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“Buy American” is theme of National WIFE Convention

New Mexico will host the 35th Anniversary Convention of Women Involved in Farm Economics November 9-12, 2011, at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces. The convention theme is “Make America Grow – Buy American.” Throughout the course of convention, emphasis will be placed on doing business at home to help boost the economy of local communities.

The Keynote Address will be given by Dr. Lowell Catlett, a Regent’s Professor/Dean and Chief Administrative Officer at New Mexico State University’s College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. An exciting futurist, his knowledge of technologies and their implications on the way people will live and work is addressed in his varied and upbeat presentation. His latest talk addresses the current state of the economy- and what’s in store for businesses down the road.

In addition to the keynote address, an outstanding slate of speakers is being

confirmed for the convention participants’ educational experience. Border security, trade, energy, and other issues of importance will be the focus of WIFE members as they set goals for 2012.

An evening trip to Historic Old Mesilla is planned on Wednesday. Mesilla, one of the most popular trade centers between the mid west and the west coast 150 years ago, is now a quaint town centered around a plaza filled with shops, boutiques, and restaurants.

Arrangements have been made with the world famous La Posta Restaurant for a room to be reserved on Wednesday evening for an order from the menu dinner. This will accommodate anyone not wanting to partake of the delicious Mexican Cuisine...if there is such a person! They claim to serve the best steak in town as well.

HOWs (Husbands of WIFE) will have their own activities in addition to tours for the entire convention group. Some places of interest that will possibly be on

the tour schedule include: NMSU’s Bio-Security Lab and the NMSU Ag Research Farm; F&A Cheese Factory; Alaska Structures Manufacturing Plant; and Sapphire Energy, where they are experimenting with growing algae for bio-mass energy production.

The Rio Grande Winery is also on the tour schedule, and as we drive through the

Mesilla Valley we most likely will have the opportunity to see red chile and cotton harvest underway.

Due to fundraising successes, the registration fee for the convention has been reduced. See page 13 for the updated information. Those who have already registered and submitted payment will receive a refund for the decrease in the fee.

Inside WIFELINE



The Nebraska WIFE members held their 35th annual conference recently. Read more on Page 3. Pictured above are (front row, from left) Cynthia Thomsen, Pam Pothhoff, Norma Hall, Mary Ann Birkett; (back row) Frances Heinrichs, Nita Bramble, Donna Bolz, Linda Houborg, Fran Kreutz, Delores Schliep, and Frances Rohla.



By Deb Dressler
North Dakota

President's Report

WIFE members are challenged to "grab the tiger by the tail"

Best regards from the Denver Airport. At this writing, I am on the way to Washington, D.C., for a fly-in to address broadband for rural America. Other WIFE members attending are Tammy Basel, Mary Ellen Cammack, and Diane McDonald.

While reading through the 30th anniversary WIFE booklet, I noticed that Ina Selfridge, National WIFE President from 2003-04, quoted from her "retirement" speech: "I'm not a joiner. My church, my family, and my community involvement have been. . . a large part of my active life. However, little did I realize when I joined WIFE I was 'grabbing a tiger by the tail' - as it were. Being a WIFE member can require a tremendous amount of energy, tenacity, perseverance, patience, and stamina! Always remember - there is nothing braver than a volunteer."

What a statement from a former president. Are you an involved member as stated in the Women Involved in Farm Economics' name? Viable organizations are changing with the times. Think back to when WIFE was founded in Sydney, Nebraska, in 1976, the days of typewriters, snail mail, and corded phones. Now the communications ladder is almost instantaneous, depending on broadband access and speed.

Thirty-five years of WIFE is a milestone to be celebrated. Think about all the volunteer hours it takes each year to host national conventions

and coordinate board of director meetings. Plan to attend WIFE's 35th year anniversary in Las Cruces, NM, this November. Note the reduced registration. Accolades go to the New Mexico WIFE members on their fundraising success. States, please meet all the deadlines for the anniversary WIFE history booklet. If every WIFE member would bring a first time attendee, we could swell the hotel in Las Cruces with "red coats." I challenge you all to attend the national convention to tell your story, renew friendships, and make new friends. Drought, flooding, and high input costs are real, and we must all address these problems.

The Great Plains are facing under-developed infrastructures with the astronomical influx of workers coming to labor in the developing oil fields. Housing prices have skyrocketed, roads are deteriorating, and emergency services are stressed. People are living in tents, man camps, and recreational vehicles. Who wants to winter in an RV in 20 degree below zero weather? People on fixed incomes can't afford a 30-50 percent increase in rent or \$5 per half gallon of milk price purchased at a convenience store.

While rounding up cattle to give vaccinations and weigh spring calves last week, I stopped on the ranch-raised horse and enjoyed the peace and quiet. What price will rural America have to pay? What are the answers to these problems?

For those of you harvesting, may you have a safe harvest, and for those of you working livestock for the fall, enjoy the moments. Take time to enjoy the rural lifestyles we may take for granted from time to time. What bet-

ter place is there to raise a family than in rural America? True passion when telling a story comes from the heart.

All roads lead to Lac Cruces this November; see you there. Remember our Armed Forces and thank veterans for their service to our great country. Happy Trails. Go tell your story with passion from the heart.

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WIFE Updates

Nebraska WIFE holds 35th annual conference

“Hats Off To WIFE” was the theme for the 35th Nebraska WIFE Conference held September 30-October 1 in Hastings. Festive hats gave a party flair to add excitement to celebrating 35 years of NE WIFE achievements.

Because the farm economy has been so good in 2011, members decided to wear black, symbolizing farm income records are now in the black. Unfortunately, the conference began as a new USDA report was issued and both corn and wheat prices took a nosedive. Prosperity in agriculture has always been a goal of WIFE.

The 2011 officers (President Pam Potthoff, Vice President Ardyth Anderson, Secretary Linda Houborg and Treasurer Donna Bolz) were re-elected for 2012.

Speakers included Teresa Post, NE FSA Outreach Coordinator, on

“Farm Service Agency programs from the woman’s point of view,” and Sue Brown on improving attitudes and the need to laugh.

NE WIFE members expressed their continued opposition to the Keystone-XL Pipeline crossing the fragile Sandhills of Nebraska. Opposition focused on erosion in the Sandhills and the potential for contamination of the Ogallala Aquifer which supplies drinking and irrigation water to Nebraska.

NE WIFE supports H.R. 2885, the Legal Workforce Act which would



Nebraska WIFE officers are (from left) Linda Houborg, Secretary; Donna Bolz, Treasurer; Pam Potthoff, President; Ardyth Anderson, Vice President.

mandate the use of the E-Verify system nationwide. The E-Verify system is a tool that can be used to determine the eligibility of all workers to work legally in the U.S. In other words, it screens out illegal aliens.

On the same issue of illegal immigration, NE WIFE voted to support H.R. 787, No Social Security for Illegal Immigrants Act, which would exclude payroll taxes remitted as an illegal alien from being counted toward future benefits even if an individual later became a legal resident.

NE WIFE also voted to support the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Act of 2011 which will reform and enhance oversight of currency exchange rates. It also provides consequences for countries that fail to adopt appropriate policies to eliminate currency misalignment and includes tools to address the impact of currency misalignment on U.S. industries.

Plans were finalized for the 2012 WIFE year and included offering a \$1000 scholarship and expanding the use of our traveling WIFE booth from State Fair and the Hastings Health Fair to include county fairs and display in local businesses.

Alabama WIFE members visit state agriculture commissioner



On June 29, Alabama WIFE visited John McMillian, Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture. WIFE’s concerns were the \$7 million budget cuts that face Alabama agriculture and what the outlook would be for the future. Like most states,

the budget faced big cuts that are affecting everyone.

Pictured from left are Dot Gowan, Edna Cope, Mary Ann Shappard, Commissioner John McMillian, Jackie Sistrunk, and Jo Gibbons.

Sheep and Goats Report



By Gwen Cassel
New York

Hair sheep breeds generate interest

You may be aware that there have been a number of changes in my life over the last few years, especially in the last several months after losing Butch (Roy Baker), my “better half,” in a tragic car-truck accident just before Christmas last year. These changes have culminated in a move for me to a farm being leased by a friend of Butch’s and mine who has an interesting history himself.

I knew that his parents owned and worked a dairy farm, but when Jim was fairly young, his dad decided that he didn’t need another son in the dairy barn, so he gave Jim some goats which Jim fairly quickly learned about and turned into profit! At the age of 12 he bought out a pet shop that was going out of business and raised parakeets, canaries, hamsters, and other small rodents, again making a profit and turning it into another animal business, mainly sheep and goats.

Butch and I met Jim when he was 24. We were looking to purchase sheep to populate the estate farm where we worked from 2004 through 2008. We bought 113 lambs from Jim, his first crop of a cross of French dairy ewes to medium size round meat sheep rams also from France. We were pleased every year to have these girls give birth unassisted and raise twins, mostly, easily breeding back for another set of twins about nine months later.

We added another 150 sheep of other breeds, but none were as productive and “easy care” as the lambs we got from Jim’s ewes. Butch and Jim both had a history of working/helping at cattle and farm auctions, so a fast friendship between them developed quickly.

Over the years Jim was adamant that

he would raise only wool sheep as they were the only type of sheep, according to breed, that his customers wanted. However, time changes things. The demand for lamb and sheep meat has grown exponentially with the increase in various ethnic populations, including Hispanic peoples, those from the Middle East and East, Jewish connoisseurs, and others who have developed an appreciation of this mild tasting dark meat.

At the same time, in more urban areas and here in the east, it is getting more difficult to find competent, affordable and available sheep shearers who are needed to rid breeding ewes and rams of their heavy wool “coats” each year. Shearing is an artistic and magical job. Both the sheep and wool must be handled properly, including turning the sheep on its rump, onto its side, its other side, and back on its rump, in order to remove the entire fleece in one piece with as few second cuts of the wool as possible and few to no skin cuts on the sheep itself!

Several solutions to all this have occurred in recent years. Dorper sheep, a meaty breed from Africa in black, brown, dark-headed, and completely white, have been bred to have more hair than “wool” and to SHED the wool on a seasonal basis like a dog, no shearer needed!

Katadin sheep, developed at the University of Maine using a number of breeds, were named for Katadin mountain. They are a white hair sheep that also shed their undercoat “wool” each spring/summer. In fact, if a sheep doesn’t shed well on its own (using trees, rocks, etc. to rub off extra wool), it is often removed from the hair-sheep breeding flock. It is often the case that breeding for the hair and shedding gene can reduce the meat characteristics of lambs.

Jim had been talking about leasing a second farm in addition to the portion of his family’s dairy farm where he has put up lambing barns and is rotationally grazing about 500 sheep in addition to goats and chickens. After the farm where

Butch and I had been farm managers with 350 sheep was shut down except for rental field use, Jim talked to Butch and me about working for him down the line. When a farm became available a distance from his home farm, Jim offered for me to live in the house, being the eyes and ears on the new farm and moving fencing for grazing. This would allow Jim to visit the farm a couple of times a week but not be constantly traveling back and forth.

My main question for Jim was how and why he changed to hair sheep given his original disdain of them. He explained that he had been watching the various hair sheep breeds and had noticed that many of them were developing into much better meat characteristics while developing and improving the hair/shedding benefit. He has been searching nationally to find flocks with strong maternal lines that are the best they can be at this time in both meat and hair requirements. He is combining breeds to produce good commercial meat lambs, keep the hair benefits, yet not lose meat and maternal characteristics.

At this time, most of the sheep he is putting on the new farm are White and some Colored Katadin ewes. He has brought in a couple of purebred Katadin rams while centering in on White Dorper rams as his preferred commercial rams of choice.

I am really excited to be part of this farm and commercial sheep operation. There will ultimately be about 500 ewes on this farm also, and the demand for lamb and cull ewes is continuing if not still growing. Hair sheep have been greeted with real interest among producers due to the fact that the need to find, schedule, help, and pay a shearer is eliminated. The question is, will long-time wool sheep meat buyers accept the slight tradeoff in weight/development for the convenience for the producer of being able to have more sheep and reasonably “low care” sheep in the area of shearing and wool handling/selling?



By Lisa Goodheart
Kansas

Cereal Grains Report

Dry conditions challenge farmers

excellent safety net through crop insurance programs, and an alternative to planting wheat this fall is to take the prevented planting provision.

As of the first week in September, only the northern one-quarter of the state of Kansas was free from drought. The drought conditions in the remainder of the state range from abnormally dry to exceptionally dry. Because of the drought conditions, farmers planting wheat at this time will need to take some precautions.

First of all, the seeding rate should be increased so it is typical of what would be planted later in the fall. The seeding rate should also be increased if planting wheat into failed row crops or if planting later than normal.

The second precaution is to reduce or eliminate fertilizer application until you see if there's a decent stand of wheat in the spring. Fertilizer can be applied at that point. Most fields have a little subsoil moisture, and it takes just a little bit of surface moisture to get the wheat crop established. Moisture at planting is not as important as moisture during the winter.

Other planting tips for improving the chances to get a good stand of wheat include:

- tractor speed of between five and six miles an hour
- a planting depth of one and a half inches
- planting into a firm seedbed; planting during the optimum time, which is after the Hessian fly-free date and before deadlines set by crop insurance
- providing adequate soil fertility
- using a seed treatment
- making adjustments for planting into row crop stubble.

The adage of "dust it in and you bust the bin" may not hold true, but today's farmers have the benefit of an



By Frances Rohla
Nebraska

Pork Report

Feed corn with caution

- Monitor dried distiller's grain with soluble (DDGS); aflatoxin may be four times higher in DDGS than in corn.

Tokach said aflatoxin is a carcinogen and that levels build up in the body over time. When feeding corn that contains aflatoxin, there may be reduced feed intake. When feeding aflatoxin-infected corn to sows, if pigs are fed 500 to 750 PPB range, pigs will grow more slowly due to aflatoxin in the sow's milk. Small pigs can be fed corn with 20 PPB or less. A binder called bentonite or aluminosilicate can be used at 10 pounds per ton of feed. Swine specialists encourage producers to use clean corn or less than 20 PPB for nursery and lactating sows.

Missouri passed SB113 that helps protect Missouri farmers from radical animal rights groups like HSUS and PETA whose agenda is to create controversy and ultimately end livestock farming. With SB113, hog, chicken, and cattle farmers will be protected from such attacks.

On Sept. 24, 2011, the Nebraska Pork Producers celebrated its 50th year as an organization. When my husband was a part of the organization, he felt that if a pork producer did not tell consumers about how good pork was, who would? Fifty years later, pork producers are still telling the world.

Hot temperatures and drought conditions through many states, including Kansas and Nebraska, is a concern for drought-ridden hog farmers, as Kansas State research and extension scientist Doug Jardine said. Aflatoxin in corn means hog producers should check their corn before feeding their animals, especially lactating sows.

Kansas State Extension Swine Specialists Mike Tokach and Joel DeRouchey outlined several points for producers to keep vigilant about during humid and droughty conditions during the grain filling period. There are a few points the farmer needs to follow when harvesting contaminated corn:

- Harvest corn as quickly as possible before storage
- Clean the grain if possible before storage
- Store at less than 15 percent moisture (13 percent or less is ideal) to limit further fungal growth and toxin production
- Consider adding propionic acid to corn before it goes into storage
- Monitor grain bin temperature
- Use low test weight corn quickly

Sugar Report



By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

Sugar discussed in Vermont

The 28th International Sugar Symposium was held at Stowe Mountain Lodge in Vermont. The sugar meeting was well attended. Overall a very positive picture of U.S. agriculture was projected from this symposium.

This year's speakers were leading lawmakers who will help write the 2012 Farm Bill. Collin Peterson (D-MN), the top Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee, and Leonard Boswell (D-IA), good friend of agriculture and the ranking member of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over farm policy, both underscored the importance of maintaining effective policies to help growers deal with weather and market risks. Effective farm policies are also essential to providing banks with the confidence needed to provide growers with necessary capital.

Among the subjects addressed during this meeting was the newly released report on the U.S. sugar industry by LMC International Ltd., a global commodity research firm. LMC International research indicated despite being under strictest labor and environmental standards, U.S. sugar producers are among the most efficient in the world.

According to Jack Roney, an economist with the American Sugar Alliance, American sugar farmers are

efficient. Roney said, "Critics suggest the U.S. sugar industry is not efficient because there are restraints on the amount of subsidized foreign sugar that can enter the country. The study done by LMC proves we are among the world's most efficient and lowest cost producers. America's no-cost sugar policy is needed to ensure that less efficient, subsidized foreign competitors don't run efficient U.S. producers out of business."

The sugar industry has been generating more than 142,000 direct and indirect jobs and almost \$20 billion in annual revenues. President Obama and members of the U.S. Congress are trying to solve America's unemployment dilemma.

On the other hand, some members of the same Congress are trying to destroy sugar program that has generated 142,000 jobs and it will continue to do so.

It is good to know how LMC International research has calculated its finding of jobs provided by the sugar industry. LMC has used the jobs associated directly with the planting, cultivating, and harvesting of sugar-

beet and sugarcane, the processing of the beets and cane, and the refining of raw cane sugar. It then used U.S. Department of Commerce multipliers to estimate the number of indirect jobs the American sugar industry generates. Eleven states grow sugarbeets and four states grow sugarcane; there are also six states in the U.S. that have sugarcane refineries to process molasses.

Lawmakers must understand that towns are the heartbeat of this country's economy. In rural areas where sugarbeets and cane are grown and processed, good-paying jobs are crucial, especially in the tough economic situation the United States

In rural areas where sugarbeets and cane are grown and processed, good-paying jobs are crucial, especially in the tough economic situation the United States is facing now.

is facing now.

William Jennings Bryan said, "Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities spring up again as if by magic, but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country."

U.S. agriculture is one of a few industries pulling this disastrous economy upward with record high export for 2011.



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By Mary Ellen Cammack
South Dakota

Beef Report

Beef facts and figures are fascinating

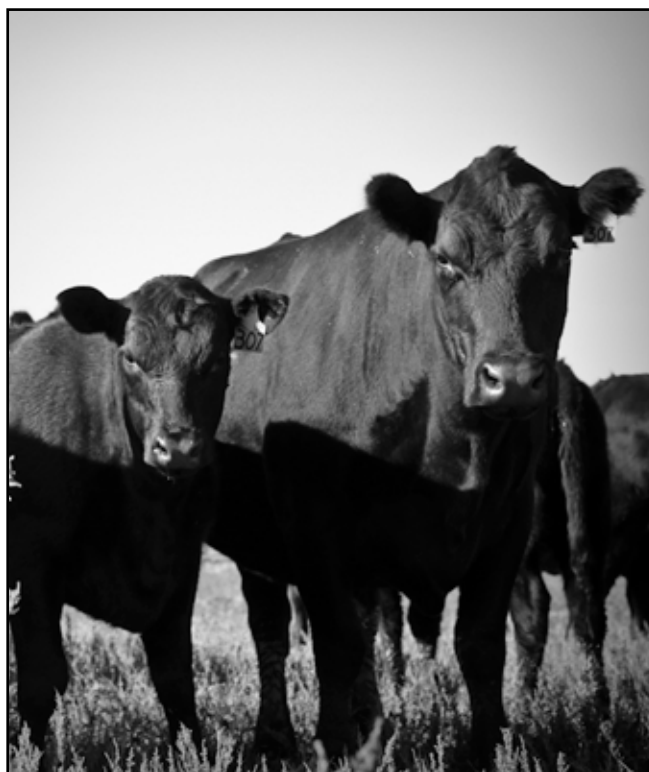
- Hernando Cortez brought the first cattle to North America in 1519 (Columbus brought cattle with him on his second voyage to the New World, but not to North America).
- The character of “Uncle Sam” is modeled after Sam Wilson, a meat-packer from Troy, New York. During the War of 1812, the meat he shipped to the government was stamped “U.S. Beef.” Soldiers began to call this beef Uncle Sam’s beef.
- More beef is consumed on Memorial Day than any other day, with the Fourth of July and Labor Day usually tying for second place.
- Top 10 list of beef entrees (excludes burgers) in the United States:
 1. Prime Rib
 2. Strip Steak
 3. Filet Mignon/Tenderloin
 4. Roast Beef
 5. Rib/Ribeye Steak
 6. Meatloaf
 7. Sirloin/Top Butt Steak
 8. Chicken Fried Steak
 9. Meatballs
 10. T-Bone/Porterhouse Steak
- In 2007, ground beef accounted for more than 64 percent of all beef served at home.
- 2007 U.S. per capita beef consumption was 63.5 lbs.
- 2003 U.S. per capita beef consumption was 64.9 lbs.
- 2002 U.S. per capita beef consump-

tion was 67.6 lbs.

- The all time high was in 1976 with 94.3 pounds per capita. (American Meat Institute)
- Brazil is the world’s largest producer of beef. (2010)
- Beef Quality Grading
 - USDA Beef Quality grades are determined by estimating the age of the animal, the amount of fat marbling (determined by looking at the ribeye at the 12th rib) and by the texture, color and appearance of the ribeye. USDA quality grading is optional.
 - According to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, only about 2 percent of all U.S. beef carcasses submitted for grading are quality graded Prime. Prime grade is the most tender, juicy and flavorful grade, and most Prime grade beef is sold to the restaurant industry.
 - About 44 percent of beef submitted for quality grading is Choice grade, and this is generally what is available in retail markets.
- Health benefits of beef:
 - To get the same amount of the following key nutrients found in a 3 oz. serving of beef you would need to eat:

- Zinc= Almost 12 – (3 oz.) servings of tuna
- B12 = 7- (3 oz.) servings of chicken breast
- Iron = 3 cups of raw spinach
- Riboflavin = 2 1/3 – (3 oz.) skinless chicken breasts
- Thiamin = 1 3/4 - (3 oz.) skinless chicken breasts
- There are at least 12 cuts of beef that are leaner than a skinless chicken thigh.
- There are nine people in the United States listed on whitepages.com with the last name “Beef”.

Sources: *Beef Bytes*, USDA, *Ag Research Service, 2002*; *USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 15*; *American Meat Institute*; *NCBA*; *Mark Morton, ‘Gastronomica’, Fall 2010*





By Ruth Laribee
New York

Trade Report

Meetings and discussions continue about pending free trade agreements

A private meeting was held by the Cairns Group in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, to create ideas to start up the stalled global trade talks. The Cairns Group includes 19 countries with Argentina, Brazil, and Canada representing about 25 percent of agriculture trade throughout the world. Gerry Ritz, Canadian agriculture minister, and Craig Emerson, Australian agriculture minister, held the private meeting for discussions only and chose not to set a formal agenda at this time. The group will meet again before the World Trade Organization (WTO) leaders meet in December with other trade officials supporting a decrease in agricultural trade barriers and subsidies.

A proposal to restore the “fast track” law was defeated in the Senate with a vote of 55-45. The law, which was ratified in 1974, expired in 1994. In 2002 it was renewed but expired again in 2007. It requires that when the president presents a trade agreement to Congress, they have only 90 days to vote up or down (approve or disapprove) without any changes.

Mitch McConnell (R-KY) proposed the trade promotion authority amendment that would continue sections of a program to help workers displaced by foreign trade with financial and retraining support. McConnell reports that without trade authority, it’s likely that the U.S. will never agree to another deal again. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) sup-

ports increased trade but wants to re-draft the trade negotiating principles in the “fast track” to represent new developments in environmental and labor standards as well as digital services and goods, intellectual properties and others.

The pending three, South Korea, Columbia and Panama Free Trade Agreements, are still on the radar screen with many discussions being held. Restated by the administration, it’s time to pass the agreements, but not until Congress reauthorizes the trade adjustment assistance (TAA) for workers and farmers hurt by the trade agreements. For the past four years the pending three have had continued discussions and many articles written about them, some for the pacts and some against the pacts. A few farm groups endorse the agreements and have pressed hard for their passage, reporting there is an opportunity for more jobs and exports, i.e. corn, soybeans and beef. Other farm groups have said that they will not support the agreement as written as it doesn’t have policy to correct currency manipulation; it creates special rights to foreign investors; it still has language requiring the U.S. to limit import inspections; and it has written in a “substantial transformation” rule of origin for livestock.

Some labor unions disapprove of the agreement but approve of the trade adjustment assistance (TAA). In *Economy In Crisis*, author and economist Pat Choate writes the Korus (Korean-US) FTA will be di-

sastrous for America because it will export more jobs and increase trade deficit, “Buy American” food support will become illegal, South Korea will still use import barriers the U.S. does not use, the U.S. government will lose the ability to regulate the American banking industry, and the U.S. beef industry will suffer. The National Foreign Trade Council, which is touted as being pro trade, applauded the president’s speech to Congress urging passing of the trade agreements and said it was now time for action. The Council stated that “each piece of legislation has a significant role to play in increasing U.S. exports and supporting and creating jobs in America.”

President Richard Trumka of the AFL-CIO stated the South Korea trade agreement will cost the U.S. 159,000 jobs and the Columbia agreement will cost the U.S. 54,000 jobs.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) asked, “Where’s the fair part of the trade deals?” Reid vows he will vote against the pending three when they come to the Senate floor as he says he is “not a big fan of free trade agreements.” Reid is in agreement with Trumka about jobs, recalling the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) where approximately 700,000 U.S. jobs were lost in addition to producing a \$97 billion trade deficit with Mexico. WIFE believes in fair trade.

(CBS News, The Hill, Economy in Crisis INC., Jerry Hagstrom, V. Needham-On the Money, Red River Farm Network, NFU, Public Citizen)

Dry Beans, Lentils, and Oilseeds Report



By Phyllis Howatt
North Dakota

Canola's uses are expanding

United States restaurant and fast food chains have been under a lot of pressure lately from legislation to put calorie counts on menus to counter skyrocketing obesity and diabetes rates. The restaurants are to improve the nutritional content of their food without affecting the signature flavors that maintain customer loyalty.

One way they're doing this is by switching their frying oils to high-oleic canola oil, which has less saturated and zero trans fat and can save on costs long term by prolonging and improving frying performance. Many companies are expanding their specialty canola oil lines to retail products like potato chips, popcorn and bread as well. The great thing about canola is that it offers significant value beyond its popular use in cooking oil, such as using it in biofuel.

After a couple of slow years, U.S. biodiesel production is on pace to reach 800 million gallons of production this year. Canola biodiesel has shown tremendous benefits, including the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75-82 percent and its superior cold flow.

Canola meal is rising in value as an animal feed ingredient. To further show its value, there are three research projects over the next three years that will study how to maximize the use of canola meal in dairy feeds, the effects of high levels of canola meal in dairy feeds, the effects of high levels of canola meal on animal performance, and how to improve meal carbohydrate composition. The results of these projects will be a "meal ticket" for showing the value of canola's lesser known byproduct.

Beyond fuel and feed, canola now has

a new use in food. Canola protein isolates are finally moving from the research lab to the sports nutrition marketplace. In the past year, much industry progress has been from receipt of U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval to improved extraction and purification processes and business partnerships with large food manufacturers.

**From fuel to food to feed,
canola is a star.**

From U. S. Canola Digest

From snack foods to beverages, new sunflower products seem to be showing up all over. Sunrich Naturals, a SunOpta brand, recently unveiled a new product called "SOL," a non-dairy beverage made from nutrient-rich sunflower seeds. It comes in three flavors: unsweetened, original, and vanilla. It is packaged in shelf-stable, 32 oz. containers.

Sunflower oil is being used in tires to help increase traction, braking and handling at low temperatures in wet conditions and snow. Cars with the tires are

able to stop 19 feet sooner than cars with other tires.

You may think all the bees flying around you are bad, but not only are we getting honey from them, they are good for pollination of self-pollinating crops like cotton and soybeans to increase a better yield. The bee activity improves soybean pod set. Soybean plants usually produce many more flowers than develop into pods. If you can reduce flower drop, you should increase yield.

Cotton plants produce twice as much seed as they do fiber.

Cottonseed oil is extracted from the cottonseed kernel. It is used in snack foods, such as chips, pretzels and crackers. It is also used in marinades, dressings, margarines and prepared foods. Cottonseed oil has no cholesterol. About 1.3 billion pounds of cottonseed oil are produced annually. Cottonseed meal is fed to cattle as a high protein feed supplement.

Frost in the northern states has hurt the bean crop, as there have been reports of blackened fields.

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By Marlene Kouba
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Energy Report

Alternative energy sources expand

“Solar City Tower,” built on top of the island of Cotonduba, will be the welcome symbol to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. It will be seen by the game visitors and participants as they arrive by air or water. The tower captures solar energy. It will supply energy for all of the Olympic city as well as also for part of Rio. It pumps up water from the ocean to create what appears like a waterfall, and this fall stimulates turbines that produce energy during the night.

Why does it cost so much to fly today? A decade ago, fuel accounted for about 15 percent of airline operating expenses. Five years ago, it was 29 percent. Today, it's 35 percent. During the first three months of 2011, the airlines spent \$8.7 billion on fuel, 31 percent more than last year. In the current quarter, jet fuel expenses are even higher. U.S. airlines burn an average of 22 gallons of fuel for every 1,000 miles each passenger flies.

Energy efficiency advocates are alarmed by news from the Worldwatch Institute that global energy intensity increased 1.35 percent in 2010, reversing a broader trend of decline over the last 30 years. Energy intensity, total energy consumption divided by gross world product, has been growing faster than the global economy for the past two years, even though energy intensity overall has declined over the past decade. While the increases are being experienced in both emerging economies and industrialized countries, that news was tempered by a prediction that global energy intensity will return to an overall decline over the long term. Saving energy and using it more efficiently is one of the two key components of energy efficiency; the

other is renewable energy production.

The U.S. Air Force is ready to switch to biofuels to help power its warplanes, but the price of alternative fuels remains too high, and the biofuels industry is still in need of more private investment. The dependence on fossil fuels creates vulnerability not only from a supply aspect but a cost aspect, so that drives a decrease for demand for these resources and to diversify the sources of supply. Plans are in place to reduce fuel demands by hundreds of thousands if not millions of gallons per year. The reductions would be the result of developing domestic alternative fuel sources from such things as algae, camelina, animal fats, and biomass. Military officials have joined forces with commercial airlines to try to send the right message to the alternative fuels industry: “We’re ready whenever they’re ready to produce it.”

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that rural electric cooperative utilities will receive more than \$900 million in loans that will benefit more than 19,000 rural consumers in 14 states. The loans are provided by USDA Rural Development’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to help build nearly 1,500 miles of line and improve more than 1,700 miles of existing line in rural areas. More than \$19 million will finance smart grid technologies. USDA Rural Development also funds energy conservation and renewable energy projects.

Global production of biofuels reached an all-time high of about 27.7 billion gallons, up from 23.8 billion gallons in 2009. High oil prices, a global economic rebound, and new laws and mandates in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, and the United States, among other countries, are all factors behind the surge in production.

The U.S. and Brazil remain the two largest producers of ethanol. In 2010, the United States generated 12.9 billion gallons, while Brazil produced almost 6.1 billion gallons. Corn is the primary feed-

stock for U.S. ethanol, and sugarcane is the dominant source of ethanol in Brazil.

Solyndra was a manufacturer of cylindrical panels of CIGS thin-film solar cells based in Fremont, Calif. It received \$535 million of your tax dollars two years ago, yet the company suspended all of its operations in August. Documents have surfaced saying the company was in jeopardy when they got the money, and executives are refusing to answer questions from a House committee. The bankruptcy makes it tougher for other fledgling solar companies to secure financing.

U.S. wind energy continues to grow with 2,151 megawatts (MW) of electrical generating capacity installed in the first half of 2011 versus 1,250 MW during the same time in 2010. However, without stable policy, such as an extension of the Production Tax Credit that is set to expire in 2012, the industry’s recovery will stall. Project activity and orders for 2013 and beyond are scant because of an unpredictable business environment, causing layoffs and even bankruptcies in American manufacturing plants and the supply chain.

The wind sector averaged 3.2 percent of the nation’s electricity over the strong wind months between January and April 2011. Wind energy remains ahead of schedule to generate 20 percent of America’s electricity by 2030. An additional 7,354 MW of new capacity was under construction by July 1, more than at any time since 2008. Wind energy has installed 35 percent of America’s new electrical generating capacity, more than twice coal and nuclear combined since 2007. The U.S. wind industry now totals 42,432 MW of cumulative wind capacity, led by Texas with more than a fourth of the total. Amid a worsening drought in Texas that is threatening the large amounts of water needed to generate most other sources of electricity, another advantage of wind energy is that it uses virtually no water.

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



By **Donna Bolz**
Nebraska

Mother's warning about unsafe food resonates in today's society

I remember my mother warning me about eating things with mayo in them. "The food must be kept cold or you will get sick," she would remind me. I still pass up things today with mayo in them because of her sitting on my shoulder repeating the words about mayo. In a recent article, I find that my mother's concern about certain foods is still true today.

In the United States annually, about one in six Americans, or 48 million people, get sick from foodborne diseases, according to the recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of those, about 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die. This can largely be prevented.

Under provisions of the Food Safety Modernization Act, the US Food and Drug Administration has expanded its efforts to protect public health by focusing more on preventing food safety problems and not waiting for reacting to problems after they occur.

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was signed into law by President Obama on January 4, 2011. It aims to ensure the U.S. food supply is safe by shifting the focus of federal regulators from responding to contamination to preventing it.

The article that provided the information for this report states that the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center at New Mexico

State University is helping the FDA strengthen the food safety system in New Mexico. The director believes that the potential for a major food hazard incident comes from people's lack of awareness of food recalls. There is trouble getting the word out about hazardous food recalls. Food remains on home pantry selves, where it can be consumed and cause illness.

To help with this problem, the FDA is asking every state to form a Food Protection Alliance at both the state and county level. The purpose of the alliance is to find ways to do a better job of protecting the food we consume and to have people network together to ensure food safety in their

communities. They believe that training people is the key to success.

The alliance would help to develop training that could be done at all levels to help people protect themselves from food contamination incidents.

When there is a food recall, it is important to get the information to the consumer as soon as possible. The state health department informs the media and others who broadcast the warning, but not all are tuned into these broadcasts.

Another way to get the info out is to place fliers at grocery stores, community centers and schools. For more information, contact your county's extension office.

WIFE Supporting Members

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- Bayer CropScience

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- DuPont
- Farm Credit of New Mexico
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- Renewable Fuels Association
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- Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- North Bridge Communications

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- Rauner & Associates





By Dianna Reed
Kansas

Dairy Report

Food labels can protect consumers

Country of origin labels are needed on dairy products. In an open letter from the Dairy Producers of New Mexico, they stated that food safety is truly an issue that affects every American citizen. Foods could be used as vehicles or carriers to deliver infectious agents or toxins in a terrorist attack. Intentionally or accidentally adulterated foods, likewise, could have extremely detrimental effects on our population. Certain drugs, additives, pesticides or medications, if improperly used, could potentially sicken or kill thousands of people.

In 2008, infant formula fed to babies in China was found to contain a chemical called melamine which had been added to milk powder to boost the quantitative protein analysis. The consumption of contaminated formula sickened and killed Chinese infants. Many Chinese dairy production units were reported to have lost their milk permits on the basis of melamine contamination.

It is reported there is abundant melamine-contaminated milk powder that remains in storage. With recent radiation contamination in Japan, importation of dairy products has been curtailed from that country. This ban will not be effective if unlabeled products are routed through other world markets, as unlabeled milk protein concentrates for example. Such products could pass freely through the Mexican border and could ultimately wind up in the country for consumption by American consumers.

The idea of importing any unlabeled dairy (or beef) products from Japan is also troubling because of their ongoing problems with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease). Tuberculosis, brucellosis, listeriosis, foot and mouth disease and many other disease-causing agents could potentially enter this country via improperly pasteurized or processed dairy products that were not handled or stored under optimum conditions in the country of origin or during transport.

This is a huge concern with unlabeled products. While processing facilities may be inspected, it is very unlikely that "on-farm inspections" could take place to assure sanitation methods or animal health and handling methods in the country of origin.

Certain imported milk-derived products, such as milk protein concentrates, caseinates and milk ingredients, are not required to be labeled as to country of origin. Further, these unlabeled, imported products and proteins are frequently added to domestically produced raw milk in manufacturing and processing of various cheeses, yogurts and other dairy products, with no requirement for labeling of foreign components in the final product.

The New Mexico dairy producers go on to state many other concerns in their letter and conclude that American dairy producers have spent millions of advertising dollars promoting consumer confidence in our domestic dairy products. They urge DHS, USDA and FDA to ensure that American consumers be afforded the opportunity to make informed choices about which country's dairy farmers will provide their family's dairy products.

WIFE Dues

National Dues: \$40

Mail to:



Women Involved in Farm Economics
Attention: Shana Baisch, Treasurer
323 Road 300
Glendive, MT 59330
jsbaisch@wb.midrivers.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Chairman:

Darcy Dressler

PO Box 116

Taylor, ND 58656-0116

Phone: 701-5903579 • email: darcy_dressler@yahoo.com

National Convention Registration

Women Involved in Farm Economics 35th Annual Convention **November 8-12, 2011**

Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces
705 South Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88001
Phone: 575-522-4300 ♦ Toll Free: 866-383-0443
(toll free calls go directly to the hotel)

Registration Deadline: Oct. 17, 2011
Cancellations: Nov. 1, 2011

All standing committee meetings will be held on Wednesday morning - November 9, 2011
Resolutions Committee will meet Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m. November 9, 2011
WIFE Board of Directors Meeting will be held immediately following Resolutions on the 9th
Committee Members should plan to arrive Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Return to:
Bobbie Massey
P.O. Box 316
Animas, NM 88020
Phone: (575) 548-2434
bjmassey@vtc.net

Pre-registration: Before October 17, 2011	Late Registration: After October 17, 2011
Member: \$150.00	Member: \$170.00
Spouse/Guest: \$150.00	Spouse/Guest: \$170.00

Cancellation and refund must be requested by November 1 and cannot be refunded after November 13.
It must be applied to guaranteed expenses.

Make checks payable to: WIFE Convention

Member Name: _____

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

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

National Position: (specify) _____

Please check all that apply:

National Officer () Office position _____

National Commodity/Topic Chair or Standing Committee Chair () Specify: _____

State President () BOD Delegate () Member () Guest () HOW ()

Check if roommate needed () Special diet required: _____

Hotel Reservation information can be found on the back of the WIFeline.

National Convention Hotel Reservations

Women Involved in Farm Economics 35th Annual Convention **November 8-12, 2011**

Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces
705 South Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88001
Phone: 575-522-4300 ♦ Toll Free: 866-383-0443
(toll free calls go directly to the hotel)

Reservation Deadline for rates listed: Oct. 25, 2011

After the cut-off date, rooms will be released to general inventory for sale. The hotel will continue to accept reservations after Tuesday, October 25, 2011, on a space available and rate available basis only.

Reservations:

Individual Call-In: Individual reservations can be made by calling either the Hotel directly or the Toll Free numbers listed above. You must identify yourself as being with WIFE to receive the established Group rate initially when making the reservation. All reservations must be received by the WIFE Group's cut-off date and guaranteed with a one night's deposit in the form of check, money order or credit card. After receipt of a guaranteed reservation, upon request the Hotel will forward guest room confirmations to each individual. Check-in is 3 p.m. Check-out is 12 p.m.

Room Types and Rates:

Single Rate \$81 plus tax

Double Rate \$81 plus tax

Rooms with two doubles or one king are offered.

Bed preferences will be met on availability.

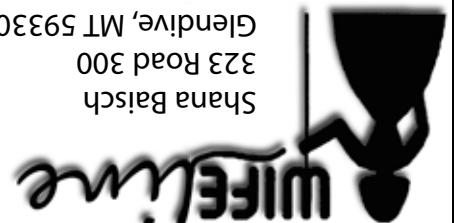
Current Applicable tax at 12.5625% (Tax rate subject to change)

Convention Center Fee: \$2.50 per room per night charge

When making reservations, let them know you are with the WIFE Group.

Change Service Requested

Shana Baisch
323 Road 300
Glendive, MT 59330



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