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Congressional Western Caucus battles federal control of non-navigable waters

Members of the Congressional Western Caucus led by Congressman Denny Rehberg (R-MT) have sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers urging them to promptly terminate any attempt to circumvent the proper Congressional and regulatory process in order to push through a dramatic expansion of federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

The proposed 'guidance' introduced by the EPA and Army Corps on April 27, 2011 will substantively change federal policy with respect to which waters fall under the jurisdiction of the CWA, significantly increasing the scope of the federal government's power to regulate waters. Furthermore, it will significantly expand the federal government's regulatory reach on private property.

From the letter:

"The Department of the

Interior, as you know, created a 'wild lands' classification last year—without any congressional authority to do so. Members of the Western Caucus swiftly acted to defund the program in the FY11 appropriations bill.

"Similar threats to usurp congressional authority, including the aforementioned guidance, are already facing similar defunding efforts in the Appropriations Committee.

"As such, we urge your prompt termination of any attempt to adopt or enforce any change in jurisdiction to waters under the Clean Water Act, unless and until Congress gives you the proper authority to do so."

"The Clean Water Act serves an important purpose, but it is not a blank check for bureaucrats to ignore the public and expand federal regulation," said Congressman Denny Rehberg. "Look no further than the unem-

ployment rate to see the devastating impact of over-regulation. The last thing our government should be doing is building more barriers to job creation.

"For Western states especially, the attempt to expand federal authority to unprecedented levels is hurting any chance of recovery," Rehberg said.

The letter was signed by Congressmen Rehberg, Pearce, Lummis, Bishop, Chaffetz, Simpson, Walden, McMorris-Rodgers, Labrador, McClintock, Thornberry, Denham, Coffman and Young.

Earlier this month, Rehberg included language

in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill that would prevent any funding from being used by the Army Corps of Engineers to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change or addition to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.

Despite

Democrat-lead efforts to strip the language in full committee, the language was included in the final committee bill that was reported on June 15.

If it becomes law, Rehberg's language would prevent the Corps of Engineers from expanding its jurisdiction to include "non-navigable" waters.

"The Clean Water Act serves an important purpose, but it is not a blank check for bureaucrats to ignore the public and expand federal regulation."

~ Congressman Denny Rehberg

President's Report



By Deb Dressler
North Dakota

Rural communities come together in flood relief efforts

Summer has arrived in North Dakota with our first 90+ degree day. Hope everyone has a good Fourth of July weekend. On the Fourth of July in my area, you can attend three parades, two rodeos, and two barbecues all within a 30 mile radius. On this national holiday, remember the service men and women who are working to keep all of our American freedoms. Let's not take these hard fought freedoms for granted.

New Mexico WIFE is busy planning and preparing for the 35th National Convention to be held in Las Cruces, NM, November 10-12 with committee meetings on Nov. 9. Mark your calendar to attend this milestone in WIFE and enjoy a November day in southern New Mexico.

The Government Accounting Office (GAO) has released their study on the horse industry after all the horse slaughter facilities have been closed in the United States. The link is <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1103685263837-64/GAO+Horse+Welfare.pdf>. The GAO accountability office did a report on the effectiveness of the Farm Bill. The link to summary is: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-779T>.

My daughter, three grandchildren, and I went to sandbag in Burlington, ND, for the Souris River flood. We tied and tossed the sand-

bags with volunteers from Texas to Chicago and the Minot Air Force airmen. It was an amazing feeling of camaraderie and true volunteerism to help people in need.

Minot and the surrounding area is a national disaster. People had been sandbagging almost around the clock for a week. The city personnel were averaging four hours sleep per night.

No words can express the loss and devastation in a flood ravaged area. Volunteering for a cause like the flood was an experience my family will never forget.

The Red Cross, local businesses and the community donated food. When the food supplies ran short, a call was sent out and more food appeared. A request for heavy duty pickups and flatbed trailers was answered within an hour without thought to price of gas or missed hours on the farms and ranches. Helping each other is a common happening in our rural communities.

True compassion can't be measured in dollars and cents. My family only helped for eight hours but came home for giving the old country try. The dike effort around Burlington had to be aborted due to height of the dike and safety issues. The rebuilding of the area will carry into years.

The Minot area is still under water without safe water, sewer and electricity. Four thousand homes had mandatory evacuation, and only about 400 people needed emergency housing; friends and family have provided housing for the rest.

Thank you to all of the WIFE members who joined in on the Sum-

mer Board of Directors meeting via conference call; the call was well attended. WIFE members' time and effort is appreciated. Have a good holiday and safe harvest and haying. Take time to smell the roses and enjoy the sunrise and sunset. Happy Trails until next month.

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**By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming**

Sugar Report

Sugar supplies remain strong

will have an estimated 1.6 million tons of leftover sugar on the market at the end of FY 2011. This means every man, woman, and child in the country will have 10 pounds of sugar in addition to what they're already consuming.

Considering sugar policy operates at no cost to taxpayers since 2002 and is projected by the USDA to remain no-cost to taxpayers through at least 2020, its unclear how these bills would help the U.S. cut spending as the newspaper asserts.

U.S. commodities enhance each other's production, and their existence in rural area means soil improvement. Crop rotation is a vital part of the operation on a multi-crop productive farm. Barley, corn, dry bean, cotton, soybean, peanut, sugarbeet and sugar cane, wheat, cattle . . .

we need them all.

U.S. Exports

The record exports show that America's farmers and ranchers are leading the way in economic recovery for this country. According to the USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. agriculture exports have set a record high for the first six months of the fiscal year.

Vilsack said farm exports from October 1 through March 31 of 2011 have reached \$75 billion. This is an increase of 27 percent compared to last year in the same period. USDA is forecasting this year's exports to reach to \$135 billion.

Over 20 percent of all U.S. agriculture products are imported to China. Canada is the second largest market.

The National Agriculture Statistics Service has announced that 15,700 acres more U.S. sugarbeet acres have been planted this year compared to 2010 sugarbeet acres. We have to be very careful to keep sugarbeet and sugar cane production well reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Under the current Farm Bill, after April 1, USDA can allow more sugar to be imported to meet consumers' demand.

At this point U.S. farmers can meet the nation's demand. Importing more subsidized foreign sugar into the country will flood the market and drop sugar prices. American sugar farmers need to pay their high cost of production this year. Beet and cane companies are keeping USDA well informed about their situation.

2012 Farm Bill

On May 11, 2011, congressmen Joseph Pitts (R-PA) and Danny Davis (D-IL) sent their congressional colleagues a letter urging them to eliminate no-cost U.S. sugar policy. The lawmakers can't be blamed for making this statement. They were simply repeating what they read in the *Wall Street Journal*. There are a few food manufacturer lobbyists who must share blame.

The story was based on comments from a spokesperson for the American Bakers Association (ABA), a special interest group that represents several multinational food conglomerates, who told the newspaper that the country's sugar supply situation would not improve this year.

The truth is that United States

Changes to bylaws proposed

The following changes to the bylaws were submitted to the committee and will be voted on during the convention.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

3. Members at large shall enjoy the same status as regular members.

ARTICLE VII: DUES

Section 2. Strike: In order for a member to hold an elected or appointed position, the member's respective State must be current on WIFE's annual assessments.

ARTICLE IX: OFFICERS

Section 2. Strike: Candidates shall have the endorsement of their Chapter and Association.

ARTICLE X: AREA DIRECTORS

Section 3. Strike: Candidates shall have the endorsement of their Chapter and State Association.

ARTICLE XII: COMMODITY/TOPIC CHAIRMEN

Section 1. Strike: B.Candidates shall have an endorsement from their Chapter and Association.

ARTICLE XIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4. Change to read: One third (1/3) of the members representing states in good standing shall constitute a quorum provided four (4) are members of the Executive Committee of WIFE.

Section 5. Change to read: The Board shall meet two (2) times each year unless otherwise directed.



By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota

Energy Report

Ethanol and wind are promising

Bob Dinneen, President and CEO of the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), says President Obama's decision to release 30 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) underscores the need for the administration to increase production and use of domestic renewable alternatives to imported oil.

"American ethanol producers could supply the 1.25 billion gallons of ethanol equivalent to the 30 million barrels of oil released right now, spurring economic opportunity, creating jobs, and weakening the hold imported oil has on our nation," said Dinneen.

Some in Congress are trying to revive legislation that would offer an alternative to the 45 cent ethanol blenders' tax credit and the 54 cent import tariff, which is set to expire at the end of this year but has been the subject of calls for immediate repeal. The alternative proposal, which has the support of the biofuels industry, would also end the Volume Ethanol Excise Tax Credit almost immediately but use \$1 billion of some \$2.7 billion in savings to go to deficit reduction, with the rest going for tax credits for ethanol blender pumps, small ethanol producers, and cellulosic biofuels.

The proposal would also create a new "safeguard" tax credit that would kick in only if the price of oil dropped below \$90 per gallon and would be phased out in a few years. Ethanol advocates say the domestically produced renewable fuel is the only alternative to oil that is helping offset current gasoline and oil prices. A recent study from the Center

for Agriculture and Rural Development that found that the 13.2 billion gallons of ethanol blended in the nation's 2010 fuel supply helped lower the average price of gasoline by 89 cents per gallon.

The Electricity Storage Association (ESA) and the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) have released joint principles to create a level playing field for the deployment of clean energy technologies. The ESA and AWEA called for low-cost grid operating reforms that create more competition and make the grid operate more efficiently. America's wind power industry installed 1,100 MW of new capacity in the first quarter of 2011 in 12 different states, with some seeing double-digit growth.

The total wind fleet now stands at 41,400 MW, which is producing enough energy to supply 10 million American homes. They also claim that by powering our electric cars using wind, Americans can pay the equivalent of 70 cents a gallon at the pump. Unlike nearly every other form of energy, wind uses no water, and by 2030, U.S. wind will save as much as 30 trillion bottles of water. It would take 210 million barrels of oil (almost 9 billion gallons) to generate as much electricity as U.S. wind turbines will generate this year.

The Department of Energy's Information Administration (EIA) said that increased domestic production of ethanol and other biofuels blended with gasoline helped drop U.S. dependence on imported oil below 50 percent for the first time since 1997. Citing 2010 oil import numbers, the agency also cited the weak economy and more fuel-efficient vehicles for the decline in the foreign share of oil consumed in the United States.

The EIA said that the downward trend in U.S. oil-import dependency is expected to continue through the next decade due to improvements in energy efficiency and even higher fuel economy

standards. The agency said that imports of crude and petroleum products accounted for 49.3 percent of U.S. oil demand last year, down from the recent high of 60.3 percent in 2005. The trend is expected to be long-term.

In its annual energy outlook, the EIA said that although U.S. consumption of liquid fuels is expected to grow through 2035, reliance on imports as a share of total liquids consumption will decrease. Total U.S. consumption of liquid fuels, including both fossil fuels and biofuels, could rise from about 18.8 million barrels per day in 2009 to 21.9 million barrels per day in 2035. However, the import share, which reached 60 percent in 2005 and 2006 before falling to 51 percent in 2009, could drop as low as 42 percent by 2035.

President Obama issued an executive memorandum that requires federal agencies to convert their fleets to 100 percent alternative fuel vehicles by the end of 2015, as well as cut petroleum consumption by 30 percent by 2020. Under the directive, all new light duty vehicles leased or purchased by the government must be alternative fueled vehicles, including hybrid or electric, compressed or liquefied natural gas, or biofuel, by Dec. 31, 2015.

The memo also covered vehicle size, engine size, optional equipment, and optimum fleet size. Simultaneous to the memorandum, the General Services Administration launched a pilot project to incorporate electric vehicles and technologies into the federal fleet. DOE is working with the private sector to transition commercial fleets to alternative, fuel-efficient technologies.

A deal reached between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and three groups would require the agency to adopt plans by 2012 to reduce haze-

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Cereal Grains Report



By Lisa Goodheart
Kansas

Grain supplies expected to meet needs

the northern states. The dry winter has left a good portion of the crop in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas in poor to very poor condition. Despite all this "bad"

news, global stockpiles are ample, and the U.S. is still projected to be able to provide the wheat that is needed for at least this year.

There is concern for the wheat crop, both in the US and globally, due to a whole spectrum of extreme weather conditions. In the spring of 2010, Russia was in a drought, which led to a ban on Russian wheat exports. By harvest time, heavy rains damaged the quality of the wheat in Canada, Europe, and Australia. Much of the wheat that has been stockpiled will be used for animal feed, not human consumption, and the concern is for high-quality wheat used for milling.

USDA released a report in January 2011 that showed growers are expected to plant a total of 41 million acres of all wheat varieties, which is a 10 percent increase from 2010. The surprising factor is that there is a larger increase in soft wheat compared to hard red winter wheat. The milling industry uses hard wheat varieties. Some of the increase in soft wheat varieties, which are in ample supply, is due to rotation schedules, but the hard red winter wheat grown in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas went dormant during the very dry conditions earlier in this season, which makes the potential for sustained high prices throughout 2011 significant.

Canada is the world's second largest producer of milling-quality wheat, and they are expected to have slightly more wheat acres this year but will lose more wheat acres to canola long-term. Russia needs to harvest 85 million-plus metric tons of grains, including wheat, barley, rye and corn, in order to export. Russia is not expected to be the main exporter it has been, and its growing livestock industry continues to require more grain.

The burden has fallen on the U.S. to supply the world with wheat in a year where there is drought from Texas and Oklahoma through the southwest and parts of Kansas and flooding in some of



By Frances Rohla
Nebraska

Pork Report

GIPSA rule is costly

as the leanest type of chicken or a skinless chicken breast.

USDA food preparation guidelines for meat preparation advise washing hands and surfaces often, avoiding cross-contamination of meats, and refrigeration before and after cooking.

The PorkBridge educational series is in its sixth year with 11 land grant universities. PorkBridge reaches producers and industry professionals across the country and around the world. It is a bimonthly series of six sessions. PorkBridge is convenient for participants, available through a computer with live presentations. Some of the educational sessions include identifying when pigs need treatment, biosecurity for non-unit personnel, and tailbiting and treatment.

National Pork Producer Council (NPPC) President Doug Wolf, a pork producer from Lancaster, Wis., urged lawmakers to approve the pending Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Wolf said the deals, when fully implemented, will generate more than \$770 million in additional pork exports and will increase hog prices by more than \$11 per head.

On the GIPSA rule, Wolf said one study found it would cost the pork industry alone nearly \$400 million annually and could force producers like him out of business. NPPC has asked USDA to scrap the rule and to write regulations on only the five topics Congress told it to address in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Source: *Midwest Ag Journal*

Have you ever thought about eating a pork chop medium rare? The new cooking guidelines came out a month ago. The USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (USDAFS) says that pork can be safely consumed when cooked to an internal temperature of 145 degrees Fahrenheit, 15 degrees less than recommended previously.

The 145 degrees applies to the whole muscle cuts such as loins, chops, and roasts, followed by a three minute rest. Ground pork should be cooked to 160 degrees F. A digital thermometer is recommended.

Restaurants have been using the 145 degree temperature for a decade. The new guidelines will help consumers to enjoy pork at its most flavorful, juicy, and safe temperature. Chefs and food service providers are pleased with the decision.

Good pork production and quality assurance practices have reduced the risk of diseases, making pork safer. Leaner pork has helped improve nutrition and how the pork is prepared. Most common cuts of pork are 16 percent leaner than they were 20 years ago, and saturated fat has dropped 27 percent. The National Pork Board (NPB) said the pork tenderloin is now as lean

Sheep and Goats Report



By Gwen Cassel
New York

Sheep Association touts plan to increase inventory in U.S.

tors approved a campaign to increase the U.S. sheep inventory.” As explained on the ASI website, “The campaign to be launched in 2011, titled 2+2+2= Rebuild, asks that each producer increase the size of their operation by two ewes per operation or by two ewes per 100 by 2014, increase the average birthrate per ewe to two lambs per year and increase the harvested lamb crop rate by 2 percent.”

In some parts of the U.S., the target numbers are already being accomplished. However, in more hostile areas, weaning one lamb per ewe is the current norm.

Decisions to add or subtract additional ewes per flock are often made by producers based on current demand, pricing and feed/weather conditions. Many breeds of sheep can reproduce three times in two years, so adjusting numbers can be done reasonably quickly.

Clint Krebs, ASI vice president, said, “We need to fill the traditional market channel to keep American lamb in the largest grocery store chains and in the restaurant chains. Additionally, we need our wool companies to fill the pipeline for U.S. military use of our wool. Combining the growing ethnic market with the need to keep traditional companies operating means we need to produce more.

“With the nontraditional markets providing such a large outlet for lambs, those operations located in the East and Midwest, traditionally smaller than range outfits of the West, may be especially suited for success with the plan. These operations may be able to increase two ewes per operation easier than those that have to increase two ewes per hundred,” Krebs said.

Lamb prices have been very good in the recent two years. In addition, American white wool has been in more demand and higher compensated that it has been for about 10 years. Encouraging new farmers and ranchers considering getting involved in sheep is also a part of this plan for growth within the industry.

Sheep are a reasonably easy care animal. However, those who have never been involved in ruminant farming or those who have had only large ruminants will have to adjust thinking and fencing in order to be successful in this new venture. Predator control and personal marketing may be involved, especially for smaller flock owners, in order to be successful in the rewarding area of providing ovine meat and clothing locally and for the world.

Source: www.sheepusa.org

The American Sheep Association has announced a push to increase sheep inventory in the United States. In introducing this program, ASI stated, “To meet the emerging demand for American lamb in the nontraditional markets, as well as supplies for our national lamb and wool processors, the ASI Board of Direc-

Opinions regarding energy sources are strong and varied

Continued from Page 4

causing pollution from coal-fired power plants in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming. They want to improve visibility in 156 national parks and wilderness areas. The reductions are required under the Clean Air Act. They were first announced more than a decade ago but have not been widely enacted. The agreement is subject to approval from a federal judge in Colorado following a 30-day comment period that ends July 15.

Another agreement would set deadlines for haze pollution in dozens more states and U.S. territories. The plans could cost up to \$1.5 billion a year, but they claim reduced health costs could be \$8.4 billion or more. It is unknown how utilities will meet the new standards, and states are already objecting saying the haze rule is too costly and the five-year timeline is too short.

The EPA proposed the 2012 percent-age standards for four fuel categories un-

der the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) 2 based on the annual renewable fuel volume targets.

EPA once again lowered the target for cellulosic ethanol, which was set at 500 million gallons in 2012, to somewhere between 3.45 and 12.9 million gallons. EPA is also proposing to increase the volume requirement for biomass-based diesel from 800 million gallons this year to 1 billion gallons in 2012 and almost 1.3 billion gallons in 2013.

Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND) has introduced the “Fulfilling U.S. Energy Leadership Act,” also known as the FUEL Act. Through a mix of tax credits, grants and directives, the bill would increase production of domestic oil, gas and coal, as well as renewable and alternative fuels; boost manufacturing and use of electric vehicles; and dramatically reduce America’s need for foreign oil. The FUEL Act provides incentives for biofuels production and incentives for our coal-based facilities and rural electric cooperatives that utilize clean energy technologies. He doesn’t say what it would cost.



By Ruth Laribee
New York

Trade Report

Proposed trade agreements could change safety standards

Due to the importance of the pending three Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with South Korea, Columbia, and Panama, a part of this article will be a continuation of my last report.

Administration officials, including U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Ron Kirk, are saying the three pending FTAs will not be sent to Congress unless there is an agreement and funding for training and benefits for jobs lost by imports and outsourcing. USTR Kirk said, "We will not submit the FTAs without an agreement of a robust trade adjustment assistance program."

In the stimulus law of 2009, Congress approved trade adjustment assistance plus approximately \$250 million in training funds and health care benefits for unemployed workers. It's recorded that roughly 435,000 unemployed Americans were eligible to receive the benefits under the law. This law expired in February due to the high cost.

The Korea FTA, according to the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC), is projected to cost Americans 159,000 jobs and increase the trade deficit by anywhere from \$3 to \$4 million. The Columbian FTA does not have reliable regulations on human rights. The Panama FTA, according to reports, has 400,000 registered corporations and is a place for "multinational firm's subsidiaries," and it's

said many were created for the intention of tax evasion.

A few minor changes have been written in the three FTAs, but the agreements still grant foreign investors special rights to challenge federal, state and municipal policies such as "environmental, public health, zoning and other regulations" in international tribunals. These international tribunals will totally exclude the U.S. judicial system.

Rulings in the three FTAs put limits on food safety, calling for the U.S. to limit import inspections and agree to import foods and other products that do not meet

Rulings in the three FTAs put limits on food safety, calling for the U.S. to limit import inspections and agree to import foods and other products that do not meet America's high domestic safety standards. United States' "Buy Local" and "Buy American" policies are prohibited by the pending three, and policies such as the prevailing wage could be opened to challenges.

America's high domestic safety standards. United States' "Buy Local" and "Buy American" policies are prohibited by the pending three, and policies such as the prevailing wage could be opened to challenges.

The Korea FTA does not include regulations to stop Korean currency devaluation

and manipulation, which can obliterate any FTA tariff cuts and price the U.S. out of Korea's market. The Korea Free Trade Agreement has a "substantial transformation" rule of origin for livestock and is devised to benefit packers, not the producers. This ruling permits FTA tariff cuts to be applied to livestock meat from non-FTA countries, which would sanction packers to set low prices due to a glut of imports of non-U.S. meat.

If a packer can import live cattle for

immediate slaughter from either Mexico or Canada, they will be able to export that meat duty free to Korea as being of U.S. origin with a USDA grade stamp. Food processed in the U.S. or Korea but grown in other places like North Korea, China, Canada, etc., comes under the same rules of origin and will be duty free.

The dairy import assessment is set to start August, 1, 2011. The Cheese Importers Association of America (CIAA) was designated as a "qualified importers program" by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service. Under the order implementing the Dairy Import Assessment, importers are permitted to form their own qualified dairy product promotion program and request USDA certification.

Beginning August, 1, 2011, importers will be required to pay a promotion and research assessment, a fee equivalent to 7.5 cents per hundred weight of milk solid in imported products. Of that, 5 cents will automatically be sent to the National Dairy Research and promotion Board. However, importers will also be able to direct USDA to send the remaining 2.5 cents to a qualified program of their choice, such as the CIAA. Qualified programs may conduct promotion, education, and market and nutrition research of dairy products.

Prior to the implementation of the assessment on August, 1, 2011, importers will need to notify USDA that they are designating the CIAA qualified program to receive their monies. Now that it is an eligible program, the CIAA plans to increase its promotion and education activities regarding specialty cheeses, including educating retailers and customers on imported cheeses.

WIFE believes in fair trade for American producers and consumers.

(Sources: USITC, USDA, Dallas News, NFU, Public Citizen, Cheese Reporter, DTC)



By Mary Ellen Cammack
South Dakota

Beef Report

Small pests have a big impact

The horn fly is a blood-sucking external parasite found throughout the United States. An adult horn fly is about half the size of a housefly and is dark gray in color with two dark stripes on the thorax and faint spots on the top of the abdomen.

Horn flies are easily distinguished from house flies by their slender appearance. Horn flies are typically seen on the backs, sides and poll areas of cattle. During hot weather these flies are on the bellies of cattle; that is why the cattle prefer to stand in water - to combat the flies.

The average life-span of a horn fly is 10-21 days (this can be an entire life cycle, depending on the weather). Male and female flies feed on cattle by piercing the animal's skin with the bayonet-type mouth parts and then ingest small amounts of blood, but they feed 20-30 times per day for 10-25 minutes per session. A single female can ingest 11-21 mg of blood daily.

Horn flies have a significant impact on grazing cattle as well as causing substantial economic losses. The feeding pattern of horn flies is irritating and painful to cattle and causes blood loss. Heavy infestations cause decreased grazing efficiency, reduced weight gains, and a decline in milk production.

Horn flies promote the spread of pink eye and have been implicated in the spread of mastitis. One hundred flies per animal is considered a "treatment threshold" and 200 + flies per

animal is considered "economic injury level."

Multiple studies have been conducted from the 1970s to the early 2000s exploring the economic effects of horn fly infestations on cows and calf weaning weights. When fly populations reach the 200+ range, cattle group together or stand in water, decreasing grazing efficiency.

Data collected from the studies indicates a general weight reduction of 10-20 pounds per calf, or up to 18 percent reduction in weight gain. Every 100 flies per cow can reduce weaning weights by 3-16 percent.

Many effective methods are available to control horn flies, including:

sprays, backrubbers, insecticidal ear tags (recommendation is to use two tags, one in each ear), pour-ons (last 30-45 days and range is price from .68-2.30 per mature cow, and some also kill internal parasites), boluses, and oral larvicide.

Efficacy, cost, convenience and herd management practices should be considered when designing a horn fly control program. Consulting with your local veterinarian is always sound advice as to the type of treatment for your area and level of infestation. By effectively managing the horn fly population, you may realistically expect a 3-16 percent increase in weaning weights on your calves this fall.



By Jacquelyn Sistrunk
Alabama

Specialty Crops Report

Weather causes planting delays

Severe storms producing more than 60 tornadoes ripped a 50 mile wide, 200 mile long path of destruction from southern North Carolina to Virginia.

Then Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia were devastated, changing the spring planting plans of

farmers in the five-state area.

Corn planting was delayed when the storms dumped torrential rainfall. The amount of storm debris covered farm fields. So long as farmers got corn planted by May 15, they should be okay.

Growers are going to have to take extra time to be sure all debris is out of fields to prevent combine and planter damage.

Typically cotton is planted from mid-April until first or second week in May.

The impact of these storms appears to have the least affect on soybeans which are usually planted later than other row crops.

Delays in planting will push many farmers to a late planting date, which will affect yield potential. Spring planting plans were changed due to weather.



By Donna Bolz
Nebraska

Patient safety prioritized in proposed therapy services act

Senator Moran (R-KS), a member of the Senate Rural Health Caucus, recently introduced S. 778, the Protecting Access to Rural Therapy Services (PARTS) Act, to make sure that rural populations have access to a full range of outpatient therapeutic services in hospitals in their own communities.

“Outpatient therapeutic services” include services like drug infusions, blood transfusions, outpatient psychiatric services, wound debridement, and cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services. These health care services have traditionally been administered by licensed, skilled professionals in hospitals under the overall direction of a physician.

However, in its attempt to clarify existing regulations, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) interpreted the policy to require that a physician provide supervision and be physically present at all times in the same outpatient department when outpatient therapeutic services are provided. While the need for direct supervision for certain complex outpatient services is recognized, CMS’ policy requires direct supervision for even the lowest risk services, such as simple

pain medication injections.

These and many other procedures can be safely administered in hospital outpatient departments under the general supervision of Physician or NPP. CMS policy does not take into account the realities of rural health care. Many rural hospitals will find these supervision requirements impossible to meet, jeopardizing access to these important health care services. Small and rural hospitals, where medical workforce shortages are severe, need reasonable flexibility to staff their facilities so they can continue to provide a full range of services to the people in their community.

Many of these hospitals will find the supervision requirements contained in CMS’ current policy impossible to meet, which could jeopardize continued access to these important health care. The PARTS Act would preserve patient safety and oversight while easing unreasonable hospital outpatient services supervision requirements.

The PARTS Act would preserve patient safety while easing unreasonable regulations on hospitals. Generally, “direct supervision” requires the physician to be available when services are provided. This means that the physician must be physically present, interruptible, and able to furnish assistance and direction throughout the procedure. Under “general supervision,” the procedure is furnished in the hospital by licensed, skilled medical professionals under the supervising professional’s overall control.

This provision of care is governed by clinical protocols, policies, and procedures approved by the hospital’s medical staff. These providers can contact a physician by phone, radio,

or other means if needed for routine consultation during the provision of care. Small and rural hospitals (such as critical access hospitals (CAHs)), where physician shortages are most severe, need reasonable flexibility under these regulations to staff their facilities so they can continue to provide a full range of services to their communities.

Many of these hospitals will find the supervision requirements contained in CMS’ current policy impossible to meet, which could jeopardize continued access to these important health care. The PARTS Act would preserve patient safety and oversight while easing unreasonable hospital outpatient services supervision requirements.

The bill was written to reflect the realities of rural health care. Specifically, the PARTS Act would:

- Allow general supervision by a physician or NPP for many outpatient therapy services; Require CMS to allow a default setting of general supervision, rather than direct supervision, for outpatient therapy services
- Create an advisory panel to establish an exceptions process for risky and complex outpatient services
- Create a special rule for CAHs that recognizes their unique size and Medicare conditions of participation
- Hold hospitals and CAHs harmless from civil or criminal action for failing to meet CMS’ current direct supervision policy for the period 2001 through 2011.

The American Hospital Association and National Rural Health Association have endorsed the PARTS Act.



By Phyllis Howatt
North Dakota

Dry Beans, Lentils, and Oilseeds Report

Canola has variety of uses

Canola production in North Dakota accounts for about 90 percent of the canola grown in the United States. U.S. farmers produced 2.5 billion pounds of canola in 2010.

Fields of canola are a sea of yellow when blossoming. The plants grow from three to six feet tall. The pods turn from green to brown when ripening. After the canola is harvested, the seeds are processed by crushing and the oil is extracted. The oil is used in many foods including margarine, salad dressing, mayonnaise and potato chips. Canola oil can be heated to a high temperature before it smokes. It is good for fondue, frying and stir frying. The meal which is left after the oil is extracted is used in livestock, poultry, and pet feeds.

U.S. soybean growers produced 3.33 billion bushels in 2010. In 2011, they expect to export about 2.1 bushels to China, the largest market for soybeans, as they crush them into meal and oil.

The first soybeans were brought to the U.S. in 1765 by a seaman named Samuel Bowen and planted on a Georgia plantation. Bowden produced soy sauce and a soybean noodle from the soybeans. Today soybeans have many uses, including livestock and pet soymeal, oil, renewable fuels, lubricants, and plastics.

Soybeans grow upright, and farmers plant them in rows similar to corn or solid seed like they would wheat or barley. In the fall the pods turn brown and the bean hardens. They are combined like barley or wheat.

Purebond is a soy-based resin tech-

nology now found in interior hardwood plywood which is used to make cabinetry and flooring. Purebond uses soy to replace formaldehyde and former products. A soy-based foam developed from a 40 percent soy polyol is showing up in furniture, mattresses, wind turbine blades, wake surfboard, military drones used for target practice, and the seat cushions in Ford Mustangs. It is often more comfortable and there is less dependence on petroleum.

Sunsational is a new sunflower non-dairy beverage coming on the market. The homemade version would be made of soaked seeds with water, strained and releted with a sweetener. In large scale production, the sunflower seeds are ground into the consistency of butter. The sunflower drink is essentially water, sunflower, organic sugar, and stabilizers to balance pH levels and hold the product together so it drinks consistently.

Sunsational has an off-white coloring and slightly nutty aroma. The off-white coloring comes from chlorogenic acids as well as other beneficial phytonu-

trients. Chlorogenic acids are naturally occurring antioxidants in sunflower, and some studies are suggesting they help lower blood glucose levels and work to reduce the of glucose absorbed by the body. It has a smooth creamy, delicious taste and has a tremendous nutritional value all its own and not fortified with extra vitamins and nutrients. The intention is to keep it clean, pure and simple.

Sunsational delivers four grams of dietary fiber per serving and is relatively low in net carbohydrates. Sunflower is an allergen-friendly food sources and is free of the eight most common food allergens: dairy milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts (such as almonds, cashews, walnuts), fish, shellfish (such as crab, lobster, shrimp), soy, and wheat gluten. This product is a great solution for people with digestion and allergy issues.

Sunsartional can be used "cup for cup" in recipes that call for dairy. It is packaged in 32 ounce cartons and has a one-year shelf life. More information and recipes can be found on www.sunsationalnondairy.com.

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By Dianna Reed
Kansas

Dairy Report

Proposals outline dairy safety net

It is a known fact that for many, many years dairy producers have done just about everything they could think of to try and survive, the most prominent of which was to produce more milk, trying to get as much milk during price increases but in actuality losing more than gained. Producer equity built over years of hard work has been lost, financing has become hard to come by, and lines of credit exhausted. Without financing, producers will not survive.

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) has proposed for the upcoming 2012 Farm Bill a "Foundation For the Future." There will be meetings beginning in July and running through August across the U.S. to explain to producers how the new dairy policy reforms will safeguard dairy producers' equity, ensure the future of their operations, and stabilize dairy markets under this proposal.

House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson, D-Minn., supports the Foundation For the Future and feels that this reform cannot wait, so he is seeking to reform dairy policy ahead of the 2012 Farm Bill debate.

He said, "If we have another downturn in prices we don't have a safety net that works in dairy." He also said that if we get another deal like we did in 2009, we are going to lose half our dairy farmers and will not get them back.

In September of 2010, a new organization was formed called the National Dairy Producers Organization

(NDPO) that has also submitted a proposal entitled Dairy Industry Stabilization and Sustainability Act of 2011 (DISSA). NDPO states with these dairy policy proposals in place it would:

- Provide for improved producer profitability
- Provide for existing producer sustainability for future generations
- Obtain producer's fair share of the existing retail dollar
- Eliminate deceptive milk import practices
- Become considerably less dependent on governmental subsidies

To view a more in depth comparison of the two proposals, visit NationalDairyProducers.org.

Questioning the above points, one would ascertain that this proposal reiterates the problems but offers few solutions. NMPF has received con-

siderable support from many of the dairy sectors except The International Dairy Foods Association, which represents processors. If we divide ourselves again, do we have much of a voice in Washington?

Another item that is coming in the near future is the implementation of the assessing of the 7.5 cent checkoff on imports. There will be a determination hopefully by mid July as to how the programs funded by the National Dairy Board will be handled. USDA states that all programs must be geographically neutral. Included in those considerations is how the Real Seal might be funded in the future to maintain the current criteria for utilization.

It is important to let your congressional members know how you feel by letters, phone or e-mail. Make your voice heard!!!

WIFE Supporting Members

VIP Membership

- Bayer CropScience

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- American Petroleum Institute
- Dow AgroSciences
- DuPont
- Farm Credit Services
- Miller/Coors
- Monsanto
- Renewable Fuels Association

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- American Council of Life Insurers
- CropLife America
- Florida, Texas, and Hawaii Sugarcane Growers
- U.S. Beet Sugar Association

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- Admiral Beverage Corporation
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WIFE Updates

Directors, officers nominated for 2012

The members below have been nominated, endorsed, and are members in good standing per chapter and state.

AL- Jacquelyn Sistrunk, Specialty Crop CT

MT- Whitney Wankel, Vice President; Shana Baisch, Treasurer

ND- Deb Dressler, President; Diane McDonald, Secretary; Marlene Kouba, Energy CT

NM- Shelia Massey, Area II Director

NY- Ruth Larabee, Vice President; Kay Zeosky, Area I Director; Gwen Cassel, Sheep & Goat CT

SD-Central Plains 152, Mary Ellen Cammack, Area I Director

WY- Klodette Stroh, Sugar CT



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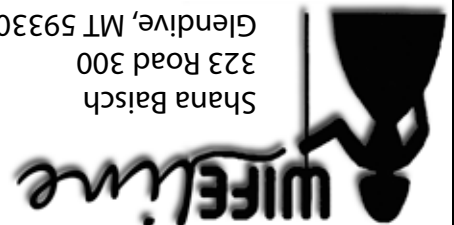
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