure. The company has developed 334 patents in the past three years.

In 2008, Sapphire successfully produced 91-octane gasoline from algae that fully conforms to ASTM certification standards. In 2009, they participated in a test flight using algae-based jet fuel in a Boeing 737-800 twin-engine aircraft. They provided the fuel for the world's first cross-country tour of a gasoline vehicle powered with a complete drop-in replacement fuel containing a mixture of hydrocarbons refined directly from algae-based Green Crude.

In 2010, they began construction for an Integrated Algal Bio-Refinery in



Southern New Mexico, a project that was awarded more than \$100 million in federal grant money from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act through the U.S. Department of Energy and a loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Bio-refinery Assistance Program.

The facility in Las Cruces is the only one like it in the world. It covers 22 acres with 10 acres enclosed in a fence. Workers include engineers, welders and environmental technicians trained by the military. The work is all done in-house to beat any competition.

Algae are the most efficient photosynthetic plants on the planet, as no energy goes into making roots, stems, seeds, or flowers. More energy (roughly 6-50 times more) is produced per acre, per year, with algae versus other feedstocks. Algae consume CO₂ in the process of growing. Every gallon of algae crude oil takes in 13 to 14 kg of CO₂.

The green algae is placed on a petri plate then streaked into 100,000 cells as it grows before they are put into jars where they increase. It grows very quickly and has 10 times the productivity of corn used in ethanol. Harvesting the algae is much like cutting grass; it just keeps growing. They can harvest up to 5,000 acres of algae in a year, all from water with more in warm weather than in cold.

For every 10 degrees increase, they

get 4,000 gallons per acre per year. The life cycle is one day. The water is screened for pesticides. Currently they use modified city water, but the algae also grows quickly in salt water.

Genetics there have no regulations; it is all new. They are capturing from the wild to develop and evaluate about 8,000 new strains. They will name the good strains after themselves and bad ones after the competition.

They control PH by controlling CO₂. This is plot farming. None of the lined plots are covered. They are open to nature. Anything can fall in, and rain can dilute. Paddles keep the water moving, and they have tried different speeds. Algae will not survive in the wild such as in rivers. You can see algae in your own areas where bodies of water do not move. The lined dirt ponds contain half an acre of water to see how it will be on a large scale. There is a pump in each one to keep it rotating.

The centrifuge plant cost \$750,000. They are not in the business to make money. It takes only two weeks to grow from one liter to 15,000 liters. Growing algae can fill an 80 foot long polyethylene bag in two weeks. The bags are used for transporting to another process.

Today, Sapphire Energy is at the forefront of an entirely new industry category—Green Crude Production—with the potential to profoundly change America's energy and petrochemical landscape.



By Lisa Goodheart
Kansas

Cereal Grains Report

Wheat glut is possible, not inevitable

The signs are pointing to a global wheat glut during the 2011-2012 season, but that doesn't necessarily mean that prices will fall much from where they are now. The biggest wheat producers in the northern hemisphere have had an excellent season. The European Union has revised its earlier estimate of 126.4 million tons of wheat production to 128 million tons. India had a harvest of 84 million tons, which will be more than enough for local needs.

The International Grains Council estimated at the end of October that carry-over stocks, stocks by the middle of next year, will be 202 million tons, nine million tons more than its September forecast. The Council states that this will be the first time since the 2001-2002 season that the world will have more than 200 million tons of stocks, which means the world is experiencing its second biggest harvest ever, 684 million tons. It sounds like we can all sit back and enjoy the prospect of a wheat glut, but that is not necessarily true.

The IGC has also pointed out that growth in both human and animal feed consumption this year is expected to be about double the 10 year average. This rise in consumption, especially in feed wheat, just as global corn stocks are likely to drop to their lowest in five years, will continue to underpin prices of both the higher grade and the lower grade wheat.

Australia, the world's fourth biggest wheat exporter, is having bad weather. That means the wheat farmers in the southern half of Western Australia are struggling to get their wheat harvest in during unusually heavy rainfall. The rainfall not only threatens to rot harvested wheat that is yet to be protected from the weather, but it is also likely to

lower the protein level of the unharvested wheat, making it only viable as animal feed.

There are hopes that this season's bumper wheat harvest might be repeated year after year. The biggest hope comes

in identifying the wheat genome, and the code is likely to be cracked within three years. Once that's achieved, the development of disease-resistant wheat strains will happen quickly. Of course, we will always have to deal with the weather.



By Frances Rohla
Nebraska

Pork Report

Flu shots are necessary

It is flu season for children in school, and pork producers and employees in hog confinement must also take the flu shots so as not to expose pigs to the flu bug.

An agreement between United Egg Producers (UEP) and HSUS has the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) worried. The agreement specifies cage space, hen house comfort levels, beak trimming, feeding and watering. The pork producers' concern is that one-size-fits-all approach will take away producers' freedom. NPPC President Doug Wolf says the pork industry has adopted programs that educate and certify producers in best practices under NPPC's "We Care" principles.

Wolf's proposed animal traceability rule was published in the Federal Register August 10. Wolf feels that an effective traceability program would allow U.S. pork to compete in the international marketplace.

We have not raised pigs for over 12 years, but at that time, I wrote about PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome). A new study un-

derwritten by the pork checkoff and conducted by Iowa State University estimates that PRRS continues to be costing the industry \$114.71 per sow annually, according to Everett Forkner, president of the National Pork Board.

A survey of swine veterinarians across the U.S. said that researchers were able to estimate that 28 percent of sows and gilts used for breeding in the U.S. were PRRS virus-free. They also found that complete depopulation/repopulation appears to make economic sense. For some producers this is not economically feasible.

All women and husbands know about Taste of Home Cooking School. Kansas Pork Association and National Pork Board is sponsoring the cooking school in Kansas. The school will be held in three communities: Park City at the Hartman Arena, Salina Bicentennial Center, and Lawrence Holiday Inn. Kansas Pork Association says they will reach over 4,000 cooks at the three shows.

Hog Rock Cafe was the winner that was in celebration of Nebraska Pork Producers' 50 years. Sixteen decorated pigs were up for votes. The top three were auctioned that evening. The money was donated to the food bank of Heartland. Donating 1,500 pounds of pork products to the food bank were Nebraska Packers, Farmland Foods, Tyson Fresh Meats, and Hormel.



By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

Sugar Report

Agriculture faces exciting changes

deal with weather and market risks. They were special guest speakers of International Sugar Symposium and are two leading lawmakers who will help write the 2012 Farm Bill.

Benefits of sugar policy

The current U.S. sugar policy has worked for taxpayers, grocery shoppers, farmers, and America's food security.

Sugar policy supports 146,000 U.S. sugar jobs in 19 states.

Current sugar policy hasn't cost taxpayers a dime.

Cost of production:

Cost of production for the U.S. Sugar cane and sugar beet producers exceeds over \$1,100 dollars an acre.

Since 1985, no sugar farmer has received a cost-of-living adjustment. For perspective, the mean household income has more than doubled over that time.

The raw sugar loan rate has been frozen at 18 cents per pound for 22 years. For instance, today's loan rate is barely half of what it was in 1985.

Food manufacturers are paying less today for sugar than they did in late '70s when Jimmy Carter was in office. Unfortunately for sugar producers, the cost of doing business isn't stuck in the '80s. That may explain why there have been 34 sugar plant closures since the 1996 Farm Bill. On the other hand, census data indicates production of candy products (chocolate and other confections) grew 8.6 percent between 2004 and 2010 and 2.5 percent since the U.S. economic meltdown began in 2008.

Without the current U.S. sugar policy, America would struggle to produce sugar—an ingredient that the U.S. Department of Commerce says is used in 70 percent of U.S. food manufacturing.

Today, however, we stand on the brink of a great time of hope—a period that could be more exciting for agriculture than anything in a generation. We're going to see big changes in food production, driven by the growing wealth of developing countries and high market prices for farm commodities. China will be a good market for U.S. ag producers.

As countries become richer and their middle classes grow, their people will demand better diets—three meals a day, with lots of calories.

Moreover, today's high crop prices will force a massive shift in how technologies develop. In the recent past, when prices have been low, farmers have focused on keeping their own costs down. With prices going up, new investment dollars will become available that will concentrate on boosting yields. A peaceful future lies in the hands of farmers who till God's land and feed his people.

Farmers feed the world—a world that's still growing, which is placing ever-greater demands on agriculture. It's an incredible challenge, and we must take pride in what we do. We are our own best advocates and have wonderful stories to tell. We must move beyond our circle of concern and begin to tap our circle of influence. Our personal experiences with biotechnology are our best allies. We have to support our barley, cotton, corn, dry bean, peanut, rice, sugar cane and beet, soybean, wheat, dairy, and meat producers. I promise you it will be very difficult to extend a peaceful handshake to your neighbor on an empty stomach.

Members of 2011 Congress are struggling with America's record high deficit. We are blessed to have our agriculture commodities bringing money back to our economy. Sugar policy is working the way that we intended; it doesn't cost government any money, according to Colin Peterson (D-MN), the top Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee, and Leonard Boswell (D-IA), the ranking member of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over farm policy. Both underscored the importance of maintaining effective policies to help growers

Thank You

Thank you all so very much for the beautiful and touching cards you sent me when I was so very sick. There is no way I can tell you how much they mean to me. I am worlds better and doing cardiac therapy three days per week with doctors' appointments and blood tests sandwiched in between. Hopefully I'll soon be well enough to do the rounds in Washington, D.C. I miss you all a whole lot.

Much love, Kay Zeosky



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By Mary Ellen Cammack
South Dakota

Beef Report

WTO rules against U.S. COOL policy

and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, in February 2009, sent an open letter to U.S. food processors, urging them to apply stricter and broader labeling practices, or else Secretary Vilsack would review the COOL law's language and consider tightening restrictions even further. The DSB condemned this letter and ruled the

"suggestions for voluntary action" in Vilsack's letter went "beyond certain obligations under the COOL measure, and that the letter therefore constitutes unreasonable administration of the COOL measure" under Washington's obligations to the 1994 GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

An international body, World Trade Organization (WTO), has ruled that mandatory country-of-origin labels rules, COOL, implemented by the United States, violate its commitments to global trade rules. This affects labels on beef, pork and produce.

A panel of the WTO, Dispute Settlement Body, made this ruling on November 18, 2011. COOL began its conception in the 2002 Farm Bill, but was not launched until September 2008. At that time United States retailers were to begin notifying their customers, in the form of product labeling, the sources of foods such as beef, veal, pork, lamb, goat, fish, fruits, vegetables, peanuts, pecans, and macadamia nuts.

The Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO classifies COOL as a "technical regulation" under the WTO's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and ruled the label law is "inconsistent with the United States WTO obligations." Basically, DSB stated that COOL breaks the TBT Agreement by "accord[ing] less favorable treatment to imported Canadian cattle and hogs than to like domestic products." The panel continued to say that COOL "does not fulfill its legitimate objective of providing consumers with information on origin" and also breaches the TBT Agreement in that respect.

The TBT Agreement was set up in 1979 following the Tokyo Round of GATT negotiations with the goal of preventing governments from imposing non-tariff trade barriers dressed up as "technical regulations and standards." United States President Barack Obama

Range Beef Cow Symposium held

The Range Beef Cow Symposium has been held since 1969, on an every other year basis, and hosted by the Cooperative Extension Service and Animal Science Departments of the University of Nebraska, South Dakota State University, Colorado State University, and the University of Wyoming. This event is noted for its cutting-edge educational program for cow-calf producers, beef industry leaders, and extension personnel. The event has two and a half very fast paced days of presentations with extensive question and answer sessions.

Trent Loos kicked off the event with the familiar theme that "we in production agriculture need to tell our story." We also need to know how to tell that story, and a valuable media training tool is to have three points that you want to get across and try to hit on those points more than once during your conversation. Loos' topic was hormone beef. There is NO food that is hormone free, and plant based foods contain more hormones than animal based. A 100 gram portion of beef implanted with an estrogen hormone will have 2 nanograms of estrogen, while non-implanted beef will have 1.4 nanograms of estrogen. There is no such thing as "hormone free food."

Ted C. Schroeder, Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, addressed the implications of the Ethanol industry for cow-calf producers. Ethanol production will continue to advance and increase, as long as we have higher fuel prices and ethanol is subsidized. Corn prices will remain high due to this de-

mand, therefore alternative feed sources for cattle will continue the upward trend. Alfalfa will continue to be in demand with that price increasing approximately \$15 per ton per every \$1 per bushel increase in corn. From the livestock perspective we should continue to challenge federal policy supporting ethanol production including import tariffs, blender's credit, and blending mandates. Ultimately livestock producers need to develop and adopt management strategies that improve beef production efficiency, and the encourage expansion of global demand for US beef.

The old adage, "you can't manage what you don't measure", was another session, pointing out that only 15 percent of producers know their unit cost of production. We all must understand this within our operations or we can not understand where problems are, or where opportunities may exist.

Examples of existing programs to help establish UCOP were the Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA), developed in the early 1990's; Excel spreadsheets available at <http://hpranch-practicum.com>; and North Dakota State University's Cow Herd Appraisal Performance software (CHAPS) program with more information available at <http://www.chaps2000.org/>

Mike Apley, DVM, PhD, Diplomat, American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology, Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, left at-

Continued on Page 11



By Ruth Laribee
New York

Trade Report

Countries continue to negotiate trade agreements

Eight countries, Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, and the United States, concurred to a framework for trade agreements in the Pacific Rim region. The group came together after several rounds of negotiations to eradicate tariff and trade barriers, promote development and ensure competitiveness, and improve regulatory compliance. With a goal to boost economic expansion for the United States and the Pacific region, the administration reported in 2009 the plan was to join in the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations. Congress passed a law which President Obama signed where Americans will have faster access through security at the airports in 21 countries, making travel easier in the Asia-Pacific region. The traveler will need to obtain an APEC Business Travel Card.

The members of the South Korean Grand National Party endorsed the South Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement with a majority vote, even with strong hostility from those oppos-

ing the trade deal. Lee Myung, South Korean President, spoke to a joint session in Congress, which shows approval of the pact. In order to be legal, the Free Trade Agreement required the legislative bodies of both countries to ratify the pact.

The United States and China are trying to work out the U.S trade deficit, which ballooned to \$273.1 billion in 2010 from approximately \$226.9 billion in 2009. The U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) held their yearly meeting in Chengdu, discussing issues concerning the undervalued Yuan which favors exports from China, tax collection of intellectual property, Beijing's ban on U.S. beef for eight years, and air disputes, to name a few on the agenda.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) judges ruled in favor of Canada and Mexico protesting the United States' County of Origin Labeling (COOL). The two countries say the U.S. ruling, which requires food processors to identify the countries where some fresh produce, hogs and cattle originate, inflicts unfair costs on these exports, thereby decreasing their ability to compete. The European Union has mandatory labeling rulings. The EU and approximately 70

other members of the WTO could be affected.

In 2008, Canada and Mexico challenged the stipulations of the U.S. Food, Conservation and Energy Act, which requires mandatory country of origin labeling for lamb and goat, chicken, pork and beef, and a few perishable items sold by U.S. dealers. Canada's Trade Minister, Ed Fast, testified the ruling by the WTO substantiates the U.S. rules are "inconsistent and discriminatory." Andrea Mead, speaking from the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, stated the U.S. has 60 days to appeal and is considering the option. Mead said, "We remain committed to providing consumers with accurate and relevant information with respect to the origin of meat products they buy."

Range Beef Cow Symposium held

Continued from Page 10

tendees with several take home points. We should all visit with our primary care physician and drive home the point that humans are not prescribed antibiotics based on weight, while cattle producers administer antibiotics carefully, based on age and weight of the animal. (His implication was that could very well be a leading factor in drug resistance in humans.) Our message to consumers should in-

clude the following, as well as the above point, 1. Producers utilize government-approved antibiotics, 2. Antibiotics are one of the many tools we have to produce a safe food source, 3. These tools should only be taken from us based on sound scientific evidence that the drug causes unacceptable risk to humans. Dr. Apley also pointed out that MRSA in animals is different than humans and HAI's (hospital acquired infections) are not from antibiotics in food animals.

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By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota

Energy Report

North Dakota oil boom continues

The Senate and House Agriculture Committees are trying to finalize a plan to submit to the joint deficit reduction “super committee” which will possibly cut \$23 billion out of the Farm Bill over the next 10 years. The architects of the plan are leaning towards not providing any mandatory funding for the Energy Title for the future.

North Dakota could very possibly be #2 in the nation for producing oil at the rate it is going. They went from ninth in 2006 to fourth in 2009. Their 5,951 wells produced about 444,000 barrels per day in August. With nearly 200 wells being drilled and plans for 1,500 to 2,000 more over the next year, they could overtake two other leading states. Currently California produces 539,000 barrels daily, Alaska has 550,000 and Texas has 1.2 million.

North Dakota pumped a record 133 million barrels of oil in 2010 with about 20 percent more this year. They are pumping 118,000 more barrels daily than a year ago. Most of the rigs are trying for the Bakken and Three Forks formations and now the Tyler, which is above them. Oil companies say drilling is profitable in the state if oil prices are more than \$50 a barrel. It was \$98.13 on November 15. They say the state has the sweetest crude in the world which makes it the cheapest to convert to fuel. However the EPA is now trying to shut down fracturing which would devastate the state’s economy!

Due to controversy of the \$7 billion TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline going through the Nebraska Sandhills, the U.S. State Department delayed their final decision on its routing until after the

2012 election.

The USDA announced funding for rural electric cooperative utilities to improve distribution systems and smart grid technologies in 27 states. The investments also will help rural utilities improve their delivery and storage of renewable energy to generate electricity. More than \$2.1 billion in loans are being provided by USDA’s Rural Utilities Service, a Rural Development Agency, to help rural electric utilities build and upgrade infrastructure, funding more than \$40 million in smart grid technologies and building or improving nearly 6,000 miles of line. Funding for distribution cooperatives, which provide power to consumers, will benefit more than 38,000 rural businesses and residents.

The U.S. now possesses a 100-year supply of natural gas, which is the cleanest of fossil fuels. This cheaper energy is already replacing coal-fired plants and plans for nuclear plants. Fracking has made this possible in western Pennsylvania and Ohio. North Dakota’s has yet to be harnessed.

A third-quarter market report from the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) shows significant wind industry growth over the period, with the installation of more than 1,200 megawatts (MW) in new capacity recorded from July through September of this year. That brings the total to date in 2011 up to 3,360 MW. The industry has more than 8,400 MW under construction, more than in any quarter since 2008. Government agencies that depend on radar, such as the Department of Defense and the National Weather Service, are now spending millions to preserve their detection capabilities around wind farms. Taxpayers are being billed for more than \$1 billion in subsidies for the construction of the Shepherd’s Flat wind farm in Oregon.

More solar panel companies are in jeopardy after receiving large loans from the government. Even after Solyndra

filed bankruptcy in California, the Department of Energy (DOE) approved \$1 billion in new loans to green energy companies -- including a \$737 million loan guarantee to a company known as SolarReserve. On SolarReserve’s website is a list of “investment partners,” including the “PCG Clean Energy & Technology Fund (East) LLC.” PCG’s number two is Ronald Pelosi, a San Francisco political insider who happens to be the brother-in-law of Nancy Pelosi, former Speaker of the House. Another member was on the board of directors for Solyndra. After he was fired, the former CEO of Solyndra Inc. received a severance package worth \$456,000.

Companies like First Solar, SolarReserve, SunPower Corporation and Abengoa SA have already received billions of dollars in loans through stimulus programs to build solar power plants in the southwestern United States. Last year, the Department of Energy loaned a Massachusetts company \$43 million to help build Beacon Power Corp., an energy storage plant in Stephentown, New York. Now it has also filed for bankruptcy. The announcement came after an investigation into the DOE’s loan policies following the public outcry from the \$535 million loan guarantee in 2009 to Solyndra.

The Southeastern United States is poised to become a leading supplier of wood pellets to the growing European market for alternative heating and power resources. North Carolina will produce 440,000 tons of pellets annually when it becomes operational in about a year plus one plant with a 385,000-ton capacity is already under construction and will ship its product to Europe out of port facilities in Chesapeake, Virginia. A Virginia wood chip and pellet manufacturing facility is adding an additional 138,000 tons of pellets annually and will be exported to Europe. There are already two pellet plants in Mississippi and one in Belgium. The Port of Brunswick, Georgia, has announced major expansion plans.

Rural Health, Farm Finance, and Communications **Report**



By **Donna Bolz**
Nebraska

Proposals target rural hospital cuts

As Congress considers spending cuts, several proposals target payments to rural hospitals. Medicare currently makes limited special payments to some rural hospitals for the challenges of delivering care in rural areas. Proposals being considered in Washington would cut these payments by between \$6 and \$60 billion over 10 years.

One proposal claims rural facilities receive “higher than necessary reimbursement.” They don’t have the entire story. In 1997, Congress created the designation of Critical Access Hospital, along with higher Medicare payment rates, to prevent future hospital closures. This followed the closure of 360 rural facilities in the 1980s and 1990s.

Retirees account for a high percent of the rural population. Medicare payments make up 40 percent of rural hospitals’ payments, compared to 32 percent for urban facilities. That means expected cuts to Medicare reimbursement rates will harm rural hospitals, even without targeting the additional payment they receive. Small rural hospitals are important pieces of the rural health care infrastructure.

These facilities will be even more important to community in future years as baby boomers age and as provisions of the Affordable Care Act expand health care coverage to a greater number of rural people.

Below are several ideas for specific payment reductions provided by various groups.

1. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO): Eliminate alternative hos-

pital designations Critical Access Hospital (CAH), Sole Community Hospital (SCH), and Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH). This plan would reduce hospital payments by \$3.8 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2012 increasing to \$9.5 billion in reduced payments in FY 2021. Total cut to rural facilities over 10 years: \$62.2 billion.

2. President Obama: Starting in FY 2013, the President’s plan would end add-on payments for physicians and hospital in frontier states, reduce CAH reimbursement to 100 percent of reasonable cost and end CAH reimbursement for facilities located 10 miles or less from another hospital. Total cut to rural facilities over years: \$6 billion.

3. House Republican Leadership: While specifics of the proposal were not released, House Republican Leadership sought to cut \$2 billion from frontier state add-on payments and \$14 billion from rural hospital reimbursement

structures. Total cut to rural facilities over 10 years: \$16 billion.

4. Ways and Means Democratic Staff: The Democratic Staff from the House Ways and Means Committee embraced the CBO recommendation. They argued that the elimination of these payment structures would be more equitable in line with other payment reforms. Total cut to rural facilities over 10 years: \$62.2 billion.

5. Sequestration: Since the Super-Committee failed to produce sufficient savings, Medicare reimbursements will be “sequestered.” An automatic cut of 2% will be instituted on all providers. Total cut to rural facilities over 10 years: \$5.9 Billion.

Thank you to the National Rural Health Web site, www.ruralhealthweb.org for their help in providing information for this article. It will be interesting to see how much is cut. This is something we all need to keep track of.

National Convention News



Sheila Massey welcomes WIFE members to New Mexico.



By Dianna Reed
Kansas

Dairy Report

Production costs continue to rise

the legalization of the selling of raw milk. There are some states at this time where it is legal to sell raw milk. More and more consumers want the raw product.

The animal rights groups still continue to be an issue; there is a lawsuit at this time against the Cooperatives Work-

ing Together which claims the slaughter of the animals in this program was for monetary gain.

There is much work to be done in the upcoming months for dairy. The sad part is when we lose a dairy, there are none coming in to take its place.

As we look back over 2011, we have seen the price of milk paid to producers rise, but as always, it is now beginning to recede. Even with the prices rising, the cost of production has also increased, so consequently producers have not come close to a full recovery.

There are several major concerns as we look forward to 2012. The Farm Bill and what it will contain for dairy is probably the first priority. National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) have submitted a proposal called Foundation For the Future (FFTF) which deals with profit margin and with individual producers rather than with a set amount of production, which we saw with the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program.

This program is based on an individual's past production history. Colin Peterson (D-MN) feels strongly that the dairy industry cannot withstand another "2009" disaster and has introduced the Dairy Security Act of 2011 (HR 3062) which he hopes to get passed immediately, as the industry cannot wait for the Farm Bill.

A newly formed organization, the Milk Producers Organization, has also submitted a proposal for the upcoming Farm Bill which in ways resembles the FFTF but is asking for more considerations. I might make note that the processors are not in favor of any proposal; they just want cheap milk.

Everyone agrees that the dairy industry needs some stability and less volatility but have a little different idea on how to make that happen. At least they are all headed in the right direction, getting Congress to agree; with the economic situation as it is, it will be a challenge.

Another issue coming under fire is



By Jacquelyn Sistrunk
Alabama

Specialty Crops Report

Crop conditions in 2011 have been challenging

I certainly hope that the newspaper reporter who said, "Farms fail far less often than non-farm businesses fail, so the rationale for government to continue to prop up this sector has gone away" was not speaking with his mouth or his belly full nor wearing clothes. Unlike most other industries, farmers cannot set prices for their products, nor

can they manage the weather.

Georgia Farmer of the year Carlos M Vickers knows "farming means continually rolling the dice." Many cotton farmers lost their entire 2011 crop. Texas growers planted at least 7 million acres of cotton, but weeks of exceptional drought and 100 degree days with hot, wild winds left that crop in the dust. In some cases, the cotton never broke the soil.

In the Carolinas and Virginia, there was drought but also timely rains. Growers were fortunate. National Agricultural Statistics Service rates Virginia as having one of best-rated crops of cotton in the country. The Carolinas are looking at a good average crop in the 800-825 pound-per-acre range.

Georgia growers say, "If it doesn't frost until Valentine's Day," we could have USDA's predicted 870 pound-per-acre crop.

Mississippi growers faced flood on one side of the acreage with drought on the other. Late cool weather and the Great Flood of 2011 delayed planting, and then the rains shut down.

Tennessee growers were faced with wet, cold nights until the middle of May. Planting was late, thrips attacked, and pigweed infested the crop. Considering all these problems, the crop is better than expected.

California is usually different in all things and also in cotton. They have a bumper crop but due to gins closing down in the past, there will be long hauls from the field to a gin.

The one word describing 2011 cotton would be "challenging." Farmers have discovered that "growing \$1.40 cotton is much harder than growing loan-value cotton."



**By Phyllis Howatt
North Dakota**

Dry Beans, Lentils, and Oilseeds Report

New products take place of peanuts

SunButter has changed people's lives with an alternative to peanut butter. Working hard at winning over the taste buds of consumers was just one goal. Since then, SunButter has come a long way, having been called a "lifesaver" by many who suffer from peanut allergies.

There are more allergies these days than there were years ago; an estimated 3 million Americans suffer from peanut and nut tree allergies. The problem is so widespread that in recent years, peanuts have been banned from many schools. The time was right and the market was opened for SunButter to seize the opportunity.

A "honey crunch" flavor has been added. SunButter has been sold to schools in every state of the union, including Hawaii and Alaska. There are 1.5-oz cups and 1.1-oz pouches for schools looking for single serving options.

"Somersaults" is a new snack food made with all-natural, pure ingredients like sunflower seeds, toasted grains, and a blend of spices with no artificial additives, GMOs, high fructose corn syrup, trans fats or preservatives. The snacks come in four flavors: Pacific Sea Salt, Dutch Cocoa, Salty Pepper, and Santa Fe Salsa. They are available online at Amazon.com and the website which is www.somersaultsnackco.com. New flavors are coming out in six months.

Newly developed winter canola varieties are helping wheat growers to break the pattern of continuous cropping. The first year after canola rotation, yields are at least 20 percent higher than with continuous wheat. University of North

Dakota (UND) is starting a pilot project that could reduce its use of coal by 10 to 20 percent, using a product derived originally from canola oil called glycerin. Raw glycerin is a byproduct of biodiesel, which is mostly derived from canola oil in this region. It has to be refined to reduce the moisture content before it can be mixed with the coal at UND's power plant.

New research is underway in the United States (U.S.) and Canada regarding the health benefits of canola oil. One and one half tablespoons of canola oil per day in place of saturated fat may reduce the risk of heart disease; new studies are going beyond the basics and could have great potential. They are looking into whether the omega-3 fat in canola oil, alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), has benefits on its own. Researchers are also exploring if canola oil can help prevent insulin resistance and obesity, as well as if it can have a positive impact on blood vessel function and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Soybean oil under high heat and pressure can be thermally converted into hydrocarbons with a similar chemical makeup and properties to petroleum. The process is known as thermal cracking. Cracked soybean oil can be processed directly into diesel fuel, jet fuel, kerosene, and gasoline. This fuel is free of heavy metals and has very low sulfur, making it very attractive.

Brazil's corporate farmers have become the "The New Soy Kings." The reason for the corporate groups' rise to prominence is access to levels of high-quality capital and cheap credit. The consolidation has squeezed out the medium-sized farms that have had a lack of credit. Expansion remains the name of the game for the corporate farms.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my WIFE friends.

National Convention News



An impromptu tour found WIFE members observing lettuce harvest in New Mexico.

National Convention News

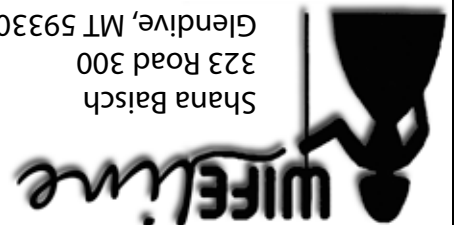


In answer to many of our prayers, Arizona rancher Sue Krentz has recovered enough to be able to attend convention this year, along with fellow Arizonians Mary Jo Rideout and Marie Pyeatt (above). At right, National Convention attendees enjoy a tour of the Rio Grande Winery.



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