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NATIONAL WIFE CONVENTION

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WIFE members in attendance of the convention



Member Bobbie Massey shows the magician a few tricks



WIFE members Pat Torgerson (left) and Vicki Vaira listen to a speaker



WIFE members and HOWs tour the Hammond Candy Factory



WIFE leadership (*left to right*): President Ruth Laribee, Vice President Linda Newman, Treasurer Shana Baisch, Area 2 Director Cathy Scherler (*not pictured*: Secretary Darcy Dressler and Area 1 Director Mary Ellen Cammack)



Commodity/Topic Chairs (*back row, left to right*): Pam Pothoff, Whitney Klasna, Donna Bolz, Tammy Basel (*front row, left to right*): Alice Parker, Jean Wach, Barb Berg, Pat Torgerson (*not pictured*: Marlene Kouba, Kay Zeosky, Klodette Stroh)



President's Report

Congress passes more bills, more regulations than ever before

By Ruth Laribee
New York

At the Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) National Convention, one of the speakers was Harriet M. Hageman of Hageman Law, P.C. It was a dynamic talk on "Regulations without Representation" and more specifically, "What you should know to protect your community, your state, our liberties and our republic."

Government regulations are out of hand—Congress passes rules and agencies add more regulations but nobody is held responsible. In 2009, Congress passed 125 bills while 3,500 regulations were adopted by federal agencies; in 2010, Congress passed 217 bills and federal agencies adopted 3,573 regulations; 2011 saw 81 bills passed by Congress and 3,807 regulations adopted by federal agencies and in 2012, Congress passed 127 bills while 3,708 regulations were passed by federal agencies. Attorney Hageman pointed out that Congress, the elected officials, are allowed to avoid difficult decisions and at the same time agencies do not have to answer to voters. Who is held accountable?

Hageman named some federal "Red Tape Agencies," including the Census Bureau, Department of Labor, Department of Education, Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency and 20 more. She also named 31 state-affiliated "Red Tape Agencies."

Then there was the title "Redun-

dant—Redundancy." For example the Federal agency has the Clean Water Act and the State agency has the Enforcement of the Clean Water Act. Hageman gave the example of the Nerd Gas Company in Wyoming having 209 total employees and has 129 federal, state, county and city agencies that touch their company.

The federal cost to administer and

police the regulations is over 61 billion dollars per year. To handle these agencies there are approximately 300,000 Federal regulatory employees and over 100,000,000 words of binding federal statutes and regulations with states and municipalities adding more. Interestingly, there was one regulation repealed in 2012, which stated that spilled milk is no longer considered an "oil spill." In the first 27 days of 2012 the Federal Registry had 4,456 pages of regulations, which made 25.3 million hours of annual paperwork burden. Perhaps not to surprising, when it comes to the ease of starting a business in the United States, its ranking has dropped from third in the world to thirteenth.

The information that Attorney Hageman delivered during her presentation is too much to include here as just some of the facts were touched on. WIFE is updating its website and when the changes are made in a couple of weeks or less, the new email will be sent out. The slides in their entirety, which include the information above will be on the new website. It is definitely a "must read." Thanks to Korry Lewis, Colorado WIFE member and lawyer in the Hageman firm, for helping to make this possible.

WIFELINE SURVEY BEING CONDUCTED

We are currently surveying all WIFE members on your preferred method of receiving the WIFELine. Some members prefer to get the WIFELine via email while others want a printed hard copy. Either way, we'd love to know your preference so we can get our organization's news in your hands, the best way possible. If you have already received a form, we appreciate your input. If you have yet to take part in the survey, please email Linda Newman at dlnewman@ittriangle.com and Ruth Laribee at grlaribee@hotmail.com with your responses. If you prefer to write or call, additional contact information for Linda and Ruth is in your policy book. Thank you in advance for your responses!



Beef Report



By Whitney Klasna
Montana

Hello! For those of you that don't know me yet, I am Whitney Klasna and I am honored to be serving as your Beef Commodity Topic Chair! I am a fourth generation Montana farmer and rancher. I was raised on a farm and ranch north of Miles City in the big, open country of Southeast Montana. Now I farm and ranch with my husband, Dylan, and his parents north of Lambert in the big rolling hills of Northeast Montana. On our farm and ranch we raise commercial Hereford cows, Hereford and black baldy calves, hard red winter wheat and spring wheat, feed barley, oats, and prairie hay. We also have a rambunctious Pembroke Welsh Corgi named Annie that keeps life fun around the farm and ranch.

To give you some more background on my experience in the cattle industry, I was very involved in the National FFA Organization throughout high school and college and competed in several events, including livestock judging and public speaking. I was also chosen to serve as Montana's Beef Ambassador and competed at the national level in the National Beef Ambassador Program. My involvement didn't stop there though.

I was also very active in the Montana Cattlemen's Association and helped form a Young Cattlemen's Committee. I had wonderful mentors that taught me the ins-and-outs of the cattle industry including the

New beef commodity topic chair excited to be serving WIFE

legislative side. Since 2005 when I graduated high school and became old enough to vote, I have been fortunate enough to travel to Washington, D.C. every legislative session and represent our industry.

In 2007, at the age of 19, I was appointed to Montana's then newly formed Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Board (now called Livestock Loss Board) by Montana's then Governor, Brian Schweitzer. The Livestock Loss Board was created in response to giant population growth and subsequent massive livestock losses caused by the reintroduction of gray wolves. Since the board was formed in 2007, we have created a program to help compensate livestock producers for livestock losses due to wolves and have recently added grizzly bear losses to our program as well. Our Livestock Loss Board is currently working on awarding grant funding to organizations and producers for projects that will help mitigate livestock loss due to wolves and grizzly bears in Montana.

Looking ahead and to what my goals are for my Beef CT chairmanship; I hope to continue to educate everyone, including myself, on the issues that affect our industry and livelihood. Everyday our industry is under attack from animal rights extremists, unnecessary regulations, and even from people within our own industry. It is my hope that I can help you stay informed as well as help you connect with other producers and people across the country. And I will be looking to you for help in doing this! If you have any news, information, or stories, please send

them my way! I am very active on Facebook and like to share photos of my farm and ranch and I would love to connect with you on Facebook too! You can find me by searching for my name or through this direct link www.facebook.com/dirtroaddreamr. You can also contact me by email at w.klasna@gmail.com.

WIFE Supporting Members

VIP Membership

- Bayer CropScience

Executive Membership

- Renewable Fuels Association

Associate Membership

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

Contributor

Membership

- American Sugarbeet Grower's Association
- North Bridge Communications
- Western Skies Strategies
- AT&T

In-Kind Contributors

- Miller/Coors
- Rauner & Associates



By Jean Wach
Nebraska

Cereal Grains Report

Cover crops increase, improve overall production

as warm temperatures, available nitrogen and sufficient moisture, it can really grow. A dry spring can zap soil moisture but a normal or wet spring, depending on your area's rainfall patterns, can actually help get you in the field faster. It kills easily with glyphosate and even tall cereal rye is not a problem to plant into, in most cases.

Planted after wheat harvest or into standing soybeans or corn, cereal oats can anchor nutrients left behind near the surface by the previous cash crop. The oats return most of those captured nutrients to the soil as their own foliage, stems and roots break down after winterkill. Cereal oat root systems also help build soil organic matter and improve tilth. Some producers have been planting radish along with the cereal grains in terrace bottoms with amazing results. Water does not stand in the terrace bottoms but instead, soaks away.

What are resilient soils, anyway?

Resilient soils have been managed so that as the organic matter and moisture-holding capacity increases, infiltration improves and runoff decreases, pore space is better and nutrient cycling improves. To get resilient soil means minimizing soil disturbance, keeping the soil covered and growing plants whenever possible. This can result in potentially higher yields and profits, especially in years with extreme weather events.

So what is the upshot? Crop producers can refuse to change and continue to use the same production methods they have been using for the last 20 years, or they can seriously explore new practices and try to make their soils more resilient. In this way, they can better cope with the changing weather conditions. This all sounds good but in some areas, like Southwest Nebraska, farmers have trouble getting wheat into any moisture, let alone having moisture for a cover crop (Corn and Soybean Digest).

Sheep and Goats Report

Farm Bill includes provisions for livestock loss, marketing programs

My name is Tammy Basel and it will be a privilege to be your Sheep and Goat Commodity Topic Chair. I am a fourth generation sheep rancher in western South Dakota and our ranch has a Rambouillet ewe flock. This breed is best known as a dual-purpose breed, producing a quality meat carcass and a fleece of fine wool. The ewes and lambs spend the summer on pasture after lambing in May.

Many facets of agriculture have been working diligently to get a Farm

Bill passed. The Sheep specific provisions in the Farm Bill consist of:

- A Country of Origin Label.
- A new Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program to strengthen and enhance the production and marketing of sheep and sheep products in the United States.

• Authorization for the Livestock Indemnity Program to assist with disasters that kill sheep and lambs and provisions for the cost-share of sheep killed by federally reintroduced or regulated



By Tammy Basel
South Dakota

predators, including Avian predators.

- five-year extension of the Wool Fabric Provision in order to correct a trade issue under the 20-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement. The provisions are crucial to American suit manufacturers, domestic wool mills and wool suppliers to remain in the United States rather than be lost to a trade loophole favoring Canadian textiles.



By Donna Bolz
Nebraska

Net neutrality was in the news during the first part of January because of a court ruling that could change how charges are made for internet usage. What does net neutrality mean and why is it important to us? It is mainly an idea about fairness. Net neutrality says that no Internet Service Provider (ISP) should be allowed to speed up, slow down or block web traffic from getting it to where the consumer wants it to go. Here is an example: If someone in one room was watching Netflix while someone in another room was checking their email, a believer in net neutrality would say that the ISP should provide both users with the same quality of service. Just because one person was streaming a big video file while the other person was sending tiny packets of text, the ISP doesn't have the right to modify anyone's internet experience.

It is a fact that running a network is expensive. Some believe if you use more data you should pay for it. Companies that operate networks are looking for new ways to bring in more revenue so they can make more upgrades (or line their pockets, depending on your view). Broadband companies didn't charge more because, until the first part of January, they were bound by a set of rules that banned them from treating the person watching the Netflix video and the person sending email differently.

These rules were put in place in 2011 by the country's top telecom regulator, the Federal Communications

Rural Life Report

Updated net neutrality rules have unknown consequences

Commission (FCC) but during the first part of January these rules got nixed by three federal judges. At that time, Verizon the telephone and internet company, not Verizon Wireless the cell phone company, brought a lawsuit against the FCC's net neutrality rules, arguing that the agency didn't have the authority to regulate the broadband industry in this way.

While the FCC does a lot of things, an unresolved question is how much power it has to regulate ISPs. ISPs fall into a different category from the traditional telephone companies the FCC regulates. That means that when the FCC decided to regulate ISPs, it couldn't use the same tools that it normally applies to phone companies. The court rules that were recently brought down said the FCC was trying to apply what is known as "Title II" obligations to companies that are regulated under Title I of the Telecommunications Act. Title I is the law that created the FCC and gave it its powers. It used the wrong tool for the job. The court actually sided with the FCC on the whole idea of net neutrality, arguing that a ban on traffic discrimination would help keep the internet an innovative place but it ruled that the FCC had overstepped its legal authority in trying to do so.

Companies like Verizon will be free to experiment with new business models. That's good for Verizon but potentially bad for consumers and some

services that use a lot of internet spectrum. There are many ways this could play out but in general, they all result in consumers paying more to access the same services they get today. For example, an ISP could charge an additional fee for watching Netflix on the grounds that it uses more data than it does otherwise by just simply checking email. It could also demand that Netflix pay a fee to reach the ISP customers and Netflix could then pass those added costs on to the users. Another option would be for the ISP and Netflix to team up and sign a deal that gives the video company preferential treatment over a rival. If a person wants to watch the rival instead of Netflix, it might cost extra or it might not be available at all.

Another example would be that online gambling could become a premium privilege, as could online academic research. ISPs would be free to mix and match services however they wanted much like buying a cable package today, which includes some channels but not others.

It is feared by some consumer advocates that small businesses might be crushed by larger competition if they can't afford to participate in a pay-for-play Internet. There are a number of possible outcomes in a world that's not bound by net neutrality. So what does the FCC plan to do? FCC's chairman, Tom Wheeler, says he is looking at an appeal. There are a few choices for the FCC at this point. One is to do nothing. Another path would be for the FCC to ask the Federal court for a re-hearing. This would require a vote by all the judges of the court. If the court votes to re-hear the case, it will involve a different set of judges who might be more sympathetic to the FCC's argument. Time will tell so stay tuned.

In the News...

WIFE is mentioned in the January 2014 issue of *Successful Farming* on pages 84-85. Check out Cheryl Tevis' article titled, "Outstanding in her Field" or go to agriculture.com.



By Pam Potthoff
Nebraska

Trade Report

GM selling more cars overseas than in U.S.

WIFE members have always been big supporters of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), both as consumers and as agricultural producers. When an amendment to the Farm Bill while in Conference Committee, was proposed to change COOL to include a North American or North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)-meat label, WIFE sent a letter to all members of the Conference Committee urging no changes be made to COOL. A similar letter was sent to all Congressional offices. That letter can be found on the WIFElife website, wifeline.com.

WIFE also submitted official comments to all members of Congress opposing legislation giving Trade Promotion Authority to the President. Those comments can also be found on the WIFElife website. This issue may be over by the time you receive this report but if not, call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121, asking for your elected officials by name and give your input.

When a gentleman retired from Boeing Aircraft was recently asked if Boeing is 100 percent U.S. made, he said how China gets U.S. companies to buy components for manufacturing. It seems China wanted to buy some airplanes from Boeing but part of the deal was Boeing would have to use components made in China. Money talks. China got their airplanes and the U.S. lost jobs.

The European Union (EU) is partially suspending free trade negotiations (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) with the U.S. to hold a three-month public consultation. EU

Trade Chief Karel De Gucht says some in Europe have a genuine concern with the deal's proposed rules for investment. The consultation period will start in March but the EU Commission says this suspension won't derail the overall negotiations that officials hope to conclude by the end of the year

General Motors (GM) sold more cars in China last year than in the United States; nearly 3.2 million vehicles in China compared to 2.78 million in America. The company sold an average of one vehicle every 10 seconds and nearly 9,000 a day, according to a report from MSN's Detroit Bureau. Most GM cars sold in China are manufactured locally by GM and its 10 joint ventures there. The first China-built GM car, a Buick, was produced in 1998, and the Cadillac was introduced in 2004.

Rival carmaker, Volkswagen, is expected to outpace GM in China sales. Like GM, Volkswagen sells more cars in China than in its home markets of Germany and the European Union.

A reported surplus of domestically

produced oil in November led to a lower volume of imports and the lowest U.S. oil trade deficit in four years, according to a report by the Commerce Department. Ready to celebrate being less dependent on foreign oil? Let's put the announcement in perspective: the U.S. monthly oil trade deficit was lowered to \$34.3 billion! We still have a long way to go before we produce enough to satisfy the American need for oil. However, advances in domestic extraction put the United States on track to become the world's largest oil producer by 2015.

In another blow to the ethanol market, China has rejected 2,000 metric tons of U.S. dried distillers grains (DDG) imports because of the presence of MIR 162, a genetically-engineered variety developed by Swiss Syngenta Ag and not approved for import in China. The genetic strain had recently been found in corn shipments, causing China to reject over ten shipments as of the end of December. In July 2010, China became the largest U.S. DDG importer, surpassing Mexico. Of the 8.3 million metric tons of U.S. DDG sold in export markets in 2012, China purchased almost 2.2 million metric tons.

The government of Canada recently moved to close a loophole in its import regulations that permitted U.S. cheese manufacturers to ship mozzarella to Canada without paying an import duty. Canada normally imposes a 245.5 percent tariff on imported mozzarella cheese, but U.S. exporters found a way around the tariff by concocting so-called pizza topping kits that contain both the cheese and pepperoni. Under Canada's previous tariff regime, the Canada Border Services Agency ruled that the U.S. kits could enter Canada duty-free. It is that loophole that officials have now closed.

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By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

Sugar Report

U.S. is world's second largest sugar importer

with nutrition making up \$772 billion of that. Agriculture itself represents a small portion of the Farm Bill.

Please keep in mind that U.S. sugar policy has a proven track record and is an essential tool in helping our farmers cope with the massive foreign subsidies that affect the world sugar market. Those foreign subsidies heavily protect and distort production in their countries. Brazil, the world's largest sugar producer and exporter, spends \$3 billion per year subsidizing its industry and is adding more each year.

America is already more dependent on foreign suppliers than most would think. Trade deals have forced the United States to be the second biggest sugar importer in the world—im-

ports account for approximately one-quarter of the market—and low prices in past years forced 33 U.S. sugar facilities to close between 1996 and 2008. Agriculture has been the stepping-stone for this great country's fortune. America can easily overcome the huge budget deficit. It can easily payoff this nation's debt by following America's founding fathers' wisdom. Presidents like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt knew the blessing of having good farmers in this new land. We have to make sure the 2014 Congress supports the U.S. agriculture sector. History is a wise teacher and, if we look back and learn from our past mistakes, we will prosper from this great teacher.

FAED GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

WIFE's Foundation for Agriculture Education & Development (FAED), is now accepting grant applications for 2014. The grant committee will be awarding up to three grants of \$500 or less to deserving projects that submit complete applications and make committee approval.

Applications should include:

- Title of Project
- Date of Project
- Description of Project
- Who is expected to participate
- Estimated budget of Project

After completion of the project, an evaluation report including who participated, actual costs and the residual effect of the project must be submitted. Past grants have helped fund safety days for kids, speakers at conventions, and Ag Day posters. What are your ideas? For more information, contact Barbara Broberg, FAED Grant Chairman, at bbbroberg@juno.com. Applications must be submitted by May 30, 2014.

Hopefully the 2014 crop year will be a prosperous year for you. A good year depends on a lower cost of production for American farmers. In the past four years the cost of production has been unbelievably high. Farmers have been paying more than 30 percent higher prices for fertilizer, fuel, seed, parts and equipment. Producers need reasonable commodity prices to be able to repay their operating and equipment loans.

The collapse of the sugar market caused by huge amounts of sugar imported from Mexico under a provision of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been painful. United States taxpayers had to spend \$278 million to buy sugar from U.S. sugar producers in order to stop sugar forfeiture. Sugar beet checks in Montana, Colorado, Washington, Idaho, Minnesota, Wyoming and many others states were substantially reduced. Hopefully over the course of 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be keeping a closer record of domestic sugar production to balance importing sugar from foreign countries, especially Mexico.

The Farm Bill may be ready for the President's signature by the time this newsletter is sent out. The lawmakers in the House and Senate deserve thanks for the great work they have done to maintain U.S. sugar policy to sustain our U.S. farmer-owned industry. The Farm Bill mandatory spending baseline for 2013-2022 is \$969 billion,



By Kay Zeosky
New York

Dairy Report

Ag committees reach consensus

Minnesota has championed the Dairy Security Act, which offers profit margin insurance as long as dairymen agree to cut production if milk prices fall.

Surely there will be a myriad of adjustments to be ironed out before the legislation can be finalized. In particular, which size farm will be charged how much for a certain level of margin insurance? This will be a whole new process for American dairy farmers; hopefully it works. The cost estimates look terribly expensive for a small amount of milk check security.

Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK3) said of the dairy program negotiations, "If I should expire in the next three days I want a glass of milk on my tombstone because it's [ne-

gotiating the Farm Bill] what's killed me."

On another subject, where are those scientists who promised global warming? With an average of 230 inches of snowfall per year (about 19 feet), this area has already passed the 180-inch mark with a lot of winter left to go. Last week, five feet of snow in a span of two days was promised. The wind has been so fierce lately that no one can catch the snow to measure it.

Our closest city (25 miles) took the prize as the coldest place in the U.S. on January 22 at -37 degrees Fahrenheit. A friend in Louisiana is scouting out studed snow tires, which surely he won't find anywhere near him. We realize there really is a global warming threat, but why can't it come a little bit closer?

Energy Report

Opposition to renewable fuel regulations on the rise

By the time you read this, the time to comment on the renewable fuels standard (RFS) will have expired. The renewable fuels standard has to do, of course, with how much "renewable" stuff goes into fuels like gasoline. Corn being used to make ethanol is considered renewable because corn can be grown again.

Nebraska WIFE wrote a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency and sent it in during the comment period. Nebraska supports keeping the numbers that are already legislated.

There has been a surge in opposition to the present percentage of renewable fuel legislated by the RFS. Some say the petroleum oil industry has promoted lowering the RFS.

And as we've considered in other energy articles, the oil and gas exploration and production in the United States and Canada now is massive. This has truly made a case that renewables are not as significant. If we wanted to have a more domestic source for fuel, we have it.

The amount of research done to make fuel from corn crops and to create other bio-fuels is massive as well. Put biobutanol in your vocabulary. Ethanol refineries can retrofit themselves to make this fuel that can get around some of the existing legislation.

Those involved in the cellulosic aspect are on the verge of their next big breakthrough and they want the RFS to stand as is, so they get a little leg up in their quest to create competitive renewable fuel.

And you probably don't feel it but they say Americans have actually moderated their driving distances in response to higher fuel prices.

We are energy users. In using energy we produce things others need. We need coal for electric generation right now. It is the most efficient fuel for the task. Yes, the work continues to clean it up.

It has been interesting and exciting to see windmills, tidal generation power and improved hydroelectric generators.

The power must still be economical



By Barbara Broberg
Montana

for users. Subsidies can help an industry get started. Tax maneuvers may sustain or weigh an industry down. There are politics in the utility and energy segments of industry.

With ethanol from corn we saw the corn market in a whole different way, fuel and feed. And new choices via seed traits for what you want your corn to do. Much innovation and all because of renewables.

We are very involved in energy. We, as farmers, are users. We live and work on the land; we are sustaining what we have. We keep being innovative, too. We have the opportunity to share our thoughts: Thank you Nebraska and all the other WIFE states for your input.

[Editor's note: National WIFE also submitted letters in support of keeping RFS standards at their current level.]



Homeland Security Report

By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota

The federal government, through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has been handing out license plate readers to local police agencies across the country. These readers identify drivers immediately, providing details such as driving records and whether a concealed weapons permit exists. Police are still supposed to have probable cause to do surveillance on an individual.

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson welcomed 468 new U.S. citizens at a special naturalization ceremony held at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, Virginia on January 24. Among the men and women participating in the ceremony was Staff Sergeant Oscar Roberto Chavez, an active duty member of the U.S. Air Force, who Secretary Johnson thanked for his service and recognized as a model for other candidates. Secretary Johnson later visited the borders in Arizona and Texas by helicopter and boat.

President Barack Obama proclaimed January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month to recognize the vital role we can play in eliminating all forms of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to exploit human beings for some type of labor or commercial sex purpose. Every year, millions of men, women, and children worldwide, including the United States, are victims of human trafficking. DHS is responsible for in-

DHS turns attention to ending human trafficking

vestigating human trafficking, arresting traffickers and protecting victims. DHS initiates hundreds of investigations and makes numerous arrests every year, using a victim-centered approach. DHS also processes immigration relief through Continued Presence (CP), T visas, and U visas, to victims of human trafficking and other designated crimes. In 2010, DHS launched the Blue Campaign, which was created to educate the public on human trafficking in hopes of bringing those involved to justice. By expanding their collaboration within the department, as well as among domestic and international governments, law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, DHS is helping to protect victims from being trafficked both within the United States and around the world. Everyone has a role to play in combating human trafficking. Report suspected human trafficking activity to law enforcement (available 24/7, in over 300 languages and dialects) at: 1-866-347-2423 (toll free) or online at www.ice.gov/tips.

Immigration reform is on the agenda in Congress again. House Democrats introduced a bill that would allow some of the nearly 12 million undocumented immigrants in this country to eventually achieve citizenship, provided they pay taxes and learn English—nearly identical to one passed by the Senate last June. The House Republicans believe in the need for reform but are against citizenship. During the past five years, two million people have been deported with only a few listed as dangerous criminals. This has divided families. (Note: Last December two men were loading up shopping carts with \$1 items of clothing of all sizes in K-Mart. After being asked what he was doing, he said he was buying them to send home to his

mother in Texas who could sell them for \$4 to \$5 each. K-Mart was getting rid of unsold stock while the men were helping their families.)

Ethnic foods are booming across the nation. In Florida, tortillas now outsell burger and hot dog buns, the sale of tortilla chips are higher than potato chips and tacos and burritos are becoming common. As the immigrant population grows, so do the ethnic foods and ingredients to serve them. Menus are being rewritten. Hispanics now make up about one-fourth of the U.S. population. Hispanic foods and beverages were an \$8 billion market last year. Many of these foods are easy to make at home, such as quesadillas.

There is a 2001 law in Texas that gives in-state tuition rates to illegal immigrants. Lieutenant governor candidates oppose it and also oppose giving them a Texas driver's license or special driving permits.

The Arizona border community of Agua Prieta, adjacent to Douglas, Arizona, has become a war zone as the battle rages over which drug cartel will own the city--the Sinaloa or Zetas cartel. Since January 17 at least 10 people have been killed and bodies are still appearing. The cartel-related violence involves massive amounts of munitions, including automatic weapons, 50-caliber weapons and even hand grenades. The coroners confirmed that victims are often shot in the head and neck with no bruised punches, a unique footprint of likely torture. There are a lot of police (federal and local) circling the city and watching for problems. The Sonora region has experienced an explosion of violence since the end of December when Macho Prieto of the Sinaloa Cartel was killed in a violent shootout with police in the city of Rocky Point.



By Alice Parker
Washington

Natural Resources Report

Entire country plagued with water issues

Water continues to be a big issue across the country. If it isn't a drought, it is getting too much snow, too much moisture or cold temperatures. Here in the West, people are really dependent on the weather and how much moisture it gets during the winter. The current drought in the Southwestern United States is creating many problems for California. Governor Jerry Brown is asking everyone to reduce their water usage by 20 percent. The fires in southern California are a perfect example of the dry conditions they are experiencing.

New Mexico is hoping heavy snows during January and February will occur. Late rains did help some last year but the reservoirs were low in 2013 and continue to be so in 2014. If the snow comes it will im-

prove the options for irrigation this coming season. The same goes for the Rio Grande area, all the way down to the Texas border. Many from Colorado, Kansas, Texas and other states experienced a severe drought last year and the preceding years. Some late summer rains provided some relief but there is still a need for winter moisture.

The West Coast has had a very dry winter so far and here in Washington the reports are saying the snowpack is at 34 percent of normal. Oregon conditions are about the same with a lack of snowpack.

The Columbia Basin Irrigation Project is looking okay as far as available water for irrigating.

Another problem is last fall an explosion occurred in one of the pumps at the John Keys Pumping Plant at Grand Coulee Dam that pumps the water out of Lake Roosevelt and into Banks Lake, the regu-

lating reservoir for the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project. The entire set of 12 pumps was affected. The Bureau of Reclamation has been working diligently trying to get all the damage and cleanup completed at the pumping plant since the explosion and ready for irrigation season. They continue to assure us that all of the pumps with the exception of the one which exploded will be operating by March 1 and will be pumping water into Banks Lake, making no interruptions to the irrigation supply.

We saw the devastation earlier last year to the livestock industries in the Dakotas and points beyond with the early storm that killed thousands of cattle and other livestock.

Now the eastern side of the United States is having record cold temperatures and heavy snowfall. We haven't heard what the impact has had and is having on agriculture but when the temperatures drop so low in the southern states, it has to impact the citrus and other winter crops that are produced to feed a hungry world. Dairy cattle and other livestock have got to be suffering.

WIFE 2014 Commodity & Topic Chairs

Beef

Whitney Klasna

Cereal Grains

Jean Wach

Dairy

Kay Zeosky

Sheep & Goats

Tammy Basel

Transportation

Pat Torgerson

Sugar

Klodette Stroh

Natural Resources/Private Property/Water/Endangered Species

Alice Parker

Rural Life/Farm Finance Communication/Tax/Health

Donna Bolz

Trade

Pam Pothoff

Homeland Security

Marlene Kouba

Energy

Barbara Broberg

Did you know?

At the 2013 National WIFE Convention in Denver, CO, the Board of Directors, at the recommendation of the appointed By-Law Committee, voted to strike assessments and it was adopted. States will no longer pay assessments to National WIFE.



By Barbara Broberg
Montana

Convention Report

Speaker highlights Colorado's water history

"Colorado: The Head Water State" was a topic at the Denver, Colorado 2013 WIFE Convention. Dr. John Stulp was our speaker. He is a director on the 27-member Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC). This committee was tasked with moving Colorado into the future-- with water. Dr. Stulp is a veterinarian by education and is a special advisor onwater to the Governor. Governor John W. Hickenlooper felt that Dr. Stulp, as a dryland farmer, had a great appreciation for water and the Governor wanted that characteristic to help create the tools to manage the water Colorado has.

Colorado has had water development for 150 years. There is a need to manage it better. Colorado is a head water state: water, for the most part, originates here. (For trivia we learned the Green River does flow in and out, but the amount is not great). Colorado water flows or is carried to 18 States and Mexico.

At one time there was a visitor to Colorado who said "No one will live there." Today, 25 percent of the water faucets in the state are in Denver and agriculture is the second largest industry in the state.

About 5 percent of Colorado's east side of the Rocky Mountains is irrigated, about 3.5 million acres. Dr. Stulp sees a need to educate the public on who uses the water in Colorado.

The population is growing in the world and in the western States. Norman Borlaug was a wheat scientist who suggested that the world will need twice as much food as it does

now by the year 2050. Some people (called locovores) only want food grown in an area they consider local. They feel this food is a step toward living closer to the land and this is a good thing.

Dr. Stulp sees a need to manage irrigation on existing farms, where any water saving is a positive step. It can also help farms become more attractive for sightseers and wildlife which is important to Colorado residents.

Occasionally farmers have sold their water to a city and sometimes for a great price. There are trade-offs of course but this practice is called "Buy and Dry." Weeds and an ugly landscape can be the result, where even far roaming cattle don't find nutrition. Dr. Stulp has desired a better trade-off in the "Buy and Dry" agreements. It might never be a farm again, but it should be able to hold soil and moisture.

There will always be drought somewhere in the state and there will always be a water distribution problem. A recent rainfall flooded enough to be declared a 1500-year event. The road openings were just being completed.

Normally, 80 percent of the water falls on the west side of the Rocky Mountains where 20 percent of the population lives. Water is tunneled and piped to the other side of the mountains where the other 80 percent of the population lives. For every bucket of water used within the state, two more buckets are shipped out of state. Water lawyers are active in the state.

Some aspects of Colorado water planning include: consumptive water

uses are municipal, industrial, and agricultural; consumptive water can be hauled; non-consumptive water is environmental and recreational; IPP is "Identified Projects & Processes"; storage includes lakes, pipes, ditches, etc.

Every water plan begins with conservation. In Colorado, water plans begin at the local county level.

In Australia, 140 liters per day of water usage is a starting point per person. There is a move in Colorado to get reduced usage starting from 200 gallons per day to 120 gallons per day per person.

Best Management Practices for Landscapes are becoming available as one-half of all city water is used outdoors.

The Colorado Water Plan directs secure water, drought Management, alternatives to "Buy & Dry," ensured water quality and protection of compacts' entitlements.

The Interbasin Compact Committee did an assessment via something called "No & Lo Regrets," which seems to statistically "weight" items so nothing major falls through the cracks. This is an action plan. Area round tables of detailed discussion are being completed. The completed IBCC Report will be out in later this year.

This is a success story as hundreds of meetings brought about the IBCC results and members looked at other water agreements and plans. Now they find their work is being observed with a "Hey, look at what Colorado is doing" type of attitude.

This was certainly a speaker worth coming to the convention to hear.

WIFE Updates

Attend the annual legislative seminar in Washington, DC

To make a reservation, call the Holiday Inn Capitol, 555 C Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20024, at (877) 572-6951 and give W8F as the group reference code or go to the booking link website at www.hicaptoldc.com. The booking link will be available until midnight on February 7.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 3/8 & 3/9: Travel days
- 3/9: WIFE Board of Directors meeting; 6:30 PM
- 3/10: USDA meetings, House/Senate briefings, pizza party with legislative aides
- 3/11: Capitol Hill visits
- 3/12 & 3/13: Travel days or corporate visits
- 3/14: Travel day for those making corporate visits

It's time to join or renew your FAED membership!

Now is the time to join FAED (Foundation for Agriculture Educational and Development) or renew your membership. Membership is only \$5 for individuals or \$10 for a family membership. Money received is used for scholarships and grants to help spread the word about agriculture; memorials are also accepted. For more information contact Pam Pothoff, FAED Board President at (308) 276-2548 or coyotepp@gpcom.net. Membership payments can be sent to: Pat Torgerson, 12 Main Street, Lambert, MT 59243.



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