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Look Out Phoenix...Here we come!

- Mark Your Calendar for the 2014 National WIFE Convention! Fall is in the air, which means it's time to make plans to join WIFE members from across the country for this informative, entertaining and important event.
- The convention will take place November 12-15, 2014 in Phoenix, Arizona and this year's theme is "Enriching Agriculture through Generations under the Sun." The theme highlights the convention location in sunny Arizona with the multiple generations in our membership that work together to promote, educate and improve our industry. The convention committee has been working hard to put together a great schedule that includes top-notch speakers and tours to make your trip to the Grand Canyon State educational, fun and memorable as members gather to take care of business. The tentative convention schedule, registration form and hotel information can be found inside this issue of the WIFEline. Plan to travel on Tuesday, November 11 and Sunday, November 16, so you don't miss any of the convention!
- A group tour is being planned for Friday that will include a stop at the Queen Creek Olive Mill. A boxed lunch will be included as we are informed about the history of the farm and mill and how their signature oils are created. You can check out their website at www.queencreekolivemill.com. The tour's next stop is the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. The main structure is a four-story building from the late Hohokam period dating back to the 14th century. The final stop is Old Town Chandler where we will enjoy dinner at AJ's Restaurant.
- This year's convention committee has chosen to keep the costs affordable for participating members and hope that you will join us to make this convention a success. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Kerry Froese, Convention Chairman, at (719) 469-7749.



By Ruth Laribee
New York

Despite the situations described in this report, we persevere and build back when we can; farmers and ranchers get whatever crops they can and still continue to feed the world.

2014 has been another summer of floods, microbursts and tornadoes. Here in Lowville, New York and surrounding towns, we were hit with what some called a "microburst" and others called a tornado. Whichever it was, there was a lot of damage.

One retired farmer lost her house, barn, new truck and all; the whole place was leveled. Thankfully, she was not home at the time.

Another farmer lost his barn, 15 head of cattle, a few calves, damage to his house and his mother's place nearby, all while he and his son jumped in between two bulk milk tanks, saving them just in time from their collapsed barn.

Several people lost homes and/or parts of homes; trees were torn up by their roots or just blown over. But no lives were lost and family, friends and lots of complete strangers stopped to help. One farmer said he tried to keep a list of those helping out so he could thank them but he couldn't keep up; he believes at least 400 people helped out during the time that cleanup was done and repairs were being made.

One only hopes the farmers out West affected with the devastating one hundred-year-flood had the same kind of help.

One thing we haven't had to deal with is what's happening near the Gaza strip: farms and cows are under attack with shelling and gunfire. One farmer reported a shell that killed six of his cows and injured forty more quite severely. He only had a herd of 90. A veterinarian is caring

President's Report

India's Prime Minister set to visit Washington

for the injured cattle.

The Israeli Dairy Board reports the nation has 950 farms, 124,000 cows and that their cows carry a very high monetary average overall.

The Missouri "Right to Farm" amendment was put to a vote in August and passed by only 2,500 out of three million. The amendment was, "Shall the Missouri constitution be amended to ensure that the right of Missouri Citizens to engage in agricultural production and ranching practices not be infringed?"

The organization "Missouri Farmers Care" was one of the groups in support of passing the amendment. A recount has been requested by those opposed to the measure and the Missouri law permits a recount if the margin of success is less than half of one percentage point. The Secretary of State for Missouri has granted the recount and has set up a website for making the procedure more accessible and transparent. A past state senator requested the recount on behalf of Missouri's Food for America.

Narendra Modi, India's new Prime Minister, will be visiting Washington, D.C. soon. The question becomes, will the relationship between the United States and India improve with the new government official?

One sticking point has been that India has depended on Russia for its military goods for years. Prime Minister Modi's promises to his constituents included cleaning up the corruption, such as organized criminal groups that are claiming to control a large portion of governmental and non-governmental departments, and other parts of the general economy.

U.S. corporations are requesting their Congressmen react quickly to stalled issues, one being that the Indian banks are inefficient and taxing to deal with, which seems to indicate the nod of agreement for their banks to entertain international wrong actions.

Another is that a program was set up

to allow foreign experts to enter and work in the U.S. for three years to alleviate the shortage of domestic talent.

U.S. Senators and other congressmen are now charging that certain large Indian companies along with the Indian government are abusing and dominating the program, declaring large blocks of Visa's and sending professional engineers to work in the U.S. while paying excessive fees to these companies. The Prime Minister's visit to our Congressional members should be quite interesting.

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

The wheat that pours like red gold into the hopper of a combine harvesting a field outside of Pierre could bake the bread that feeds the world, but first it has to get to where millers and bakers can buy it. That's a problem this year.

A scale-tipping harvest, a lack of bin space from last year and a shortage have some farmers, and some elevators, pouring wheat on the ground because there's no place to put it.

Midwest Cooperatives has been running only 20 to 60 percent of historical winter wheat harvest car placements at its various locations. In other words, it is receiving about one to three

Cereal Grains Report

South Dakota farmers wait for wheat to move

grain cars this year for every five cars it received in previous years. But the wheat harvest this year makes the demand for cars greater, not less.

Things took a turn for the better at the end of last week when rainfall slowed down the harvest so that not as much wheat was coming into the elevators. That allowed the railroad to move some grain out and deliver some cars.

BNSF Railway, owned by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. and Canadian Pacific Railway, Ltd. struggled with greater than normal demand from shippers of coal, oil and Midwest crops, the U. S. Department of Agriculture said in a report last week.

Record high grain and soybean harvests anticipated this year may increase the squeeze in silo space. Railroads in 2013 transported 75 percent of the wheat crop and more than half of the corn and soybeans from elevators in

the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

As of August 18, about 2,700 railcar orders were running an average of just under 17 days late in the U. S. compared with a peak in early April of about 16,500. At Berkshire's annual shareholder meeting in May, Buffett acknowledged that jams on BNSF's network were triggered by a boom in shipments and harsh winter weather.

The railroad has been working on improving service to meet demand. As of July 31, Canadian Pacific, based in Calgary, reported 22,457 requests for grain cars in North Dakota, averaging 11 weeks late and 7,103 orders at 12 weeks behind in Minnesota.

The company said in an email that they are focused on ongoing improvement in the velocity of its trains and effective utilization of the railcar fleet in order to deliver more cars to their destination each week.

ALL ABOUT FAED AND HOW YOU CAN SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

WHAT IS FAED? The Foundation for Agricultural Education and Development (FAED) is the educational arm of WIFE and is an organization that 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 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.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF FAED? Annual memberships are \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families and additional donations are always accepted. Dues should be sent to FAED Treasurer Pat Torgerson, P.O. Box 132, Lambert, MT 59433. Your membership allows FAED to offer scholarships for women going into agriculture and related fields. Are you doing your part to support the next generation of WIFE members?

ARE THERE ANY OTHER WAYS I CAN SHOW MY SUPPORT OF FAED? Yes! Please consider a FAED memorial for a loved one or friend. Memorial funds are used for scholarships and can be sent to Pat Torgerson at P.O. Box 132, Lambert, MT 59433. An acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to the recipient's family.



By Marlene Kouba
North Dakota

Homeland Security Report

U.S. Government warns of imminent terrorist attack

The U.S. government is warning that a terrorist attack is imminent on the border between Texas and Mexico. It seems that the terrorist group ISIS is now operating in the Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez, the narcotics-trafficking center located just across the border from El Paso, Texas, and it is planning to attack the U.S. with car bombs or improvised explosive devices carried by vehicles.

High-level federal law enforcement, intelligence and other sources have confirmed that a warning bulletin for an imminent terrorist attack on the border was issued and that agents for the Departments of Defense, Justice and Homeland Security have been put on alert and told to aggressively work all sources and potential leads. Both ISIS and al-Qaida were planning plots, says an attack "is coming very soon" and September 11 could be the date.

The attack is so imminent the commanding general at the U.S. Army's Fort Bliss in El Paso is being briefed. Texas Governor Rick Perry warned that terrorists from the Islamic State could be sneaking into Texas across the Southwest border at any time. The FBI previously said that there were people from terrorist countries who were assuming Hispanic names and learning a few words of Spanish to come in.

Every day we detain an undocumented child immigrant, it costs Immigration and Customs Enforcement (meaning you, the taxpayer) \$259 per person. Leaders who consistently underfund health care, transportation and education ignore the crucial fact that children crossing our borders aren't trying to sneak around law enforcement: They are running to law enforcement!

On July 25, President Obama urged the presidents of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador to exercise what he called their "shared responsibility" to help stem the flow of migrant children toward the our

border, but they said America shares some of the blame for the crisis. They said they were working to crack down on drug trafficking and violence in their own countries but they also called on the United States to share in the responsibility for the crisis. They said that the United States must accept that demand for illegal drugs in America is in part responsible for the violence that is causing the migrants to flee their homes in Central America. Just remember that some of the clothes, fruits and veggies we buy come from these countries and also helps their economy.

The U.S. State Department has ordered hundreds of pounds of plastic explosives and thousands of containers of liquid explosives, shipping them to U.S. centers that typically send sensitive materials to overseas embassies. The department recently put in four separate orders for high explosives – purchases accompanied by tens of thousands of feet of detonating cords with hundreds of blasting caps and fuse igniters. The destination of these products and their cost is unknown, but documents list the shipping destination, or "place of performance," as Sterling, Virginia, which is home to the Diplomatic Pouch and Mail Unit, or DPM/U, which is tasked with sending secure pouches and crates to U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide. Deliveries made through that unit are exempt from the same inspections that the U.S. Postal Service would otherwise perform.

According to the Department of State Foreign Affairs, once the United States Postal Service (USPS) delivers an item to this facility, that item is technically not considered mail and no longer falls under postal regulations and restrictions. Such goods fall under the guidelines and control of State, which at its discretion, can open and inspect all mail sent to it for transmission abroad to determine whether the items meet Department and all other standards.

The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, or VCDR, and international law "limit the use of diplomatic pouches to diplomatic documents and articles intended

for official use." The VCDR prohibits private airlines as well as the receiving host governments from x-raying or opening diplomatic pouches and crates, regardless of how they are marked or whether goods are transported into or out of that nation. This enables the government to securely transport a variety of confidential, secret and top secret items as well as unclassified and sensitive materials. The State's Diplomatic Pouch Policy explicitly prohibits the shipment of explosives through DPM/U. Another option is to reroute the explosives by sea via one of several "consolidation points" known as Despatch Agencies, located in Miami, New York and Seattle as well as Brownsville, Texas, and Antwerp, Belgium.

The State Department leverages these units "for freight shipments destined for the Department's operating locations worldwide." The Despatch Agencies maintain contracted warehouse space to consolidate the freight and manage the transportation arrangements to move the freight to its destination.

The State Department is specifically purchasing and sending 450 pounds of C4 M112 explosives, nearly 2,600 containers of liquid explosives, 188 feet of "linear-shaped charges" and more than 8,000 blasting caps to Sterling, Virginia. A separate procurement calls for 225 pounds of C4 plastic explosives, five pounds of C2 "sheet explosives" and 144 bottles of high-energy liquid explosives. Thousands of additional feet of detonating cord, plus 18,000 feet of military-grade safety fuses and hundreds of blasting caps and fuse igniters, are likewise part of this order.

The Department separately is buying hundreds of thousands of rounds of live 9mm "ball" ammunition as well as a lesser amount of non-lethal simulated ammunition. They claim that the materials are for exclusive use in cooperative training efforts "between U.S. law enforcement officers and those of our partner nations engaged in the front lines of the global war on terrorism."



By Klodette Stroh
Wyoming

Hopefully everyone is having a prosperous farming season. Wyoming farmers have seen plenty of rain this year and Buffalo Bill Dam's reservoir, which has a capacity of over 646,000 acre-feet (a volume measurement where one acre of surface area is one foot in depth), has been filled.

2014 had the highest runoff, which has been close to a million acre-feet of runoff. Barley, bean, corn, hay and sugar beet fields are looking lush and healthy. Unfortunately, the price of U.S. sugar has gone down to almost meet the cost of production while fertilizer, fuel, chemical, seed and equipment have doubled in increases since 2008.

On August 25, 2014 the department of commerce will finish their investigation on Mexico subsidizing their domestic sugar industry and exporting sugar into the U.S. markets, which has caused a drop in U.S. sugar markets.

Sugar Report

Wyoming dam sees highest recorded water levels

Some brief background information may help us to comprehend this situation: The Mexican sugar industry exported, dumped and subsidized sugar to the United States, and as a result, it caused tremendous harm to a domestic industry that supports 142,000 jobs.

This is not allowed under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA explicitly permits the filing of anti-dumping. There have been 114 anti-dumping cases filed and 31 cases have been brought by Mexico against the United States, and the United States has filed 30 cases against Mexico, not counting the pending sugar petitions. The sugar producers' petitions were officially filed by the American Sugar Coalition, which includes: American Sugar Beet Growers Association; American Sugar Cane League; American Sugar Refining, Inc.; Florida Sugar Cane League; Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company; Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc.; Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida; and United States Beet Sugar Association.

If the Mexican's subsidies are confirmed, a countervailing duty that will be

equivalent to subsides could be imposed on sugar imported from Mexico. Dumping sugar into the U.S. market will be a separate issue to deal with. Dumping is when a product is sold in a foreign market below the price of production and below its domestic price. Preliminary determination on the dumping of Mexican sugar into the U.S. market will be determined by September or October.

If evidence of dumping is determined, a separate set of duties would then be assessed in addition to countervailing duties. If the final determination supports Mexico's sugar dumping into the U.S. market, they will be responsible for paying the duty on the subsidized sugar.

Any duty collected in the future would have to be paid to the U.S. treasury. No monies collected are given to the sugar industry to compensate it for the injury that has occurred. Hopefully this action will have an impact on future sugar imports.

We need to stand firm to protect America's agriculture. Having farmers in this country assures U.S. independence and our people's freedom.

Beef Report

Unmerited article released

The United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) reported that an article has recently been published in the Wall Street Journal (and several other agriculture media sources) relaying unsubstantiated rumors from unnamed sources that the World Trade Organization (WTO) has ruled against the U.S. in the trade dispute over U.S. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL).

It is notable that this article originated from Ottawa, Canada and arose before the panel decision has even been announced. The WTO report is not scheduled to be released publicly until September.

Until the WTO report is released, articles like this one are based merely on the claims of unnamed individuals and amount to irresponsible journalism.



By Whitney Klasna
Montana

USCA and WIFE will not comment on a WTO panel decision that has yet to be received and is not yet in the public domain.



By Donna Bolz
Nebraska

Several months ago I wrote an article on drones and since then, I have received more information from the insurance point of view. According to an Ag underwriter for Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company, they are now writing coverage for farm customers using drones.

Insuring drones is not a separate policy but instead is an endorsement added to the policy that is already being provided; the thought being that this is a coverage farmers and ranchers need to fully protect their business. There is no charge at this time for the coverage.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released results of its 2012 Census of Agriculture. This survey, conducted every five years, provides an in-depth view of the changing demographics of farming in America. As of 2012, 3.2 million farmers are operating 2.1 million farms on 914.5 million acres of farmland across the U.S.

Highlights of the 2012 census include:

- Both sales and production expenses reached record highs in 2012. U.S. producers sold \$394.6 billion worth of agricultural products, but it cost them \$328.9 billion to produce these products.
- Three-quarters of all farms had sales of less than \$50,000, producing only three percent of the total value of farm products sold, while those with sales of more than \$1 million (four percent of all farms) produced 66 percent.

- California led the nation with nine of the 10 top counties for value of sales. Fresno County was #1 in the U.S. with nearly \$5 billion in sales in 2012, greater than that of 23 states. Weld County, CO, ranked 9th in the top 10 U.S. counties.

- The top five states for agricultural sales were: California (\$42.6 billion); Iowa (\$30.8 billion); Texas (\$25.4 billion); Ne-

Rural Life Report

Number of young farmers and ranchers up 11.3 % since 2007

braska (\$23.1 billion); and Minnesota (\$21.3 billion).

- Eighty-seven percent of all U.S. farms are operated by families or individuals.

- Principal operators were on average 58.3 years old and were predominantly male; second operators were slightly younger and most likely to be female; and third operators were younger still.

- Young, beginning principal operators who reported their primary occupation as farming increased 11.3 percent from 36,396 to 40,499 between 2007 and 2012.

- All categories of minority-operated farms increased between 2007 and 2012. Hispanic-operated farms had a significant 21 percent increase to reach 144,530.

- Farm operators reported selling products directly to consumers. In 2012, these sales totaled more than \$1.3 billion

(up 8.1 percent from the 2007 census).

- Organic sales grew, but accounted for just 0.8 percent of the total value of U.S. agricultural production. Organic farmers reported \$3.12 billion in sales in 2012, up from \$1.7 billion in 2007.

- Farms with Internet access rose from 56.5 percent in 2007 to 69.6 percent in 2012.

- 57,299 farms produced on-farm renewable energy, more than double the 23,451 in 2007.

- 474,028 farms covering 173.1 million acres were farmed with conservation tillage or no-till practices.

- Corn and soybean acres topped 50 percent of all harvested acres for the first time.

- The largest category of operations was beef cattle with 619,172 or 29 percent of all farms and ranches in 2012 specializing in cattle.

Dairy Report

Russian consumers paying the price

The following article was written by Ken Myers, President of MCT Dairies, Inc.

A ban on food imports is a rare occurrence in today's global markets, and Russian consumers are already paying the price.

According to data from Germany's Statista, food inflation in Russia is gaining momentum. Since January 1, the price of potatoes has climbed 72.7 percent. Chicken and pork prices have increased 25.8 percent and 23.5 percent respectively and milk prices have jumped 13.5 percent. Overall, food in Russia has become 10 percent more expensive since the start of the year.

Russians are not the only ones paying the price though. The European Union will see the biggest loss in ex-

ports, with its top seven exporters to Russia losing nearly \$3.6 billion in annual sales. Poland will give up \$1.1 billion, followed by the Netherlands with \$851 million, Spain at \$793 million, Germany with \$632 million, Denmark at \$523 million, France with \$384 million, and Finland at \$367 million.

Elsewhere, Norway's annual seafood exports to Russia are valued at just over \$1 billion, the United States will lose more than \$688 million and Canada nearly \$367 million.

Many analysts think world dairy trade will just undergo a reshuffling, but another scenario could play out. With food prices rising, Russia could cut their butter and cheese purchases, depressing dairy consumption over the next year.

Trade Report



By Pam Potthoff
Nebraska

In the July WIFEline, the trade article discussed a plan by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to change the way imports were classified. WIFE members were urged to submit comments opposing the change—over 26,000 comments were submitted for the record. The OMB has announced they are cancelling plans to reclassify factoryless goods. The extensive public comments were one of the reasons cited by OMB for dropping the proposal.

The squeaky wheel, once again, received the oil. This is a vital role of WIFE and we must remain diligent and forceful in protecting agriculture and our country.

The United States now has a trade deficit with 88 countries according to data in the book, *Buying Back America*. Some deficits are small, but some are enormous. Our top six trading partners of Canada, China, Mexico, Japan, Germany, and South Korea represent 64 percent of our total trade deficit. In 2013, our total trade deficit in goods was \$688.4 billion, of which China represented 46 percent at \$318.4 billion. However, our 20-year total trade deficit with China since 1994 is a staggering \$3.287 trillion.

Russia has begun a retaliatory ban that covers all imports of meat, fish, milk and milk products and fruit and vegetables from the U.S., European Union (EU), Australia, Canada and Norway. Reports say the ban will last for a year. Russia has also banned fruits and vegetables from Poland. Poland is looking to the U.S. as an alternate market. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) currently accepts imports of more than 30 types of Polish fruits and vegetables and is being asked to certify more Polish food

Worldwide, U.S. has worst trade performance

producers. The effect of increased Polish products in the U.S. and the loss of U.S. exports should be monitored carefully.

EU and Canadian negotiators have concluded discussions on their Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), meaning that the bilateral deal is one step closer to implementation. Before that happens, the parties must go through a lengthy and complex process which includes ratification by all 28 member states of the EU and the ten provinces and three territories of Canada. Once in force, the agreement will rapidly eliminate duties on ag and food products, most from day one. By the end of transitional periods, which vary from sector to sector, Canada and the EU will liberalize 92.8 percent and 93.5 percent of tariff lines in agriculture, respectively. The effect on U.S. ag exports remains to be seen.

The U.S. has surpassed Japan as Australia's top beef export markets. Apparently, Chipotle's Aussie beef move is catching on.

The drop in commodity prices is beginning to affect other parts of the economy. Deere Co. has begun scaling back production because, on a worldwide level, farmers have slowed down their purchases of new farm equipment. As of October 31, 2013, Deere had about 67,000 full-time employees but has since started laying off employees.

China's buoyant exports pushed its trade surplus to a record in July as it jumped 14.5 percent from a year earlier. Imports fell 1.6 percent versus a rise of 5.5 percent in June, leaving the country with a record trade surplus of \$47.3 billion for the month. Exports to the U.S., China's top export destination, rose 12.3 percent in July, while those to the EU, the second-biggest market, grew 17 percent.

The U.S. has the worst trade performance in the world. The Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA), one of WIFE's coalition partners, is circulating

a petition to urge Congress to make balanced trade a part of all trade agreements. This would include two treaties that are being negotiated now: the Trans-Pacific and the Trans-Atlantic treaties. The requirement would be included with Trade Promotion Authority.

The petition can be found on the internet at propsperousamerica.org. National WIFE has signed the petition. State WIFE organizations and individuals are encouraged to also sign. As shown by the results of efforts to stop factoryless goods as discussed earlier in this article, numbers do count. For a copy of the petition, contact Trade Chairman Pam Potthoff. Please take time to sign the petition today.

The Foundation for Agricultural Education & Development (FAED) will be holding a silent auction during the national convention. The event's goal is to fund scholarships for young women going into agriculture or an agriculture-related occupation. This year, three \$1000 scholarships were given. Donations for the silent auction are requested from all the WIFE states and/or individuals. Contact Pat Torgerson with your donations.





By Barbara Broberg
Montana

A BNSF Railway Co. Transcaer Training Session made its way to our town this month; the fire department opened their doors for the event. The Director of Disaster & Emergency welcomed everyone from three counties, one tribe, several businesses, emergency responders and fire responders.

In our small towns these are all people you know. Both you and they have an interest in what they see on the tracks and what happens when various problems arise.

A newcomer to our area recently saw smoke out of a refrigeration unit on a "reefer car." After the fact, she heard there had been a train fire but realized she had been the first to spot it while waiting at the railroad crossing. She said she never thought to do anything about it and she remembered thinking that "someone will see it."

There is an emergency telephone number on the crossarms at the railroad crossing you can call if you have a concern about a train. It is manned 24 hours a day.

You may see hundreds of tank cars moving through your countryside all the time...and they see you! The locomotive has a dash camera and the entire train system has numerous checks and balances to maintain the carefully sought "culture of safety."

BNSF Railway is a large railroad, mostly in the middle and western U.S. (28 states) and in Canada (2 provinces). BNSF runs the train and maintains the railroad tracks while private owners own the tank cars.

The BNSF Transcaer Training Session was helpful as it included all kinds of insightful information including obser-

Energy Report

Transporting energy-related ingredients creates risk factors for emergency situations

vations about safety. Tanks cars are carrying everything from corn syrup to ethanol; there are placards on the sides and end of the car to help identify whether the liquid will just make a mess if spilled or if it is a "Get out of Dodge, drive eight miles from the incident and get upwind" type of scenario.

If need be, emergency responders will activate even more specialized responders with full knowledge of tank cars and the contents of their cars, the geography of the area, the water table, communication lines, pipelines, electrical lines, and everything else in between.

Trained professionals to clean up spills will also arrive in the case of an emergency and equipment to pick rail cars up in case of a derailment will also begin arriving. If you aren't among these needed workers, get back and stay back. Take refuge where told, and move as directed. Trains are big, people are little... so knowing where the people are is a good thing.

Trains carry a lot of freight safely but as you know from the farm, things happen. In case of these emergency events, the session gave attendees several things to remember:

- If, while driving, you see white smoke or vapor ahead, start thinking and take careful note of places to stop, and/or turn around, keeping in mind you may need to quickly get away from the area.
- What if it is flammable? Get away if you don't like the look of things, even if you don't know what has happened yet. If you do choose to turn around, be careful of emergency vehicles that may be arriving.
- Don't approach twisted tracks, they may be under tension and

could shift.

- Avoid rushing into an emergency scene; use the same care you would use at home or on the farm.
- Call for additional help as you choose what to do and remember the cautions about sparks and cell phones.

The railroad is anxious to move all products safely and works hard to keep observing the newest, safest way to handle their diverse cargo. They thanked everyone for hearing about safety in and around tank cars. It is amazing to think about all the energy ingredients that move by rail.

Agri-Pulse Communications, who has invited WIFE to events in Washington, D.C. in the past, currently has six articles by Sara Wyant that are of great interest. They can be found at <http://www.agri-pulse.com>. According to *Farm & Food File* columnist Alan Guebert, these articles describe "the lay of the farm and food political landscape in today's Washington DC." The August 8, 2014 issue of the *Prairie Star* has more information.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN OFFICER OR COMMODITY/TOPIC CHAIRMAN?

Please have your state and/or chapter endorsement or signatures from five of your state members (in good standing) ready at the convention in order to be nominated from the floor. For questions, contact Pam Pothoff at coyotep@gpc.com.net.

National Candidate Profiles

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

I am Linda Newman and I am running for the office of 2015 National Women Involved in Farm Economics President. I have held several offices in WIFE at the local level, state level, and was also National WIFE Secretary. I am currently serving as the Montana State WIFE President.

Our family has been involved in farming and ranching throughout my life and we currently are in partnership with our kids in a cow-calf operation as well as winter wheat and hay production. My husband is still much involved with the operation, but I recently decided I was "tired of cooking" and have moved to our property out of Roundup, MT which was in need of some TLC! With harvest, seeding, and shipping coming up, Dean hasn't been here much, but I am back and forth when needed—not sure if this is easier or not!! Anyway, I am looking forward to spending more time working on issues that affect agriculture and would like to serve as National WIFE President to further that goal.

So, I would like your support and, if elected, would like all of your help in supporting new ideas and projects that will help our WIFE organization to be a strong voice for Agriculture now and in the future.

Pam Pothoff *Nebraska* **Nominee for Recording Secretary**

At one point in my life I wanted to be a stenographer. I took two years of secretarial courses and then decided I would rather teach. However, I put those courses to work every day. They are especially useful in WIFE where I can take good notes, type with confidence and formulate manuscripts that are professional. All these are attributes that will be beneficial in the role of WIFE Secretary. I feel confident that, professionally, I am qualified to handle the job of taking notes and handling correspondence for WIFE.

On a personal level, my husband, Harold and I, operate a diversified farm in southwest Nebraska. We are raising wheat, corn, cattle and grandkids. We are proudest of the grandkids!

I would appreciate your vote for WIFE Secretary.

Mary Ellen Cammack *South Dakota* **Nominee for Vice President**

Mary Ellen Cammack has been nominated for National vice president. She is currently finishing her second term as National Area I Director, and previously served as Beef and Resolutions chair for WIFE. Mary Ellen, along with her husband Randy, and 4 adult children (fourth and fifth generations respectively) own a cow/calf operation in western South Dakota. She serves on state and regional boards for 4-H and livestock show events, and is a director for the South Dakota Beef Industry Council.

Mary Ellen is a graduate of the South Dakota Agriculture Rural Leadership (SDARL) program, which is a leadership/communication program with emphasis on production agriculture and ag issues both nationally & internationally.

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

I am once again running for National WIFE Treasurer. I have served for four 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. With the birth of our first grandchild this year, we now have four generations living and working on the ranch. The challenges and issues facing agriculture are a continual barrage that will effect all four generations in different ways and for years to come. We all need the voice and fighting spirit that WIFE is known for. Continuing and promoting our nation's agriculture business and our way of life is near and dear to my heart.

National Candidate Profiles

Kerry Froese

Colorado

Nominee for Area 2 Director

Kerry Froese was raised on a ranch in southeast Colorado. Kerry and her husband, Jacob, currently reside south of Las Animas, CO, on a place that borders the ranch where she grew up. Kerry owns the family trucking company with her brother, Keith, and enjoys keeping the books and maintaining the office for the third generation business. Kerry and Jacob, along with Jacob's twin brother Andrew, also own a small produce company, Simply Different Produce LLC, that operates as a Community Shared Agriculture(CSA) giving local residents the opportunity to purchase shares in the CSA garden to receive bi-weekly shipments of fresh, locally grown produce throughout the summer. Kerry also has a few bookkeeping clients on the side and enjoys helping on the family ranch when she has time.

Kerry joined WIFE in 2012 and has enjoyed becoming an active member at the local, state and national levels. She currently serves as the vice president for the local Kiowa County WIFE Chapter as well as vice president for the Colorado WIFE Association. Kerry participated in the annual legislative trip to Washington D.C. this past March for the first time and has been working to organize the upcoming National WIFE Convention in Phoenix, AZ as she was elected the convention chair.

If elected as the Area 2 Director, Kerry looks forward to working together to promote our industry at the local, state and national levels. Agriculture is her passion and she looks forward to the future of WIFE.

Jean Wach

Nebraska

Nominee for

Cereal Grains Chair

I live 11 miles west of Hayes Center, Nebraska. I have lived here since 1971. In October I am planning on moving to Ogallala, Nebraska. This is about 65 miles north of where I presently live. My husband passed away 12 years ago. I thought it was about time to leave the dust, dirt roads, and flies behind. I will still be involved with the farm and wheat is my main crop. This year was the best wheat crop on dryland that I have ever had. One field made 90 bushels to the acre.

I think biotechnology will be the biggest topic in cereal grains in the near future. I will try to keep you informed if I am re-elected as the cereal commodity chairman.

Marlene Kouba

North Dakota

Nominee for

Homeland Security Chair

For the past two years I have served as your Homeland Security chairman. It has been a tremendous challenge as well as a learning one.

There are so many facets to the Homeland Security Department that it is sometimes hard to follow just what they are doing or why. Not much of it makes the news here in North Dakota but I have a friend who lives in southern Texas that sends me weekly envelopes filled with articles from the Houston Chronicle and other area newspapers. Those facts are hard to dispute.

Sometimes I get information from the Homeland Security website and other reliable news websites. Many months I have too much to report and thus move it to the next month or cut down the articles until they are bare bones information.

We need to keep each other and the public alerted to the seriousness of what is happening to our country through laws, executive orders, regulations and enforcement, such as illegal immigration, the government and the United Nations, too.

Since I am alone and not employed, I have the time to devote to researching what might be of interest to our reader anywhere in the nation. One of our speakers in D.C. this year commented on the articles.

Thank you for your support these past two years. I hope you will support me for the same position next year.

National Convention Registration

2014 NATIONAL WIFE CONVENTION

November 12-15, 2014

(Committee meetings will be held Wednesday, November 12, 2014 and participating members should plan to travel on Tuesday, November 11, 2014)

Hotel: Best Western Airport Inn

2425 South 24th Street

Phoenix, AZ 85034

Local phone number: (602) 273-7251

Toll-free phone number: (800) 528-8199

* Discounted rate code: "WIFE"

* Rate: \$84.20 (including taxes) for a single king room or
a double standard room that includes two double beds.

Deadline: November 1, 2014

Cancellation date: November 1, 2014

Registration: Members: \$150.00 HOWs: \$130.00

Late Fee: \$175.00 Late Fee: \$155.00

Please make checks payable to: National WIFE Convention

Convention Registrar: Gladys Walling

P.O. Box 55

Winifred, MT 59489

(406) 462-5330

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

The convention will be held November 12-15, 2014 at the Best Western Airport Inn in Phoenix, AZ, located near the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The address is 2425 South 24th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034. A complimentary 24-hour airport shuttle service is available, as well as free parking. For reservations please call the hotel directly at (602) 273-7251 or toll-free at 1-800-528-8199. **The discounted rate code is "WIFE" and to get the discounted rate, you must make your reservation by October 11.** Be sure and book your room today to get the discounted rate! After this date, rooms may be available, but at a higher rate.

SLEEPING ROOM RATES:

- Single King Room (one king-sized bed)-- \$84.20 with taxes
- Double Standard Room (two double-sized beds)--\$84.20 with taxes

*up to four people are allowed without an extra charge per person

ADDITIONAL ROOM INFORMATION:

- If you would like a handicap accessible room, let the front desk know when you make your reservation. The hotel only has two available handicap-accessible rooms. Be sure to book your room as soon as possible if you need one of these rooms!
- Complimentary high-speed wireless internet
- The hotel is ADA compliant

We Need Support from Your State Association!

The WIFE Convention Committee is asking each state association to raise \$ 250 in sponsorships to cover the coffee breaks at the 2014 National WIFE Convention in Phoenix, AZ. The support of the state associations would be greatly appreciated as a group of volunteer WIFE members are organizing the upcoming convention. Please have all checks made payable to National WIFE Convention. If you have any questions, please contact: Kerry Froese, Convention Chair at (719) 469-7749 or kerryjewell_33@hotmail.com. Please send the sponsorships to: Kerry Froese, 1001 C.R. 10, Las Animas, CO 81054. Thank you!



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