



Volume 36

September 2013

No. 8

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 2013 NATIONAL WIFE CONVENTION!

Join us November 20-23 in Denver, Colorado for a weekend of taking care of business, listening to speakers, networking and visiting lifelong friends. We are lining up speakers that you will find both informative and entertaining; there will be something there for everyone. Rooms are filling up fast so make your hotel and convention registrations as soon as possible. All the information you need including the full agenda, more hotel information and the conference registration form can be found throughout this issue of the WIFELINE.

The theme of this year's convention is "Crossroads of Agriculture--Where the Plains Meet the Rockies." Colorado WIFE is excited to host the upcoming event and is looking forward to showing off some of the beautiful scenery and western hospitality the Denver area has to offer.

To get a first-hand look at the surroundings, there will be a group tour on Friday afternoon. The tour will include stops at the State Capitol and Hammond's Candies, where you will get to see candy being made in a large-scale operation. We will also drive through Invesco Field so you can get a photo opportunity with the "big" white horse that you see at Denver Broncos games and then we will tour the Coors Brewery. We will end up at the Heritage Music Hall where we will have dinner and be entertained by singers as they present their show, "A Merry Christmas to All and to All a Good-Bye."

**YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION MAKES EVERYTHING
WORTHWHILE!**

Questions? Don't hesitate to call Cathy Scherler, Convention Chairman, at (719) 729-3367 or Jenifer Felzien, Convention Registrar, at (970) 522-1429.

President's Report



By Ruth Laribee
New York

Ag groups applaud recent District Court actions

(For the latest, up-to-date information on the COOL lawsuit see end of article)

The United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA), National Farmers Union, American Sheep Industry and the Consumer Federation of America have received an order granting the joint group's motion to intervene in full in the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) suit that was filed on July 8, 2013 from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. "It is good news," stated USCA President Jon Wooster. "The court's order granting our motion to intervene makes it clear we can participate at the injunction hearing as well as in the remainder of the litigation". August 2 is when the District Court will "rule on whether or not it will grant an injunction against the COOL rule".

This updates last month's report concerning a lawsuit filed by the North American Meat Association, American Meat Association, American Association of Meat

Processors, Southwest Meat Association, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Canadian Pork Council, National Cattlemen's Association, National Pork Producers and Mexico's National Confederation of Livestock Organization. These groups are seeking to halt the implementation and enforcement of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) COOL-revised regulations that would satisfy the World Trade Organization.

In other news ag news, an article on the Agri-Pulse web-site titled, "Don't Mess with these Farm Women," by Sara Wyant is a must read. The article is about a new program called "Common Ground" that is currently in five states: Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky and South Dakota. In this program "project leaders are training female farmers to be spokespersons and to get the message out via media and etc." (www.agri-pulse.com). The Environmental Working Groups is criticizing the efforts of Common Ground but Sara had a very good answer to the criticism. Check it out at www.agri-pulse.com

Sara Wyant is an honorary WIFE member.

The USDA has approved a line of herbicide resistant soybeans developed by Bayer Crop Science. The Animal and Plant Health

Inspection Services has put out information on it and they will publish the announcement in the Federal Register.

Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) expressed concern over the "war on coal" during a recent question and answer session. "Kentucky," the senator stated, "is ninety percent coal and thousands of jobs would be lost." He thinks immigration "should be broken down and done separately such as agriculture workers, merit based immigration and an e-verify program that works." As far as the Farm Bill is concerned, we're not going back to the 1949 law.

Don't forget to put the dates of November 20-23 for the WIFE Convention in Denver, Colorado on your calendar; the 19th and 24th being travel days.

Update: On September 12, the plaintiffs listed below filed a lawsuit against the September 11, 2013 ruling by U.S. District Judge Ketanji B. Jackson denying the plaintiffs legal action for a preliminary injunction. In his ruling the Judge said, "It was unlikely for the plaintiffs to succeed on the merits of their statutory authority challenges to the rule." The final ruling would ensure "that United States consumers will be provided with more detailed and accurate information."

Special Crops Report

Field-grown rice has its advantages

Rice, the world's most important food staple, is consumed by 3 billion people each year. Rice can grow under flooded conditions, which suppresses weeds. Even if water is in short supply in some parts of the world, farmers often devote what they can to farming rice because rice feeds the world.

The University of Florida is experimenting with growing rice in fields as opposed to in traditional paddies. This practice relies on rainfall plus limited irrigation to meet the plant's moisture needs. Field-grown rice requires about

40 percent less water than paddy-grown rice.

Paddy-grown rice has an advantage over field-grown rice because of its greater yields. In a drought, though, field-grown rice can ensure people have rice to eat. Where rice is rotated with corn, field-grown rice has the advantage because rice paddies must be drained before the land can be planted back to corn.

The United States is the world's 10th largest producer of paddy rice with Arkansas being the leading rice producing state. So far, field-grown rice or aer-



By Jacquelyn Sistrunk
Alabama

obic rice production hasn't caught on in the U.S.

If climate change is indeed a fact and we become a drier nation, growing aerobic rice will become an important way for the U.S. to supply its portion of rice in order to feed a hungry world.

Trade Report



By Pam Potthoff
Nebraska

Contraversy continues to plague trade industry

The on-going agricultural issues in trade include Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), cotton and Mexican trucks.

COOL

A lawsuit filed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and friends is seeking to stop implementation of new procedures for carrying out COOL. Various other farm organizations are intervening on behalf of COOL. It is a sad day when agricultural interests are settling their differences in court and not considering what is best for consumers.

Cotton

The U.S. currently pays \$147.3 million annually to Brazil and Brazil has agreed not to retaliate. The U.S. has agreed to reform cotton subsidies in the new farm bill. Brazil is getting tired of waiting.

Mexican Trucks

Twenty years after implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), cross-border trucking pilot plans are facing blockage in the courts. NAFTA has authorized Mexico to put tariffs on products from the U.S. At this time, however, those tariffs are on hold until the cross-border trucking pilot plan has time to be evaluated. Mexico is now saying the time is up.

Recently, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), an independent, non-partisan agency that works for Congress and has investigated Obama's National Export Initiative, found that the program is still far short of its goals and shows little progress. The original

goal was to double exports and increase exports by small and medium-sized businesses. The GAO charged that trade promotion programs need to be better coordinated. Currently there are over 20 federal agencies that provide some or all of the steps in the export process.

Thirty years ago, Wal-Mart launched a "Buy American" campaign and placed "Made in America" signs on their products. Now they have announced a similar campaign and are pledging to buy an additional \$50 billion worth of domestic goods over the next decade. \$50 billion amounts to only about 1.5 percent of what Wal-Mart currently spends on inventory. Much of that increase will be

in food products due to their increasing share of the food market.

Alex Bogusky, a former advertising executive who helped launch the "Made In America" movement, calculates if people in the U.S. bought five percent more American-made products, it would create one million new jobs. This seems like a simple solution to decrease our jobless rate.

Exports of U.S. agricultural equipment dropped 9.5 percent during the first half of 2013, compared with the same midyear point of 2012. Totals are at \$6.5 billion, down from \$7.2 billion a year earlier, according to the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM). The steepest declines in exports were South America, Europe and Australia/Oceania, with Asia among the regions showing a modest gain.

The United States has won a major case at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on behalf of the nation's chicken producers. A WTO dispute settlement panel agreed with the U.S. claim that China's imposition of higher duties on chicken broiler products, which was followed by an 80 percent drop in American exports of those products to China, is unjustified under international trade rules.

Transporting goods worldwide may become cheaper with the continuing reduction of the North Pole ice caps. There is growing interest in using northern shipping routes and developing Arctic ports.

Russia has reported the U.S. meat exporters are ready to supply the Russian market with ractopamine-free meat. No confirmation by the U.S. government yet but Smithfield Foods, the world's largest pork processor and producer, has removed ractopamine from the animal feed in much of its pork production facilities and others are following. It is a matter of producing what the customer wants.

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Sugar Report



By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

U.S. farmers are having a challenging year in 2013 because of the weather patterns. In the end, weather will decide our crop production.

The 30th International Sweetener Symposium was held in Napa, California. According to information from the American Sugar Alliance (ASA), sugar subsidies have built an unfair arena in the world trade market. Foreign Subsidies will continue to rise while sugar prices continue to slump. World sugar production has been climbing since 2007. The global stocks-to-consumption ratio is above 40 percent and has been since the 2007-2008 year. Brazil

Foreign subsidies make it unfair for U.S. producers

and Mexico are the two leading countries in production growth, rising 6 million metric tons and 2 million metric tons respectively in the 2012-2013 growing season.

According to ASA economist Jack Roney, the solution to today's low-price environment is the elimination of market-distorting subsidies. He said first off we should look at Brazil's \$2.5 billion a year in subsidies and the government ownership within Mexico. ASA has endorsed a "zero-for-zero" sugar policy that would eliminate U.S. sugar policy once foreign subsidies are addressed. The only time sugar policy costs a dime is if unneeded subsidized imports are dumped on the market. ASA said, "Zero dollars were spent on sugar policy from 2002 to 2012."

When both chambers of the United States Congress voted this summer to continue U.S. sugar policy, it was a big victory

for the 142,000 jobs it directly affects. Consumers are also getting a good deal according to ASA. "Grocery shoppers around the world pay, on average, 14 percent more for sugar than we do.

The bottom line is the sugar policy we've had in place for ten years has worked. It protects our producers from foreign governments. Foreign sugar producers are subsidized heavily. If foreign subsidies were taken away, it would let us have a clean and fair trade. United States lawmakers shouldn't make American sugar farmers compete against foreign treasuries like Brazil and Mexico. Farmers are the backbone of this country and as U.S. taxpayers we have to protect our farming industry throughout this worldwide economic commotion. We should support American farmers, as they are the founders of our nation.

Dairy Report

Direction of Farm Bill is unknown

If no news is good news, then dairy is in great shape. After questioning many sources at the state and national level, it is clear that no one has a clue about where the dairy portion of the Farm Bill is headed. The House version has repealed the agriculture law, which demands the dairy portion be dealt with by a certain date, or milk prices would revert to parity.

The biggest concern is whether the Food Stamp and other similar programs will continue as part of the new Farm Bill or whether they will become a separate entity. The enormous dollar amounts assigned to the nutrition programs now command 80 percent of the Farm Bill. The Forest Service, conservation projects and others are also extremely expensive. It is hard to say whether it would help or harm the prices dairy farmers receive if the bills were separate. Countless opinions have

been read on the subject.

There are intentions of replacing the dairy portion of the Farm Bill with revenue insurance. From what is understood, the insurance costs will be prohibitive. It is concerning to hear a member of the agriculture committee state that this will be the last Farm Bill they will write. Was he hinting that from now on revenue insurance would be the only option?

The unemployment figures are misleading. Recently, some young storeowners whose store is in their apartment building just put four more workers on unemployment rolls. The employees turned off the security cameras and took beer, cigarettes and anything else they wanted and then turned the cameras back on. The last employee stole \$5,000 before she was discovered. It happens so much it is hard to call them "unemployed".



By Kay Zeosky
New York

It is also bothersome that with so much unemployment, employers have to hire immigrants to do the farm work. Traditionally, families did the work of "immigrants"--picked rocks, milked cows, threw bales, you name it. Cheap food policies make it impossible to pay workers what they are worth. A hearing officer who is very high up in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) said, "I'm not here to make sure farmers get a just price for their product. I'm here to make sure food remains cheap."

Natural Resources Report



By Alice Parker
Washington

Washington State Supreme Court Ruling

In a recent Washington State Supreme Court case, the court ruled against a Dayton, Washington rancher who has been accused of letting his cattle pollute a nearby creek. A Superior Court Judge had overturned a ruling by the state's Pollution Control Hearing Board, which ordered the rancher to build a fence to prevent his 29 head of cattle from polluting the creek. The Department of Ecology filed an appeal after the Superior Court Judge's ruling. The Supreme Court stated that the Department of Ecology had proven that the creek was polluted but did not have to prove that the pollution came from the rancher's cattle.

The rancher argued that the fence would prevent his cattle from grazing

Rancher accused of creek pollution

pasture on the other side of the creek and that it prevents him from exercising his stock water rights. The judge said the rancher failed to prove that he has had economic loss but was silent on the stock water rights issue.

In a dissenting opinion, one of the judges stated that the Department of Ecology's order is "extremely burdensome." The majority of the court disregards "constitutionally protected private property rights and bases its decision on credibility and factual findings, and the Judge said the law requires the court to return the case to the trial court."

The order may cost the rancher to spend thousands of dollars to build the fence and keep him from using part of his property.

The lawyer for the rancher commented that this gives the Department of Ecology "a rubber stamp," meaning it would give the agency the authority to continue to impose burdensome regulations on ranchers. A continued request to the Department of Ecology is to work with agriculture to resolve these issues.

The Executive Vice President of the

Washington State Cattlemen's Association said, "there isn't a landowner or livestock producer that doesn't want clean water but there should be data and science to support an enforcement action."

The new Department of Ecology Director has expressed a willingness to work with the livestock industry to address water quality issues. This is a hopeful sign this will not happen again.

Land Grab in Missouri

A Federal land and water grab is taking place in Missouri under the disguise of the Obama Administration's "National Blueways Order." The U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resource Subcommittee on Water and Power recently held a field hearing in West Plains, Missouri on "Stopping Federal Land and Water Grabs: Protecting Property Right from Washington, D.C. Edits." The principle focus of the hearing is the "fever-dream" of leftist environmental groups working with the Department of Interior to declare vast watersheds as "National Blueways."

"As we review Obama Administration documents, we discover that the so-called rewards for the White River included imposing buffer zones, seizing almost 300,000 acres of land, forcing conservation plans on the region's farms and banning human activity from plains," said Subcommittee Chairman Tom McClintock (CA-04).

To date, the Obama Administration has met the Subcommittee's requests for more information on the Interior Department's 'Blueways' program with silence. The Congress and the American people are entitled to forthright answers from this administration, not stonewalling. This is particularly urgent in the light of the avowed intention by the programs supporters to turn their sights on all 3.5 million miles of American streams and rivers," stated Chairman McClintock.

For the complete report on the hearing go to www.HouseResources.house.gov or contact me at mrsp@smwireless.net.

WIFE 2013 Commodity & Topic Chairs

Beef

Sue Krentz

Cereal Grains

Jean Wach

Dairy

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Sheep & Goats

Gwen Cassel

Specialty Crops

Jacquelyn Sistrunk

Sugar

Klodette Stroh

Energy

Barbara Broberg

Natural Resources/Private Property/Water/Endangered Species

Alice Parker

Rural Life/Farm Finance Communication/Tax/Health

Donna Bolz

Trade

Pam Pothoff

Feed Grains

Janell Roe

Homeland Security

Marlene Kouba

Homeland Security Report



By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota

More conditions added to immigration reform bill

A new Federal Data Center, located about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City, will be the storage center for all of your phone messages and emails. It was built there due to the easy access to water, which is needed for the cooling of all the computers. Energy costs for one year are about \$4 million.

Under the immigration reform bill currently under consideration by Congress, Border Patrol agents or any other law enforcement officer who stops a vehicle to demand identification might be found in violation of the law. The legislation bars all federal law enforcement officers from using race or ethnicity "to any degree" while making routine or spontaneous law enforcement decisions. The bill further calls for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to collect data on immigration enforcement activities to determine the existence of racial profiling. The bill defines federal law enforcement officers as any "officer, agent, or employee of the U.S. authorized by law or by a Government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of Federal law." The definition includes U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents.

The legislation has another clause that states "in enforcing laws protecting the integrity of the Nation's borders, federal law enforcement officers may not consider race or ethnicity except to the extent permitted by the Constitution and laws of the U.S." If the legislation is enacted, the bill calls for the DHS secretary to begin the collection of data regarding the "individualized immigration enforcement activities of covered Department officers" within 180 days. The act states

that within this timeframe the DHS secretary "shall complete a study analyzing the data." Ninety days after the study is complete, the bill dictates the secretary and the attorney general "shall issue regulations regarding the use of race, ethnicity, and any other suspect classifications the Secretary deems appropriate by covered Department officers." (WND)

No one is in charge of security for the national electronic grid. Just as concern is peaking over the prospect of a catastrophic electromagnetic pulse (EMP) event from either natural or man-made causes that could cripple the U.S. national electric grid, the DHS has decided to cut back on training for electric utilities to harden their facilities to protect them. DHS is charged with protecting the national electric grid system, which would be greatly affected by a major EMP event. The lack of a DHS plan has a direct impact on state and local governments that look to Washington for guidance on handling catastrophic events such as an EMP. State and local governments aren't preparing for an EMP, even though its effects directly would impact people at the state and local levels. The

U.S. has 18 critical infrastructures, 17 of which depend on one key infrastructure—the electric grid system. Under those critical infrastructures that include food and water delivery, transportation, financial services, telecommunications and emergency services, there is little or no protection of the grid. Security of the grid primarily is in the hands of trade organizations represented by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or NERC. The most vulnerable portions of the grid are the large transformers, which are no longer made in the U. S. and take extended time to replace even under normal conditions. There are about 3,000 such large transformers. The NERC has opposed any federal efforts to strengthen the grid or provide additional security beyond enclosing utilities in storm fences, primarily due to cost. They also oppose federal efforts; such as the recently introduced SHIELD Act which would give the federal government authority to order and ensure that hardware in the local utilities is capable of withstanding a direct EMP attack, whether natural or man-made. The SHIELD Act passed the House in the last two sessions with no action in the Senate. The cost to harden the grid would amount to less than \$2 billion. The Eastern grid services 70 percent of the U.S. population. (WND)

The Transportation Security Administration's Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response squads (VIPR), who dress in bulletproof vests, are assigned to perform random security sweeps to prevent terrorist attacks at transportation hubs across the United States. The agency has vastly expanded its reach to sporting events, music festivals, rodeos, highway weigh stations and train terminals. There are no real legal standards or probable causes for these searches but they are done at random for "special needs" or "administrative searches" that are ex-

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IMMIGRATION: Continued on Page 9

Feed Grains Report



By Janell Roe
Nebraska

New mandates mean more money for consumers

The Renewable Fuel Standard requires refiners to blend a certain amount of renewable fuels into gasoline. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has decided to extend the timeframe for the 2013 mandate and decrease the quota for the 2014 mandate. The decrease has benefited both refiners and consumers.

The EPA has decided to delay parts of the renewable fuels mandate. Since the EPA issued the 2013 mandate for later this year, refiners now have an extra four months to meet the EPA's goal for 2013: to produce 16.55 billion gallons of renewable fuels. In addition, the EPA is cutting the requirement for cellulosic biofuel from 14 million gallons to 6 million gallons due to inadequate quantities of the product. They are also cutting the quota for 2014. Refiners will

not have to meet the 18.15 billion gallon requirement.

The Renewable Fuel Standard forces refiners to utilize a specific amount of renewable fuels every year. The EPA and other advocates for renewable fuels believe that the use of renewable fuels increases domestic production and decreases green house gas emissions due to the declining use of gas and diesel. On the other hand, refiners argue that the mandate will force them to blend higher volumes of ethanol into gasoline, over 10 percent, which can be harmful to some engines. This "Blend Wall" issue, the amount of ethanol blended with gasoline, is part of the reason that the EPA is decreasing the 2014 mandate.

When refiners do not make the recommended amount of biofuels, they can purchase Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) or credits, on the market. The price of these credits has escalated, as refiners did not believe the demand for gas would be large enough to mix with the mandated ethanol. This,

in turn, has produced a higher ethanol version of gasoline, possibly over 10 percent. The 2014 mandate increased the price of ethanol credits that refiners buy to abide by the law. This is positive for consumers, as the increased price of the credits would have been passed back to the fuel users. Thus, consumers will not see an increase in gas prices due to the decrease in the mandate. In fact, the announcement of the EPA's decision to decrease the 2014 mandate dropped the RINs price by 13 percent. The rise in prices led many to pressure the EPA to abolish the mandates: refiners, corn purchasers, and activists for the hungry.

The EPA has extended the period in order to meet the 2013 mandate and lowered the quota for 2014. Refiners can purchase credits instead of producing their total amount of renewable fuels. Since the EPA news was released, there has been a decrease in the price of these credits by 13%. This benefits consumers as well since they will not have higher fuel prices due to the increased credit price (Agweb, 2013).

Immigration: Continued from Page 6

empt from probable causes. Created in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has grown to an agency of 56,000 people at 450 American airports. The program now has a \$100 million annual budget and is growing rapidly. TSA records show that the teams ran more than 8,800 unannounced checkpoints and search operations with local law enforcement outside of airports last year. The teams move through crowds with bomb-sniffing dogs, randomly stop passengers and ask security questions. TSA officials argue that the random searches and presence of armed officers serve as a deterrent that bolsters the public confidence (New York Times).

A sudden influx of illegal immigrants

from Mexico requesting asylum is overwhelming immigration agents in processing centers along the border. Agencies are forced to rent hotel rooms for some undocumented families and release others to cities around the U.S. The surge has raised suspicions about what is driving the influx, amid claims they can attempt to get asylum by using a few key words so it seems to be carefully planned. Area hotel rooms cost \$99 a night. When they don't show up for court, a judge removes them in absentia. Most of the immigrants come from Mexico, but others list their native country as Haiti, Romania, Guatemala and Iraq.

During proceedings when illegal immigrants are released, about 91 percent (up to 800,000 a year) of asylum claims from Mexico are denied or do not

show up for their court date and disappear into the U.S. with most coming from China, Egypt and Ethiopia. By claiming they have a "credible fear of persecution" if returned to Mexico, the immigrant is entitled to a series of proceedings that can drag on for years. This summer, an asylum officer heard the claims of the "Dream 9," nine Mexican nationals brought to the U.S. as children. All immigrants have to say is they qualify for the Dream Act and/or intend to apply, and they're instructed to simply turn these people free and let them pursue any path they want." There are 57 immigration courts and 231 immigration judges. Immigration courts handle 280,000 proceedings each year, an average of 1,243 per year per judge, or four decisions per day (FOX News).

Cereal Grains Report



By Jean Wach
Nebraska

This article will touch briefly on three different subjects regarding wheat.

Japan and South Korea Resume U.S. Wheat Imports

The U.S. wheat industry welcomes the resumption of Japanese and South Korean wheat imports that had been temporarily suspended following the discovery of an unapproved genetically modified (GM) trait in volunteer wheat plants in a field in Oregon.

The decision comes as a result of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' extensive testing of American wheat, which resulted in no detection of any GM material in commercial supplies. This reaffirms the United States Department of Agriculture's conclusion that this was a limited, isolated incident and that no GM wheat had entered commercial supplies.

China's Wheat Crop

China's wheat is rumored to be in poor condition. There is talk that the Chinese crop is more severely damaged than was first thought. The word is that the damage was not only caused by frost during the growing season but also from too much rain during harvest. Some insiders are now thinking close to 20 million tons of wheat or more (15-17 percent) could eventually be declared unfit for human consumption. To put this into

Wheat import restrictions lifted

context, that would be like Australia losing about 80 percent of their normal wheat production.

The thing we need to remember is that China used a lot of wheat last year for feed when there was little or no corn to import and prices were sky-high. The questions now are how much wheat do they have left? Without a large supply of wheat on hand, what will act as a substitute for corn? Could corn imports in China explode to 10 million metric tons this season without a substitute? Even though global wheat output is expected to rise this year as compared to last, the U.S. will still be below demand and could eventually push wheat stocks to some of the lowest levels in the past few years.

Gluten-Free Diets Raise Concern

Should wheat growers be concerned about gluten-free diets? Gluten-free dieting has gained considerable popularity in the general population. Between 2004 and 2011 the market for gluten-free products grew at a compound annual rate of 28 percent with annual sales expected to reach \$2.6 billion in 2012. The number one reason consumers cite for buying gluten-free products is they are perceived to be healthier than their gluten-containing counterparts. Despite the health claims for gluten-free eating, there is no published experimental evidence to support such claims for the general population. In fact, there is data to suggest that gluten itself may provide some health benefits and that gluten avoidance may not be justified for otherwise healthy individuals. For those people who are allergic to gluten and the

persons diagnosed with gluten-related disorders, however, reintroducing gluten into their diet is not an option.

WIFE Supporting Members

VIP Membership

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- Renewable Fuels Association

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

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

In-Kind Contributors

- Miller/Coors
- Rauner & Associates



Beef Report



By Sue Krentz
Arizona

Support your local Natural Resource Conservation District

There were good rains in south-east Arizona and New Mexico. Many tanks have caught water and there is good grass for the fall. That is a big blessing for the ranchers.

Our biggest problem continues to be the expanding territory of the wolf. The Mexican Gray wolf's territory is expanding south to the border and since it is fully covered by the Endangered Species Act (ESA), more were recently released in New Mexico. Recent orders from the Obama Administration are telling land owners they cannot kill these wolves regardless of them killing livestock or horses.

There has been a new rule change, which is not a surprise with the pres-

ent administration and its attempt to stop and control all production industries.

The ruling on the jaguar has not come down as of yet but it will be interesting to see how two predators co-exist in the same area. The question becomes how will they create a sustainable population base when there is not enough of a prey base to keep them fed.

These plans will continue to put more stress on the ranchers and farmers in Arizona and New Mexico, destroying local communities, jobs and schools. This has happened and been seen many times.

The most important new plan to watch for is the Administration is toying with the idea of moving soil and water conservation districts, or the Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCDC), out of the Department of Agriculture and into the Department of Interior.

This may not seem like a big deal

but the other plan they may try is to disband the Board of Supervisors. They do not think it is necessary for local input and are not willing to work with the elected local officials of each district. This idea is just another step in their [the Obama Administration] goal for centralized government control. They may get this done as they fight the passing of the Farm Bill and other such distractions and as is the case in many areas, the districts are not as active as they once were due to the elimination of grazing and farming.

The point of this warning is to be alert and see if it is happening in your area. Become active in your local NRCDC and work for the goal it was created: to give technical advice for range and farming improvements.

It's important to keep our conservation districts viable as they can be an important tool in coordinating opportunities with the county governments and state and federal agencies.

2013 NATIONAL WIFE CONVENTION

DENVER, COLORADO Tentative Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Evening: FAED Board of Directors meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20--Pre-Convention meetings

Morning: Executive/Budget and Finance meetings

Noon: State Presidents /Nominating Committee meeting

Afternoon: Resolutions meeting--all members encouraged to attend

Evening: Dinner on your own

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Morning: Convention opens, FAED silent auction begins

Noon: FAED luncheon

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 CONT.

Afternoon: Convention reconvenes, Commodity/Topic caucuses

Evening: Dinner/Speaker

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Morning: Convention reconvenes, resolutions/policy book

Noon: Luncheon

Afternoon: Group tour

Evening: Dinner during tour

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Morning: Convention reconvenes, by-laws and procedure manual

Noon: Luncheon/Speaker

Afternoon: Development of 2014 priorities

Evening: Banquet, installation of officers, entertainment, live auction

National Candidate Profiles

Ruth Laribee **New York** **Nominee for President**

Hello, my name is Ruth Laribee. For 42 years my husband Glenn and I owned and operated a dairy farm here on the East Road in Lowville, New York. The 245 acres on the home farm and 100 acres of tillable land a half mile away is now being used for crop farming, growing alfalfa, silage and high moisture corn and produces excellent yields.

I have four children, two daughter-in-laws and two son-in-laws, 10 grandchildren and six great grandchildren and another one to be born in October.

About six years ago our son Larry built a home and barn, then started a small registered beef operation on a 136-acre parcel of land we had owned. I am always invited to come and help out anytime!

Since 1981 I have served on the Lowville Town Board as Councilwoman, being elected again three years ago for a four-year term. I serve as lector in St. Peters Church. I served two terms on the national Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

In the year 1980 I joined WIFE and have served as State Dairy Chairman and am currently State Trade Chairman. I served as National Dairy Chairman, National Trade Chairman, National Area III Director and National Vice President.

Agriculture and WIFE are important to me. WIFE is made up of different commodities that bring about many different issues but working together we do make a difference. Together we have one common goal and that is to better the life of our American farmers, ranchers and consumers. This last year has brought many challenges, new experiences and learning experiences as National President. It would be a privilege to serve as your National President for another term.

Shana Baisch **Montana** **Nominee for Treasurer**

I am once again running for National WIFE Treasurer. I have served for three years as treasurer and enjoy the job. My family and I ranch in the Badlands of Eastern Montana. We run a commercial, mostly Black Angus, herd of cattle. We also have a small side-business of taking people out dinosaur fossil hunting on the ranch. Our two sons have recently returned home from serving in the Marines so we are enjoying their help and involvement in the ranch. Continuing and promoting our nation's agriculture business and our way of life is near and dear to my heart.

Linda Newman **Montana** **Nominee for Vice President**

I'm Linda Newman and would like your vote for the office of 2013 National WIFE Vice President.

My husband Dean and I, along with two of our daughters and their families, lease a 43,000-acre ranch in central Montana on the Missouri River. We have a cow-calf livestock operation and also raise winter wheat and hay.

Our family has been in farming and ranching for generations so obviously we are very passionate about our rural way of life and the importance of production agriculture to help feed the world population. It seems that we wake up every day to a new challenge that threatens to undermine our ability to keep afloat in rural America--i.e. floods, drought, hail, snow storms, fires, environmentalists, government bureaucracy, insects, diseases in animals and plants, high input costs and market instability, just to name a few!

I believe WIFE does a great job of addressing adverse issues that come up, and I am proud to be a member and to have an input of possible solutions for our stressed farmers and ranchers. So, I would like to be your Vice President in 2013 to help continue this important job that all of those brave farm and ranch wives started back in 1976 when Women Involved in Farm Economics was born!

Mary Ellen Commack **South Dakota** **Nominee for Area 1 Director**

I live in western South Dakota, 20 miles north of Rapid City, in the house I actually grew up in. My family has raised Hereford cattle since 1941 and I am continuing with that (along with a sprinkle of Angus and some Shorthorn). I have been married for 37 years and have four grown children with our first grandchild due this fall. I am an active 4-H leader as well as state director and member of Class 6 of the South Dakota Ag Rural Leadership (SDARL). In 2012 I took an international study trip to China and Vietnam with this class and an eight-day ag study trip to Washington state. I am completing my first year as a director on the South Dakota Beef Industry Council & serve on the research committee. I continue to be involved in local, state and national level ag issues and would look forward to serving WIFE as a director. Feel free to contact me anytime with questions, concerns, etc. I have appreciated contact from fellow WIFE members over the time I have been National Area 1 Director. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome!

National Candidate Profiles

Cathy Scherler

Colorado

Nominee for Area 2 Director

Cathy Scherler was raised on a farm in Southwest Oklahoma. She learned how to drive a tractor when she was six years old. She and her husband, Burl, moved to southeastern Colorado in 1973. They raise winter wheat, oil sunflowers, grain sorghum and corn on their dry land farm near Sheridan Lake. They also sell agricultural chemicals, hybrid seed and certified seed wheat. Burl and Cathy say the best crops they ever raised were their two children, Lynn and Christi. They have five grandchildren.

WIFE has been Cathy's favorite farm organization since she helped organize the Kiowa County WIFE Chapter back in 1980. She has served in leadership positions at the chapter, state and national level. She currently serves as president of the Colorado WIFE Association. She served as the National WIFE Publicity Chairman in 1986 and 1987 and now serves as National WIFE Area 2 Director.

If elected she will do her best to represent WIFE to the best of her ability. She feels that communication and education are very important to WIFE members as they strive to "to tell their story". She would appreciate your support and vote.

Kay Zeosky

New York

Nominee for Dairy Chair

Our family of four children (and now nine grandchildren) has owned and operated a dairy farm in Turin, New York, for 44 years. Although we have retired, my heart is still with our neighbors and friends who continue to milk cows, as well as the dairy farmers across the country. Dairying is so very labor intensive.

I've been a member of WIFE for 27 years and have served as Dairy Chairman, Trade Chairman, Area Director, and as President and Vice President of FAED plus many years as chairman of our state and local chapters.

I have served the local community as President of South Lewis Central School Board, our five county BOCES (vocational school), and our county Cornell Cooperative Extension Service. I have also served on the boards of our Lewis County General Hospital, the Governor's Advisory Council on Dairy Trade Practices, Director of Farm Bureau and the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

Before I married Joe (and the farm) I worked for the State Department of Conservation. After we sold the farm in 1999, I worked as an agricultural research aide for State Senator Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann for six years, and two years as an Enumerator for NASS.

WIFE is unique in the fact that we can each work on our own commodities. Some organizations have to settle for topics that are generic to all types of agriculture. If a way can be found to get fair pay for our farmers, I want to be a part of it.

Marlene Kouba

North Dakota

Nominee for Homeland Security Chair

At this time there are so many articles about what is going on with Homeland Security such as immigration, gun control, economy, farm workers, etc. that it is hard to choose which ones might be of interest to WIFE readers or affect them. Each month I accumulate and compile articles of varying lengths and then 'capsulize' them to get as many topics into the space allotted while trying to keep them interesting and informative.

My husband passed away eight years ago so I have devoted my time to various organizations and getting as involved as I can in activities at the local, church, community and state level. My nine children are grown and the youngest of my 22 grandchildren is 13. My health is good and I have no aches and pains—I am still all 'me'.

Much of my time is spent on the computer. I work on genealogy, have written numerous articles for area newspapers this year, am writing my memoirs for my children and a story about when I was 16 for the grandchildren. I have also written a western mystery novel, have just completed 28 years of writing and printing the state WIFE monthly newsletter, have read 386 books in the past 12 months, organized two family reunions and a class reunion that were held in July and much more. Life is good.

It has been a pleasure to serve you as WIFE's first Homeland Security Chairman during the past year. I would sincerely appreciate your vote and support to continue in this position for the coming year.

National Candidate Profiles

Alice Parker

Washington

**Nominee for Natural Resources/Private Property/Water/
Endangered Species Chair**

I have been a member of WIFE since 1977 when WIFE was organized in Washington State. I have held numerous offices at the state level and at the national level including National President in 1988-1989.

I have continued to be actively involved and an advocate for agriculture. I have served as the Executive Secretary/Director of the Columbia Basin Development League for 20 years. The League has been best described as the Chamber of Commerce for the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project. During this time I have served on both state and federal committees which both address water issues.

I am currently on the Board of Trustees and a member of the Executive Committee for the League. I am also a board member of the Grant County Economic Development Council and was originally appointed to be a representative of agriculture interests.

Although I am basically retired from active farming I am still living on the farm and do not plan to change my life style until health forces me to do so.

Pam Pothoff

Nebraska

Nominee for Trade Chair

Trade sounds so simple—I have something you want so I trade you for something I want. Being your Trade Chairman for two years has taught me that trade is anything but simple! Maybe it is the complexity that makes me enjoy it so much. I have enjoyed the challenge of wading through all the information on trade and determining those facts that will make WIFE members knowledgeable on trade so they can discuss the issues and be persuasive. If you have appreciated the wide variety of trade information I have presented, I would appreciate your vote for 2014 Trade Chairman.

Barbara Broberg

Montana

Nominee for Energy Chair

BARBARA BROBERG is a Cut Bank, Montana wheat and barley farmer... farming for 20 years on the family farm. She doesn't know how long she has been a WIFE member because she joined for several years long before she became one-of-them...it was kind of a "well you eat don't you?" start of a conversation where WIFE had a booth set up.

... And then somehow they found her again after she started farming! Persistence in WIFE...

Let's continue the conversation, sincerely Barbara

FAED Information

The Foundation for Agricultural Education and Development (FAED) is an organization, which strives to educate and inform the general public about the importance of agriculture and its relationship to the welfare of the national economy. FAED administers grants that are consistent with the goals of the foundation.

Members of Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) formed the Foundation in 1983 because of a strong commitment to education and agriculture. It has awarded grants to WIFE chapters and associations to assist with educational projects that promote agriculture.

The Marilyn Spiker Memorial Scholarships were created through cooperative efforts of FAED and WIFE and offered to women who will begin their first or second year of college.

Now is the time to renew your membership or become a member in FAED. The Membership schedule dues, which are tax-deductible, are as follows:
Individual \$5.00; Family \$10.00; Supporting \$25.00.

For more information, contact Pam Pothoff at coyotepp@gpcom.net.

Reminder:

FAED will again be holding a silent auction during National Convention to finance our scholarships. FAED requests that each state donate at least one item for the auction.

Thank you in advance!

National Conventon Registration

COLORADO HERE WE COME!!!

2013 NATIONAL WIFE CONVENTION

Women Involved in Farm Economics

November 20-23, 2013

(Committee meetings will be held Wednesday, November 20, 2013 and participating members should plan to travel on Tuesday, November 19, 2013)

Hotel: EMBASSY SUITES DENVER AURORA HOTEL

4444 North Havana

Denver, Colorado

(720) 587-5095

Discounted Rate Code: "NWC"

Deadline: October 18th, 2013

Cancellation date: November 1, 2013

Registration: Members: \$ 200

HOWs: \$ 185

Late Fee: \$ 225

Late Fee: \$ 205

Please make checks payable to: National WIFE 2013 Convention

Convention Registrar: Jenifer Felzien

2946 CR 53

Sterling, CO 80751

Phone & Fax: 970-522-1429

Email: gjfelz@kci.net

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Please check: National Officer () State President () Delegate () Member () HOW ()
Commodity/Topic/Issues Chair ()

Special dietary needs: _____

WIFE Updates

National WIFE Convention Hotel Information

This year's convention site is the Embassy Suites Denver Aurora Hotel, located near the Denver International Airport (DIA). The address is 4444 North Havana Street, Denver, CO 80239. If you are coming in from the east or west on I-70, take exit 280. The hotel will be on the north side of I-70. A complimentary shuttle service is offered to and from DIA as well as anywhere within a five-mile radius of the hotel. For reservations please call the hotel directly at (720) 587-5095. Reservations can also be made through Embassy Suites Nationwide phone number: 1-800-EMBASSY (362-2779). The discounted rate code is "NWC." The reservation deadline is October 25. After this date rooms may be available but at a higher rate.

The hotel website is: www.embassysuitesdenver-aurora.com

SLEEPING ROOM RATES:

- King Suite--\$99.00 plus 14.75% tax; includes one king size bed and one queen size sofa sleeper
- Double Suite--\$99.00 plus 14.75% tax; includes two double beds and one queen size sofa sleep

ADDITIONAL ROOM INFORMATION:

- If there are more than two people in a room, an extra charge of \$15 per person will be applied
- If you would like a handicap accessible room please let them know when you make reservations.

NICE TO KNOW:

- Complimentary "cooked-to-order" breakfast
- Complimentary nightly "Manager's Reception" in the evening
- Complimentary high-speed internet access
- Each room has a microwave, refrigerator and coffee maker
- ADA compliant throughout the hotel
- Conveniently close (1.5 miles) to Northfield Shopping Center, dining and entertainment



WIFeline
a publication of
WOMEN INVOLVED
IN FARM ECONOMICS
Published monthly except June and November

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