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## Letter from the President

Greetings WIFE Members,

Spring is here, or at least the calendar says it is.

Many of you are still calving, I hope it is going well.

We have just gotten back from our Legislative Conference in DC. There were 8 of us that attended.

As I am sure you are all aware, this is the year for a new Farm Bill. There are many in Congress that would like to see cuts to our programs, be sure to let your legislators know that we need a strong bill passed. Crop insurance needs to stay intact along with CRP, livestock programs, trade and dairy.

We also talked to them about transparency in labeling

concerning the use of buzz words such as "GMO Free", "Natural", "Gluten Free", and "Anti-biotic Free" being used on products that would not contain these. We would also like to see USA labels on beef, pork, chicken, and lamb that is born, raised, and harvested in the USA.

As we get ready for spring planting, please take time to let your voices be heard.

Have a safe spring and may we all have a profitable year ahead.

Thanks for all you do for agriculture.

*Diane McDonald*  
Diane McDonald,  
WIFE National President

# WIFE in *Washington D.C.*

The 2018 Legislative Conference in DC was March 18th through 22nd. The eight members who attended were Diane McDonald (ND), Jennifer Jones (NE), Pam Potthoff (NE), Deb Dressler (ND), Elisabeth Erickson-Noe (CO), Chris Anken (NY), Sarah Bledsoe (CO), and Ruth Larabee (NY). Each day was packed with meeting with sponsors, legislators, and other industry leaders. The following are recaps of each of those events

## USDA – Trade

By Ruth Larabee

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Michelle Moore was one of the professionals that our WIFE group met with at the United States Department

of Agriculture (USDA). She is with the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) in trade. Moore said she had been working on the commodity rice and would use that base for her comments. She stated that rural broadband digital access would help with precision agriculture, cost effective profitability and data. Continuing she added work with others who have custom services, nutritional balance for feed, nutrient management for soil, crop rotation, water, using less energy, fuel and stopping waste. In doing some research, I found Michelle Moore's name is among others under acknowledgment of an Electronic Outlook Report from the Economic Research Services. This article on Japan's rice sector is a project conducted by Hisao Fukuda in the Tokyo (FAS) office with John Dyck and Jim Stout of Economic Research Services (ERS). ERS is USDA's Research Service. Go to [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov) to find information on data products, publications multimedia, state fact sheets and much more.



WIFE members at the Ag Day Reception.

## USDA – Risk Management Agency

By Diane McDonald

The next speaker with the USDA was Heather Manzano, the Acting Administrator of the Risk Management Agency (RMA). She started out by giving us an overview of Crop Insurance and the RMA. She told us about the top 10 commodities nationwide by liability which are corn, soybeans, wheat, almonds, cotton, whole farm, rice, grapes, Pasture, and rangeland and forage. From 2001-2015 drought accounted for 45% of the indemnities.

In 2002 they insured 358 crops and types, and in 2015 the number had risen to 551 different types.

In 2016 there were about one million acres of organic crops that were insured. There are 24,650 certified operations in the US and 37,032 worldwide. 84.7 million was paid by federal crop insurance for losses due to natural disasters. They carry 852 million in organic liability. The top five organic crops that were insured in 2017 were corn, apples, wheat, soybeans, and tobacco.

They would like to see the crop insurance continue with no cuts to the program. They know how important it is to producers.

## Meetings with House/Senate Ag Committee

By Deb Dressler

House agriculture committee said they are on track for Farm Bill to be marked up and on the floor early in second quarter. Dairy is one of the biggest issues to be addressed in the new bill. Committee stated the Farm Bill will be similar to the past bill with a few changes in conservation. Federal Crop Insurance will remain as a safety net for producers.



Dinner with Jess and Lia from U.S. Cattlemen's.

Senate agriculture committee is working hard on Farm Bill. A lively discussion included crop insurance, dairy, conservation and transparency on labeling. WIFE members left with feeling Farm Bill is being worked on and will soon be passed. Remember to go

forth and tell your own story.

## National Ag Day

By Sarah Bledsoe

In the afternoon of March 20<sup>th</sup>, we were able to attend a seminar in honor of National Ag Day.

The seminar was kicked off by the Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue. He spoke on the Farm Bill and mentioned the language is set and it is just waiting to be "signed off." He said one of the priorities is to have disaster bills paid out in weeks and not months. He spoke on trade and mentioned that we produce more than we consume. This is a possible way to subsidize some of the trade deficit. He also spoke on infrastructure and the large need in rural areas. He would like to partner with governors and local leaders to help fill that need. He is also prioritizing rural broadband with "Connect America" to attract kids back to the farm and to help with telemedicine and e-commerce.

Next there was a panel discussion. It was moderated by Max Armstrong (a broadcaster for Farm Progress), and the panelists were Mark Ulness (winner this year's John Deere Outstanding Young Farmer and Wisconsin Dairy Farmer), Emily Buck, PH.D., (Associate Professor at The Ohio State University), Zippy Duvall (President of American Farm Bureau Federation), John Teeple (Director of Advanced Technology at John Deere), and Sarah Henderen (Nutrition & Quality Manager for Culver Franchising System, LLC).

Question 1: What is

sustainability?

Max: Being stewards of the land for your neighbors and your children.

Sarah: Educating consumers and working with farmers and ranchers. Quality product will cost more, so continue to try to mitigate costs and waste while also using new technology to reduce use of energy and water. Zippy: Technology has given more opportunity to preserve



Meeting with Krysta from Corteva.

the land. Sustainability is using the resources appropriately. GMOs have helped improve our conservation of natural resources. We need to learn to accept change and use technology to improve.

Emily: Keeping the farms around for children to take over.

Question 2: Does sustainability cost more upfront?

Emily: Sustainability has an upfront cost, but pays off in the long run.

Max: Sometimes, but there are things to mitigate those costs. For example, work with a nutritionist to make sure feed is most efficient.

Question 3: Is there ROI and profitability in sustainability?"

John: Yes, with the help of precision agriculture. How to

get the maximum impact with minimum resources.  
Zippy: Farmers need to invest time in telling their story of the actions they are taking.

Question 4: Is there a lack of trust in agriculture and science?  
Sarah: Yes. We need to do a better job explaining technology and it's benefits. Need to get ahead of the curve to educate before a negative picture is painted.



Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue.

Zippy: Yes, because of mislabeling. "Hormone-free" chicken, for example.  
Emily: In America, we are blessed to have choices of food, but it is our responsibility to explain to the consumer. They will make the smart choice if give the right information.

Question 5: How are we educating younger generations?  
Zippy: Farm Bureau helps with Ag in the Classroom. It puts teachers and students on farms.  
Sarah: Make rural America economically sustainable. Promote it as a good, science based career.  
John: John Deere promotes as

STEM to inner-city and rural kids.  
Max: School lunch program is the best way to reach out to kids. Then they will take the information they learn back to their parents.

Question 6: What are we doing to get profits back to producers?  
Sarah: We need to stop telling ranchers and farmers what to do. If there is value added to improving, farmers and rancher will do it.  
Zippy: Make regulations clear and minimized.  
John: Take pride in North American production.

What is most important about the sustainable message?  
John: Should be proud to be involved in the production of agriculture. We are doing a lot right.  
Max: Consumers have a fear of technology. Consumer is king, but they are not educated enough to know what they want. Misleading labeling feeds off consumer's emotions. Something needs to change to even the playing field.  
Sarah: We need to balance making consumers happy without speaking ill of the food. Farmers and ranchers are the most credible source.  
Zippy: Encourage companies that are honest and open. Our market is outside our country. Trade is important. Sustainability is about accepting change and technology.  
Emily: The trust needs to be placed back in farmers and rancher. Continue to fight the good fight and communicate it.



Listening to Michelle Moore at the USDA.

Click [here](#) for full video of the speakers. Click [here](#) for photos of the event.

### Ag & Food Policy Summit

By Sarah Bledsoe

On Wednesday, March 21st, we attended the 2018 Ag & Food Policy Summit hosted by Agri-Pulse. Agri-Pulse is a sponsor of WIFE, and they so generously gave us tickets at a very discounted rate. This event brings a high caliber of speakers and the ticket price reflects that. We would not be able to attend this event without their help, and we are very thankful for their support!

The day was packed full with industry leaders in all forms. If you would like more information, click [here](#) for photos and videos from the event.



Meeting with Crop Life Insurance

## Beef Report

By Elisabeth Erickson-Noe

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) seeks to fundamentally change the beef industry through the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB). WWF's website states that they are a founding member of the GRSB and are "actively involved in the newly established U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef . . . to develop key sustainability indicators and methods to verify sustainable beef." Their goal is to transform the beef supply chain by targeting the "companies [which] control twenty- five percent of all fifteen of the most significant commodities that threaten biodiversity." (Clay, 2010). The WWF claims beef and biofuels are two of these threatening commodities.

A 2012 WWF press release listed GRSB founders as "AllFlex, Cargill, Elanco, Grupo de Trabalho da Pecuaria Sustentavel (GTPS), JBS, McDonald's, Merck Animal Health, National Wildlife Federation, Rainforest Alliance, Roundtable for Sustainable Beef Australia, Solidaridad, The Nature

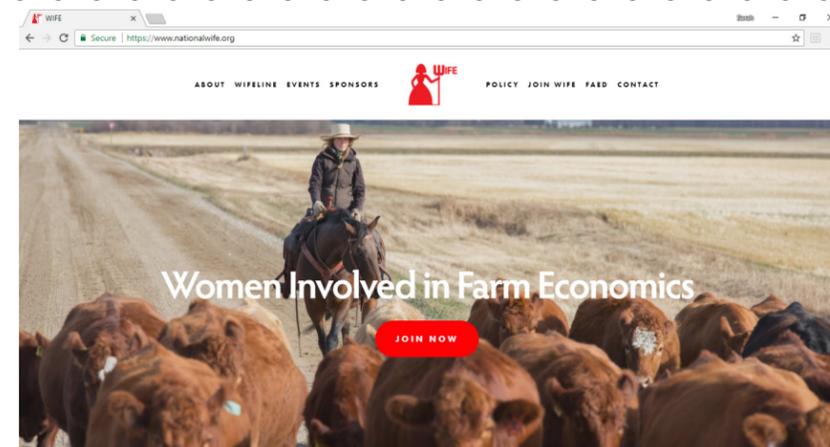
Conservancy, Walmart, and World Wildlife Fund." The 2014 UN's Climate Summit Agriculture Action One-Year Report recognized McDonald's commitment to "holistically transform the entire beef value chain".

In a 2011 BEEF Issues Quarterly interview, WWF Senior V.P. of Markets, Jason Clay stated: "We've come to a time where a farmer or rancher can't simply . . . point to their own performance and show how good they are . . ." Clay classified "top" producers as those belonging to beef organizations. "NGOs and producers working together can figure out how to move the top . . . [while] government's role is probably to move the bottom . . . that's where regulation has to come in." Clay continued, "Many people have a vested interest in beef, whether they're the customers of particular companies, whether they're civil society more broadly, whether it's researchers, government officials, NGOs . . . But this transition . . . won't just be shaped by ranchers. In fact the question that I would

say is before us all, is will it even be mostly shaped by ranchers?" At TED Global 2010, Clay addressed whether producers should have to provide proof of sustainable production in order to



sell beef to suppliers and whether sustainability is a pre-competitive issue. Declaring that, "If sustainability is a pre-competitive issue, then we need collusion to address it." (Clay, 2010, 8:30). Collusion? Webster's Dictionary provides one definition for collusion: a "secret agreement or cooperation especially for an illegal or deceitful purpose." In Brazil, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is also working towards



### WIFE'S NEW WEBSITE!

Check out the new website designed by WIFE Media Coordinator, Sarah Bledsoe.

[www.nationalwife.org](http://www.nationalwife.org)

If you have any questions or feedback, please email Sarah at [sarahbledsoe@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbledsoe@gmail.com).

## Edits to 2018 Directory

Please change the following emails in your 2018 Directory & Policy Booklet:

Sarah Bledsoe – sarahlbledsoe@gmail.com

Ruth Larabee – grlarabee@gmail.com

Korry Lewis – korry.lewis@gmail.com

### Beef Report Continued

transformation. “A victory here could ignite global change in beef production.” TNC’s plan involves using their “expertise in satellite imagery mapping systems to help the government monitor land use and Forest Code compliance . . .



. [and] working with Wal-Mart in Brazil to buy meat from Marfrig, who only buys from deforestation-free ranches.” (TNC, n.d.).

The real threat to sustainability for American ranchers is excessive government regulation under the Endangered Species Act and the Environmental Protection Agency. Equally threatening are the estate tax, rising land values, urban encroachment, manipulation of the live cattle market, and lack of protection and labeling for USA-raised beef. Meanwhile, government funded NGOs

operate freely, largely without accountability, with agendas aimed directly at dismantling the free enterprise of the American beef industry.

The problem with the sustainability agenda, is the lengthy track record of failed environmental predictions. “Sound” science predicted an ice age, global starvation, mass extinction, acid rain and Earth’s inability to support 7 billion people. Oil, nickel and copper were to be depleted by the year 2000. Yet recent fracking has made it possible to access new oil reserves in shale formations. The only consistency in their science, is the apocalyptic view that Earth is doomed at the hands of man and they alone know how to save it. Groups like the WWF ignore trends in climate, populations, and agriculture production that don’t fit their agenda. They further ignore ever-advancing human innovation and ingenuity, which has elevated agriculture production to unprecedented levels.

The GRSB and national roundtables were not created due to consumer demand, but rather by the WWF and their

partners. Clay laid out the plan at TED Global 2010, identifying the target companies, WalMart, McDonalds, JBS, Cargil, and others, then helped found the GRSB and national roundtables. His complete presentation can be found on [here](#). The beef industry should not sit at any table with environmentalists who use greenwashing and collusion to get what they want. It is more pressing than ever to become educated about the agenda of these “stakeholders” and to speak up as producers to policymakers and industry leaders about the collusion taking place in our industry.



## Transportation Report

By Korry Lewis

Rigid enforcement of the electronic logging device (ELD) mandate by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) began on Easter Day, April 1, 2018, requiring most semi-trucks to have a compliant ELD in the cab to track the drivers’ hours of service. The ELD rule applies to most “motor carriers” and drivers currently required to maintain records of duty status (RODS) pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 395.8(a). Limited exceptions are provided in the ELD rule for short-hauls, drivers using paper logs for not more than eight days out of every 30-day period, and drivers operating vehicles with an engine model year older than 2000, among a few others. Drivers covered by the rule will be fined and placed out-of-service if they do not have a legal and functional ELD in their cab.

The Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc. (OOIDA) has requested FMCSA to issue a five-year exemption for small trucking businesses with clean safety records. According to the Federal Register Notice, “OOIDA believes that the exemption would not have any adverse impacts

on operational safety as motor carriers and drivers would remain subject to the hours-of-service (HOS) regulations as well as the requirements to maintain paper RODS.” FMCSA accepted comments through February 1st, but has not yet issued a verdict OOIDA’s exemption request. OOIDA also fought the mandate in court, but the U.S. Supreme Court denied to hear the appeal, leaving in place a lower court decision upholding the mandate.

A temporary exemption for livestock haulers is effective through the end of September, but the exemption for other “agriculture-related transportation” will end June 18th, unless FMCSA issues further waivers. Tucked into the omnibus funding measure, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 23rd, is a provision declaring that “the use of electronic logging devices by operators of commercial motor vehicles . . . transporting livestock” will not be required



during federal fiscal year 2018, ending on September 30th. This stretches the 90-day waiver that was issued by FMCSA earlier in March. In addition,

according to FMCSA’s website, drivers “who transport agricultural commodities within a 150-air mile radius of the farm or ranch” are also exempted from the HOS regulations.

While the \$1.3 trillion omnibus



funding bill did not include other riders pushed by trucking interests, it did provide more than \$21 billion for infrastructure projects across the country. The bill provides an increase of \$10.6 billion above fiscal year 2017 towards aging infrastructure. It set the funding for FMCSA at \$845 million, which is \$201 million over the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. According to the House Appropriations Committee, the bill also funds the TIGER (National Infrastructure Investments) “multimodal” program at \$1.5 billion, a \$1 billion increase over the 2017 level. This program will fund states’ and local communities’ most critical transportation projects, and language is included in the bill to ensure that at least thirty percent (30%) of these funds go to rural communities.

# Homeland Security Report

By Marlene Kouba

A wall along the southern border wouldn't stop the new way drug cartels in Guatemala are getting their drugs into this nation. They have been adding heroin to flour and ingredients in cookies, soups, snacks and even into lollipops. They send through regular travel channels we already have with pickups on this side of the border. They are using factory-style packages that escape the oversight of UPS, USPS, FedEx, airlines and Amtrak to get to their customers. Money is being sent back to that country.

Chain migration is "a potentially never ending chain, all possible from just one amnesty for one person." Chain migration adds nearly 250,000 migrants to the U.S. population every year or 14 million since 2006. One immigrant, plus spouse and children, then add siblings of each generation and the number multiplies pretty fast. A hundred years ago, only those who could afford passage to America came here and they left all other family members behind. Today they want all of their relatives to be with

them. Where is the end?

About one in every 14 babies born in the U.S. is an anchor baby born to illegals and they get automatic citizenship.

Family units are coming across the border and getting bus rides at taxpayer expense to their destination of choice across the nation. These illegal crossers are given a notice to show up at an immigration court hearing but most are no-shows. Most of the families are coming from Guatemala and other parts of Central America. But disturbing numbers from India and Pakistan are also arriving at the border seeking asylum. Hundreds of Pakistanis, Indians and Brazilians are heading for California.

Governor Jerry Brown declared California as a sanctuary state on January 1, 2018. Illegals can get health care, driver's license and more benefits while American citizens pay for them. Sanctuary cities invite criminals where they are sure of not getting caught or deported.

Chicago is issuing Key Cards to welcome all who come to the city. They can be used to drive a car or get a job—even illegals can get them. Now it is presumed they can be used to vote in city elections.

Between processing years 2011 and 2016, the IRS placed an employment identity theft marker on 1,346,485 taxpayer accounts found on electronically filed tax returns in which the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number on the return does not match the Social Security Number on the Form W-2. However they have no resources to do anything about it. Those illegal numbers are stealing tax refunds, get welfare programs, a driver's licenses and much more.

Some states have reported spending as much as \$6.1 billion a year on education, law enforcement, health care and other benefits to provide services to illegal immigrants and their children. There are about 1.5 million school-aged illegals in the nation. Illegal immigration is costing taxpayers about \$110 billion a year in additional federal, state and local taxes. Uncompensated care for illegals is costing hospitals more than \$8.5 billion per year. About 3.5 million illegals are getting Medicaid insurance.

Texas is now enforcing laws against sanctuary cities. A recent report lists the 245,000 criminal aliens in local Texas jails since 2011. Those criminal aliens, 66



WIFE 2018 National Convention

*Save the Date*

**November 15 - 17, 2018**

Location and more information to come!



Photo taken by Chris Anken. A little reminder that spring weather is just around the corner!

## Homeland Security Report Continued

percent of whom were in the country illegally, were charged with more than 650,000 criminal offenses--600 murders, 30,000 assaults, 3,300 sexual assaults, 9,000 burglaries, 20,000 thefts, 38,000 drug crimes and 274 kidnappings. The Texas statute imposes a civil penalty on sanctuary cities of up to \$25,500 for each day they intentionally violate the law. Border patrols are now stopping people at bus stops and on personal property as the law only says you can't question them at border stops.

St. Cloud Hospital in Minnesota lists Mohamed as the third most popular name for boys. Just since 2002, the U.S. State Department, in cooperation with the United Nations, has placed more than 54,000 Somali refugees into Minnesota cities and towns. Refugees qualify for full U.S. citizenship within five years of their arrival on U.S. soil. About 12 to 14 percent of St. Cloud's total population of 67,000 is Somali. In 2010 the hospital's translation costs were about \$400,000, but by 2017 those costs soared to \$1.7 million. The

city started getting large numbers of refugees in 2008, and 10 years later the city has been completely transformed. The U.S. government has been resettling East African refugees into Minnesota since the late 1980s. It is estimated that up to 80,000 Somalis live in Minnesota.

College campuses have been forced to make new cuts due to a loss of international students. Schools in the Midwest have been particularly hard hit as they relied heavily on tuition from foreign students, who generally pay more than in-state students. The foreign student enrollment, which now tops 1 million at United States colleges and educational training programs, supplies \$39 billion in revenue. International enrollment began to flatten in 2016, partly because of changing conditions abroad and the increasing lure of schools in Canada, Australia and other English-speaking countries. Nationwide, the number of new foreign students declined an average

of 7 percent in 500 colleges this past fall. Schools are eliminating Italian, Russian, Japanese, and swimming teams, plus full-time French horn and tuba professors.

Since 2014, at least 17 states have considered some form of voter ID to help prevent fraud in elections. I personally saw it in 1990 when Native Americans traveled from precinct to precinct on a reservation to vote. In 2011 they swayed the senate vote from a Republican to lead by 3000 in the morning of election but lost by 3000 on the next day—with some areas voting at near 100%. Some people claim they can't afford it but an ID is needed to shop in many stores (even Walmart), fly in a plane and get into some buildings.



# Sugar Report

By Klodette Stroh

Greetings from Wyoming: I wish all of our farmers a blessed and profitable crop year. March 20th of 2018 our nation will be celebrating Agriculture. This is the 45th anniversary of National Ag Day. American farmers have been praised for over 40 years. Agriculture has played and important role in American life, feeding and give security to our country. That's certainly an achievement worth celebrating!

American consumer should know that food and fiber doesn't just arrive at the grocery or clothing store or magically appear on our dinner table or in our closet. There's an entire industry dedicated to providing safe food and fiber for consumption. We rely on agriculture for the very necessities of life. From beef and pork to cotton and corn, our farmers are working harder than ever to meet the needs of Americans and others around the world.

It is very important to remember that American agriculture is not just doing a good job they have proven their efficiency with their dedication to grow the safe food for consumption.

Each American farmer feeds about 144 people. Agriculture is America's #1 export. New technology means farmers are more environmentally friendly than ever before. American law makers need to support our agriculture industry.

Please bear in mind farming is a business like all the other businesses. Cost of production has

to be covered by the price of the commodity in order to keep on farming. It is hard for any business to operate in red. Low commodity prices drives American farmers out of production into bankruptcy. United States farmers are the hand that feeds us and most of the world. According to the USDA's report by 2025 world's population will reach 8 billion. Good thing U.S. farmers continue to increase their efficiency. Agriculture is America's number one export and generates 20% of the U.S. gross domestic product.

2018 is a big year because the new Farm Bill will be introduced by the House agriculture committee in the first quarter of this year. Many organization including sugar farmers who heard President Donald Trump speak at the Farm Bureau convention were very impressed.

There was over five thousand cheering for President Trump when he said: "Our farmers deserve a government that serves their interest and empowers them to do the hard work that they love to do so much". He promised we will have a strong farm safety net that will help growers deal with falling commodity prices, weather disasters, and other challenges outside their control.

He said "I'm looking forward to working with Congress to pass the Farm Bill on time so that it delivers for all of you," "We are working hard on the Farm Bill, and I think it's going to go well."



More than 24 million workers including farmers, shipping, marketers, grocers, truck drivers, inspectors, and others who annually contribute more than \$1.3 trillion to our gross domestic product. Farmers and their crops insure America's freedom. Please help us celebrate agriculture day on March 21,2018 to support Americas Farmers.

Our history reveals the farm family was the basic unit shaping life in America. Alfalfa hay, barley, corn, cotton, cattle, dry beans, milk, rice, oats, sugar beet, sugar cane, soybeans and wheat and livestock are the body of America's agriculture. Some of our lawmakers have been trying to dismember this productive body, which I consider it to be the backbone of my beloved country. American agriculture is our nation's most vital renewable industry.

As we celebrating the agriculture day in our nation this year please let our lawmakers know dismembering a fruitful and dynamic working machine, as America's agriculture will not result in prosperity of this nation's economy.

# Energy Report

By Belinda Pierce Groner

When individuals or companies lease Federal lands, they competitively bid and pay an initial bonus and annual rent for the right to explore and develop energy and mineral resources on the leased lands. If they find, extract, and sell minerals, the Federal government is entitled to a certain percentage of—or royalty on—the production. In many cases, States and, sometimes, local governments receive a direct share of these revenues. My facts were in the Government of Accountability Office GAO reports and the Office of Natural Resource Revenue (ONRR).

In 1982, the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (FOGRMA) created a comprehensive, consolidated system for the collection, accounting, and disbursement of these revenues. From 1982 through FY 2013, Interior has provided \$257.0 billion to Federal, State, and American Indian recipients through this program. Approximately 61 percent of all annual collections have gone to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury, 22 percent to special purpose funds, 14 percent to States, and 3 percent to the American Indian community.

In fiscal year 2013, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) disbursed over \$14.0 billion to the U.S. Treasury, various State and American Indian accounts, and special use accounts, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Special purpose funds, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the National Historic Preservation Fund, and the

Reclamation Fund, have received \$56.5 billion in ONRR collected mineral revenues since 1982.

## Revenue Distribution

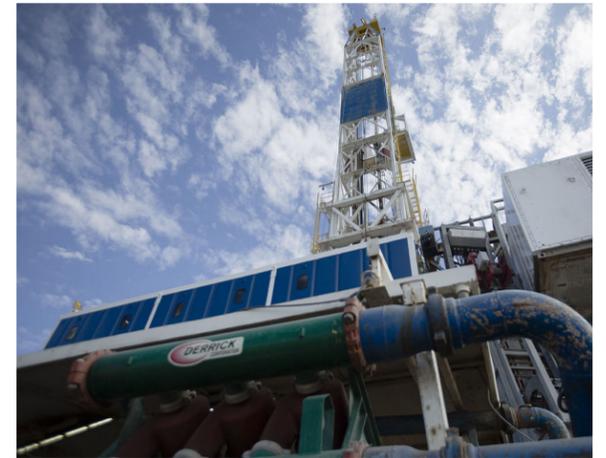
The distribution of revenue is governed by statute and varies by land type, as follows: Onshore mineral leasing receipts from public domain lands leased under Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) authority disburse at a rate of 49 percent to the States, 40 percent to the Reclamation Fund for western water projects, and 11 percent to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury. Alaska receives 88.2 percent of mineral leasing receipts for Mineral Leasing Act lands.

The collections from State Select Lands disburse at a rate of 90 percent to the States and 10 percent to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury. Alaska receives 100 percent of mineral leasing receipts from State Select Lands.

The collections from geothermal production disburse at a rate of 50 percent to the States, 25 percent to the county, and 25 percent to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury.

Collections from the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska disburse at a rate of 50 percent to Alaska and 50 percent to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury.

The Energy Policy Act of 1992, P.L. 102-486, requires the Secretary of the Interior to disburse monthly to States all mineral leasing payments



authorized by Section 6 of the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands.

Therefore, the Department distributes:

Collections from lands acquired for flood control, navigation, and allied purposes, transferring 25 percent of the total to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury and 75 percent to the States.

Collections from National Forest Lands, transferring 75 percent to the Forest Service and 25 percent to the States.

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) receipts, including rents, bonuses, and royalties, are the main funding source for the mandated \$900 million required to be deposited annually in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). OCS receipts also provide \$150 million in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund. Of the remaining OCS receipts, the majority are deposited into the general fund of the U.S. Treasury.

**Energy Report Continued**

The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA, P.L. 109-432) opened additional areas in the Gulf of Mexico for offshore oil and gas leasing. The Act if 50 percent of revenues from these open areas (termed “qualified OCS revenues”) disburse to four Gulf of Mexico oil and gas producing States (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas) and their Coastal Political Subdivisions (CPSs) and to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, with specific provisions for allocation during fiscal years 2007–2016. Beginning in 2017, the Act would allocate additional revenue to these States, their CSPs, and the LWCF from any new leases signed after enactment in the current program areas of the Gulf. The revenue would be shared in the same percentages (37.5 percent to Gulf States and their CPSs and 12.5 percent to LWCF) in the newly opened areas, and payments are similarly made in the year following the revenue collection.

However, this additional revenue sharing is subject to a cap of \$500 million per year (through 2055); revenues more than this cap would continue to go to the U.S. Treasury. The National Park Service (NPS) currently administers GOMESA funds allocated to LWCF State grants.

Under Section 8(g) of the OCS Lands Act, payments are also made to coastal States for an area known as the 8(g) zones, which is the area approximately three miles seaward from the State/Federal boundary. States receive 27 percent of OCS collections within the 8(g) zones.

It is important to research what is

happening with the Federal Lands and minerals owned by the United States.

In 2016, the Federal Lands owned by the United States produced the following:

- 157 Million Barrels of Oil
- 314 Trillion cubic feet of gas
- 295 Million tons of coal

These assets generated \$2.5 Billion dollars in Revenue in 2016 with the majority coming from oil and gas production.

Six Western states produced 90% of the federal oil, gas, and coal production. Various percentages of income were generated as

	<b>Oil &amp; Gas %</b>	<b>Coal Surface %</b>	<b>Coal Underground</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	20	12.5	8
<b>Montana</b>	16.67	12.5	10
<b>New Mexico</b>	12.5 to 20	12.5	8
<b>North Dakota</b>	19.67	Varies	Varies
<b>Utah</b>	12.5 to 16.67	8	8
<b>Wyoming</b>	12.5 to 16.67	12.5	8

indicated in the chart below: The individual states do not participate in lease negotiations regarding the federal lease contracts but do receive 49% of the Revenue generated from their state from the Federal Total. In a recent GAO report, they indicated the following:

“As of January 2017, BLM regulations permit royalty rates of not less than 12.5 percent for competitive leases, giving BLM the flexibility to issue a rate over 12.5 percent. All noncompetitive leases have a fixed rate of 12.5 percent. In March 2017, officials told us that BLM had not yet used this flexibility

and that all leases issued since the regulations have been at 12.5 percent.”

It would seem the states should be involved with the contracts agreed to by the Federal Government as well as the rates negotiated since the mineral production is being obtained from the properties within their state.

**Revenue Increase Study by GAO**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is a legislative branch government agency that provides auditing, evaluation, and investigative services for the United States Congress. It is the supreme

audit institution of the federal government of the United States.

The oil and gas studies that GAO reviewed estimated that raising the federal royalty rate could increase net federal revenue between \$5 million and \$38 million per year. One of the studies stated that net federal revenue would increase under three scenarios that modeled raising the royalty rate from the current 12.5 percent to 16.67 percent, 18.75 percent, or 22.5 percent, while the other study noted that the effect on federal revenue would initially be small but would increase over time. Both coal studies suggested that a

**Energy Report Continued**

higher royalty rate could lead to an increase in federal revenues. One of the studies suggested that raising the royalty rate to 17 percent or 29 percent might increase federal revenue by up to \$365 million per year after 2025.

The other study suggested that increasing the effective rate could bring in an additional \$141 million per year in royalty revenue. Stakeholders GAO interviewed cited other factors that could influence the extent to which raising federal royalty rates could increase revenues—in particular, how bonus bids, another revenue source, could be affected. Some of the stakeholders stated that companies would be more likely to offer lower bids to obtain a lease for the rights to extract resources if they had to pay higher royalties.

As an individual landowner who owns minerals, it is important to understand how the mineral leasing and bonus payments are done in your state. Due to the distribution of federal minerals, the state has a definite financial advantage to approve Federal Leasing permits over individual landowner.



**Rural Life Report**

By Sarah Bledsoe

It’s no secret that rural America looks a lot different than it did 50 years ago. Store fronts sit vacant, schools are forced to combine because of lack of students... But just how dire is this decline and what should be done about it?



According to a recent USDA study published in November, 2017, rural America has lost population overall for the first time in the nation’s history. And while the hope for rural America decreases, the gap between producers and consumers continues to rise. Consumers are now three or four generations removed from the family farm and are losing all concept that their food doesn’t come from a grocery store. What is even more alarming is that the future of the producer lies in these “clueless” consumers’ hands. With 81% of people live in urban areas and only 19% live in rural areas, they are the ones who hold the weight at the polls to influence policy that can make or break our way of life.

But how do you make people care about something that seems so distant from affecting their way of life? One would hope that telling sob stories of fourth generation farms and ranches being lost to larger operations or housing developments would do the trick, but the reality is that’s just not enough to tug at their heartstrings. Their perspective of the world and daily struggles are so distant from those of the rural population, how can they be expected to care about our challenges?

This means that we as fighters for the independent agriculture way of life need to advocate like never before. We need to quit telling sob stories and start telling how the world would be worse off without our operations. Increased food costs. National security risks. These are the stories we should be telling. These are the ways to get consumers to understand that those who live on a farm or ranch aren’t the only ones involved in agriculture. Every single person who eats is involved in agriculture.

I will leave you with this inspiring quote from Thomas Jefferson:

“Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country, and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bonds... I consider the class of artificers as the panders of vice, and the instruments by which the liberties of a country are overturned... I think our governments will remain virtuous for many centuries; as long as they are chiefly agricultural.”

# Trade Report

By Ruth Laribee

Why was the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) created?

Article 102 of the agreement details the objective of NAFTA. Among its main objective is the liberalization of trade between Mexico, Canada and the United States to stimulate economic growth and give the NAFTA countries equal access to each other's markets.

The implementation of NAFTA immediately eliminated tariffs for more than one half of Mexico's exports to the United States and more than one third of U.S. exports to Mexico.

This administration is standing firm for re-negotiations to help favor United States interests.

The sixth round of the seven rounds planned for North American Free Trade (NAFTA) talks with the United States, Canada, and Mexico were held in Montreal for several days ending on the twenty ninth of January. Discussions were long and even though the three countries had their own agenda for the trade agreement its reported each one was hopeful for a good outcome and that NAFTA makes it through 2018. Foreign Minister, Chrystia Freeland stated she believes the three countries can come out with a win-win and the Secretary

of Economy of Mexico, Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal predicts they will come to an agreement concerning digital commerce. One of the hottest topic has been the auto industry with General Motors and Ford having plants in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. A United States proposal is demanding to have a higher percentage of auto parts for duty free rules and the rules of origin for parts. Canada wants to drop tobacco from the agreement and is looking for a higher standard of living for Mexican workers. Mexico is seeking progress on sanitary and phytosanitary sectors and telecommunications. Other discussions will include tougher labor standards, the environment, government procurement, agriculture, state owned enterprises, energy, the sunset clause, and digital trade. Talks are still ongoing but it doesn't look like at this time any of the negotiators are changing their stands.

Revamping trade agreements with China will not be an easy task. Besides all the regular items and products, we import from China, the raw material sent by our United States manufacturing to China for lower cost assembly of goods are sent back to the U.S. and they are considered imports. China has advertised to all that will listen that they are going to "dominate" intellectual property and technology to bring their country to a prosperous level. How they plan to do it is through their



industrial policies several which are absolutely terrible to worldwide free market trading. Since China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 it has grown in a stronger economy from one trillion dollars to eight trillion dollars. The United States gained a huge trade deficit and a sluggish economy. It has been reported that United States Trade Representative, Robert Lighthizer has asked for assistance from other government agencies on a list of approximately 1300 diverse products from China for "final approval". At that time a notice and comment period would be called for before being placed in effect. On Lighthizer's schedule, to pursue a World Trade Organization (WTO) case to discern China's discretionary licensing practices. U.S. Treasurer Secretary Steven Mnuchin has been directed to put together a feasible executive action directed at curtailing investments by Chinese enterprises in the U.S. thereby reining in Beijing's ability to obtain U.S. technologies that could possible give China a military edge.

Beijing's embassy in Washington said in a statement, "if a trade war were initiated by the United States, China would fight to the end to defend its own legitimate interests with all necessary measures".



# Second Annual National WIFE Pink Pumpkin Community Awareness Project is Ready to Begin

By Kerry Froese

Spring is here and planting season is just around the corner. For the second year, National WIFE is doing a pink pumpkin project to increase breast cancer awareness in our rural communities. Last year several National WIFE members across the country participated and we are hoping to have another successful year.

Interested in participating? Here's how it works: Members grow the pink pumpkins and then deliver the pink pumpkins this fall to family, friends, neighbors



Adrienne Froese proudly showing off her pink pumpkins!

and community members that have been affected by breast cancer to let them know that we support them. The recipients place the pink pumpkins on their porch or in their house to bring awareness to breast cancer and honor their

fight. If you have extra pumpkins remaining, you can sell them for a suggested price of \$5.00. Of the proceeds you receive, \$.50 will be



donated to the Pink Pumpkin Patch Foundation and the remaining money will be given to National WIFE. If you want to participate, please contact Kerry Froese at (719) 469-7749. The pink pumpkin seeds will be mailed to you at no cost. If you are not a gardener but your neighbor is, ask them if they would be willing to grow a few pumpkins for you. This is a project that truly brings a community together. Last year several recipients shed tears as they received their pink pumpkins. We have several WIFE members that have won the battle against breast cancer and several more that are currently fighting as well as those that have lost the battle. It is an honor to bless them with a pink pumpkin to show them they have strong support.

National WIFE Members work hard to keep rural communities strong and this project is a fun, yet meaningful way to bring neighbors together.

# Dairy Report

By Chris Anken

"Milk prices paid to dairy farmers for 2018 is deplorable!" says Arden Tewksbury Dairy Farmer in northeast Pennsylvania.

Farmers are getting letters and information on stress management. Yet the price to the dairy farmer keeps dropping down to historic low prices and yet they pay current day expenses (taxes, fuel, energy, etc.).

American Dairy Farmers are in Crisis. Across our country dairy

farmers are struggling with the costs of doing business and the declining prices of milk. Dairy farmers are facing challenges as milk prices plummet to historic low prices and their overhead costs continue to climb. Many are getting paid what they got paid 40 years ago and they are paying 2018 expenses. The vicious thread mill forces the farmer to make more milk, because of the loss in

income, farmers are forced to make more to try to keep up with their loss in income causing an added surplus and further declines the milk price even more to the farmer.



### Dairy Report Continued

Dairy Farmers are less than 1% of the nation's population, yet 100% of citizens eat and a large majority eat dairy in some capacity. As a consumer I want to know where my food comes from dairy, beef, or pork, etc.

According to a USDA report the number of family dairy farms decreased from 648,000 in 1970 to 46,005 in 2012.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that, between 2013 and 2016, net farm income fell by half, the largest three-year drop since the Great Depression. Some forty-two thousand farms folded during the downturn, and small and medium-sized operations, proved particularly vulnerable. Now, with commodity prices still low and farm debt predicted to reach record highs, the nonprofit organization Farm Aid has warned that, if the market doesn't recover soon, the country could see its highest rate of farm closures since the nineteen-eighties.

With the recent opening of a fluid milk processing plant in Indiana about 140 small family dairy farms got their pink slip from (a processor who buys direct) because they are not big enough. Apparently the Business only wants farms that can daily fill a tanker truck, which only large dairy farms can do, not small or medium dairy farms.

For a farmer that loses his milk market it is hard to find another these days. If you should lose your market it is extremely hard to find another one because of the milk surplus.

Dairy farmers must have a new

pricing formula that allows dairy farmers to cover their costs. For conventional milk place a floor price under all milk used to manufacture dairy products.

Call a National Milk Hearing and give the dairy farmers a chance to testify for a new federal milk pricing formula that will include farmers' cost of production like all businesses are permitted to do in pricing their product and services.

In the 2014 Farm Bill created a huge shortfall for dairy farmers struggling to pay their bills. Federal Milk Marketing Orders Formula allow a "make allowance"(nearly \$2 per cwt.) to be credited to milk handlers when they convert milk into dairy products. What happened to the cost of production formula for dairy farmers? The dairy farmer got the short end of the stick. The "make allowance" needs to be eliminated immediately, to stop the shortfall to the dairy farmer.

Advertising and promoting milk; the present school lunch program is ruining future milk drinkers by not having good tasting whole milk that is the best choice for students' health. We need to correct the inequities in the school lunch program and allow whole milk, both white and flavored, to be offered to the students.

Industry must give credence to a reasonable milk supply management program that is fair to everyone, in the event that there is any overproduction of milk.

As Dairy farmers struggle with low milk prices; some areas of

the United States Milk quotas are being implemented to reduce the volume of milk due to limited plant processing capacity, lack of local milk markets, and/or shipping of milk to distant markets with large discounted milk prices. Some milk is being dumped to avoid financial losses in some areas. Canadian Farmers like their quotas in their Country.

Survival of American Agriculture of U.S. Family Farmers is at an urgency. America has the best agricultural products in the world, but if we lose our family farmers/ranchers where would the product come from? It is our National Security to keep our food supply secure and safe, our population depends on our farmers.

Who is losing as our Family Farmers go out of business; we are losing processors, laborers, jobs, and tax base. We are losing the fabric that is the backbone of our communities across this Great Country when a farmer goes out of business.

We need policies that keep farmers on the land. Everyone who depends on agriculture needs a voice at the table. We these need discussion to include farmers, politicians, processors and consumers.

As WIFE we must stress that



### Dairy Report Continued

American Family Farmers need to have a level playing field to feed America and the world, but it has to be fair. And the Small and Medium and Large American Family Farms needs to survive turbulent times of supply and demand in America and meet the world market in the future in a fair playing field in the global market. American Family Farms has some of the best dairy products in the World. We need A label for the dairy products (American Dairy Products) that comes from our America Dairy Farmers. And (NO) Mixing of foreign products produced in other countries being intermingled in American Products. (100%

American Family Farmers Dairy Products.)

For American Beef we need a label Grown, Made, and Produced by American Family Farmers. And Beef, yes US Dairy Farmers pay for the Beef Check Off too. If you have not read Nina Teicholz, Book "THE BIG FAT SURPRISE Why Butter, Meat & Cheese Belong in a Healthy Diet". You need to read her book and look at the research and nutritional science that is needed for our children and adults in our society. With eight years of evidence why this striking study will make you eat butter, meat, and cheese again. So Eat Butter, Drink whole milk, and feed it to your

whole family. Even stock up on creamy cheeses, and sausage, and yes bacon too.

Well spring is finally here, and our Country is blessed to have hard-working, knowledgeable, passionate bunch of farmers to keep our Nation's Food Supply safe and secure; and we need to keep our American farmers on the land.

An make an American Dairy Farmer happy when you choose a glass of milk.

God Bless the American Dairy Farmer and his or her family.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Next WIFE Board Meeting is  
June 11th, 8:00 PM CST.**

All members are encouraged to participate. Toll-free conference call-in number is **(800) 309-2350**. Conference ID is **4736784#**. Please join us!

WIFE Nominating Committee needs to have slate of officers report prepared and ready to present to the Board of Director's on June 11th during the conference call.

Any proposed change to the National WIFE Bylaws and/or National WIFE Procedure Manual needs to be submitted to Lisa Goodheart, National WIFE Bylaw/Procedure Manual Chair, 25 days prior to the June 11th conference call (Reference Article XIX Section 2 of Bylaws). **The due date for proposed changes is Thursday, May 17, 2018.** Submit proposed amendments by mail or e-mail to:

Lisa Goodheart, 230 Highway 128, Glen Elder, KS 67446

E-mail address: soxer@nckcn.com, Phone # (785) 545-3590



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## 2018 WIFE Leadership

### National Officers

President, Diane McDonald  
Vice President, Jennifer Jones  
Recording Secretary, Pam Potthoff  
Treasurer, Jenifer Felzien  
Area I Director, Debra Dressler  
Area II Director, Donna Bolz  
Past President, Kerry Froese

### Commodity/Topic Chairman

All Grains, Phyllis Hoskin  
Beef, Elisabeth Erickson-Noe  
Dairy, Chris Anken  
Energy, Belinda Pierce Groner  
Natural Resources, Jillane Hixson  
Rural Life, Sarah Bledsoe  
Sugar, Klodette Stroh  
Trade, Ruth Larabee  
Specialty Crops, Mary Ann Unruh  
Homeland Security, Marlene Kouba  
Transportation, Korry Lewis