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# Border Issues

Susan Krentz

My name is Susan Krentz and I live on a ranch in south-east Arizona. My husband's family bought this ranch in 1907 and was able to carve out a living that has sustained six generations. The closest town is Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Pieta, Sonora, is the sister city to us on the border.

In this area we are in the middle of an invasion. The invasion is getting worse and most everyone has their own ideas on the issue. Many blame the border patrol. They say their running all over is causing problems but the border patrol would not be here if the illegal's were not here. Years ago there were only a handful of border patrol agents who lived in Douglas, Arizona. They did not have the manpower or the equipment to do much law enforcement but really there was no need. The border crossers were few.

Now they are coming over the border in huge numbers. A couple of years ago we had 500 people removed off the ranch in 8 days. The statistics are that for every one they catch 8 get away. Do the math -- there are huge numbers crossing the Mexican border.

The damage to our ranch is estimated at \$7 million and this includes damages to the water lines. The illegals break the water lines which will drain all the storage tanks we have--draining millions of gallons of water on the ground. We have to check the water lines daily. This also causes damage to the water line that is run by gravity flow and so air locks will develop all through the line. Many times it takes weeks to catch up and fix the line.

The recent drought puts stress on all plants, vegetation wildlife and cattle. When you have over 100 people walking through your pastures the cattle scatter and this causes them to lose weight. In the past we preconditioned some calves and at the time of shipping they had lost about 50 pounds which cost us about \$150,000.00 Needless to say there is no bailout plan for us nor is there any kind of recognition that we are in personal, life threatening danger.

We have had neighbors whose homes have been broken into and guns have been stolen. One neighbor was out working cattle with their kids. The grandfather, dad and other cowboys were on one side of the canyon and on the other side of the canyon rode the two teenage boys. They watched in horror as the illegals charged the horses their boys were riding to gain control of the horses and to hurt the young boys. Fortunately the boys stood their ground and this time the illegals did not win.

Another time a mother was out hanging up her clothes. She had her 6-month old baby boy in the car seat behind her. The wind was blowing and she did not hear the illegals come in to the yard and grab the baby. When she turned around the illegals had the baby and would not give her back her son unless she allowed them to use the phone. She got inside and got her shotgun and phoned frantically calling for help. The illegals gave her the baby and she ran inside, locked the doors and for about 20 minutes the illegals continued to bang on the windows and doors demanding to use the phone. When you live in the country you are miles from help, and even if it is "on the way" it may take up to 30 minutes to find you.

We are well aware of the reason behind the undocumented aliens leaving their country to come to the United States for a better life. We are seeing huge groups of 20 to over 100 people from the same village or town. Many are related as we see brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, and children. We never had seen children before but now it is a common sight. There are communities in Mexico that are totally vacant because all the people have been forced to leave. This seems to be a sign of rural cleansing.

One of our friends video-taped a group of illegals crossing the border and he asked them what they were doing and basically they said to change the face of the United States from the inside. Under Vicente Fox he promoted dual citizen-

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

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Farm and ranch finance, homeland security and rural health are priorities for Women Involved in Farm Economics as members head to Washington, DC, for a Legislative Conference that will be held February 7 - 10, 2009. Your organization will be working tirelessly for you as these complex issues are taken to Congress. If you have the money, time and are able to clear your calendar, please consider attending this Legislative Conference.

WIFE members are considered experts—we own our businesses that produce food and fiber for the world population. We are involved, on a daily basis, in taking care of our livestock, crops, and protecting our property. We are also environmental experts as we have to keep our land in the best possible shape to obtain optimum production of our goods. If you can find the time to come to Washington, DC, not only can you share your expertise, but you will gain knowledge and ideas that could help your agricultural business to be more profitable.

*“Critical -What We Can Do about the Health-Care Crisis”* is the title of a book written by Tom Daschle, President-Elect Obama’s pick for the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This will be a powerful position for Daschle. Some of the offices under this department are the Food and Drug Administration and the Center of Disease Control and Prevention. More information can be found at [www.HHS.gov](http://www.HHS.gov). Mr. Daschle’s book is an easy read and shows how the former senator understands the problems with rural health care and how difficult it can be to get things through Congress. Tom Daschle has a vision for health care in America and has outlined it in his book. Time will tell if he will be able to garner the support of Congress to put the plan into action, but since one of WIFE’s priorities this year is rural health care, the ideas put forth in this book could spark some great conversations. So, I would encourage WIFE members or anyone else to read it.

Your new Executive Team is in place and you have given us policy for direction in which to work. We will do our best to lead the organization as we work on agriculture issues in 2009.

Past President Pam Potthoff has worked tirelessly for WIFE for many years and led our organization for the past two years. Thank you, Pam, for all you have done to support our industry and organization! Enjoy your grandchildren and family, as time will be short before you are back on the road sharing your wisdom with our newly elected officers and working on issues important to all of us involved in agriculture!

## WIFE SUPPORTING MEMBER CONTRIBUTOR LEVELS

### VIP Membership

Bayer CropScience

### Executive Membership

American Council of Life Insurers  
DuPont  
Edison Electric Institute  
Monsanto  
New Holland  
North America, Inc.  
Renewable Fuels Association

### Associate Membership

American Bankers Association  
Deere & Company  
Farm Credit Council  
Florida Sugar Cane League  
U.S. Beet Sugar Association

### Contributor Membership

American’s for Secure Retirement  
CHS Cooperatives  
Miller Brewing Company

### In-Kind Contributors

Kimmitt, Senter,  
Coates & Weinfurter  
High Plains Journal



## Border Issues continued from page 1

ship so the new citizens could reap the wealth and opportunities here but not have to pay for it through taxes.

The Border Patrol is the legal government agency that can arrest and deport the illegals. Your county sheriff cannot do this. Your highway patrol does not arrest and remove illegals from your property. Within the 25 miles of the border this job is given to the UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL which is now governed under the Department of Homeland Security.

Once you get more than 25 miles from the border this legal authority to arrest illegals is the job of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), an agency of the newly created Department of Homeland Security. Their job is to protect national security and uphold public safety by targeting criminal networks and terrorist organizations that seek to exploit vulnerabilities in our immigration system, in our financial networks, along our border, at federal facilities and elsewhere in order to do harm to the United States. The end result is a safer, more secure America.

The border invasion changes with the administration change. If the impression that the federal leaders will be weak the border invasion increases. If the impression is that the federal leaders will be tough on the border crossers the invasion becomes lighter or is played like a game. And as the pressure increases in one area to capture the undocumented crossers then they move to another area and invade that area with roads and people.

Their equipment such as cell phones, GPS units, night vision goggles and firearms are, in many cases, better than what the border patrol have or the local law enforcement agencies.

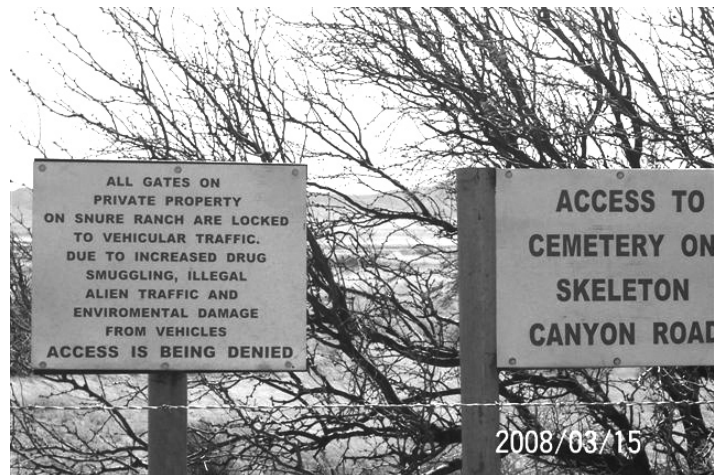
In early December we had 7 vehicles cross the border fence. How? They brought their own "bridge" a plank on the other side and drove over the fence. With two portable toilets in back filled with dope. They crossed the fence and came down Geronimo Trail to the border road, with Douglas Police and Border Patrol in hot pursuit. The people got away; one portable toilet did fall out of the truck but the truck carrying more dope crossed back into Mexico. The agents were fired upon but since the border patrol agents are now fearing repercussions of them being arrested for shooting at the perpetrators they backed off.

Narrowing this story to the viewpoint of the ranchers, we are in grave danger. We fear for our lives and the safety of our families. This is a war and it is boiling over into the UNITED STATES. Reports of mass murders across the line are common. Right now their leaders are beheading people that cross them and their plans. There are even travel warnings for Americans traveling into Mexico.

All we want as landowners is to live in peace, to be safe on our land and in our homes, to not live in fear and have the right that we can pursue the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We wish no harm to anyone and just ask for one thing -- to live free.

One can track these articles and information at many sites on the web such as: The Anderson Report--<http://www.azanderson.org/>, or American Patrol Report--<http://www.americanpatrol.com/>, or Tucson Weekly articles by Leo

Banks, Range Magazine articles by Tim Findley, or just review the articles in any newspaper.



2008 President Pam Potthoff in action at the National Convention.

# BEEF

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Fall is when the majority of beef calves are weaned from the mother cows. Many calves go directly to the sale barn, or have been sold via satellite, and are loaded on trucks for delivery to the buyer, thus experiencing “weaning on the truck” and they can be more susceptible to sickness. Although many producers now vaccinate calves while they are still nursing on the cows and even administer booster shots prior to shipping.

Other calves are being preconditioned, which prepares calves to enter a feedlot at another location 30-45 days after the calves have been weaned. During this time, the calves are given booster shots for the vaccinations given while the calves were still on the cows. The calves are also introduced to bunk feeding, all with the purpose of the calves having healthier response to potential illness and better prepared for a feedlot. Sometimes it is difficult for a producer to get a premium for preconditioned calves and may require a type of retained ownership program to recover the investment of feed, labor and vaccination costs.

Still other calves are wintered by the producer, usually on a high forage ration, making use of available hay and grazing. Usually this system is for calves that will be placed on pasture the following season. The overall goal of this system is to minimize winter feeding costs while keeping the cattle healthy. Values must be placed on all forage and weighed against the current markets, in order to determine if this method will generate a profit. This system of backgrounding is best suited to smaller-framed British and British cross cattle. Large-framed exotic and exotic cross cattle do not fit this system as they will develop too much frame during the winter feeding months and will then finish with carcass weights too high for today’s industry standards (greater than 950 pound hot carcass weight.) Today’s standards call for a hot carcass weight of 600-800 pounds, the future may be for a reduction in that weight. Time will tell.

Regardless of the system used, producers must evaluate the type of cattle they raise, and due to calving dates and genetic capability of each calf, have three or more groups of calves which probably should be placed in different systems following weaning. Typically, heavier, larger-framed steers are best suited for systems such as growing or fast-track, directly off the cows. Medium-framed steers fit well in systems which allow the steer to grow while not becoming fleshy. Small-framed steers are generally best suited for wintering programs followed by a yearling period on grass to allow adequate frame growth prior to finishing. Most heifer calves are best suited for some type of growing program prior to entry into a feedlot. Small-framed heifers which are not kept for replacements fit well in wintering systems which will allow frame growth prior to feedlot entry.

No system fits all types of cattle. Your final market tar-

get determines to a large degree which type of system your cattle should be placed in. As the industry narrows the acceptable carcass weight range, producers will need to more carefully select cattle for placement into specific programs.

# FEED GRAINS

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One of the sustainable products made from corn is Ingeo™ biopolymer. The type of corn used for Ingeo™ is “No. 2 Yellow Dent”, which is the most common corn variety. About 65 percent fewer fossil resources are required to produce this biopolymer than other polymers derived directly from hydrocarbons. The raw materials for Ingeo™ biopolymer are carbon dioxide and water. These building blocks are taken from the atmosphere and the soil by the plant, which makes carbohydrates (sucrose and starch). Dextrose, a natural sugar derived from the starch, is the primary raw material for this biopolymer.

Ingeo™ biopolymers are a natural fit for applications currently using polyester, polyolefins, polystyrene and cellulose. This resin is ideal for packaging, as it can be clear, opaque, flexible or rigid. It resists oil and grease, and provides a flavor and odor barrier.

Another application of this product is a high-performance synthetic fiber which is suited for apparel and furnishings — everything from dress shirts to draperies. This fiber can have the look and feel of natural fibers and performs like a traditional synthetic.

Yet another area this fiber is being used in is carpet. This is the first man-made fiber derived entirely from an annually renewable resource that can also be recycled, burned or composted back into natural material. It has superior stain resistance and soil release properties and it performed equal to, or better than, nylon carpet in smoke tests.

This fiber is also ideal for draperies, wall coverings and bedding, and it has superior flame resistance. It is used for blankets, upholstery fabrics, ticking and panel fabrics. It is also available for skin care and hygiene products, such as diapers, baby and facial wipes, and feminine products.

Ingeo™ fiber is recyclable and compostable, fits into any waste management system, and it performs equal to, or better than, comparable petroleum-based products. A product is deemed “sustainable” when it has an at-least-equivalent function as the products it is replacing. Ingeo™ biopolymer not only meets that requirement, but often exceeds it.

## Calendar of Events:

January 25 - Reports are due  
February 7-11 - Washington, DC  
June - BOD Meeting, Denver, CO  
November - National Convention, NY

# ENERGY

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Energy issues have been among those that WIFE have worked diligently on from the very beginning. WIFE's history has been a long one in the promotion of renewable fuels. When the WIFE organization was in its formative years, gasohol became a household word in many WIFE homes across the country. Well, you rarely hear the term gasohol spoken unless you are talking to a WIFE member who was around back in those days. Ethanol is the word used today and hopefully is the fuel of choice across this country.

WIFE has been in the forefront when it comes to promoting the use of ethanol. Our interest in ethanol began in the 1970's, when oil embargoes, rising energy prices, and increased pollution raised questions about the United States's continued dependence on fossil fuels. WIFE's promotion of ethanol as a clean fuel choice is because it is renewable and beneficial to the environment and for energy security. Economic advantages provided by ethanol, such as new markets for farm grown products used in its production, is also an important factor to the American farmer.

WIFE's ethanol-powered activities to empower ethanol began in 1977 when the Texas, Montana and Washington WIFE associations sent delegations to Washington, DC, to tell agriculture's story to our U.S. senators and representatives. The Montana delegation traveled by vehicles powered with gasohol. Can you imagine the impact those women in red made when they arrived in DC in their gasohol powered vehicles? What an opportunity this provided for explaining why this country needed to become less dependent on foreign oil and more dependent on homegrown fuel — fuel made from homegrown corn!

Here we are in 2009 and WIFE remains committed to promoting renewable fuels for the same reasons as back in 1977. Regrettably, some other agricultural organizations are not so supportive. A coalition of livestock, meat, environmental and taxpayer organizations are promoting a phase-out of ethanol support. The members of the coalition include the American Meat Institute, Environmental Working Group, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Chicken Council, National Restaurant Association and the National Retail Federation. Reports indicate that this group recently called on the Obama administration and the new Congress to repeal ethanol subsidy programs.

Two studies regarding this issue have somewhat conflicting results. The coalition cited a national survey by Ipsos Public Affairs that indicated 89 percent of Americans are concerned by the high price of food. The survey was commissioned by the members of the Food Before Fuel Campaign.

As the coalition was calling for the repeal of ethanol support programs, a new report released by LECG, LLC indicated that for every \$1 invested in America's ethanol industry

in the form of a federal excise tax credit there was nearly \$5 returned to federal, state and local government and the economy as a whole. According to the study, the ethanol industry has generated an estimated \$33.4 billion in tax revenue for the federal government and nearly \$17 billion of additional tax revenue for state and local governments since 1978. The report says that since its inception in 1978, America's tab for imported oil has been reduced by \$97.5 billion, and farm program payments have shrunk by more than \$3 billion annually since 2006. In addition, \$66 billion more has been put into the pockets of Americans in the form of increased household income. The report was sponsored by the Renewable Fuels Association.

Additional information from the Renewable Fuels Association shows that, in the past 18 months, food price increases have occurred seemingly in tandem with advancing corn prices and growth in U.S. ethanol production. The concurrence of these events has led to speculation that increased ethanol production is a major driving factor of higher corn prices, and in turn, higher food prices. While the case can be made that expanded ethanol production is a minor factor in increased spending on food, additional food spending increases are more than offset by savings resulting from the inclusion of more ethanol in the U.S. gasoline supply. As this analysis of data from government, academic and financial sources demonstrates, the average U.S. household saved between \$204.29 and \$510.72 between March 2007 and March 2008 as a result of increasing ethanol production.

Those facts also speak volumes toward the benefits of ethanol. It is evident that in the months ahead, renewable fuels will continue to be a topic spoken on favorably by some and negatively by others. It will be interesting to see how the new Administration and Congress address legislative issues regarding renewable fuels. WIFE will continue to be in the midst of the discussions and involved in activities to further promote ethanol, biofuels, wind, solar and other renewable sources of energy.

## ADVICE FROM A TREE

Stand tall and proud.  
Sink your roots into the ground.  
Remember your roots.  
Be flexible.  
Drink plenty of water.  
Enjoy the view.  
Think long term.  
Go out on a limb.  
Be content with your natural beauty.  
Seek nourishment from the good things in life.  
--Ilan Shamer

## REMINDER:

If you are the chairman of a topic for your state, please help out the national chairman of your topic with information from your state or area. Example: If you are beef chairman for your state, send items of interest to the national beef chairman. Any member can send items on any category to the chairman it would fit. Example: If you are Shera Smith and read an article on energy, send it to the National Energy chairman Sheila Massey, etc. All national chairmen welcome information that they may use for their monthly articles.

# FLYING HIGH

By Marlene Kouba

Some of you may be flying for the first time or maybe it has been a long time since you last flew. There have been many changes. Getting your ticket is the easy part as you can do it online or by phone. A travel search engine kayak.com checks many sites to help you find the best one. Often it has better deals than Orbitz or Travelocity but try [travelbydayz.com](http://travelbydayz.com), too. Check out [farecast.live.com](http://farecast.live.com) which considers past trends to help you decide whether to book now or later. Before buying online, call the airline's toll free number and talk to a human being to see if you are getting a good buy or not. A good time to get good deals is to stay up late on Tuesdays and book during early morning hours on Wednesdays. (Source: *Reader's Digest*, 11/08)

Some airlines now charge for each bag checked. Reminders: If you have any liquid or cream items in your carryon you must have it in a sandwich bag and display it during security, but they can't be over 3 oz. If they are, they get tossed, even if there is only a bit left in the container. On most airlines, you do not get any lunch or even snacks—no more dry pretzels or shortbread. Some will give you a choice of drinks and some will give only water or coffee. Most flights are about two hours so that is why no meal is served. You can bring your own munchies but nothing liquid unless it is purchased in the airport after you have gone through security.

Last year there were 8,852 flights stranded on the tarmac for more than two hours. The short flights are due to smaller planes traveling to more cities. There were 991,627 flights in 2007 from Atlanta, the busiest airport. Next busy were Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Los Angeles, Denver, Las Vegas, and Houston. It is expected that U.S. airports will handle 1 billion travelers by 2014. More than 590,000 pilots made more than 61 million takeoffs and landings last year. Flying is actually safer than driving your car.

Fuel once accounted for 15 percent of a flight's ticket but now it's 40 percent. An Australian airline is now flying on half vegetable oil. The majority of airlines or online travel agencies tack on a fee to make a reservation and it varies from \$5 to \$30. Some carryon bags may be checked at the door of a small plane.

Some flight tips: 1. Fly early in the day. 2. Depart a day in advance if possible. 3. Sign up for a frequent traveler program, 4. Check before flying to see if there is a problem.

Some tips from WIFE members: 1. Put a change of clothes in your carryon—just in case your luggage is lost or delayed, 2. Pack light, 3. Wear comfy shoes for DC trip, 4. Mail some items to hotel in DC rather than carry them, 5. Make a copy of both sides of all credit cards in case of emergency, 6. Don't put your car keys in your suitcase! 7. Take more cash than you think you will need, 8. Bring a book, puzzle book, etc. to help pass the time in flight or as you wait somewhere along the trip.

Happy traveling!

# PROPERTY RIGHTS

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As of December 22, 2008, Memorandum No. 575.19 issued on September 22, 2008 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services (APHIS-VS) has been retracted. The new memo abolishes the "dissenter code" (in which people who didn't volunteer were singled out) but still attempts to mandate premises registration under the National Animal Identification System for "vaccinations for disease programs, certification programs, surveillance programs, disease investigations, or inspections of import-export locations". Visit R-CALF USA's website, under "Animal ID" to view USDA's new cancellation memo.



In LaGrange, Ohio, a large special forces police team with semi-automatic rifles entered the private home of the Stower's family on December 1, 2008, over an alleged licensing violation by Manna Storehouse, an organic food coop run by the family. The licensing violation is a possible misdemeanor. Apparently, under the direction of the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Lorain County General Health District (LCGHD), the family was held at gun-point in their living room for more than six hours while enforcement officers went through all, and confiscated many, of their personal belongings, including cell phones, computers, and a year's supply of meat.

A suit is being brought on behalf of the Stower's family, by the Buckeye Institute's Center for Constitutional Law, against the ODA and the LCHD, for violation of both the U.S. Constitution and Ohio's State Constitution. The Lorain County Sheriff's Office Incident Report can be viewed at: <http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2008/12/Lorain%20Sheriff%27s%20report.pdf>. More information is available at: [www.buckeyeinstitute.org](http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org) and [www.morningjournal.com/articles/2008/12/18/news/mj365952.txt](http://www.morningjournal.com/articles/2008/12/18/news/mj365952.txt)

Four animal rights activists were convicted this week of blackmailing companies that supplied an animal testing laboratory. The jury in Winchester, southern England, convicted the four who will be sentenced on January 19, of orchestrating a campaign against suppliers of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) between 2001 and 2007. The four, members of Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), used threats such as claiming that company managers were pedophiles, sending hoax bombs, vandalism of worker property, and making threatening telephone calls, among others. The harassment would stop only when a company put out a "capitulation statement" to SHAC promising not to supply HLS, which conducts animal testing for the pharmaceutical industry. (Source: *U.S. Animal Health Association*)

[www.WIFeline.com](http://www.WIFeline.com)

# J. STERLING MORTON

As told by Darrel W. Draper  
Reported by Marlene Kouba

Darrel W. Draper has been spending his retirement as a storyteller and actor to educate and entertain. He performs costumed, historical monologues featuring men who played key roles in Nebraska history. They are Peter Sarpy, George Drouillard, Daniel Freeman and J. Sterling Morton. For the WIFE convention on November 20, he was J. Sterling Morton.

"Julius Sterling Morton was born in Adams, New York, on April 22, 1832. In 1834 his family moved near Detroit, Michigan, where he spent his childhood. At age 14, he met and became engaged to Caroline Joy French, also 14. The couple completed their education, married on October 30, 1854, and left the same day for Nebraska territory where they settled near Bellevue. They built a four-room L-shaped house with a front porch on the highest point of their land. It was the only frame house between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains so was considered a mansion.

Both Sterling and Carrie were nature lovers and used to being surrounded by trees. They planted many trees along



Darrel W. Draper

with an apple orchard that covered 160 acres by 1858. She was also an artist, skillfully played a grand piano and designed the drives, walks and gardens around their home.

J. Sterling Morton was a journalist by profession but his writings about trees gained him recognition. In 1872, he introduced a resolution calling for a tree-planting day to be known as Arbor Day. In 1875 the Nebraska Legislature made Arbor

Day a legal holiday and set the day as Morton's birthday, April 22. Over one million trees were planted in Nebraska on that first Arbor Day. The observance has spread to nearly every state and many countries.

Morton held many political offices. He served two terms as Territorial Representative, Secretary and Acting Secretary of the Territory and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland. He died on April 27, 1902.

Sterling and Carrie had four sons and all became accomplished businessmen. The oldest son, Joy, completed the 52-room neo-colonial, fully furnished mansion, Arbor Lodge, in 1903 which is surrounded with more than 72 acres of hilly, wooded land at the edge of Nebraska City. He also was the founder of the Morton Salt Company. The second son, Paul, was Secretary of the Navy under President Teddy Roosevelt and also president of Prudential Insurance. The third son, Mark, was vice-president of Morton Salt and also headed Argo Corn Starch. The youngest son, Carl, was a businessman who died at the age of 35. Joy's son, J. Sterling's grandson, was named Sterling. He was also president of Morton Salt and is responsible for the little girl with the umbrella on the blue boxes of salt. He coined the phrase "When it rains, it pours" to signify that their salt would pour regardless of the weather as the grains of salt did not stick together," he stated.

For 20 years Joy and his family used the Lodge as a summer retreat but in 1923 he donated the house and grounds to the State of Nebraska to be preserved for future generations as a monument to his father. Today it is a state historical park. Many WIFE members and their husbands toured the mansion and some of the grounds. It overlooks the valley and town and can be seen from miles around.



As it stands today, Morton mansion was completed in 1903 by son, Joy, who donated it to the state in 1923.

## OILSEEDS

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**BIODIESEL**--As the demand for petroleum increases, so does our dependence on foreign oil and input of pollutants in the air. Biodiesel, a clean-burning fuel made from domestically produced, renewable fats and oils, offers a solution to both of these problems. Canola is a good feedstock for biodiesel as it is lower in saturated fat than other vegetable oils, which means it has a lower gel point (crystallization due to cold temperatures). Cold-starting problems associated with biodiesel have raised attention, so understanding the differences among oils is important. Cold flow is directly related to saturated fats so more saturates cause greater problems. Just one example, soy biodiesel gels at 31 degrees F, while canola biodiesel does not gel until temperatures drop down to 15 degrees F. If, while driving in a cold country, you have ever had the misfortune to have your diesel start to gel up, you know it is not a fun situation because it usually happens after dark when you are a long ways from home or help.

**FOODS WITHOUT TRANS FAT**--Food companies can now make margarines, baked goods and can also deep-fat fry using a new type of canola oil. This canola oil is not found in supermarkets. It is used only by food processors. The new canola oil is low in saturated fat, naturally stable and contains no trans fat. The amount of saturated fat and trans fat in cookies and crackers can be decreased 85 percent by replacing partially hydrogenated vegetable oil with this new canola oil. Food products made with the new canola oil still have the same pleasant taste as always. Moreover they keep their good taste when placed on store shelves for a long period of time.

When cooking at home with canola oil, and your recipe calls for a solid fat (butter, margarine, lard or shortening) to be melted and then added to the recipe, you can substitute canola oil in the following amounts: 1 cup = 3/4 cup of canola oil; 3/4 cup = 2/3 cup of canola oil; 1/2 cup = 1/3 cup of canola oil; 1/4 cup = 3 TBSP of canola oil.

# TRADE

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New concepts in trade? It's a possibility if a lobbyist for Cheese Importers Association of America (CIAA) gets a top level USDA job. According to reports from the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, it was "confirmed" that Phillip L. Fraas, who is a Washington lobbyist for CIAA, is applying for the top post in USDA's internal legal department, the Office of General Counsel. Fraas, in a limited capacity during the 1980s, was staff counsel to the U.S. Senate and House Agriculture committees. Fonterra lobbyist Bert Pena worked with Fraas in the 1980s in the House Agriculture committee. New Zealand's Fonterra is the world's biggest dairy trader. Pete Hardin, editor of the Milkweed, reports that USDA and Senate Agriculture Committee sources credit Fraas and Pena as co-fathers of the infamous 2008 farm bill compromise that gave CIAA members, Fonterra and other importers special treatment on the dairy import assessment. For example, the United States producers pay an assessment of fifteen cents and importers pay seven and a half cents.

Several sources have put China in the trade news again. We all know that many Chinese children, approximately 54,000, were seriously ill and several died from tainted milk. The famous melamine that was in that milk has found its way to other places and products. A Battle Creek, Michigan-based company has recalled Koala's March creme filled cookies from United States store shelves. They were made in China and distributed nationwide and into Canada. The culprit was melamine. Korea has ordered twenty-three tons of tainted eggs destroyed. They were imported from China. In Milan, Italy, a ton of contaminated powdered milk, reportedly smuggled into the country, was destroyed along with twenty ton of food products. They contained the industrial chemical melamine and came from China.

What is melamine? It's an industrial chemical high in nitrogen and, when added, can make milk appear to contain more protein, thereby making it seem that the milk and food products are more nutritious.

In Tokyo, a Japanese supermarket chain pulled frozen beans which were found to be tainted with pesticide. One package was found to contain 34,000 times the permitted level of dichlorros, a highly toxic insecticide. The beans were imported from China.

China is not the only country that is entangled in this health concern but they are currently the focus in the news. In the news again is the World Trade Organization Director General Pascal Lamy, the Doha Round and cotton. Lamy has put together an international task force to gather data. He is prepared to make available written information and wants to set up a forum for WTO members enabling group discussions. Cotton subsidies were one of the topics again. Director Lamy wants trade distorting subsidies given to United States cotton producers slashed.

Aid for Trade is assisted with grants providing trade-related help for developing countries to grow in global markets.

The U.S. is the largest single country provider of trade related assistance including trade related physical infrastructure. U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab reported that the U.S. gave a 60 percent increase over last year to the Aid for Trade amounting to \$2.3 billion for 2008. The goal is to give \$2.7 billion yearly for the program by 2010, a commitment given by the U.S. at the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting in 2005. To date, since 2000, the United States has given more than \$9.7 billion for trade related assistance. U.S. Trade Representative Schwab said, "This is another example of the ongoing U.S. commitment to promoting development and achieving a successful conclusion to the Doha Round".

WIFE supports fair trade for our agriculture producers and our consumers in America.

WIFE believes in fair world-wide export-import regulations and the same strict standards are imposed on all imported food products as in U.S. food products and that inspection procedures be no less strict.

*(Sources: Milkweed, USDA, Reuters, International News, USTR)*

# TRANSPORTATION

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As the world gets bigger and more people are on the move, it is time for change at the Panama Canal. The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) is in the process of widening the canal to three lanes. It will also be deeper. By making the canal deeper, it will allow for not only large ships but small ships to carry full loads which will cut costs. Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$5.25 billion

All of this work is expected to be completed by the 100th anniversary of the canal in 2014. The canal was started by France and the United States finished it. The canal is currently operating at 85 percent of its capacity. If it was not widened it would be at full capacity by 2012. Another factor is that the ships are getting bigger and bigger. Soon they would be too big to fit through the original locks. When completed, eight million cubic meters of material will have been removed. By 2025 the expanded canal will move almost twice its current tonnage

So how will this affect the farmer? Currently about 70 percent of the grain exports go out of the Gulf and much of that goes through the canal. The canal is the easiest way to get grain to Asia. Rather than going around the tip of South America, cutting through the continents saves between 8 and 10 hours. The Canal saves ships about 3,000 miles when traveling from Japan to the East Coast. It is a link for about 140 shipping routes.

Last year, more that 13,000 ships traveled though the canal. Statistics show that 13.3 million metric tons (mmt) of corn, 8.1 mmt of soybeans, and 6.3 mmt of sorghum traveled from the Atlantic to the Pacific. More than 4.4 mmt of fertilizer also crossed through there. As the amount of exports continue to rise, this will be become more and more important for the farmer.

# SHEEP AND GOATS

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The American Lamb Board announces "Your Checkoff, Your Vote", a referendum to be held during February 2-27, 2009. A referendum means a vote conducted by the Secretary of Agriculture whereby producers, feeders, first handlers and exporters are given the opportunity to vote. They will determine whether the continuation of the Lamb Promotion, Research and Information Order, more commonly known as the Lamb Checkoff Program, is favored by a majority of eligible persons voting and a majority of volume voting.



By law, according to the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996 and the Order, the Secretary was required to conduct the first referendum not later than 3 years after assessments first began (July 1, 2002). The first referendum was conducted in February 2005. By law, the Secretary is required to conduct a second referendum not later than 7 years after assessments first began. The second referendum is scheduled to be conducted during February 2-27, 2009. Just like the first referendum, participants will vote either "yes" or "no" and vote their volume of production. This vote DOES NOT affect the current assessment rate.

Any person who was, or is, a lamb (sheep) producer, feeder, first handler, exporter, or authorized representative engaged in the production, feeding, exportation, or slaughter of lambs during the period of January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008, is eligible to vote in the referendum. Supporting documentation, which shows a person was engaged in the production, feeding, exportation, or slaughter of lambs, will be required.

The referendum will be conducted at USDA's county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. You can determine the location of your county office by contacting the State FSA office or through an online search of FSA's web site at [www.fsa.gov/pas/default.asp](http://www.fsa.gov/pas/default.asp).

- Producers and seedstock producers will vote the total number of domestic lambs owned and produced during the period January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008;
- Feeders will vote the total number of lambs owned and fed during the period of January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008;
- First handlers will vote the total number of lambs slaughtered during the period January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

Under the Lamb Checkoff Program, the term "lamb" is defined as "ovine animals of any age, including ewes and rams."

The checkoff fund's opportunities include: Research and evaluations, industry communications, marketing and promotions and co-op programs. For more information about the referendum visit [www.lambcheckoff.com](http://www.lambcheckoff.com) or call 866-327-5262.

# SUGAR

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I wish every one a blessed and prosperous new year.

My sister, Autourina, and I grew up in a loving Middle Eastern tradition. Our Assyrian parents showered us with their love. Our extended family, especially our father's four sisters, became second mothers to us (my aunts don't have any children). Our parents were deceased in our teens. It was a tragedy. Our aunts have always been good to us and I thank God for having them.

At the time that I was going to college at Powell (1979) my Aunt Helen (Abbie) lived in California. After finishing my first semester at Northwest College I went to stay with Aunt Abbie in Oxnard, California. As I arrived at Los Angeles airport there was a bus ride to take us to about fifty miles to Oxnard. On the bus I met a very kind man whose name was Jim. He was retired and lived with his two widow sisters. They were born and reared in Oxnard. Jim took such a pride telling me his hometown story. He said, "Oxnard was named after Henry Oxnard, an investor who opened the first sugar factory in 1889 in Ventura County, California. Sugar beets brought so much prosperity to the area that the plant became the town of Oxnard. Henry and his three brothers (Ben, James, and Robert) were dedicated to the sugar industry. In 1890 and 1891 Henry opened the Grand Island and Norfolk sugar plants in Nebraska.

The Oxnard factory operated until October 26, 1959. Given the growth of the town of Oxnard, a railroad station was built in the spring of 1898 to service the plant. This attracted a population of Chinese, Japanese, and Mexican laborers and enough commerce to merit the designation of a town.

The sugar beet factory became Oxnard and brought economic prosperity to the area. There are no more sugar beets grown in the Oxnard area but the plain is still the home to some of the most fertile soil in the world and, as such, agriculture is one of the region's most vital and important industries. Today the Oxnard Plain is known for its strawberries, leading to the moniker "Strawberry Capital of the World" and the annual California Strawberry Festival, the nation's largest. Santa Paula is called "The Citrus Capital of the World". The Oxnard Plain is also a major producer of celery, lima beans, lettuce, tomatoes, broccoli, onions and citrus fruits, namely lemons."

I was so impressed with the history that Jim told me about Oxnard. My aunt and I used to walk in strawberry farms around her house and I have never seen such beautiful delicious strawberries since then. That summer I ate lots of strawberries and had wondered about the sugar plant. Years later I married Rick and I learned a lot about sugar beets from him and my father-in-law Reuben.

There is a story in every corner of our beautiful country that relates to Americans. We just have to listen to the history. Sugar beets have left their legacy in Oxnard, California.

I wish 2009 to be a prosperous year for U.S. farmers as their prosperity builds a strong and stable economy.

# DAIRY

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Cheese is one of the world's most versatile foods. Consumers everywhere love cheese — on their sandwiches, topping their pizza, sliced on crackers, in their pasta and salads, as a snack, and for eating on-the-go. Finding new opportunities to increase cheese sales and demand is a top priority of the dairy checkoff.

Working with food industry partners helps dairy producers extend their checkoff investment and brings additional resources and expertise to marketing efforts that increase sales of cheese and other dairy products.

To build cheese sales, dairy producers fund research to help cheese makers and marketers meet unmet consumer demand by delivering on the taste, functionality and nutritional qualities of cheese. Specific examples include:

- Working with industry leaders to develop familiar, resalable packaging and consumer-friendly forms, such as slices and shreds.
- Assisting cheese makers to expand the use of specialty cheese, such as working with Schreiber on the testing of specialty cheese products.
- Developing new products to meet consumer health needs, such as reduced and low-fat cheeses; reduced and low-sodium cheeses; and value-added cheese products with specific health benefits, such as the launch of Cabot Omega 3 cheese, for use at retail, foodservice and schools.
- Increasing product research to improve shelf-life and expand Hispanic cheeses to additional users, as well as quicker adoption of use of American-style cheeses among the Hispanic culture.
- Developing “slice-on-slice” technology for low-fat, processed cheese slices that will create new opportunities to build food services sales by providing low-fat menu options that include cheese.

Dairy producers, through their checkoff investment, work closely with leading processors and restaurant chains to increase cheese use, specifically in identifying creative ways to introduce or increase quantities of cheese with pizza, burgers and other sandwiches, and snacking menu options.

For instance the dairy checkoff partnered with Sonic Drive-In, a leading restaurant chain, and a major cheese manufacturer to add string cheese as an option in kids-meals. Other efforts aim to increase the use of specialty cheeses on restaurant menus.

Thanks in part to dairy producers, one of the most visited aisles of the supermarket is about to get a makeover. The dairy checkoff is building cheese and other dairy product sales by partnering with dairy manufacturers and select retailers to create the dairy aisle of the future and provide a new shopping experience for consumers.

Communicating the health benefits of including 3 serv-

ings of milk, cheese or yogurt as part of a daily diet helps increase sales and educates the public about a key component of a healthy diet. Through the National Dairy Council, the nutrition research and education arm of the dairy checkoff, health professional partners, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Dietetic Association, the National Hispanic Medical Association, the National Medical Association, and the School Nutrition Association endorse the need to consume three servings of low-fat or fat-free milk, cheese or yogurt each day. Now, more than 250,000 health professionals across the country receive patient education materials to provide science-based nutritional guidance.

Dairy producers also reach out to busy moms through the checkoff-funded [3aday.org](http://3aday.org). This site also updates consumers about new milk, cheese and yogurt products from 3-A-Day of Dairy Partners.

Whether it's through partnerships that lead to new product development, new ways to use an ingredient in manufacturing or new restaurant menu items, our checkoff investment helps make that happen.

*Source: Dairy Management Inc.*

## AGENDA IN DC

**February 7:** 6:00 p.m. - Executive Committee Meeting

**February 8:** 7:30 a.m. National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception ([www.nationalshrine.com](http://www.nationalshrine.com))

8:45 Board of Directors-Call to order

10:30 a.m. Billy Senter

11:00 a.m. Clete Boykin - “Putting Your Best Foot Forward”

1:00 p.m. Thomas Van Arsdall, National Coalition for Food and Ag Research--Bees

2:00-3:30 p.m. Seaver Sowers (American Bankers Association) and Todd VanHoose Farm Credit Council)

3:30-3:45 p.m. Break

Legislative Panel

Katie Zeigler Thomas—Farmers Union invited

Paul Schlegel—American Farm Bureau

Philip Hayes—North Bridge Communication

5:15 p.m. American Hospital Association

**February 9:**

8:30—11:00 a.m. USDA

1:00-3:00 p.m. Senate Briefing (Senate Visitor Center)  
SVC 202/203

4:30-6:30 p.m. House Briefing and Pizza Party  
B354 Rayburn

**February 10:** Hill Visits 5:30 p.m. Taste of WIFE social

## CONDOLENCES

Nathan Taylor, son of Montana WIFE member Pauline Taylor, died in early January after being partially paralyzed since a motorcycle accident in August. He leaves two young children. Our sympathy goes to the family. Cards or letters can be sent to Don and Pauline Taylor, 1049 Louse Creek Lane, Lewiston, MT 59457, or [yellowbell66@hotmail.com](mailto:yellowbell66@hotmail.com).

# CEREAL GRAINS

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The wheat cereal plant is an annual that was probably derived from a perennial. It is of the family *Gramineae* (grass family) and is a major food and an important commodity on the world grain market. Modern wheat varieties are usually classified as winter wheat (fall planted) and spring wheat. Approximately three fourths of the wheat grown in the United States is winter wheat.

Flour from hard wheat contains a high percentage of gluten and is used to make bread and fine cakes. The hardest-kerneled wheat is durum. Its flour is used in the manufacture of macaroni, spaghetti and other pasta products. White and soft-wheat varieties are paler and have starchy kernels. This flour is preferred for piecrust, biscuits, and breakfast foods. Wheat is also used in the manufacture of whiskey and beer. The bran (the residue from milling) and the vegetative plant parts make valuable livestock feed. Before the introduction of corn into Europe, wheat was the principal source of starch for sizing paper and cloth.

Acres of "Desert Durum", a name trademarked by Arizona and California grain groups for irrigated durum grown in the two states, doubled last year to more than 300,000 acres driven by soaring market prices. The size of the southern crop is expected to drop as much as 50 percent during the coming growing season. This likely won't hurt the American pasta industry or boost prices for farmers as there is still plenty of durum around. They can make more money on other crops.

The southern and northern durum crops have opposite growing seasons, and the irrigated southwestern durum costs much more to produce than northern durum because of the water needed and about three times as much fertilizer is used.

North Dakota produces most of the nation's durum, which is ground into the semolina flour used by pasta manufacturers. North Dakota harvested about 42 million bushels in 2008 down slightly from 2007. Desert Durum accounts for about 20 percent of the United States crop.

# LEGISLATION

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On January 6, 2009, our 111th Congress was sworn in and then a flurry of committee assignment began, as we have new faces and new leadership.

Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN) retains the House Agriculture Committee Chairmanship. Ranking Minority Leader is Representative Frank Lucas (R-OK). Representative Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) had to vacate his seat due to term limits.

The Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman is Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Minority Chairman is Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA).

Chairman Peterson has indicated he will work, on with-in the first several months of the new congress, legislation that will deal with speculation in commodities markets and require more credit derivatives. The Chairman would also like to keep the Futures Trading Commission as an independent agency under the authority of the Agriculture Committee. Rep. Lucas would like to focus on the implementation of the farm bill and strengthen the power of the Commodities Future Trading Commission in its ability to deal with speculation in the commodity markets.

Neither the House nor Senate Agriculture Committees have completed their selection of members to their committees.

The approval of President-Elect Obama's cabinet will take up the majority of the Senate's time during the first 100 days of the 111th Congress. The new proposed Secretary of Interior is Democratic Senator Ken Salazar who hails from Colorado. Senator Salazar is a very good choice and he is a farmer from the San Luis Valley. He understands agriculture and, also, the importance of natural resources.

Farm Service Changes: A new FSA-211 Power of Attorney (POA) form is available to accommodate the changes as a result of the 2008 Farm Bill. Producers who previously had an FSA-211 executed with the designation of "All Current and All Future Programs" are valid for programs authorized by the 2008 Act. However, any FSA-211 executed with only "All Current Programs" are not valid for programs authorized by the 2008 Act. Don't just assume you have the power of attorney to enroll in the new farm programs. 2009 Direct and Countercyclical Program will require all new eligibility forms. Since December 4, 2008, all payments are being issued from the National Payment Service. All checks and direct deposit transaction statements, which were normally mailed from your local office, will now come from the National Payment Service. New computers are bringing the changes to the delivery system from what we are normally accustomed to.



## WIFeline

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**Happy New Year!**



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