

Presidents of WIFE



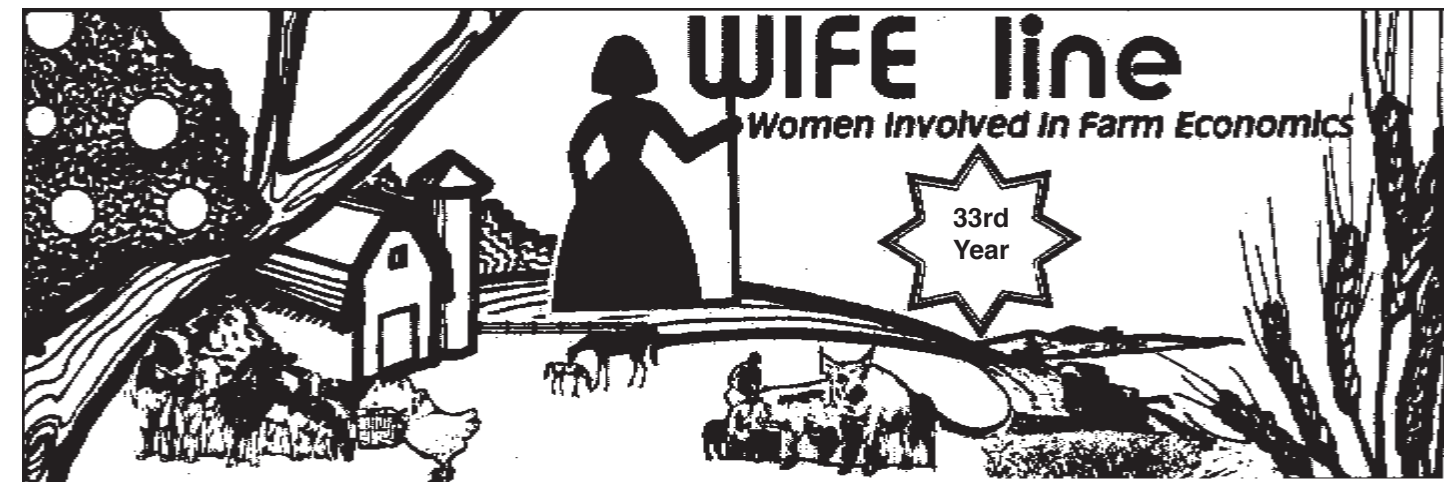
Left to Right - Jenifer Felzien (CO) 1996-1997, Sheila Massey (NM) 1998-1999, Cindy Cruza (SD) 2000-2002, Pam Potthoff (NE) 2007-2008, & Tammy Basel (SD) 2009-

www.WIFeline.com

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OLD GLORY

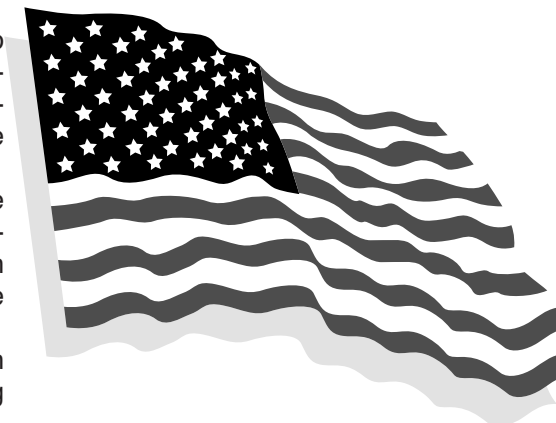
By Marlene Kouba

How many of you know how to properly display a flag, let alone understand all of the details of flag etiquette? Most people are not aware there is any flag etiquette at all.

Parade season is here once again. There are a few simple guidelines for showing your respect when you see the flag in a parade or have one on your float.

1. When carried in procession with other flags, the U.S. flag should be either on the marching right (the flag's right) or to the front and center of the flag line. When displayed on a float in a parade, the flag should be hung from a staff or suspended so it falls free. It should not be draped over a vehicle.
2. The flag with the gold fringe around it is usually the one that is in the lead in a parade and often carried by a color guard. It is the responsibility of every U.S. citizen to show honor to the American flag, especially the ones with the fringe. There is no need to stand at attention to any others that may be following in the parade and there are no regulations regarding them.
3. Stand straight and tall to honor the flag before it comes to you and as it passes in the procession. Men in civilian clothes are to remove their caps or hats and hold it with their right hand at left shoulder with the hand being over the heart. Uniformed men and women should render the military salute. All others--men, women, and children--should place their right hand flat on their heart to give a hand-to-heart salute and keep it there until the flag has passed them.

The Flag Code says no disrespect should be shown to the flag. The flag should never touch anything beneath it, including the ground. The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia,



letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature. The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins, boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard, such as picnic and party decorations.

The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. A flag patch may be fixed to uniforms

of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations. The lapel pin is a replica and should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

Some teachers or leaders encourage children to write their names or a message or to put their handprints on flags for servicemen in war zones. During the last presidential campaign a candidate's photo was imprinted on flags for parades. You may have seen celebrities with a flag draped around them. All of these procedures show disrespect and/or ignorance.

If violating the Flag Code were a crime punishable by jail time, most of the United States would be behind bars. Of course, there are no real penalties for disregarding the Flag Code; it is all a matter of respect.

Many loved ones have died for the freedoms that the American flag represents. Don't be bashful, lazy, or ashamed about standing up and showing your respect for it. Get your family and friends to join you in showing pride in the symbol of our country. Look across the street and see how many others are showing proper respect. These simple rules apply all year long, not just during parades. If you can wave one, I hope you can do your part for your country and at least stand up for one as well.

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TAMMY'S TOPICS

By Tammy Basel, SD
National President

What is the reason people pay dues to organizations? Many people pay dues to one or more organizations. It seems people either pay dues to many organizations or none at all. In these tough times, paying dues may be one of the first expenses to go. If dues to an organization are cut, which organization should it be? Is paying WIFE dues an expense, or an investment?

I think paying WIFE dues is an investment. Paying WIFE dues has definite benefits. When you call a congressman in Washington, D.C., the first thing they ask is what group you represent. Of course, they will take your name and number and listen to what you have to say as an individual. That is a great thing about this country. Belonging to an organization is a little bit like doing a construction project. If your measurement is off by a fraction of an inch and barely noticeable, by the time you get to the other end of the room, there is an obvious difference. The same magnitude can be applied when calling Congress. One person calls, and it can make a difference, but when someone from your organization calls, it represents many voices that belong to the organization. WIFE represents multi commodities. We are not just representing one issue or commodity.

Many groups like to boast that they are grassroots. WIFE is truly a grassroots organization. Many topics are floating around, whether it is a national animal identification program, taking the word "navigable" out of the Clean Water Act, or a cap and trade system that may be good or bad for agriculture. This list could go on and on. WIFE members are protectionists and that is not a bad word. We protect our families, friends, land and businesses. Most of us make our living from our hard work on the land and hope that our children and grandchildren will have the same opportunity. In this tough economic time it is as important as ever to belong to WIFE! As more and more people have less time and money to travel and more people are displaced, the story of where their food is produced must be told. WIFE needs your input. When you attend your chapter and state meetings to set policy, that policy is taken to national convention to give direction to those who are elected to represent you. Times are changing, and there are fewer and fewer to tell the positive story of production agriculture.

Back to my original question, is paying WIFE dues an expense or an investment? Investment is the obvious answer as your efforts in WIFE are magnified all the way from communities all over this great nation to Washington, DC.

GET WELL!

Mary Ellen Cammack's husband, Randy, was in an ATV accident on June 18. He was in very critical condition but is slowly improving. They were hailed out just four days before that accident. Mary Ellen is the National Beef Chairman. Any cards or greetings of encouragement could be mailed to Randy and Mary Ellen Cammack, 14720 Home Place, Sturgis, SD 57785.



WIFE SUPPORTING MEMBERS CONTRIBUTOR LEVELS

VIP Membership

Bayer CropScience
Renewable Fuels Association

Executive Membership

American's for Secure Retirement
DuPont
Edison Electric Institute
Farm Credit Council
Monsanto
New Holland
North America, Inc.

Associate Membership

American Council of Life Insurers
CropLife America
Florida, Texas & Hawaii Sugar Cane Growers
North Bridge Communications
U.S. Beet Sugar Association

Contributor Membership

Agriculture Council of America
American Bankers Association
American Sugarbeet Grower's Association
Miller/Coors Brewing Company
Mitchell Oilfield

In-Kind Contributors

Kimmitt, Senter,
Coates & Weinfurter
High Plains Journal
Rauner & Associates



BYLAW CHANGES FOR 2009

ARTICLE IX, Officers

Section 1. The officers of WIFE shall be involved in production or agriculture related business and shall be President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. *Change to read:* The officers of WIFE shall be (or have been) involved in the production or agriculture related businesses and shall be President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Omit Second Vice-President.

Section 7. No member of WIFE shall hold more than one elected National office at a time. *Change* elected to electable.

NEW Section 8. No more than two members of the Executive Committee shall be from any one WIFE state association.

Article VI, Section 1.B. Shall be assigned a *number in consecutive order* by the Treasurer. *Change to read:* National Treasurer.

Article X, Section 3 and 7. *Change Section 3 to read:* Area Directors shall be elected by members at the Annual Convention and shall have the endorsement of their Chapter and Association. *Change Section 7 to read:* Area Directors shall be limited to two consecutive one-year (1) terms or until their successors are elected. *Suggested change is to combine 3 and 7 to read:* Area Directors shall be elected by members at the Annual Convention and shall have the endorsement of their Chapter and Association. Area Directors shall be limited to two one (1) year terms or until their successors are elected.

Article XI, Section 8. ~~Delete: A written ballot may be taken by mail and the results shall be announced at the next meeting and be recorded in the minutes. Replace with:~~ Article XI, Section 8. In case of the Executive Committee teleconference calls, business shall be conducted as usual, minutes shall be taken and motions recorded with roll call votes. These meetings should not be in conflict with actions taken during regular meetings. Summary of such meetings and motions shall be presented at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Article XIII, Section 1.C. The President and two selected delegates from each Association. *Omit the word selected to read:* The President and two delegates from each Association.

These two were left to be debated on floor at National Convention.

Article XIII. Part of Section 1.D. *It would then read:* D. Chairman of the Commodity, Topic and Standing Committees, the Corresponding Secretary and Past President in good standing. (This is to eliminate confusion during roll call.)

Article XIII. Section 4. One third (1/3) of the members representing states in good standing shall constitute a quorum provided three (3) are officers of WIFE. *Suggested change:*

1. A majority of those registered shall constitute a quorum.

2. One third (1/3) of the registered members representing states in good standing shall constitute a quorum provided that three (3) are officers of WIFE.

New: Change the June Board of Directors meeting to a video or teleconference meeting. *Reason:* To reduce expenses.



Ardyth Anderson,
Bylaws Chairman

FAED WINNERS

Each year the Foundation for Agricultural Development (FAED) presents \$500 Marilyn Spiker Memorial Scholarships to young women in their first or second year of college who are going into an agricultural field. FAED is the educational arm of WIFE.

Cassie Wasko of Hanston, Kansas, was one of the winners. She has been accepted to attend Fort Hays State University this fall. She will be majoring in Agribusiness.

Kaitlyn Hardy of Fairview, Montana, was another of the scholarship winners. Pat Torgerson presented a \$500 check to her at the Fairview High School Awards Assembly.

Katie Dressler of Richardton, North Dakota was the third winner of the award. Deb Dressler presented the award to her.



Pat Torgerson &
Kaitlyn Hardy



Katie Dressler &
Deb Dressler



Cassie Wasko & Kathy Satomi



WIFeline

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Membership Information:

Yes, send me information about becoming a member of WIFE. I am interested in the grassroots organization.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Send above form to the
National Membership Chairman
Alice Fairfax - 27248 Goodwill Chapel Rd.
Sedalia, MO 65301

www.WIFeline.com

RANCHER PROBLEMS

By Mary Ellen Cammack, SD
Beef Chairman



On June 11, 2009, the House Appropriations Committee's ag subcommittee stripped federal funding from efforts to establish a mandatory national animal identification system (NAIS).

R-Calf, a ranchers' advocacy group, called the move a victory for livestock producers opposed to having a national animal ID system forced on them, while NCBA maintains that loss of the funding could lead to a more onerous mandatory system. Bill Bullard, chief executive officer of R-CALF USA, stated that if money isn't restored to the USDA budget for the next year, it means the agency cannot continue to give tax dollars to organizations, such as the American Angus Association, the Pork Producers Council, FFA and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to sign producers up under the program, that has been voluntary for the past several years.

On the same day that hundreds of ranchers gathered in Rapid City to give USDA officials an earful about the proposed ID system, the House Appropriations Committee's ag subcommittee pulled all funding from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that was meant to continue developing the system.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) backed removing the NAIS funding even though she has been a strong supporter of a mandatory ID system. DeLauro serves on both the House appropriations committee and its ag subcommittee.

"After receiving \$142 million in funding since fiscal year 2004, APHIS has yet to put into operation an effective system that would provide needed animal health and livestock market benefits," DeLauro said in a news release. "USDA is currently conducting a public listening tour around the country for several months to hear from stakeholders. Until USDA finishes its listening sessions and provides details as to how it will implement an effective ID system, continued investments into the current NAIS are unwarranted."

But Todd Mortenson of Hayes, president of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and state affiliate of NCBA, told the Rapid City Journal that continued funding for NAIS is the last chance for a voluntary or at least limited ID program. "If they strip the funding out, it doesn't mean the ID part is going away," Mortenson said. "The voluntary part is." He said members of Congress will likely push harder for a stricter mandatory national ID program. "So basically it's our worst nightmare." Mortenson said that is why his group has decided to support mandatory ID just for breeding stock, not the entire cattle herd. "We wanted to get something in place that we could all live with," he said. Mortenson said he hoped the NAIS money will be restored. Mortenson was one of only two speakers at Thursday's listening session in Rapid City who supported some form of mandatory animal ID.

The Rapid City session was not originally scheduled among the dozen or so sessions throughout the country but was added at the request of South Dakota's congressional delegation. Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., Sen. John Thune, R-

S.D., and Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, D-S.D., all have expressed reservations about the proposed mandatory ID program.

Could mandatory NAIS go the way of MCOOL?

BORDER CROSSING

By Donna Bolz, NE
Transportation Chairman



On March 10, 2009, Congress voted to shut down the Bush administration's NAFTA truck pilot project to open the border to trucks from Mexico. The project had been a failure due to inadequate oversight by the federal government and an insufficient number of trucks participating. Only a few dozen handpicked trucks were allowed to travel beyond the border. "This is too few for the government to reach a valid conclusion about the safety of Mexican trucks," according to the Transportation Department Office of the Inspector General. The Teamsters and others kept up the fight to close the border to dangerous trucks from Mexico. Congress listened and voted to cut off funding for the pilot project. President Barack Obama immediately ordered the pilot project ended.

"The Mexican government has not held up their end of the bargain to meet U.S. standards," said Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President. "Mexican trucks are unsafe and Mexican drivers are not required to meet the same criteria that American drivers must meet to earn a commercial driver's license. It's long past time to close the border to these unguided missiles."

The Mexican government retaliated by raising tariffs on selected exports from the U.S. "According to the government's trade statistics, Mexico has had a \$453 billion trade surplus with us over the past 10 years," Hoffa said. "It's disingenuous for them to complain that we're being unfair to them. We know that the president and Congress agree with us, with the driving public, with highway safety advocates, with other trucking groups and with environmentalists that Mexican trucks need to meet our safety and environmental standards before they can travel freely on our highways. American highway safety comes first," Hoffa said.

Efforts to reopen the border are likely to be complicated by the drug war that is spilling over the Mexican border. Over 7,000 people have died in drug-related killings in the past two years. Recently, a warning to the trucking industry was issued by the Transportation Security Administration's Highway Information Sharing and Analysis Center. The warning states, "Rising violence in Mexico is forcing foreign companies to change their operating procedures and shipping routes, while also tightening security for their employees."

Calendar of Events:

Deadline for submitting resolutions - September 27
November 12 - 14 - National Convention, Syracuse, NY

RURAL HEALTH CARE

By Jenifer Felzien



LouAnn Kilroy

"The mission for the Colorado Rural Health Center is 'Enhancing healthcare services by providing information, education, linkages, tools and energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues.'" The vision is "All rural Coloradans have access to comprehensive affordable healthcare services of the highest quality,'" said Lou Ann Wilroy, executive director of the Colorado Rural Health Center.

Lou Ann's background is in healthcare management consulting, hospital administration and clinic management. Lou Ann's previous experience has been as a rural outreach coordinator for Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming.

The programs and services of the center are to provide recruitment and retention, hospital and clinic services, emergency preparedness, grant programs, community development and education and advocacy. Lou Ann stated that all states have some form of a rural health center. Funding for the center is by federal grants, private foundation grants, membership dues, fee for service programs and donations.

What is not rural? The most commonly used definition is a county with a Metropolitan Statistical Area a community of 50,000 or more, or a county with a significant number of residents commuting to an adjacent county.

What is a frontier? The name was created to describe large sparsely populated western rural areas. A frontier is a county with a population density of six or fewer people per square mile. In defining Colorado there are 64 counties in the state with 17 urban, 24 rural and 23 frontier.

Lou Ann presented a snapshot of National Rural Health:

	Rural	Urban
Percent Population	20%	80%
Percent Physicians	11%	89%
Population 65 or Older	18%	15%
Population below Poverty	14%	11%
Average Per Capita Income	\$19,000	\$26,000
Population with Insurance	64%	69%
Population on Medicare	23%	20%
Percent of Poor on Medicaid	45%	49%

She presented more national rural health facts. Rural residents are twice as likely to die in a motor vehicle accident, rural Americans are less likely to receive routine dental care, there are fewer mental health professional per capita in rural areas and the suicide rate among rural men is significantly higher--in some areas, twice as high.

There are three types of rural facilities. They are critical access hospitals, rural health clinics and community health centers. Critical access hospitals are located in a rural area, no more that 25 beds, 24 hour emergency care, network partnership with larger tertiary facility, receive cost basis Medicare reimbursement. Rural health clinics are located in non-urbanized area, non-physician provider must be available 50 percent of clinic hours, must provide primary care

services including lab, and receive cost based Medicare and Medicaid. Community health centers are located in rural or urban areas, must provide comprehensive primary care services, required to serve all patients regardless of ability to pay, must be governed by board with 51 percent clinic clients, state primary care association, receive cost based Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.

Current issues facing the health care industry are health professional workforce shortage, dental and mental health services shortage, lack of public transportation, long term care capacity and health information technology and uninsured.

People in urban areas and cities have no understanding of those in rural areas. There are 1300 for-profit insurance companies in the nation.

Lou Ann also presented the Obama administration's plan for Health Reform.

1. Lower the cost by Health Information Technology, Prevention/Disease Management, Catastrophic coverage, quality payments, Pharmaceuticals and insurance.
2. Increase coverage by ending prior condition denial, new plan options, tax credits, employer's requirements, requirements for children, expand SCHIP and Medicaid, state flexibility.
3. Public Health by worksite and school based initiatives, workforce development, personal responsibility and government role at all levels.

For more information on the proposed health care reform or on other health cares issues you may get involved in the National Rural Health Association or your state rural health associations. Check out www.ruralhealthweb.org

PEANUT BUTTER

Jacquelyn R. Sistrunk,
Peanuts Chairman



The Montgomery Food Bank and other food banks throughout Alabama have suffered due to the economy. Alabama and Georgia Peanut Producers have suffered due to bad press. Therefore, the Alabama Peanut Producers Associations decided that since peanut butter was NOT recalled, they would donate 24 pallets or approximately 25,000 12-ounce jars of peanut butter.

Peanut butter is extremely nutritious, easy to store, delicious, and all kids (who are not allergic) love it!!! Over 50 percent of Alabama-grown peanuts are used in peanut butter. The contribution will help needy families enduring economic hardships while increasing the awareness of the health benefits of peanuts.

The peanut butter was manufactured by Tara Foods of Albany, Georgia, and delivered by Southern Ag Carriers, a major transportation company in the peanut industry. They donated their services. In a joint effort of Alabama-Georgia peanut-related companies this donation represents a wholesome product 'from our farms to your table.'

ECONOMIC CONCERNS

By Ruth Larabee, NY
Trade Chairman



Leaders from the four countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) held a June meeting in Yekaterinburg, Russia. On the table were their many concerns about currency and the possibility of moving away from the United States dollar as the default currency.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) report at the end of 2008 put the U.S. dollar as accounting for 64 percent of the central bank reserves. With the roller coaster effect of the worth of the U.S. dollar in the last few years and because of some of the U.S. fiscal policies causing economic concerns, the question has now surfaced as to the role of the U.S. dollar. The BRIC leaders put out a position paper with 16 issues to be addressed. In addition they requested the international financial institutions reorganize and move in a direction to be in harmony with the world economy changes. Even though there was not a spoken word of the IMF or World Bank, they came to agreement seeking more representation in international institutions with selected leaders founded on worth.

The leaders came together saying, "We also believe there is a strong need for a stable, predictable and more diversified international monetary program system." A bill called the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act was presented to the U.S. House and Senate before the end of May. It had 7 sponsors in the Senate and 59 on the House side. A legal tender (currency) could be described as "misaligned" (out of kilter, uneven, out of true) if: 1) the rate is too low (undervalued) on average by five percent or more for a period of 18 months, 2) the government interferes in the foreign exchange marketplace, 3) the country operated a trade excess against the world and the United States and 4) the country held greater funds than actually needed to disburse for their external debts that will be due in the next twelve months. To a certain degree, this ruling is the outcome of the new administration's assessment "to not find" that China manipulates its currency exchange rate in order to increase unjust benefits. At this point action is not expected unless there are trade or political conflicts which could generate a climate to draw extensive backing.

The Chinese government has issued a new ruling on their \$586 billion stimulus plan. Declared by China's cabinet, the State Council, it is reported that "government funded projects should purchase domestic products unless they cannot be obtained under reasonable business conditions". According to the Council it was needed to correct an unfairness concerning foreign traders. Back in February when the U.S. Congress put an amendment on the new administrations stimulus plan to "Buy American", what country was the first to say U.S. protectionism will endanger the world trade and economy? Yes, it was China. Now strong objections to their regulations have come from the European Chamber of Commerce and a teacher at Shanghai's China Europe International Business School, Xu Xiaonian. Their objec-

tions include their belief that protectionism is not the answer in order to have economic recovery. The problem is that, even though China's manufacturing companies have lower prices, the "state owned enterprises" prefer to buy outside the country because their executives get to travel around the world and it's reported they get commissions.

But like the U.S. workers who have lost jobs, apparently at this time it is not the case in China. The companies are asking for protectionism because they say they are losing their overseas marketplaces and need more "domestic" demand. The private exporters seem to be complaining the most. In Australia the state of New South Wales government has proposed special favors for local companies over out-of-country companies "bidding for government contracts". Many economists concur that the policies of trade protectionism led to the United States depression in 1929.

Thousands of European farmers in Luxembourg protested the low milk prices. Dairy farmers overseas, just like our farmers in the U.S., are facing a tough and serious crisis. It is costing farmers and ranchers more to produce than they get for the value of their product. Milk is at an all time low while costs remain at an all time high. In Brussels, according to the European Milk Council, approximately 1000 tractors and 3000 farmers went to the city where a summit meeting was being held by the European Union's heads of state.

To add to the U.S. farmer's difficulty the USDA has announced new particulars about the dairy import assessment fee. One proposed rule is the definition of milk "would be changed to include all cows' milk" instead of "only cows milk produced in the United States". National Dairy Board duties would now be to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for fluid milk and dairy products. The word produced in the "United States" would be deleted. And importers get to have their products advertised for less cost than what our U.S. producers pay. State Boards will be forced to treat imported products equally with domestic products. Only generic products will be advertised, so what happens to the 'Real' seal that consumers rely on?

The American Energy and Security Act (H.R.2454) was passed by the House. It now goes to the Senate. This cap and trade bill amounts to a high tax on energy use. Call your Senators to defeat it.

(Sources: *Farmers Weekly UK, Christian Science Monitor, Ross Korves, Fox News, USDA, Pete Harden*)

CONDOLENCES

Mitchell R. 'Mitch' Edwards, 47, son of Richard and former WIFE member Gladys Edwards, passed away unexpectedly on May 26, 2009, from an ongoing medical condition. He was raised on the family farm and graduated in Opheim. At the time of his death, he was the Service Manager at Montana Peterbilt. The funeral was on June 1. Donations can be made to the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America, 386 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016, 1-800-932-2432, www.ccca.org. Cards can be sent to Richard and Gladys Edwards, 687 Cairo Place, Billings, MT, 59015-2803.

Our sympathy goes to the Edwards family on the loss of their loved one.

'SWINE FLU'

by Frances Rohla, NE
Pork Chairman

There has been much said about the so-called swine flu that is now called H1N1. At first the flu was thought to be pandemic as so much is unknown. The following information is from April to July. Not much is known where the flu has come from but I will try to keep you informed. This is what has been reported thus far.

Confirmed cases have been reported in Japan, New Zealand, Israel, Britain, Spain and Mexico where the flu started. In the United States there were cases in New York, Ohio, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Arizona, Ohio, Nevada, Maine, Kansas, Texas, California and Nebraska. Japanese are wearing masks but some say they work and some say they do not. There is no vaccine against the H1N1 flu.

China, Russia and Taiwan began to quarantine travelers that come to their countries if they have symptoms of the flu. The World Bank will send Mexico \$25 million in loans and \$180 million in long-term loans. President Obama has asked Congress for \$1.5 billion in emergency funds.

Smithfield Foods, Inc. was blamed for this flu. Letters to all employees were sent stating that they have not found any diseases in their herds. Their herd is at Veracruz, Mexico. Their shares tumbled 52 cents a share.

Chief executive C. Larry Pope said the "swine" virus label is a misnomer because it is a mutation of many viruses. Smithfield has operations in the United States, Poland and Romania with 50 percent stakes in Mexican operations at Granjas Carroll de Mexico and Agroindustrial del Noroeste. The Mexican agriculture government also found no sign of the flu among pigs at Veracruz and they have not found any infected pigs in Mexico.

Some articles have said the flu can be contagious for seven to ten days. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says the flu virus is not like the 1918 pandemic deadly strain. The virus can live on surfaces and on inanimate objects, such as door handles and dirty tissues, and can pass by coughing and sneezing.

Mexico's chief epidemiologist, Dr. Miguel Angel Lezana feels that the flu is a new hybrid of pig, bird and flu virus. The symptoms for children are fast breathing (troubled), bluish skin color, they don't drink enough fluids, not waking up or not interacting, and being so irritable that the child doesn't want to be held. Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough or fever with a rash.

Emergency warning for adults is difficulty in breathing, sudden dizziness, confusion or severe or persistent vomiting.

In late June, two new cases of the flu were reported in Kansas.

As we go into the fall flu season, will there be a vaccine? Will the older vaccine be sufficient? Time will be on the side of the health of the U.S. citizens.

Remember-- pork is safe to eat, keep all meats refrigerated or frozen and cook all meats well.



The Food Safety and Enhancement Act of 2009, H.R. 2749, was recently introduced by Reps. John Dingell (D-MI) and Henry Waxman (D-CA). It would pose a myriad of consequences for the meat industry which is regulated by USDA. The bill would authorize the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to conduct on-farm inspections, undermining USDA's regulatory authority in ensuring the safety of meat and poultry products. FDA does not have the money, employees or expertise to oversee the livestock and poultry industries. Additional broad authority for on-farm safety checks will not improve food safety and will be an economic burden on all producers, whether it is pork, beef or poultry. The legislation gives FDA the authority to create farm safety standards, such as manure use and animal control. The bill would grant FDA authority to quarantine a geographical area during a food health emergency.

BIOCHAR

By Marlene Kouba

"Biochar is any form of charcoal after it has been put into the soil and is about 85 percent carbon. Biochar is ancient technology but is most known in only a few locations. In the Amazon, the nutrients drain out of the soil due to heavy rains. Pots of ash/charcoal have been found which could have been piles of trash in earlier years," said Ron Larson.

Ron Larson is a retired former professor as an Electrical Engineer at Georgia Tech and was a principal Scientist at SERI, now National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado. He is currently developing and promoting the concept of sequestering CO2 through charcoal additions to the world's soils which is called Biochar or Terra Preta. The first North American Regional Biochar will be in Boulder, Colorado in August, 2009.

About 25 percent of what we grow in crops is saleable. A man in Australia had a greenhouse where he had a boiler system. He could put in dry waste and carbon would be the result. Gases are released. Burn a wooden match and you have a bunch of carbon left. A chicken/turkey operation burned litter and bedding material. The chicken business generated heat, selling charcoal product and got rid of their waste.

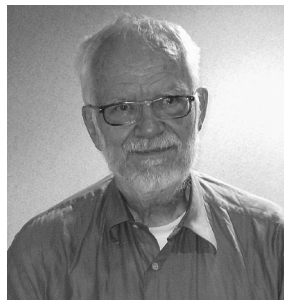
He has tried burning many kinds of wood. Anthropologists use carbon-dating all of the time.

Pyrolysis is a chemical change brought about by the action of heat. We don't have a price for carbon dioxide and we don't have a market. The European Union price is about \$35 to \$50 per ton.

He said biochar is a big part of climate control. You can Google his name or biochar for more information.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Make plans now to attend the national WIFE convention in Syracuse, New York, on November 12-14. Watch for further information on the hotel, reservations, registration, the agenda, etc.



Ron Larson

WYOMING REFINING

By Marlene Kouba



Bob Neufeld

Bob Neufeld, Vice President for Environment and Governmental Relations for the Wyoming Refining Company presented comments about the oil refining business. "The company covers an area from eastern Wyoming into western South Dakota. The company produces 14,000 barrels of oil per day and has 110 employees. About 60 percent of the fuel are sold in Rapid City with 90 percent of that amount going

to Ellsworth Air Force Base as jet fuel," he said.

Small business refiners dominate the Rocky Mountains and there are CHS refineries in Nebraska and Indiana. Of the market about 11 percent is from 36 of these refineries, 72 percent from 15 large refiners and 15 percent is imported. The average small refiner has a capacity of 64,000 barrels.

The company owns no wells. They buy crude oil on the market and serve sparsely populated markets. They are first to fall under financial pressures.

The Waxman-Markey cap and trade legislation is the latest scheme to control emissions. Sulphur dioxide is taken out of the air. It is a regulatory scheme where obligated parties can sell over compliance and purchase compliance. They want 17 percent reduction of greenhouse gases by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050. They intend to allocate a cap to obligated parties that will be either free or by auction. Permits will become valuable as time goes on. Emissions must be monitored before you can sell or trade and trades must be tracked.

Refineries are obligated to regulate smoke stacks. They will have to purchase 96 percent of required allowance. The average car emits 22 lbs. of CO2 per gallon of fuel.

Consumer emissions (transportation fuels) have never before been capped or traded. You will pay more for fuel or refineries will have to close and you still will pay more for fuel.

About 72 percent of importers have no source costs so will be cheaper and be pure profit for the foreign refiners. We will be subsidizing imports. Crude oil imports will decline and product imports will rise.

The cost is \$25 per metric tonne of CO2. Wyoming will pay \$49 million per year, CHS will pay \$558 million and Country Mark will pay \$84 million per year. All 26 small refiners will pay about \$7.6 billion per year. Small refiners may close before biofuels can replace them. Market prices will have to increase. All will pay twice—once to get fuel to market and again for new cost of carbon in the fuel. We will need more free allowances, more frequent allowance auctions, a price collar to control price volatility (safety valve), forward allocation to encourage long term investment, more offsets (burn manure piles and use for heat). The bill creates a penalty on offsets.

Call your congressmen to let small refiners be around until they are no longer needed. Every \$1 per ton is a penny per gallon. In case of a fuel shortage, such as in Montana, North and South Dakota, large refiners may not be connected to a pipeline. The pipelines are running at capacity now.

The prices at Wyoming Refining Company are competitive to larger refineries.

JUST END IT

By Stephanie Trask, SD Property Rights Chairman

Many livestock producers and attentive consumers across the nation took time to attend the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) listening sessions hosted by USDA in May and June. USDA advertised the sessions as a chance "to hear not only the producer concerns about the NAIS, but also potential or feasible solutions to those concerns."

The 14 listening sessions, in locations from Pennsylvania to New Mexico to Washington state, saw crowds of 50 to 400 people in attendance. Of the hundreds of livestock producers who gave oral comments at these sessions, the overwhelming majority voiced their opposition to the implementation of the NAIS in any form.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) began attempting to implement NAIS in 2004 but has been met with strong opposition from individual producers and industry organizations alike. Those in opposition view it as an intrusive and ineffective measure of government bureaucracy with corporate backing, which may not be capable of replacing existing traceback systems. WIFE supports existing animal traceback programs but opposes a mandatory national animal identification system and/or any punitive measures for non-compliance in such.

Over 400 producers from South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, and as far away as Kansas, traveled to Rapid City, South Dakota, for the listening session on June 11. Ranchers participated in a rally with a show of support for their hot-iron brands and the traceback those brands have provided for hundreds of years. Representatives from seven industry organizations participated in a press conference, making statements in opposition to mandatory national animal identification. WIFE's national president, Tammy Basel, delivered a statement on behalf of WIFE.

According to USDA, "The information and ideas gathered will assist Secretary Tom Vilsack in making decisions about the future direction of animal traceability in the United States." Producers are grateful for the opportunity to directly address their message to the Secretary of Agriculture and look forward to his effective representation.



MEAT EXPORTS

By Ruth Laribee

"The United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF) is a nonprofit trade organization that was set up with a mission to put U. S. meat on the world's table. It was a "brain child" of cattle producers while visiting a food expo held at Osaka, Japan, in 1976," said Communication Director Joe Schuele. He has extensive experience in agriculture, telecommunications and regulatory affairs.



Joe Schuele

The object of USMEF was to expand Asian markets beyond Japan and looking to develop new and existing markets in the international world. It is based in Denver, Colorado, but now has offices in Brussels, Moscow, Singapore, Hong Kong, Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, Japan, and Taipei. Membership dues come from the beef, pork, lamb, corn and the soybean check-off dollars, packers, processors, feeders and export companies. There is some funding and support from marketing programs in USDA. Half of their money comes from agri-business. Private funds totaled \$16.2 million in 2008. The organizations that support them have a say in how the business is run.

In the 1980's a Trade Export Assistance (TEA) program was set up to add value to American products. The TEA program later became the USDA's Market Access Program. In the 1990's they turned their attention to Mexico and now have an office in Mexico City.

The North American Free Trade Agreements (NAFTA) removed costly tariffs in Mexico and Canada. Today Mexico is the top market for beef and combined beef and pork. Canada is now a key market for beef. Emerging markets that are developing a taste for U.S. beef and pork include Southeast Asia, South America, Vietnam, Australia and Russia. Russia no longer wants U.S. pork but want beef livers and so do Egypt and Mexico. USMEF try to focus offices where they can get a good return.

In 1990 three percent of the U.S. domestic production went to exports but last year it was up to 25 percent. The pork market became strong in early 2008 but it has been hurt because of the "swine flu". Exports of lamb muscle cuts have doubled in value to 28 percent with the Caribbean as the lead market. Mexico and Canada are also strong markets for lamb.

"Japan has weathered the currency slump better than other countries," he said. In regards to industry funding from the corn and soybean checkoff, Schuele believes there is a greater return in dollars to feed the U. S. animals and then export the meat rather than the grain.

In 1990 the U.S. exported three percent of our pork and in 2008 it was up to 24.4 percent. Last year one out of three pounds of pork came from the U.S. to the tune of \$4.9 billion. Consumption of pork in the U.S. was up 13 percent and the rest of the world was up 62 percent. Exports gave the hog producers \$42.31 per market hog. Japan imported 1.55 billion pounds of pork varying from specialty white table (high end entrees) to deli meats. The deli meats are sold in

one out of three 7-11 stores which are a popular market in Japan.

New beef cuts for Japan are top blade muscle, flap meat, brisket, and rib cap plate. A cookbook has been developed for them using these cuts. Beef and pork cooking schools have also been held in Japan.

Beef consumption in the U.S. was up 11 percent and the rest of the world was up 40 percent in 2008. Beef exports are somewhat flat but they are seeing some growth. A forecast for 2009 for beef exports is 2200 million pounds in 2009 and three billion pounds by 2011. Mexico was the top beef market with value of \$1.4 billion in 2008 but now their economy is bad. They don't like our labeling and truck restrictions so they added tariffs. It could be a form of retaliation. "In 2008 about 3.6 billion pounds of beef was exported. We are working towards a four billion pound mark by 2011. Almost 12 percent of the total beef production was exported last year. Exports have added approximately \$133.84 per head slaughtered. Exporting to Mexico last year returned 1.4 billion dollars to the U.S. which was more than we exported to the world in 2005," Schuele concluded.

WIFE MET IN DENVER

By Marlene Kouba

Members of Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) held their annual national Board of Directors meeting in the mile-high city of Denver, Colorado, on June 4-6, 2009. Members from New York to New Mexico were represented at this meeting.

WIFE was represented at three of the national listening sessions recently held throughout the nation by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

Other topics for discussion included illegal immigration and border security, animal rights, currency manipulation, meat exports, oil refineries, wind energy and rural health. (See excerpts of the speeches in this issue.)

A Taste of WIFE social was held on Friday evening. Products from each of the states were served to guests. Area 3 Director Alice Fairfax was in charge of the arrangements. This is the first time it was tried in Denver.

Heart to Heart was a general discussion on the changes and future plans for WIFE that was led by Past Presidents Cindy Cruea and Sheila Massey. The plans will be discussed during the convention in November.

After the meeting, the three Area Directors were left and toured Lookout Mountain where they saw the graves of Buffalo Bill Cody and his wife.

THANKS!

Tom Shultz of New York says thanks to all of the WIFE members for their kind words after his wife Margaret "Peg" passed away. He said she was a strong advocate of WIFE and firmly believed in their mission of stating the case of agriculture in the halls of Congress. Her association with WIFE meant so much to her. She had planned to help during the 2009 convention in New York.

www.WIFEline.com

CAP AND TRADE

By Sheila Massey
Energy Chairman



Cap and Trade legislation passed the U.S. House but sources indicate the issue is far from being settled. It appeared obvious that concessions proving beneficial to agriculture had to be made before the legislation would stand a chance of passing. In several sources I have read, Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN), chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, has commented on the mutual distrust between agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The following are highlights of what was in the bill that passed on June 26 by a vote of 219 — 212:

- One of the controversial items was the indirect land-use provisions. After much brokering, there was a consensus for an offset program for agriculture that the agriculture committee believes will work. They wrote the language for it and the decision was made to leave the running and rulemaking of the program with USDA without EPA involvement.
- The second point of disagreement, indirect land use, is out of the bill according to Chairman Peterson. He indicated there will be a five-year study on that issue. Depending on the findings of the study, the EPA, Department of Energy (DEA) and USDA will all have to sign off. Without agreement of all three, it cannot move forward.
- A provision allowing rural utility companies to buy a piece of future nuclear plants by using federal funds.
- Early adopters of locking carbon into soil (through conservation/reduced-till and planted trees) will be rewarded. Efforts as far back as 2001 will be eligible for carbon credits. One of the parts of the agreement is if you've been doing the right thing, you'll get credit for it under this program and that wasn't anticipated by EPA. So, people who are doing no-till, those planting trees, doing conservation and so forth won't be precluded from participating in the offset program.
- Futures markets for carbon contracts will be overseen by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) while the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) would oversee the cash market. According to Chairman Peterson, "There won't be any trading of carbon credits on anything other than the regulated exchange."

I have listed only a few of some the issues negotiated where compromise was reached that supposedly helped in the passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. by the U. S. House of Representatives. These compromises may have satisfied some; however, I feel the debate is far from over as the legislation is acted on by the U. S. Senate. The fears of the American public are still being expressed nationwide and with much conviction.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated the cost of the legislation to be something like \$175 per family. I, for one, do not consider the cost of inputs by agricul-

tural producers to fall into the same category as the average family costs.

The doubling of electric bills for the average citizen may not seem like much; however, when you consider the impact of doubling the electric and other energy input costs for the American farmer and rancher, the impact is something to be considered as critical.

The landmark climate bill continues to be considered by some as the biggest job-killing bill that has ever been on the floor of the House of Representatives. The 1,200 plus page bill now goes to the Senate, where it once again faces an uncertain future. According to the Associated Press, the Cap-and-Trade legislation places the first national limits on emissions of heat-trapping gases from major sources like power plants, refineries and factories. It requires:

- A 17 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.
- An 83 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- That 20 percent of all electricity in the United States be generated by renewable sources and/or more efficient methods by 2020.

I encourage all farmers and ranchers, if you haven't already done so, to study this legislation and the impact it may well have on your bottom line, thus your future. Do not take the compromises that helped the legislation pass the House at face value....we all know that not all is as it appears or as we are told it is. Get your facts on how this legislation will affect you and visit with your Senator about it. Ask hard questions and demand honest answers.

As you go about this task I ask that you keep in mind WIFE policy that was set when considering Global Warming. WIFE is concerned that the consideration of Global Warming is not based on sound science. Any consideration in this area must not adversely affect the competitiveness of United States agriculture. Ask the question, is American agriculture taking the hardest hit in this debate?

Furthermore consider that WIFE believes any Cap and Trade Legislation shall not cause any undue financial burden. That brings us to the final and most important question to ask. What is this going to cost the American farmer and rancher? And while you are on that question, will we still be importing agricultural products from other countries who are not required to meet the same environmental standards as are we? Just a few points to ponder as the debate on Cap and Trade continues.

SYMPATHY

Pearl Carlson was a member of the Basin City Chapter of WIFE and was Washington State Secretary for several years. She joined WIFE when it was organized in 1977. She and her husband attended many of the National WIFE conventions until her husband's death. Pearl was a loyal member of WIFE. Pearl passed away on June 4 and people can sign the online guest book at www.HillcrestBruceLee.com. Cards can be sent to the family in care of Bruce Carlson, 11 W Dogwood Rd, Pasco, WA 99301.

May your family find comfort with your friends around you.

LAMBING

By Gwen Cassel, NY
Sheep and Goats Chairman

On April 23, 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that lamb producers, feeders, seedstock producers, and first handlers of lamb and lamb products, who voted in a national referendum during February 2-27, 2009, have approved the continuation of the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, commonly known as the Lamb Checkoff Program.

Of the 1,971 valid ballots cast, 1,678 or 85.1 percent favored the program. Opposing ballots totaled 293 or 14.9 percent. Additionally, of those persons who cast valid ballots in the referendum, those who favored continuing the program, accounted for 93 percent of the total production voted, and those opposed accounted for 7 percent of the total production voted.

For the program to continue, it must have been approved by at least a majority of those persons voting. Those voting must have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughter of lambs during calendar year 2008 and who also represent a majority of the volume of lambs produced, fed, or slaughtered.

The goal of the Lamb Checkoff Program is to strengthen the position of ovine animals and ovine products, as well as to develop and expand the markets for the same. Under the program, producers, seedstock producers (breeders), feeders, and exporters are required to pay an assessment of one-half cent (\$.005) per pound when live ovine animals are sold. The first handler (primarily packers) pays an additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter. Importers are not assessed. Agricultural Marketing Service oversees the activities carried out under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996, which authorizes the order.

While reviewing the above I compared the number of sheep and lamb producers nationally, who participated in this opportunity to vote on a program that is much discussed by small producers, to the number of sheep and lamb producers just in New York State. This number totaled 1,799 farms raising sheep and lambs in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. It is somewhat revealing that, although small farmers appear not to be supportive of checkoff efforts, few took the opportunity to participate in this democratic process. Producers who sell live animals or as a meat product privately, are responsible to submit fees directly to the American Lamb Board when transactions occur. Others participate in the checkoff program, but feel that generic lamb promotions do little for the small producer who is self-marketing locally or selling lamb products privately. In addition, I have noted that small producers are often not supportive of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) as has been put forward by USDA to date, wanting to stay as anonymous as possible in all areas of national concern.

(Source: USDA Agricultural Marketing Service News Release AMS No. 080-09)



SUGAR IMPORTS

By Klodette Stroh, WY
National Sugar Chairman

Additional foreign sugar imports coming into the U. S. market will jeopardize the financial ability of the nation's sugar beet and sugar cane processors to meet our market's needs. The American sugar industry is already suffering because last year food manufacturers lobbied USDA to import foreign sugar into our market which left us with a sugar surplus and depressed prices.

A report released by the American Cane Sugar Refiners Association examines low prices, uncertainty over Mexican sugar shipments, and logistical and quality problems following previous import increases and concluded that the nation must take care not to worsen this situation by expanding supplies at this critical juncture.

Raw cane prices have fallen 15 percent between last August and mid-March. The study's author, Dr. Margaret Blamberg, wrote in an oversupplied market scenario this year that it would depress sugar prices to the level of turning over the sugar to the government.

The American Sugar Alliances (ASA) intends to keep a stable surplus of sugar on market with a reasonable price and low cost to American consumers. "An increase of supplies is not only unnecessary but could be costly," ASA wrote. "Unnecessary because U.S. supplies are more than adequate; potentially costly to taxpayers because any downward pressure on sugar prices could result in commodity loan forfeitures," they said.

The 2008 Farm Bill instructs the USDA to avoid sugar loan forfeitures so taxpayer cost is not incurred.

On March 23, thirteen senators sent a letter to Secretary Tom Vilsack, requesting to let more imported sugar into United State's market. U.S. food producers had lobbied forcefully with Senators that have been historically opponents of sugar program.

The senators were Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Roland Burris (D-IL), Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Russ Feingold (D-WI), Arlen Specter (R-PA) Robert Casey (D-PA); Sam Brown back (R-KS), Richard Lugar (R-IN), George Voinovich (R-OH), John Ensign (R-NV), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Kit Bond (R-MO).

The USDA denied this request. Had USDA enacted the import increase the food manufacturers had sought, our market would have been tragically oversupplied, more sugar farmers would be financially stressed, and loan forfeiture costs would be expected to soar.

Alfalfa hay, barley, corn, cotton, cattle, dry beans, milk, rice, oats, sugar beet, sugar cane, soybeans and wheat are the body of America's agriculture. Some of our lawmakers have been trying to dismember this productive body, which I consider to be the backbone of my beloved country. Pushing sugar producers out of business will have a domino effect on the rest of our ag industry.

As citizens of this great country, we have to let our lawmakers know that dismembering a fruitful and dynamic working machine, as America's agriculture, will not result in prosperity of this nation's economy.

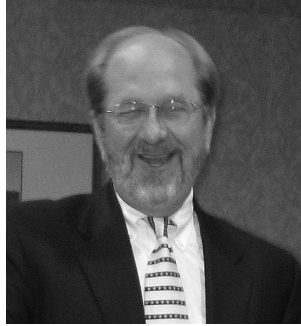


WINNING OVER ANIMAL RIGHTS:

Unity is Key

Reported by Pam Potthoff

Steve Kopperud's statement "Animal rights is or will shortly affect your life" certainly caught the attention of Women Involved in Farm Economics at their Board of Directors meeting in Denver in June. Kopperud is senior vice president of Policy Directions Inc., a Washington, DC, government affairs company specializing in production agriculture, agribusiness, animal health, food, farm policy, trade and ag research/health-related issues.



Steve Kopperud

Kopperud warned WIFE that there is now a broad attack against agriculture technology, including livestock confinement, handling and transport. He felt this is basically a broad group of voices that are focused on returning agriculture to the way things were done in the 1930's.

He reminded WIFE that two-thirds of the world's land cannot support crop production and in North America three-fourths of the land cannot do so. This land needs to be used for animal production.

Agriculture producers were urged to do a better job of selling themselves as good stewards of the soil, as being concerned about the welfare of their animals and as producing the safest and most abundant food in the world. Kopperud applauded niche marketers for creating markets for snobs but reminded WIFE that science does not substantiate the fact that organic, free range, hormone free, etc. products are actually safer or taste better than conventional. Check-offs need to do more to defend conventional agriculture than to just sell the product in bulk. Niche markets should not be attacking conventional products as it puts untrue, negative information in consumer's minds.

One concept that might be advanced is there is no such thing as good food or bad food. Everyone just needs self-control and portion control. Kopperud sees diet as the last part of life that humans still control in the U.S. and the public would prefer government stay out of it.

Kopperud places the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) as agriculture's main enemy. HSUS has a \$135 million budget and is using it to put agriculture out of business. HSUS plays on our emotions. There was more concern about melamine in pet foods than on any human health or agricultural issue. HSUS exploits its reputation as the small town shelter for animals but it has no affiliation with any state or local Human Society. HSUS has regional offices and an office or lobbyist in most state capitals.

Most Americans and livestock producers feel the public deserves to have an assurance that the meat and animal products they use come from an animal that has been treated well during its life. Agriculture has been trying to counter the emotional attack of HSUS with statistics, facts and research but it needs to meet the emotional side of the issue by showing how "happy" farm animals are and the wonderful people who are taking good care of their livestock.

Kopperud explained current horse slaughter policy. While it is still legal to slaughter horses in the U.S., the USDA cannot provide inspection so the meat cannot be used for human

consumption. New legislation would make it illegal to transport horses for slaughter. The current answer to the problem of unwanted and old horses is to send them to Mexico or Canada for slaughter. This would no longer be an option under the new legislation.

Kopperud said every owner of a horse has the right to dispose of his property (the horse) as he wishes. Because he does not, there are currently around 120,000 neglected and abandoned horses in the U.S. It is a fallacy that horses can take care of themselves in the wild. The HSUS is not opposed to euthanizing horses but does not want the meat used for food.

The two horse slaughter plants in Texas that were closed were selling 100 percent of the meat to the European Union so they were meeting both the U.S. and the European standards.

Kopperud urged agriculture producers to become united and force HSUS to leave farm animals alone. A new coalition, Farm Animal Welfare Coalition, is trying to do just that but still does not have some of the major farm organizations on board. He said crop producers are finally awakening to the idea that technology involves them in animal agriculture. "Crop anti-tech people talk about saving the small farmers but their programs will consolidate farms into larger farms because small farms cannot afford to pay for the changes," according to Kopperud.

"When companies and organizations make stupid statements they must be refuted. Maybe it is time WIFE makes defending agriculture and agriculture practices a priority. We should sell our way of doing things as hard as we sell our products," he concluded.

ND WIFE GIVES SCHOLARSHIPS



Erika Stein and Leah Howatt

Voices For Farming-WIFE Chapter 141 presented scholarships to two graduating seniors at 2009 awards day at Langdon Area High School. Erika Stein after receiving her degree plans on entering medical school. She would like to practice in rural North Dakota. Leah Howatt after receiving a degree in business would like to work with insurance in rural North Dakota. They will both be attending UND this fall.

Our chapter has been giving scholarships for several years. This is our way of giving back to the community that has supported us through the years. It is good to see that past recipients have continued in agriculture in many different ways.

--Phyllis Howatt, ND Vice President

LEGISLATION

By Jenifer Felzien, CO

Legislative Chairman



USDA has a new farm service administrator, Doug Caruso. Mr. Caruso has served as the state executive director for eight years in the Farm Service Agency in Wisconsin. He was the CEO of Wisconsin Farmers Union Specialty Cheese. He has also worked as the state director for Senator Herb Kohl, (D-WI). WIFE congratulates Mr. Caruso on his appointment as the administrator of the farm service agency.

Confirmation hearings have been held and the appointments of several more Deputies or Undersecretaries have been approved. Jim Miller of North Dakota was appointed to the position of Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Kathleen Merrigan was confirmed as Deputy Secretary and USDA Assistant Deputy for Civil Rights, Joe Leonard Jr.

CRP: About four million acres of CRP are set to expire in 2009. Expiring CRP contracts will have crop bases and yields restored to the land if they were forfeited when the land went into the CRP. For some farms the crop bases were either not reduced or partially reduced. This was due to the fact there was enough cultivated land to use the base from the CRP acres. Producers will be able to enroll these crop bases in the 2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program even if they decide to leave the land in grass. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Natural Resources Conservation Service have several scenarios that a producer may use in pursuing to keep their ground out of production.

Estate Tax: For 2009 the estate tax exemption is \$3.5 million per individual and the rate is 45 percent. The law stands that entire estates are exempt with no tax for 2010 only. The estate tax returns in 2011 at a rate of 55 percent with a \$1 million exemption per individual. The U.S. House has moved to extend the 2009 rules into 2010 and beyond. The action was included in the federal budget resolution passed by the House. The Senate passed a resolution and included an amendment that addresses the estate tax differently. The Senate's version would raise the exemption to \$5 million per individual and lower the tax rate to 35 percent for 2010 and beyond.

Trade: S. 1089 was sponsored by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT). The bill is to facilitate the export of U. S. agricultural commodities and products to Cuba. It was authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 to establish an agricultural export promotion program with respect to Cuba, to remove impediments to the export to Cuba of medical devices and medicines, to allow travel to Cuba by the United States citizens and legal residents, to establish an agricultural export promotions program with respect to Cuba.

Transportation: S.146 was sponsored by Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI). It would amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and eliminate exemptions from

such laws that are contrary to the public interests with respect to railroads.

The Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2009 amends the Clayton Act to grant the United States exclusive authority to bring suit for injunctive relief against a common carrier that is not a rail common carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

It revises provisions prohibiting anticompetitive transactions except those approved by special federal agencies acting under certain statutes to eliminate the exemption for certain Surface Transportation Board. It provides that, in any civil action against a rail common carrier, the U.S. district court shall not be required to defer to the primary STB.

It empowers the Federal Trade Commission to regulate, and engage in antitrust enforcement regarding, collective rate agreements and certain transactions, including railroad mergers and acquisitions.

It permits treble damages against railroad common carriers in antitrust suits to parties injured by antitrust violations without regard to whether such railroads have filed rates or whether a complaint challenging rates have been filed.

It amends federal transportation laws to terminate the exemptions from antitrust laws for collective ratemaking agreements.

It requires the STB, when reviewing a proposed agreement, to take into account its impact upon shippers, consumers and affected communities,

It revises STB authority to provide that a rail carrier, or a person participating in an approved transaction, is not exempt from specified antitrust laws. It makes such provision inapplicable to any transaction relating to the pooling of railroad cars approved by the STB or its predecessor agency.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FARMERS UNION

By Marlene Kouba

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union was started in 1907. "They are now planning on making coal pellets," said Bill Midcap who is a member of the organization.

They are seeking markets for woody biomass and have formed wind associations.

He has worked with companies to develop clean energy.

He thinks the Waxman-Markey bill will pass. "Carbon sequestration can be an innovative way to enhance farm income and help Main Street," he said.

President Obama plans to double funding for rural energy to \$128 million. The demand for the program outstrips supply. It will take a massive attempt to build transmission lines for wind energy.



Bill Midcap

CORN BIOPRODUCTS

By Lisa Goodheart, KS
Feed Grains Chairman



There is a long list of products made from corn. In addition to ethanol and feed products, starch, corn oil, corn syrup, sweetener, and other bioproducts are all produced from corn. One bushel of corn will produce over one and a half pounds of corn oil, over eleven pounds of 21 percent protein feed or three pounds of 60 percent gluten meal. One bushel of corn will also produce 32 pounds of starch or 33 pounds of sweetener or two and a half gallons of ethanol.

Uses for corn starch include adhesives, anticaking agents, mold-releasing agents, dusting powder, and thickening agents. Starches are used in instant and ready-to-eat foods to help maintain texture during freezing, thawing and heating. Special types of starches are used as part of the "drilling mud" which cools down superheated oil drilling bits.

Corn oil is used for frying and is a good choice for trans-fat reduction. It is very digestible, provides Vitamin E and is a source of fatty acids that help regulate cholesterol levels and lower elevated blood pressure.

Corn syrup adds sweetness, is used to prevent crystal formation in ice cream and other frozen desserts, and helps in the viscosity of salad dressings and condiments. Corn syrup can improve textures and enhance colors without masking natural flavors, as in canned fruits and vegetables.

There are three other types of sweeteners--dextrose, high fructose corn syrup and crystalline fructose. Dextrose is highly nutritious and is an economical source of carbohydrates. It is used in jams, jellies and icing mixes to temper the sweetness of sucrose, and also maintains moisture so products stay fresh longer. The pharmaceutical industry uses dextrose in the manufacture of Vitamin C and in fermentation to produce penicillin and other antibiotics. Dextrose is an excellent yeast food and is used in brewing low calorie beer and producing citric acid and lysine. High fructose corn syrup is used in canned fruits and processed foods that need mild sweetness that won't mask natural flavors. It is also used in soft drinks, ice cream and frozen desserts. Crystalline fructose produces greater sweetness in combination with sugar and is used in presweetened cereals, instant beverages and dry mix products.

The term "bioproducts" defines a wide variety of corn refining products which replaces products made from non-renewable resources or from chemical synthesis. In addition to ethanol and the items already mentioned, there are now products made from corn that help deal with the plastic disposal problem. Everything from packing peanuts to disposable plates and take-out containers are now being produced from corn starch which makes these products degradable. Consumers now have choices of products that not only provide convenience but are also better for the environment.

RESOLUTIONS

If you desire any changes or additions to the Procedure Manual, get your resolutions to Mary Ellen Cammack by September 27.

FLAVORED MILK

By Dianna Reed, KS
Dairy Chairman



Two major dairy industry groups jointly rejected a suggested federal excise tax on flavored milk drinks, such as chocolate and strawberry, that contains sugar-based sweeteners.

Connie Tipton, President and CEO of the International Dairy Foods Association, and Jerry Kozak, President and CEO at the National Milk Producers Federation, said flavored milk is part of the solution to the child obesity problem, not a cause, and its consumption needs to be encouraged among kids, not discouraged by a new tax.

A tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, including flavored milk, was included in a list of revenue options released on May 18 by Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Charles Grassley (R-IA). While no rate was specified, a tax of three cents per 12 ounces could raise as much as \$50 billion over 10 years, according to a congressional estimate.

"Milk is a nutrient-rich beverage that is good for kids," said Tipton. "We need to encourage them to drink more and it's no secret kids love flavored milk. Processors have developed low-fat flavored milk options that don't have excessive calories, but switching to no-calorie sweeteners has proved problematic. Still, flavored milk is an excellent way to increase milk consumption and make children's diets more nutritious."

Milk is unique in that it provides nine essential nutrients, including calcium and other nutrients which kids lack. Limiting consumption of flavored milk could easily reduce intakes of nutrients that kids need and that come in a package they enjoy. In addition, research has shown that children who drink flavored along with unflavored milk don't have higher body mass indexes than non-milk drinkers. The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages consumption of low-fat or fat-free milk, including flavored milk, as an alternative to soft drinks.

"Taxing flavored milk because it includes a small amount of sugar is penny-wise and pound-foolish, from a nutritional standpoint," said Tipton. "Studies show that low-fat chocolate milk is kids' nutritious beverage of choice. It would be ridiculous to discourage kids from drinking it. Kozak adds, "It's both bad nutrition policy and bad tax policy to lump milk in with other beverages. Kids need more calcium and flavored milk provides it without adding too many calories. Why would anyone discourage consumption of flavored milk with a new tax?"

The sugar-sweetened beverage tax was one alternative in a 41-page paper that listed options for funding a \$1 trillion healthcare overhaul."

CONDOLENCES

Remona Miller, 74, died on March 10, 2009, in Amarillo, Texas. Remona was a Charter and 25 year member of Texas WIFE. She made most of Texas FAED prizes and did all of the art work for the 10th National WIFE Convention in Lubbock, Texas. Memorials may be made to the American Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation or to the American Diabetes Association. Our sympathy goes to the family and friends of their loved one.

GLOBAL WHEAT

By Phyllis Howatt, ND
Cereal Grains Chairman



U.S. Wheat Associates is the industry's market development organization working in 90 countries on behalf of America's wheat producers. The activities of U.S. Wheat Associates are made possible by producer checkoff dollars managed by 18 state wheat commissions and through cost-share funding provided by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. For more information, visit www.uswheat.org or contact your state wheat commission.

Bunge North America, Japan's ITOCHU, and Korea's STX Pan Ocean have formed a joint venture called EGT Development to build and operate what will be the first new export grain facility in the U.S. in 20 years. EGT expects to begin construction in the next few months at the Port of Longview, WA, on the Columbia River. The announcement came after port commissioners approved an 80-year lease for the new grain terminal. Plans call for a rail loop to unload up to four 110-car shuttle trains and capacity to handle grain, oilseeds, and protein meals.

United Harvest LLC also announced plans to upgrade its Kalama, WA, export facility in a project designed to double its inbound rail capacity. United Harvest said the project will help increase railcar turnaround at the port and, according to the President of United Harvest, will put the exporter in a better position to meet growing customer needs. This upgrade should be complete by Sept. 30, 2009.

Bunge Ltd. is a food and feed ingredient company that operates grain elevators, grain and oilseed processing plants, refineries and food processing facilities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. ITOCHU is the second largest marketer of grain and food products in Japan, and STX Pan Ocean of Korea ships agricultural products. United Harvest is a joint venture between CHS Inc., St. Paul, MN, the nation's largest producer-owned cooperative and Mitsui & Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, an exporter originating United States wheat, barley and by-products.

Wheat buyers, sellers and stakeholders are meeting around the globe this month and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) is in the thick of the action. USW staff presented at the World Grain Forum in Saint Petersburg, Russia, and participated in the International Grain Council's 2009 Grains Conference in London, England. USW is sponsoring a South Asian Wheat Marketing Conference in Phuket, Thailand.

USW Vice President Vince Peterson was a featured presenter at the World Grain Forum, sponsored by the Russian Federation government and the Russian Grain Union. He discussed present and future competitive pressures in world wheat production on a program that included Russian Federation President Dmitry Medvedev. Grain market professionals from more than 60 countries attended.

The event coincides with a federation government sponsored "campaign" to increase Russian wheat production. The federation has also proposed joining forces with nearby wheat producers Ukraine and Kazakhstan to form a wheat pool to manage grain reserves and develop rail and port capacity, Agriculture Minister Yelena Skrynnik told Reuters News Ser-

vice. Michael Michener, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, was also at the meeting and told Reuters that forming what he said looks like "cartel" could affect Russia's application to the World Trade Organization (WTO) "if it is done in a way that is trade distortive and trade prohibitive." This week, however, Russia said it is dropping its 16-year unilateral bid to join the WTO and is considering reapplying as a customs union with Belarus and Kazakhstan. As Peterson and USW's Russian Office Director Valentina Shustova pointed out to U.S. officials and wheat buyers at the event, open markets are the best way to meet global wheat demand at fair prices for all buyers and producers.

Peterson traveled from Saint Petersburg to London to join USW President Alan Tracy and USW Chairman Michael Edgar at the IGC Grains Conference Tuesday, June 9. IGC is an intergovernmental organization that administers the Grains Trade Convention and offers a range of market information services to global grain buyers and sellers. USW takes advantage of the unique opportunity at this annual conference to meet with many wheat buyers, including some who can only meet with USW at events like this. This year, U.S. Grains Council President and CEO Ken Hobbie shared opening remarks with U.S. wheat customer Didier Hazoume, Chief Operating Officer, Crown Flour Mills, Nigeria, and Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry H.E. Rachid Mohamed Rachid.

Peterson, Tracy, and Edgar will travel to Phuket, Thailand, to welcome U.S. wheat customers to the USW South Asian Wheat Marketing Conference. South Asian countries imported nearly seven million metric tons of U.S. wheat the past two marketing years. USW has focused in the region on helping buyers manage risk in a time of unprecedented market volatility.

(Source: Copied with permission from the U.S. Wheat Associates Wheat Letter.)

CONGRESSIONAL RECAP

By Marlene Kouba

Zane Kessler gave an update of happenings in Congress for Colorado Senator Michael Bennet. The Senator had been appointed to fill the vacancy left by Senator Ken Salazar when he was appointed as Secretary of Agriculture.



Zane Kessler

One energy bill contains cap and trade legislation and involves clean air energy, carbon capture and sequestration, electricity, basic science and development and new building efficiency. The question is not "should we" but "how to implement the bill". They are concerned about the impact on Colorado.

More energy means less water. In drilling for oil or gas, water is extracted but has to be returned to the ground. They are trying to find a sensible approach to using that water.

They feel the Army has not justified their use for Pinon Canyon.

The Senator is not supporting any national animal identification program.