



line

Volume 49

April 2020

No. 1

Table of Contents

Letter from the President..... 1

Specialty Crops Report.....2

Sugar Report.....3

Homeland Security Report.....4

WIFeline Facebook Group.....4

Beef Report.....5

Trade Report.....6

Energy Report.....7

Dairy Report.....8

2019 WIFE Leadership.....9

.....

For any comments on the WIFeline, contact Sarah Bledsoe at sarahbledsoe@gmail.com, 719.648.7295.



Letter from the President

Hello and here is wishing you and your family, as well as our great nation, health and peace in this great peril that not only are we facing as individuals but as a community of farmers and rancher.

Many of you know me, but for those that do not I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. My name is Jennifer Jones from southwest Nebraska. I will be filling the office of President for this organization. Like many of you, I have been involved with my first love of ranching and caring for livestock for the better part of my life. As a single mom I raised three beautiful children whom all helped me during this time on my parents' ranch. As most of you ladies know, life has a way of throwing us curveballs. After nineteen years on my parents' ranch, I have made a major life change and am now working in town. My fiancé, Johnny, built a cabin on our small acreage and we are looking into

some specialty markets.

Life is ever changing, even more these days. I hope that I can bring my knowledge and life experiences to our discussions. Please know that as women of WIFE, we are all facing an uncertainty these days. I hope that you realize that you are not alone. Many of you are facing the same struggles and decisions. Reach out to the national and state leaders in any way. To make this easier, a new Facebook group called WIFeline has been created. I ask that you all may join. I would like each of you to share questions and concerns. This is a place to find support with women who are facing the same challenges.

Feel free to contact me via email Bmomfor3@hotmail.com or text (308) 350-1202.

Jennifer Jones
Jennifer Jones,
WIFE National President

Specialty Crops

By Mary Ann Unruh

Sunflower was a common crop among American Indian tribes throughout North America as early as 3000 BC in Arizona and New Mexico. They used it for food, snacks, dye, medicine, building, and ceremonies.

Spanish explorers took some home around 1500. By 1716, an English patent was granted for squeezing oil from sunflower seed. By 1830, the manufacture of sunflower oil was done on a commercial scale. By the early 19th century, Russian farmers were growing over two million acres. By the late 19th century, seed found its way into the U.S. through Mennonite (Russian immigrants) gardens. Canada started the first official sunflower breeding program in 1930. By 1946, Canadians built a small crushing plant. The first commercial use of the crop was for poultry feed. In 1926, Missouri began processing the seed into oil. Acreage spread into Minnesota and North Dakota.

Sunflower was hybridized in the middle seventies providing additional yield and oil as well as disease resistance. U.S. acreage escalated in the late 70's to over 5 million because of strong European demand for sunflower oil. Western Europe continues to be a large consumer of sunflower oil today.

The largest traditional producer is Russia but Argentina, European Union, China, India, Turkey and South Africa are all significant producers of sunflower. The Dakotas, Minnesota, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Texas and California lead the nation for plantings. North Dakota is second in the nation and raises about 37 percent of all oil sunflowers in the nation. The value of all U.S. sunflowers in 2018 was \$361,906,000.

Kansas is called the Sunflower State but their wild plants are so common, they are actually a serious weed problem. The cultivated sunflower has only one flower or head. But the wild cousins found growing in ditches and other areas throughout much of North America have multiple flowers and heads.

Sunflower is not a genetically modified plant (non-GMO). Without Europe and the U.S. there is not enough market size for the private sector to make the necessary investment in sunflower GMO.



There are two types of sunflower. The oilseed is a small black seed very high in oil content and is processed into oil and meal. It is also used for bird feed. The other is confectionery which is a larger black and white striped seed used in food products from snacks to bread.

When the plant is in the bud stage, the head tends to track the movement of the sun across the horizon. Once the flower opens into its yellow petals, it faces east. No one knows why.

A sunflower kernel is inside the hull. When you buy sunflower kernels, the hull is removed. When you buy sunflower seeds, the seed is still in the shell. It is normally roasted and seasoned. Hulls and sunflower meal are used for livestock feed. An ounce of raw sunflower kernels has 160 calories. Natural sunflower oil is produced from oil type sunflower seeds. Sunflower oil supplies more Vitamin E than any other vegetable oil. There are three types of sunflower oil available: NuSun, linoleic and high oleic sunflower oil. Confirmed cases of individuals allergic to sunflower seeds/oil are very rare.

Many farmers now use a dessicant to dry the plant for an earlier harvest.

A Wahpeton, ND firm developed "Giants" that are now the official sunflower seeds for the Minnesota Twins' and Colorado Rockies'. Annual sales exceed \$10 million.

Another new product is Sunflower Chips that includes cassava starch and organic sunflower flour, and are available in three flavors: original, cracked pepper; and sweet onion.

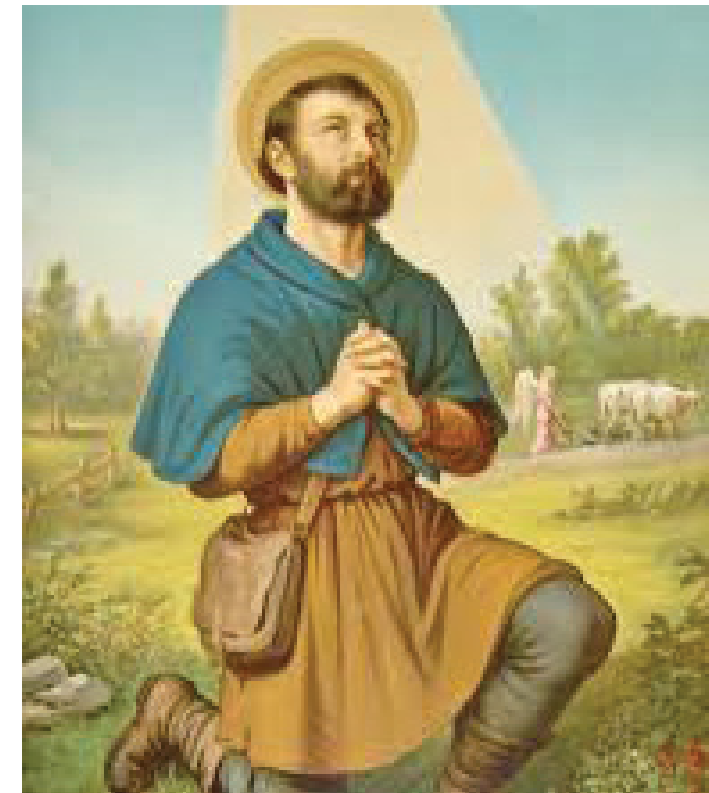
The National Sunflower Association has a coloring book that can be downloaded. ■

Sugar

By Klodette Stroh

I pray the year of 2020 will be the most fruitful and blessed year for everyone; especially American farmers. In the past two years, U.S. farmers have endured heavy crops losses related to an unusual weather pattern, and commodity prices have declined for the past five years. Despite a devastating prior season and financial losses, American farmers are still standing. Having witnessed the recent devastations, my heart bleeds when I see American farmers, like my husband Rick and our farmer friends, preparing fields of barley, beans, corn, and sugar beets for 2020 crop season. There's no doubt that farmers are more resilient than any other profession in America. Farmers are in partnership with God to be steward of His land and provide food and nourishment for people. Members of our congress must protect American's agriculture. Unfortunately, free trades agreements have been unfair especially to sugar industry. This year is crucial because the sugar industry must renew the anti-dumping duties under the suspension agreements with Mexico. Otherwise, the industry will be injured by imported Mexican sugar.

The new United States-Mexico-Canada agreement (USMCA) is a mutually beneficial win for North American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses. USMCA trade agreements could increase agricultural



exports and help increase prices from their current lows. The sugar industry, along with almost every other agricultural organization in Washington, are constantly advocating for passage of this agreement. When finalized and implemented, the agreement will create more balanced, reciprocal trade that supports high-paying jobs for Americans and it will help boost the North American economy.

Farmers have been a sturdy pillar for the United States economy. Honoring and praying for farmers at church's daily Mass, especially the first week of spring, has been a blessed Christian tradition since 1110 when Saint Isidore was witnessed to receive celestial help as he farmed. The life story of St. Isidore is amazing and inspirational, especially for our farmers who have endured hardships. St. Isidore and his wife, Maria de la Cabeza, lived in Madrid, Spain around 1110. He came from a poor and humble family. From childhood, he worked as a farm hand on the De Vargas estate. Isidore's most distinguishing trait in life was praying and attending daily Mass. He loved the good earth and was honest in his farming practices. Domestic animals and birds showed their attachment to his kindness. Isidore's coworkers and master de Vargas became disturbed about the amount of time he was taking from his work to attend daily mass at the local Catholic Church. Finally, De Vargas decided to see for himself if reports which had come to him were as bad as they sounded. One morning, he hid himself in the field where Isidore was supposed to be plowing. On that day, Isidore returned even later than usual from his morning worshipping. The other workers had finished their jobs and had left the field while St. Isidore's job was still untouched. Master De Vargas was just about to approach Isidore, but something told him to wait and see what would happen. St. Isidore set to work and seemed to be making great progress. As the employer watched, he saw the reason: two angels were working side by side with St. Isidore, each guiding a plow and racing in holy rivalry to see who could get the most work done. After what he had witnessed, whenever anyone asked Master de Vargas about St. Isidore's work, he would answer simply, "Angels are his helpers". By Sacred Congressional of Rites on February 22 1947 St. Isidore was designated as the special protector of the National Catholic rural Life conference and American farmers. Every year during agriculture Week (March 20-25) daily mass is celebrated for American farmers. ■

Homeland Security

By Marlene Kouba

Ohio, California and Oregon are pushing for laws that would force private property owners to allow homeless people to camp out on their property or they could be arrested. Two court decisions surrounding homeless may have an impact on people sleeping on city streets. While the U.S. Supreme Court has decided not to hear a case about criminalizing homelessness, an appeals court ruled encampments are allowed on private property. The Supreme Court will not hear a case on a ban against sleeping in public spaces which means that now there's a constitutional right to camp in public.

During the height of the migrant crisis in 2019, Border Patrol and ICE had released more than 80,000 immigrants into the interior United States. That number has fallen by 74 percent due to medical reasons and other "legitimate" reasons. Migrants sent home \$36 billion in 2019, highest on record.

The president's policy of "Remain in Mexico" has been supported by the Supreme Court and Mexico is now pushing back caravans of travelers in their attempt to get to America.

A new visa restriction is aimed at stopping women who travel to the U.S. to give birth for the child's automatic citizenship.

Transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), have been smuggling drugs and migrants into the U.S. but they have decreased. Strategies that address TCOs, as they started employing migrants from countries outside the previous scope of immigration law, are working. TCO's, which



previously relied on family units, were "scrambling" for money after CBP's enforcement activities.

Pink seesaws have been set up through the border wall near Albuquerque and all ages are enjoying them. There is also a wildlife wall with gaps for endangered species and a Burrito Wall to allow a food cart.

The border wall, which has already surpassed 130 miles, also forced TCOs to points of entry where authorities are better equipped to catch drug smugglers. It is expected that by the end of 2020, the U.S. will have 450 miles of border wall. Barriers had been erected by Presidents Bush and Obama. Walls provide an effective halt and denial capacity.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the Canadian and Mexican borders are closed for all unnecessary traffic in mid-March.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is a component of the United States Department of Homeland Security. ■

WIFeline Facebook Group!

We have created a Facebook group for all WIFE members to stay connected on a more personal level. Please join the group to share photos and other interesting things about your operation, family, etc! We want this to be a place to stay in touch while far in distance. Search for the group "[WIFeline](#)" on facebook and request to join. It is a private group to keep it WIFE members only, so request to join and you will quickly be approved.

Contact Sarah Bledsoe at sarahbledsoe@gmail.com with any questions. Happy sharing!

Beef

By Pam Potthoff

As I write this, a new stimulus package is being prepared by Congress. Will agriculture be included in the "small businesses" that are being negatively affected by the economic shutdown and thus be eligible for aid? Time will tell but this farmer thinks it is important that an already distressed agriculture receive help to keep their businesses financially viable.

Four bills in Congress are in close alignment with WIFE policies that have been priority items for many years. The Baldwin Bill called the Country of Origin Labeling Online Act or COOL Online Act would require country of origin labeling for any item introduced, sold, advertised, or offered for sale in commerce on an internet website. This appears to be a step in the right direction but, of course, the devil is in the details. Here is a list of what is covered:

Country of origin of products per Wool, Textile, and Fur Products

Country of origin of products per regulations under Section 304 of the Tariff Act of 1930

Country of origin of new automobiles per American Automobile Labeling Act

Country of origin of "covered commodities" per section 282 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946

Labeling of pharmaceutical products as required by Sec 502 of the FD&C Act

At this point, I am unsure whether or not pork and beef are included, although all other meat products are.

Congresswoman Titus (D-NV) introduced the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. This legislation is the companion bill to S.935, filed in 2019 by U.S. Senators Mike Lee (R-UT), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Rand Paul (R-KY), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). The OFF Act would put an end to the most egregious abuses committed by the boards and contractors of the federally mandated commodity checkoff programs.

The major reform provisions of the OFF Act, which would end the glaring abuses of the program boards, are:

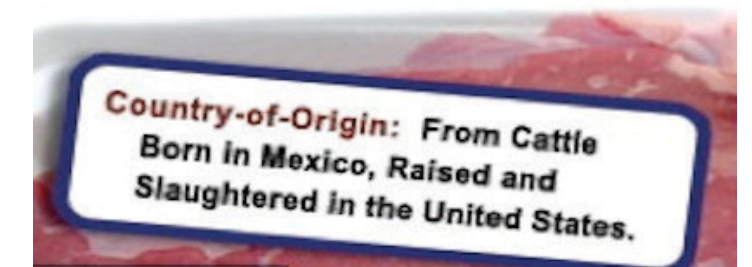
1. Stop federally mandated checkoff dollars from being transferred to parties that seek to influence government policies or action relating to agriculture issues.
2. Enforce the prohibition against conflicts of interest in contracting and all other decision-making operations of the checkoff program.
3. Stop federally mandated funds from being used for anticompetitive programs or from being spent to disparage another commodity in the marketplace.
4. Increase transparency of the individual boards' actions by shedding light on how federal checkoff funds are spent and the purpose of their expenditures.
5. Require audits of each program every five years to ensure their activities are in compliance with the law.

The Transporting Livestock Across America Safety Act provides a viable solution to the restrictive Hours-of-Service rules for livestock haulers.

Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) submitted legislation to Senate leadership that would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to use Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds to offset losses cattle producers take in the live and feeder cattle markets. The legislation would be included in a COVID-19 response bill.

The legislation would use USDA Economic Research Service projections for 2020 as a baseline for market losses. Producers would report to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office the month or months in which they sold their cattle and the amount they sold. USDA would then use the reported average sales prices compared to the indexed feeder or live cattle average to determine the COVID-19 market disruption.

WIFE members are urged to contact their elected officials concerning these four pieces of legislation. ■



Trade

By Ruth Laribee



Our global economy and financial markets have been hit hard with the Coronavirus. Global inactivity has brought about a drop in oil prices. On a positive note the United States, Mexico and Canada (USMCA) pact has been passed with a bipartisan vote of 89-10 to develop expanding United States agriculture exports. When implemented, according to reports, it will be helpful to our farm and ranch workers and businesses. How, by creating a better-balanced reciprocal trade supporting greater growth and wages for the American economy. What key points are included to level the field in trade? In Bio-technology an agreement for the first time precisely pinpoints agriculture bio-technology including new technology, for example gene editing to help start reducing trade distorting policies. Sanitary/Phytosanitary measures are addressed in the pact with an agreement to strengthen disciplines for science-based procedures that protect plant, animal and human health while continuing to improve the trade access. Geographical Indications have in place additional issues/facts to be carefully addressed in determining whether a term is a common name. Dairy Market access, United States dairy farmers will have expanded access to Canada for a wide spread variety of dairy goods. Canada has agreed to remove the unfair class 7 milk pricing programs which permitted their farmers to undersell U.S. farmers products especially on world markets. U.S. poultry and egg producers will have greater access to Canadian markets. Canada also agreed to end its unfair wheat grading system helping U.S. farmers to be more competitive. It includes strong protections for workers and new rules governing the currency, intellectual property rights and digital

economy. Wine and spirits are also addressed. President Trump, Prime Minister Trudeau and President Enrique Pena Nieto signed the 2,082-page document. It requires a review of the USMCA pact every six years. United States wheat may now be shipped to Kenya. According to several reports the American farmers in the Pacific North West have full access with states of Washington, Idaho and Oregon being added to ship wheat. One of the many important points addressed in China deal Phase 1 is Technology Transfers. It binds and enforces obligations concerning the unfair technology practices of China. China has had for many years a practice of pressuring and enforcing foreign companies to transfer their technology in order to attain market access. China has agreed to end this practice. Included is the unfair currency practices, addressing it by requiring high standard commitments to refrain from competitive currency devaluations. In order to work towards a reciprocal and rebalancing of United States/ China trade relationship China will import U.S. services and goods over the next two years in a total amount of not less than 200 billion to continue several years after 2021. ■



Energy

By Marlene Kouba

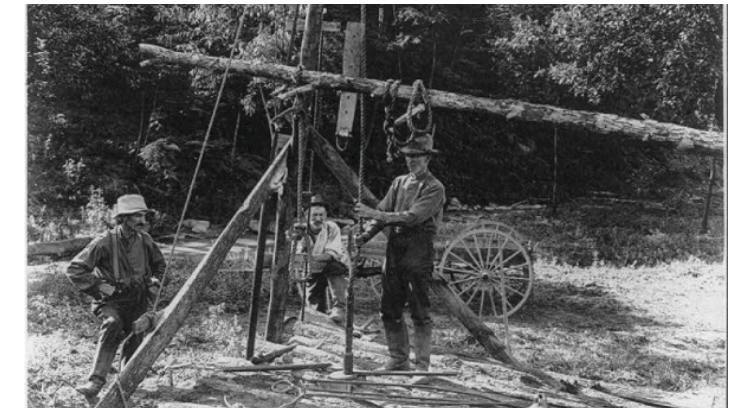
Colorado oil production dates back to 1860, when the first oil well in the western United States was drilled in Florence, Colorado. It continues to be a major oil producer and has one major refinery located in Commerce City. They produced 17.16 billion barrels (bbl) in October 2019.

New Mexico has been a major producer of oil and natural gas since the early 1920's. In 2016, New Mexico produced 145 million barrels of oil, 1.27 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 97 billion cubic feet of naturally occurring carbon dioxide. They are now working on legislation regarding the water that comes up from the wells. The state ranks third, behind Texas, with which it shares the highly productive Permian basin, and North Dakota.

A Saudi Arabia company said it will increase its crude oil production to 12.3 million barrels a day in April, an increase of 300,000 barrels a day. The company was valued at \$1.65 trillion, down from \$2 trillion in December. They plan to output Russia after they refused to cooperate on cutting production. That led to a 25 percent plunge in the price of crude oil, the sharpest since the 1991 Gulf War. Trade is now \$20 a barrel. The lower price comes with less demand for travel amid the coronavirus and pushes the price of gasoline down too.

Last year was a record breaker for solar power which made up 40 percent of all U.S. energy-generating capacity. The solar growth, 23 percent greater than in 2018, was led by California, Texas, Florida and the Northeast.

Coal mining in Wyoming has long been a significant part of the state's economy. Wyoming has been the largest producer of coal in the U. S. since 1986. In 2013, they had 17 active coal mines which produced



388 million short tons, 39 percent of all the coal mined in the US, and more than three times of second-place West Virginia. In 2018, coal mines employed approximately 1 percent of the state's population. One coal plant in North Dakota opened in 2014 but one closed in 2017 and another will close soon.

Flush with fossil fuels, North Dakota went from one megawatt in energy in 1999 to 3,155 megawatts in 2019.

There are now more than 1700 wind turbines in operation with more being planned. Some complain they are eye-sores while others appreciate the extra income. North Dakota ranks tenth in the nation for installed wind capacity.

North Dakota ranks tenth in U.S. ethanol production. Brazil is the world's biggest buyer. North Dakota is capable of producing 520 million gallons of ethanol annually at five plants. About 10 percent is used in the state and the rest is sent to other states and exported to Canada, with none currently going to Brazil. The U.S. leads the world in corn ethanol. Brazil ranks second using sugar cane. America exported 1.9 billion gallons last year or 30 percent to Brazil. Now they may lift trade barriers including a 20% duty on imported ethanol after an annual quota of 158 million barrels is reached. They will raise the quota to 198 million gallons and maintain the duty over that amount.

Oil production in the ND Bakken field pumped nearly 1.48 million barrels of oil per day in August and gas flaring was down 5 percent. More processing capacity came online in August and more are planned plus a natural gas liquids pipeline. By October there were 1.55 million barrels of oil per day. About 82% of natural gas was captured at well sites. In 2010 oil production was only 236,000 barrels a day. ■

Dairy

By Chris Anken

Dairy farmers are facing many dilemmas. Plant based milk being called milk with no comparison in nutrition to milk, and now the coronavirus is making headlines caused by a strain called Wuhan Coronavirus. Named that because it seems to have originated from Wuhan, a city in central China with over 11 million people. The coronavirus is also called COVID-19. A global pandemic our Country has never seen. How will it effect the farmers and ranchers in this country? Farmers can not catch coronavirus from our cows. God bless America as we all go through this tough time of social distancing ourselves from others. Call or email a family member, neighbor, or friend and check up on them. Don't forget to wash your hands often with soap and water. Wear a mask and keep your distance. God bless our farmers and ranchers and their families and all essential workers in this country, doctors, nurses, police officers, and all essential workers in America and around the World. WE will get through this together.



Will the huge dairies one day produce all the milk? In the 1970's, the biggest size of dairy tracked by USDA was 100 cows and over. In 2017, the largest size of dairy was 5,000 cows and over according to Census of Agriculture. Why such a swing? why such a difference?

Small farms are not adding on huge amount of cows. The cows on grass are very few and getting fewer. When a 10,000-cow dairy drops in out of nowhere, the demand for milk does not change or adapt those new cows. More farmers could lose their markets when a huge dairy farm comes barging into their rural countryside. We need to keep smaller dairies, but they are getting scarce as huge dairies gobble up the markets. Large dairies are like Home Depot and Walmart. We are losing the smaller dairies like the small hardware stores once part of the face on Main Street throughout rural America.



Do the math. If all the dairies in the this country become 30,000-cow operations, we only need 300 dairies in this country. Regardless of their cost of production, all the rest would have to go. The key to this huge dairy for success is not economic performance, it is market access. It is almost like playing musical chairs. There would be 100 more chairs in the game, but if a 10,000-cow dairy comes in, they just don't take one chair away from the game, but 100 chairs. Chairs that represent hard working rural families that milk 100 cows and paint the rural landscape and add to their communities in this great countryside.

Look what happened to the economy to the pork and chicken industry across this country. Foreign investors are investing in the pork industry in America and others. It will be interesting to find what percent is owned by foreign investors in American agriculture?

Lets not lose our Countryside in America. We need dairy farms that favor rural economies, food security, and the environment. We need a course of action specifically designed to keep our rural countryside in America. Lets not play musical chairs in our Countryside with our dairy farmers in America and lose 100 of chairs and businesses due to huge farms. Look what huge retailing did to rural main streets. Lets keep rural America strong and vibrant and thriving. ■



Edited by Sarah Bledsoe
PO Box 25
Hugo, CO 80821

2020 WIFE Leadership

National Officers

President, Jennifer Jones

Secretary, Pam Potthoff

Treasurer, Jenifer Felzien

Area II Director, Donna Bolz

Past President, Diane McDonald

Commodity/Topic Chairman

Dairy, Chris Anken

Beef, Pam Potthoff

Energy, Marlene Kouba

Sugar, Klodette Stroh

Trade, Ruth Laribee

Specialty Crops, Mary Ann Unruh