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For any comments on the WIFEline, contact Sarah Bledsoe at [sarahbledsoe@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbledsoe@gmail.com), 719.648.7295.



## Letter from the President

Holiday Greetings to all of you. 2019 is coming to an end and so is my time serving you as National President. I want to say thanks for allowing me to have this opportunity.

This has been a very trying year for all of agriculture. From lost markets, uncontrollable weather events to low commodity and livestock prices. As this year comes to an end the one thing I know is that farmers and ranchers will put this behind them and start planning

for the new year ahead.

We are resilient and as part of the one percenters we did a big job - we feed America.

Thank you for all you do each and every day for agriculture and may God bless you all.

*Diane McDonald*  
Diane McDonald,  
WIFE National President

# Specialty Crops

By Mary Ann Unruh

Canola oil, or canola for short, is a vegetable oil derived from a variety of rapeseed that is low in erucic acid. According to the Canola Council of Canada, the official definition of canola is "Seeds from which the oil shall contain less than 2 percent erucic acid."

Turnip, rutabaga, cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and mustard are related to rapeseed. Oilseed varieties are some of the oldest plants cultivated by humanity, dating back to India 4,000 years ago and in China and Japan 2,000 years ago. Its use in Northern Europe for oil lamps is documented to the 13th century. World War II caused high demand for the oil as a lubricant for the steam engines in naval and merchant ships. When the war blocked European and Asian sources of rapeseed oil, a critical shortage developed and Canada began to expand its production.

Rapeseed oil extracts were first put on the market in 1956–1957 as food products, but were not successful.

Canola was bred at the University of Manitoba, Canada, in the early 1970s. Canola was originally a trademark name of the Rapeseed Association of Canada, and was a condensation of "Can" from Canada and "OLA" meaning "Oil, low acid", but is now a generic term for edible varieties of rapeseed oil in North America and Australia. The change in name serves to distinguish it from natural rapeseed oil. Rapeseed had been grown in Canada (mainly Saskatchewan) since 1936.

Roundup Ready Canola, developed in 1998, is considered to be the most disease- and drought-resistant canola variety today. Since 2005, 87 percent of the canola in the U.S. was GMO. In 2009, 90 percent of the Canadian crop was herbicide-tolerant. In 2011, out of the 31 million hectares of canola grown worldwide, 8.2 million were GMO.

The tall plant grows quickly and has small bright yellow flowers that turn into long stems of tiny golden seeds. It is best suited to clay-loam soils that do not crust. Growing season is about 3 months. There are about 115,000 seeds per pound. Seeds are about 1/32- to 3/32-inch in diameter and there are 50 pounds per bushel. About 51 pounds of canola seed makes 2.64 gallons of canola oil.



Canola oil is made by slightly heating the seeds, crushing them before oil is extracted. About 44 percent of a seed is oil, with the remainder used for animal feed.

Canola oil is a key ingredient in many foods. It is the third-most widely consumed vegetable oil, after soybean oil and palm oil.

Canola oil has a low amount of saturated fat but rich in Vitamin E. In 2006, FDA said canola oil could lower the risk of coronary heart disease, bone fractures, and type-2 diabetes.

The oil is also used in industrial lubricants, biodiesel, shortening, margarine, salad oil, cosmetics, lipsticks, candles, suntan oil, hydraulic fluids and newspaper inks. Canola vegetable oils certified as organic are required to be from non-GMO rapeseed.

The United States, China, Japan, Mexico and Pakistan are the largest consumers of canola oil. Europe uses it for biodiesel.

In China, rapeseed meal is mostly used as fertilizer while canola is used mainly for frying food. China imports from Brazil, the U.S. and Argentina.

In 2014, world production of rapeseed oil was 26 million tonnes, led by China, Germany, and Canada accounting for 47 percent of the total. Canada was the world's largest exporter of rapeseed oil in 2016. It is also grown in South Africa, England, Kansas, Nebraska and Oregon. North Dakota is #1 in the nation and raises 86 percent of the nation's supply. ■



# 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION RECAP

By Marlene Kouba

The 43rd National Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) Convention was held in Fargo on November 13-16, 2019.

Marie Hvidstan, a Rural Leadership Specialist of Fargo, was the main speaker. She talked about "Change" and how hard it is to break habits.

Jenifer Jones of Culbertson, Nebraska was installed as the new national president and Donna Bolz of Lincoln, Nebraska as Area Director. Some of the National chairmen for 2020 are Pam Potthoff of Nebraska--beef, Chris Anken of New York--dairy, Marlene Kouba of North Dakota--energy, Klodette Stroh of Wyoming--sugar, Mary Ann Unruh of North Dakota--specialty crops, and Ruth Larabee of New York--trade.

The group toured the Sons of Norway museum, tasted Ole and Sven hamburgers, saw hardanger embroidery, the Hjemkomst--a hand-built Viking ship and a Norwegian Stave church. One evening the members were introduced to German Fleishkuechle with sauerkraut, knoephla soup and blueberry kuchen.

The Convention chairmen were outgoing president Diane McDonald of Inkster and secretary Deb Dressler of Richardton.

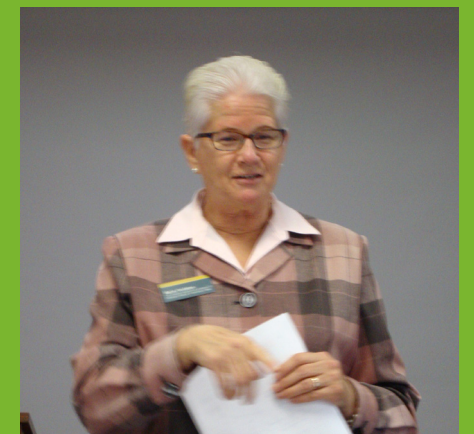
WIFE is a grassroots organization committed to improving profitability in production agriculture and open to women of all ages and walks of life.



Outgoing President, Diane McDonald, with gift from membership.



Incoming President, Jennifer Jones, and outgoing President, Diane McDonald.



Speaker, Marie Hvidstan (a Rural Leadership Specialist of Fargo).

# Sugar

By Klodette Stroh

I wish a prosperous new year for everyone. It has been such an honor and a privilege for me to be member of Women Involve in Farm Economics. I thank all WIFE ladies for their dedication and perseverance in educating members of our congress and lawmakers about U. S. farmers which is an important sector of our economy.

Past two years U.S. farmers have endured heavy crop losses related to an unusual weather pattern. Commodity prices have declined for the past five years and unfortunately cost of fertilizer, chemicals, equipment, tires, and parts to repair machinery has been increasing.

It weights heavy on my mind to know that this year sugar beet farmers lost portion of their crops due to freeze. My home town of Powell, which is in Park County, is the largest sugar beet growing area in the State of Wyoming.

There is no question that our farmers are struggling as they are fighting the weather conditions to save crops and are faced with low commodity prices. According to the American Sugar Alliance report, the average rate of return for U.S. farmers is 1.3 percent this year, marking the fifth straight year of returns below 2 percent. Farm income declining will force many producers to depend on off-farm income to make ends meet. Commercial debt in agriculture is at record high, loan delinquency rates are rising, and Chapter 12 Bankruptcies have increased sharply. Major lenders are steering away from agricultural loans as they are reducing lending volumes. Last September, The Wall Street Journal reported India's government decided to renew its export subsidy



program. To make it clear, India now is the world's biggest sugar producer. Farmers receive a good price for their sugar. The world sugar prices have been declining, but India's government has been increasing the payment to their sugar cain farmers. According to the USDA, bumper harvests have increased India's sugar stockpiles to around 17.6 million tons. The prospect of these being sold on international markets has weighed on global prices for much of the year.

This means that India's government is giving \$880 million in subsidies to incentivize the export of 6 million tons of sugar in the 2019/20 marketing year which started on first of October of 2019. Sugar mills will receive an export subsidy of 10,448 rupees – or nearly \$145 – per ton of sugar. This will cause another drop in the world sugar prices which will affect American sugar producers. This is not good news for our farmers. I am very proud of American farmers. Farmers have worked hard for this country and the 114 years of history demonstrates their love for America.

The United States consumer spends less than 10 percent of total income on food with less than two percent of our population in farming. 65% of India's people are farmers and they spend 39% of their income for food. If we truly love our country and want to pass this country to our children, we must support our farmers. With strong agriculture, the federal Government will work better and costs less for the American people. ■



## The Passing of Kimmi Lewis

The below obituary can be found at <https://www.tsln.com/obituaries/kimmi-lewis-1957-2019/>.

Kimmi Joan was born on March 19, 1957 in La Junta to Kenneth and Jewell (Middleton) Clark, and she entered God's Kingdom following her third and valiant battle with cancer on December 6, 2019 at the age of 62.

Kimmi was raised with her three older sisters on the Muddy Valley Ranch, a family cattle ranch located halfway between Kim and La Junta, Colorado. Kimmi and her sisters were the ranch hands and were expected to ride broncs, fix fence, and care for the livestock. Kimmi loved being a rancher and started her first cow herd while in high school. She enjoyed competitive activities! Kimmi was the Most Valuable Basketball Player in the women's "A" division in 1975 and she was Colorado Hereford Queen the same year. She was highly accomplished in FFA, 4-H, and cattlemen's groups. Kimmi was also a brilliant pianist and taught many others how to play.

After graduating from Kim High School, Kimmi attended Trinidad State Junior College on a basketball scholarship, majoring in music. She married her high school sweetheart, George David "Dave" Lewis of Branson (son of Don and Margaret Lewis) on October 4, 1975. Upon her graduation from TSJC in 1977, Kimmi and Dave resided and began raising their family in Branson, Colorado. They then had six children in nine years, the last two being twins! Family was most important to Kimmi and Dave. In 1992, Kimmi and Dave purchased Muddy Valley Ranch from her father. They also owned and operated Dave Lewis Trucking, a cattle and feed hauling business. While Dave spent many hours in his truck, Kimmi stayed home to dispatch the trucks and care for their children and cattle.

Dave was diagnosed with acute leukemia in January 2000 and passed away four short months later. Dave's passing was a devastating loss to the Lewis family. Kimmi had two businesses to solely run and the twins in junior high, the middle two children in high school, and the oldest two in college. All six children received academic and athletic scholarships to attend college, and all six obtained a bachelor's degree, fulfilling Dave's final wishes. Dave Lewis Trucking is operated by two of their children and their legacy at Muddy Valley Ranch will be carried on as well, raising USA Beef. Kimmi married Martin Canterbury on July 4th 2004 at the Ranch and he rode alongside her for the next decade.

Kimmi was a lifelong Republican. She held almost

every office in the Las Animas County Republican Party and served as the President of the Trinidad/Las Animas County Republican Women's Club for thirty years. Kimmi regularly attended Republican Party meetings in Trinidad for almost forty years, which is more than one hundred miles from her home at the Ranch (one way). She enjoyed serving as the Chair for Senate District 2 for many years. Kimmi was proudly elected to represent Colorado State House District 64 in 2016 and was reelected in 2018, which allowed her to feed her passion, fix laws that infringed on private property rights, and fulfill many goals.

Kimmi devoted substantial time and money advocating for agriculture. She is a known hero to hundreds of cattle producers throughout the United States for her work on county-of-origin labeling and private property rights issues. Kimmi was honored with countless prestigious awards for her relentless advocacy work the past thirty years. Kimmi battled breast cancer in 2014, again in 2018 during the legislative session, and finally throughout 2019. She never let cancer slow her down! Kimmi was a lifelong leader, an American patriot, a loving wife and mother, and a distinguished Coloradan. Her memory will live on in the people whose lives she so generously impacted and in the way of life she worked so hard to protect.

Kimmi was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Dave, her father-in-law Don Lewis, and her brother-in-law Danny Self. She is survived by her six children – Kelly (Michael) Wasson of Dresden, KS; Keith (Serenity) Lewis of Fowler, CO; Kenneth (Stacey) Lewis of La Junta, CO; Kerry (Jacob) Froese of Cheraw, CO; Kristine Lewis (fiancé Kyle Lopez) of Swink, CO; and Korry Lewis of Johnstown, CO; and her thirteen grandchildren – Michaela, Mitchell, and Macy Wasson; Kyndal, Landri, and Paisley Lewis; Gracie, Isabella, and Gino Lewis; Adrienne and Eli Froese; and Electra and Davey Lewis. She is also survived by her three sisters – Julie Sumpter of Parker, CO; Kathy Self of Springfield, CO; and Karren "Sparky" Clark of Denver, CO; her mother-in-law Margaret Lewis of Branson, CO; and her sister-in-law Lori (Craig) Green of Branson, CO.

Those desiring to honor Kimmi may make memorial contributions to either Sangre de Cristo Hospice, 1207 Pueblo Blvd. Way, Pueblo, CO 81005; or R-CALF USA, P.O. Box 30715, Billings, MT 59107; or a charity of your choice.

# Homeland Security

By Marlene Kouba

The Supreme Court has allowed the Trump administration new asylum rules that require would-be refugees to seek safe haven in the first 'safe' country they enter. In most cases, that would be Mexico as the majority is coming from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Fighting the rule are 126 Central American women and children from 59 families who have filed suit against Trump in DC's district court. They were rejected in the early stages of asylum while staying at a residential center in Dilley, Texas. They claim that Trump did not follow procedural rules on government regulations. Now illegals are suing the government to get in, saying it is their right.

About \$1.3 billion of taxpayer money in Los Angeles went to illegal immigrant families in 2015 and 2016 alone. The Dept. of Public Social Services said the numbers show that illegals were the recipients of nearly a quarter of all welfare funds in the county over that period. Illegals cost taxpayers \$135 billion annually.

In May there were 40 to 50 large groups of immigrants trying to cross our southern border. Since then Mexico has been apprehending them and numbers are down 65 percent. Border Patrol and Mexican law enforcement are working together to identify where caravans are starting, routes taken and are sharing intelligence on smuggling of children and women. The catch-and-release seems to have ended loopholes for families. Mexico has been threatened with higher tariffs if they don't cooperate.

ICE apprehended over 1,000 'false families' crossing the southern border in October. Acting director criticized a federal judge in Los Angeles for ruling the agency's ability to ask local law enforcement to hold them until ICE can apprehend them. The judge wants ICE to use only electronic databases when issuing detainers. ICE claims the decision by one judge will impact at least four states.

While the 750,000 pounds of drugs seized at the border in fiscal 2019 was lower than the prior year, officials said that was due to a big drop in marijuana seizures. Seizures of harder drugs such as heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and fentanyl all increased. CBP seized about 83,000 pounds of methamphetamine, compared with 68,000 pounds in fiscal 2018; 101,000 pounds of cocaine, compared



with just under 60,000 the prior year; and 2,800 pounds of fentanyl, compared with 2,200 pounds the prior year. It has become a national security crisis. More than 16,000 criminal illegal aliens also were caught, including what officials said are thousands with convictions ranging from sex crimes to homicide and drug trafficking. CBP also picked up 1,700 inbound weapons -- a more than 300 percent increase from fiscal 2018. They also nabbed 1,200 gang members, up 20 percent from the previous year. In fiscal 2019, there were a total of 1.1 million enforcement actions, a 68 percent increase from the previous year. Of those, 859,000 were apprehensions, an increase of 113 percent. There were more than 150,000 "gotaways" -- illegal immigrants who crossed the border but escaped apprehension and many are criminals.

About 75 miles of wall have been built, often replacing flimsy existing barriers, as part of an effort to have 450 miles of wall built by the end of 2020 with some on private property. In San Diego, cartel members are using \$100 reciprocating electric saws to cut through some of the new three-story fences made of concrete and steel. They cut through one bar, bend it and let one person at a time crawl through. Officials are now putting sensors in the fences to alert them. Smugglers are also using hooks to hang rope ladders down the sides. ■



# Beef

By Pam Potthoff

Early in December, National WIFE and associated WIFE states (Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota) signed on to a letter in support of amending S. 2744, **The U.S. Beef Integrity Act**, so it will correct the misuse of the "Product of the USA" label on imported beef and pork products by the use of a comprehensive mandatory COOL.

The Federal Trade Commission regulates the "Made in USA" and "Product of USA" marketing claim, although it doesn't pre approve such a label. In other words, a company makes the "Product of USA" claim in good faith under the guidance and auspices of the FTC. To be able to make such a claim, the product must have ingredients which are completely or virtually completely produced in the US unless there is a substantial transformation in those ingredients. The final assembly must also be in the US.

The ingredients of meat, of course, undergo no substantial transformation before being sold. So, a meat product that is a "Product of the USA" must be raised, slaughtered, processed, and packaged in the US, but (And the problem is the BUT) they can contain a materially insubstantial amount of ingredients from other countries. Unfortunately, the "insubstantial amount" category is not adequately enforced and just cutting up and packaging hanging imported meat is considered "substantial transformation", allowing the "Product of the USA" label to be found on lots of meat in the US.

Our sign-on letter urges the reinstatement of COOL to correct this problem.

Chicken and lamb remain subject to mandatory COOL, and thus the "Product of (specific country)" label is applicable only to imported covered chicken and lamb products, and there is never a "Product of USA" label on those meats. Our letter is asking that beef and pork be placed under the same mandatory COOL regulations as chicken and lamb. It further supports any imported meat retaining its labeling through the whole retail system—all the way to the consumer.

Through this amendment, sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, WIFE is supporting a resolution that restores country of origin labeling for beef and pork. Through the original bill, South Dakota Senators Thune and Rounds are proposing weaker measures just to

clear up the misuse of "Product of the USA" labeling. S.2744, if passed, would probably make it impossible to ever reinstate COOL.

The weaker measure is to prevent imported packaged beef from Mexico and elsewhere from being relabeled as product of the USA upon crossing the border. We in WIFE do support that weaker measure, too, but not necessarily when used as a tactic to prevent full COOL.

**Along with signing onto the letter, WIFE members are requested to call their own Senators. All Senators can be reached by phone at 202-225-3121.**

As of this writing, **USMCA** (the new NAFTA) has not been brought up for a vote in the Senate. There is still time to call your elected officials to urge the inclusion of COOL in USMCA.

President Trump signed the **Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act**. (HR 724/S 479) into law on Nov. 25. Of course, WIFE is opposed to any animal cruelty or torture but this Act sets a dangerous precedent.

The danger of this law is in the vague language and definitions which will become the gateway for future amendments. And because it was an ACT and not a bill, it can and will be easily amended and have Rules developed under this Act. Many of you have witnessed this under the Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act with some interpretations not being favorable to those in production agriculture. The PACT Act does not specifically exempt farm animals.

**WIFE should keep an eye out for proposed rules and regulations and adverse interpretations of the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act. ■**



# Dairy

By Chris Anken

For Christmas and the New Year, buy dairy products.

Milk was one of first drinks.

It is time for State and National governments to sit down with their dairy and all farmers and agriculture infrastructure for meetings of the minds now and listen to every farmer out there. They need to listen to the farmer.

Many dairy farms have left the dairy industry nationwide in the past decade and continue to leave. Dairy Farmers are in trouble. The market is changing swiftly. Deans Foods, the nation's largest milk bottler, is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy and sales proceedings. What will happen to the nation's largest milk bottler? It accounts for one-third of the milk bottled in the U.S. and the roots going back to family operations with brand names that are still household brands. In shoppers surveys and focus groups, consumers demonstrate they understand what it means to buy local. Like buying local milk for example, especially fresh staples like milk means keeping their dollars working in their communities. Consumers want to help local farms.



They want clear labeling to know where their milk or beef comes from. Surveys also show that a gallon and half-gallon jug are still the most popular packaging among real milk consumers although the category as a whole is declining. The category has seen the decks stacked against real milk by government rules and government speech. Taste of Milk is really important to consumers as nutrition.

Checkoff-funded promotion became government speech that pushed Fat-Free and Low-Fat Milk to the point where consumers have no idea what real milk tastes like, until they switch to whole milk. Whole flavored real milk is growing by double digits. Whole milk sales are rising. And why do you need proteins? Amino acids, the building blocks of protein, are needed for growing, repairing, and replacing body tissues. I would rather have real milk, please. To see which is better for you and your family, read a real milk label and read a plant base milk label. Even though there are plant-based, non-dairy disruptors, there is still a majority of consumers choosing real milk. And the beef is having plant-based products trying to imitate their product. I sampled an imitation meat ball and there was no comparison in taste. The nutritional value is probably not similar to the real product either. No thank you to imitation. I want mine real with a label. I want to know what is in my food is and where it came from.

Christmas is just around the corner. For Christmas, buy local cheeses, milk, beef, etc. Did you ever try eggnog in your coffee? It is great! Just recently we had a couple of snow storms. Both times the local stores were just about out of real milk and bread.

To the hard working dedicated Dairy Farmers and Ranchers out there, Merry Christmas and a Great New Year.

Tell your friends to buy local if they can. The American farmer has some of the best products in the World.

This country is blessed to have such outstanding farmers to feed our nation. ■



Edited by Sarah Bledsoe  
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## Outgoing 2019 WIFE Leadership

Thank you so the 2019 WIFE leadership! Your hard work and leadership was greatly appreciated throughout the year.

### National Officers

President, Diane McDonald

Vice President, Jennifer Jones

Recording Secretary, Deb Dressler

Treasurer, Jenifer Felzien

Area II Director, Donna Bolz

Past President, Kerry Froese

### Commodity/Topic Chairman

All Grains, Phyllis Hoskin

Beef, Pam Potthoff

Dairy, Chris Anken

Energy, Belinda Pierce Groner

Natural Resources, Jillane Hixson

Sugar, Klodette Stroh

Trade, Ruth Larabee

Specialty Crops, Mary Ann Unruh

Homeland Security, Marlene Kouba

Transportation, Korry Lewis

## 2019 QUILT RAFFLE WINNERS

**The Quilt raffle winners were chosen at the National Convention in Fargo in November.**

The winners are:

Quilt winner Betty Aye

\$100 winner Pat Torgerson

\$150 winner Theresa Weber

Thank you to all who supported this!