



line

Volume 52

May 2021

No.1

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Letter from the President

Dear WIFE Ladies

As your president, I want to reach out to each and everyone of you and thank you for your contributions to farming, ranching and WIFE. You are the glue that holds families together while doing your daily chores and managing your hectic schedules. As women, we are strong and hesitant to ask anyone for help. WIFE is an organization that understands and works hard to support each other so don't be afraid to reach out for help when you need it!

I am very excited to be your President and lead the group toward completing some past projects and planning for future growth. The Cookbook project is well under way and working towards completion. The Cookbook Committee will be reaching out to you for final I recipes!

Our annual conventions in scheduled for the first week in November and I look forward to seeing you all there. I will be sending out additional information soon. We will have a fun and productive convention with your participation, ideas, and updates.

We are updating our website and adding state page links to your state website or facebook page whichever you prefer. Our goal is to update our website

so each state can utilize it as a resource for all members. If you have suggestions for any improvements on the website please email Belinda Sturges at belinda.sturges@gmail.com.

Another goal I have is to help bring in younger members that share the farming and ranching life that we all so dearly love, so we can educate them on successful farming and ranching ideas that help them grow their knowledge and friendships at the same time.

In addition, we will be starting a membership drive shortly and are in the process of preparing new member information packets for each state to utilize if they would like. Please let me know if you have specific needs in your individual state for the membership packages and we will work to include those in the package.

I believe it is so important for us to communicate with each other on a regular basis. We will be having a WIFE National call on the second Friday of every month. Agendas will be sent out three days prior to the call for your review. Your participation is critical to our success and I look forward to talking with you soon!

Jennifer Steen
Jennifer Steen,
National WIFE President

Family Life-Scams

By Mary Ann Unruh

Scams can affect any of us at any time. They might come through friends, a phone call, a text, the mail, an email or the Internet.

Telephone scammers try to steal your money or personal information. They make false promises, such as opportunities to buy products, invest your month, or receive free product trials. They also offer money through free grants and lotteries. Some scammers may call with threats of jail or lawsuits if you don't pay them. Report them to the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-382-4357 or your state fraud department or attorney general.

Banking scams involve attempts to access your bank account. Some may send you a counterfeit check then tell you to deposit it in your bank account and wire part of the money back to them. Since the check is fake, you will be paying the amount of the check plus you will lose any money you wired. OR a scammer sends you a check for no reason. If you cash it, you may be authorizing the purchase of items or signing up for a loan you didn't ask for. OR a scam company sets up automatic debits from your bank account to qualify for a free trial or to collect a prize. OR you receive an email message or text that asks you to verify your bank account or debit card number.

Government grant scammers try to get your money by guaranteeing you a grant for costs of college or home repairs. They ask for your checking account information. With it, they say they will 'deposit grant money into your account or withdraw a 'one-time processing fee'. Government grants are rarely awarded to individuals as they usually go to state and local entities. If one calls you, call toll free to the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-382-4357. They enter fraud-related complaints into a database available to law enforcement in the U.S. and abroad. If you have paid a fee to learn about or apply for a grant, you can report it to the state consumer protection office. The government does NOT charge for information or applications for federal grants.

Investment scams promise high returns, without financial risk. Report these to the Securities Commission. Report investment scams to your states' securities administrator.

Prize scammers try to get money or personal information through fake lotteries, sweepstakes or other contests. They claim that you've won a prize but must pay a fee to collect it. Others want personal information to enter a "contest". These scams may reach you by postcard, phone call, robocall or text message. Report them same as in paragraph above. Charity scammers set up fake organizations to take advantage of the public's generosity and take advantage of tragedies and disasters. You can file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. The "Do Not Call Registry" doesn't apply to charities.



Pyramid or Ponzi schemes are scams that need a constant flow of new participants to keep them going. They use multi-level marketing programs or other types of legitimate businesses.

They use new recruit's "investments" to pay "profits" to those participating longer. They collapse when there are not enough new participants to pay earlier investments, so they fail. File complaints with the Federal Trade Commission.

Ticket selling scams happen when a scammer uses tickets as bait to steal your money. They sell fake tickets, or you pay for a ticket but never receive it. They are common for concerts, plays and sporting events. They may sell duplicates of real tickets, create tickets with forged barcodes, or pretend to sell online to steal your credit information.

Other methods of scamming are always showing up. Here are a few more:

1. Scammers fake being overseas soldiers who claim some kind of hardship requiring money.
2. Crooks connect with people playing online games then move conversations to a private chat room to grow the bond.
3. Romance scams are gender neutral. About half are male but pitches to guys are usually more sexual.
4. A "friend" is wiring you cash. Can you forward?" Say NO. It is often an illegal ploy to make stolen cash untraceable.
5. Some ask for small payments such as \$250 or as low as \$20. Scams start small but can escalate. Again say NO.

Here are more: 1. Facebook users may be offered COVID-19 relief. They pose as friends offering grants up to \$1,000. If you accept, they demand a processing fee to spend the money. Once it is spent they may ask for more. Report to Facebook.

2. You get a call from Apple saying child pornography has been found in your online cloud account. Send store gift cards for payment to get rid of it and once you do, your money is gone. Apple does not accept gift cards.
3. You might get a package in the mail that you didn't order. Sellers in China find addresses in the US to send products, such as last year's seed packages. NEVER pay for unordered items—even charity ones.
4. A company calls to say you need to pay an invoice or complete a form and do it NOW. Contact your financial institution to see if any money had been paid. Change passwords and run a virus scan on your computer.
5. Fake police say your grandson is in prison, a younger person says Hi but says don't call parents, just get gift cards, call in numbers to release him. Your money is gone.

6. Others will load your computer up with emails to many others who you may not know.

Beware, as it is your money they want. Just say NO.

BEEF

By Pam Potthoff

The United States Cattlemen's Association, R-CALF, NCBA, and a broad range of farm and cattle producer groups in May united behind demands for meatpackers to disclose more information on cattle purchases, and for the Justice Department to publicly report on an antitrust investigation it launched last May into the four major beef processors. Sixteen members of Congress wrote the Justice Department the same day pressing for a progress report on the probe.

The moves stem from widespread anger among producers who say they are being squeezed with unfairly low cattle prices while consumers are paying near-record prices for burgers and steaks. The struggle over cattle markets is playing out just as antitrust and competition issues gain new traction in Washington, where a backlash against Big Tech is fueling broader concerns about corporate behemoths abusing dominant positions. Four companies, Tyson Foods, JBS, Cargill and National Beef together control more than 80% of U.S. beef processing.

Two bills have been introduced in Congress to require more transparency in pricing and terms of cattle purchases, in the hopes that it will give producers more leverage in transactions. WIFE Policy supports more transparency and better enforcement of the Packer Stockyard Act.

Meanwhile, JBS, the world's largest meat packer, has left the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in a surprise move that comes as the group began taking a harder line on concerns about market consolidation. The other big four packers remain members of the NCBA. The group has a budget of more than \$60 million, more than half of which comes from the beef checkoff — a pot of money for promoting beef that comes from USDA collecting \$1 dollar per head of cattle. 131 state-elected legislators from 11 states joined the ongoing effort to initiate a producer referendum of the National Beef Checkoff Program by sending a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack calling on him to "call for an immediate referendum of the beef check off program and allow our producers a voice in their industry." WIFE policy supports a periodic referendum for all types of checkoffs.

Colorado WIFE Member Jillane Hixson Receives Conservationist of the Year Award

The "Conservationist of the Year" award was presented to HIXSON FARMS for their pro-active work in controlling land erosion, caused by drought and high winds. The Prowers County Conservation District, (PCCD) award was presented to Ron Hixson & Jillane Hixson (brother & sister, who own and operate their 3rd generation farm) by PCCD board member, Steve Shelton, commenting that the conservation efforts of the Hixsons, was especially notably, as it was completed at their effort and great expense, without any government assistance. Shelton went on to say, their conservation work, was not only was important to agriculture, but quite possibly saved lives to have heavily spread manure on their highway frontage property, which spared traffic accidents during high wind dirt storms.



HIXSON FARMS - Conservationist of the Year (2017)
* Our Dad, Larry Hixson, received the same award 20 years ago (1997)

Homeland Security

By Marlene Kouba

Several of Biden's new executive orders included pausing the building of the wall. The wall has 450 miles completed as was promised and American landowners were breathing relief. Another 350 miles are already funded. It will cost taxpayers billions of dollars in settlement fees. There is talk part might be built now.

One order includes an 8 year plan to citizenship for the millions of illegal immigrants already here in the country which includes a 5 year plan path to a green card for farm workers and then a 3 year path to citizenship. This would also include spouses, and children to gain green cards with labor restrictions and protections. But there is a problem as it is against the agreement with Texas and Homeland Security that there are will be no major changes without giving sufficient notice to adjust. Federal law requires that deportation must take place if people are here illegally. These laws are being ignored. Another order is that all of the Homeland Security workers can no longer patrol in boats or ATVs to catch migrants with drugs or even human trafficking. The cartels know exactly what is going on and are exploiting it. We no longer have the security we once had.

Biden is offering an eight-year plan to citizenship for 11 million illegal aliens who have a permanent home in the U.S. Those who were brought to America as children or DREAMERS and farmworkers will get an immediate path to permanent residence or a green card allowing them to work. Aliens will have a new title—non-citizens. Camps along the border are full and some were sent to Army barracks in Virginia to help spread them across the country. We used to hear it was 22 million, so what changed? More than 70,000 illegal immigrants are being detained a month, the most in a decade. Hustling migrants across the border is big business for the cartels—up to \$3.4 billion annually from human smuggling. Migrants must wear wristbands to keep track of who has paid and which cartel is responsible. They have numbers with name, phone number, destination, and family in America. Two years ago some were not tracked for payment. Women and girls are raped and abused, left for dead, and tied to rape trees or on mattresses in stash houses. Young girls are given birth control before being sent north. Drugs are smuggled in other locations where border patrol is occupied with migrants.

In mid-March, Texas Governor Abbott announced "Operation Lone Star" and is deploying National Guard troops along with air, ground, marine and tactical border security support to prevent human and drug smuggling. A representative filed HB 2862 to finish the wall in Texas saying if the federal government won't protect its American citizens then Texas will do it for them. The caravans may move to California or New Mexico. Dr. Jill Biden was seen handing out food and gifts in Mexico to migrants but not in America.

Gangs have changed their methods and treating migrants as highly as illicit narcotics. They are using Facebook and YouTube to keep clients up to date and how to skirt laws. Coyotes are telling migrants to bring children to make it easier to get in. They tell young men to say they are targets of gang threats. Costs vary but for children it is about \$3000 with much higher

rates for African and Asian migrants up to \$9,000 each. They are coming in smaller groups to avoid detection. Mexico's government is raising concerns about Biden's immigration policies. The border hit a 15 year high in February. There were 100,400 migrants who crossed our southern border that month alone and they are still coming. The Dallas convention Center, which holds up to 11,000, has become a detention center for migrant boys/men who are 15 to 17 years old with 3,000 already there and will be for up to 90 days. Then where will they go? Another 1000 children and teenagers are being held 500 miles south of Dallas. Most of the towns in southern Texas are already overflowing. FEMA has been sent to help but the administration says it is not a crisis. Arizona is also raising concerns. They had over 9500 apprehensions by mid-March. Neither Biden nor Kamala Harris has been to the border yet.

On March 20, the Biden administration issued a gag order on what can and can't be shared with the media regarding the border crisis, which they say is not a crisis and is under control. Border Patrol have been told to deny any media ride-alongs with agents, gathering data or photos. With no official policy in place, some agents have released videos showing huge surges of migrants as well as mass arrests. In March, the Biden administration awarded ICE \$86.9 million to a nonprofit group to contract to provide temporary shelter and processing services for families who have been expelled from America but have been placed in immigration proceedings for their removal. As the current contract stands, the cost to taxpayers for housing 1,200 migrant families for six months is about \$71,000 per person or for a family of four that amounts to \$284,000 or enough to buy a small house. Minors spend an average of 31 days in HHS custody with about \$24,000 spent on each one at the temporary facilities. This is about \$60 million a week to care for more than 16,000 illegal minors in DHHS shelters. ICE has also found space in convention centers, fairgrounds, military bases and other large locations. Border Patrol encountered 52, 904 families along the Mexican border in March and 19,286 in February.

In April more than 172 000 immigrants were taken into custody by border officials, the busiest in more than 20 years but only 92,607 came through ports of entry. Over 70 percent of U.S. population growth and 90 percent of California, Florida and New York are from immigrants. About two percent of illegals are picking our crops but 29 percent are on welfare. On April poll showed that 81 percent of Republicans and 58 percent of Democrats believe illegal immigrants should not receive any federal aid. Many believe the free stuff offered is enticing them to come to our country.

Facebook and TicTok are advertising south of the border to come north and once you cross the border you can go anywhere you want.

U.S. Customs say one in four victims of human trafficking or modern-day slavery are children and the majority of forced laborers, including forced sex workers are women and girls. Texas alone saw more than 1,800 human trafficking cases in 2019, the latest when data was available, and most were female.

Beef

Special Report by R-Calf USA

Billings, Mont. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) recently released cattle and beef trade data for December provide the whole cattle and beef trade picture for the 2020 calendar year. According to R-CALF USA, the volume of imported beef, cattle, beef variety meat and processed beef hit an all-time high of nearly 2 million metric tons, or about 4.4 billion pounds in 2020.

Calculating the volume of both cattle and beef is difficult as imported beef and beef products are recorded by weight while imported cattle are recorded by the number of head. To account for these differing measures, R-CALF USA converts imported cattle numbers to pounds by multiplying the number of imported cattle by each year's average cattle carcass weight. This enables R-CALF USA to express both imports and exports of beef and cattle in terms of weight.

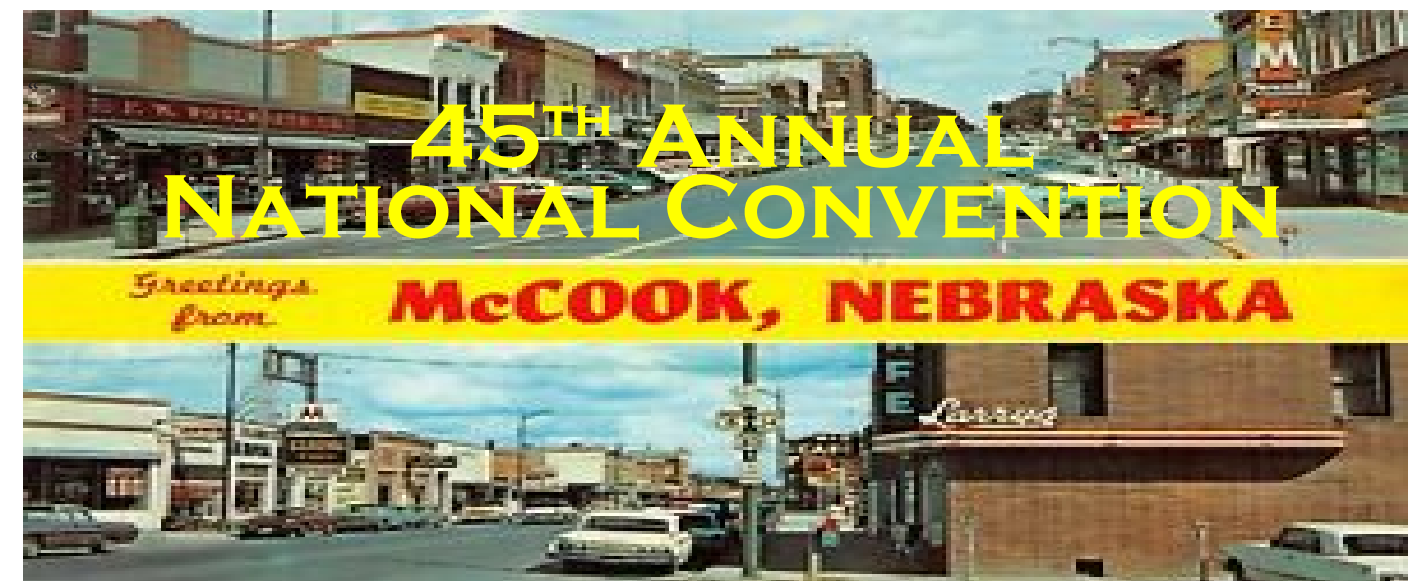
The USDA's recently updated data also show the average price of fed cattle in 2020 was just under \$1.09 per pound, while all-fresh retail beef prices averaged about \$6.39 per pound, the highest yearly average all-fresh beef price in history.

R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard said the 2020 average fed cattle price was lower than in any year during the past decade. He said in 2011 the average fed cattle price was \$1.15 per pound, and back then consumers only paid on average \$4.44 per pound for all-fresh beef.

BEEF

Did you know that for each 1 pound of beef and cattle exported in 2020, we imported 1.5 pounds and U. S. Consumers do not know where there beef comes from?

“



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Bullard explained that these data inform both cattle producers and consumers that importing record volumes of cheaper, undifferentiated beef and cattle does not correlate with lower consumer beef prices, but it does correlate with severely depressed domestic cattle prices.

“With that knowledge, both cattle producers and consumers should be calling their congressional delegations to tell them America must put a stop to failed trade policies that promote cheaper imports at the expense of American cattle farmers and ranchers on one end of the food supply chain and American consumers on the other,” Bullard said.

The U.S. has consistently imported more beef and cattle than it exports for the past several decades, making the U.S. a net importer of beef and cattle and causing a 30-year cumulative trade deficit of over 20 million metric tons, or about 44 billion pounds of beef and cattle.

“To put this in perspective, in 2020 we exported 2.9 billion pounds of beef and cattle – the fourth-largest export volume in history – but we imported 4.4 billion pounds. That means for each 1-pound of beef and cattle exported in 2020, we imported over 1.5 pounds of beef and cattle.

“And that's well below the 30-year average. In other words, for 30 years we've imported well over 1.5 pounds of beef for each 1-pound exported.

“Imagine how much stronger our domestic food supply chain would be, and how many more opportunities U.S. cattle farmers and ranchers would have if America stopped displacing the production of our American family farmers and ranchers with billions of pounds of foreign beef and cattle,” Bullard concluded. ■

All Grain

By Phyllis Hoskins

When I was asked if I would be willing to take on the All Grains chairmanship for WIFE, I wasn't sure if I really wanted to. Partly because it is a lot of work and since the only grain we raise is malt barley. It is under contract where the company sets the price and how many acres they are going to let each year. It doesn't really matter if we keep up on planted acres, prices, futures, etc. Some do anyway just to keep up with what is going on.

The farmers who raise sugar beets need to have at least three or more crops so there can rotate at least two years after the beets to keep insects and disease at bay. Year one is sugar beets, year two is corn for cattle and year three is malt barley.

As we all know, it is pretty hard to change crops with all the investment in machinery and all that goes with it. One of the biggest hurdles we face is not having a place to sell if we did change. Of course, "Would the price we receive, pay for the changes we would have to make?"

Under irrigation all our crops have to be here, we can raise a lot more bushels per acre than can be raised on dryland.

Just think, if all irrigated acres went to wheat, what would that do to all of the dryland farmers? Dryland in some states is a lot different than dryland in Montana. There is not much more you can do with the land in Montana.

One thing I have been noticing in all of the reports that I have been reading, is that the price for spring wheat has been going up some to be between \$6.80 and \$7.00. That is great, but do you realize that is only about \$1.50 higher than it was in the early 1970s? Do you know anyone today who can live on 1970s wages? In 1996 it was \$3.82 a bushel!

Another thing that is not good in the reports is how dry it is in other areas, whether it be in another state or country and how will that help our prices if they don't have a crop to sell? Isn't it an awful thought that we have to wish our 'neighbor' bad luck so we can make it?



WIFE Member Cookbook



Jenifer Felzien has been diligently working on the Cookbook project started a while back. Kerry Froese and Belinda Sturges are also working on the Cookbook Committee and I am happy to say it is well on its way to being an outstanding cookbook. Please send in your favorite recipes by the end of June as we will be editing the cookbook and finishing it up! All members received an email or mailed letter with how you can help! Please start reserving cookbooks for your friends and family and let us know how many you need. Please email Jenifer Felzien at gjfelz@kci.net or belinda.sturges@gmail.com for more information!

Energy

By Marlene Kouba

One of Biden's executive orders in his first week was for his "Buy American". The proposal included a provision to replace the U.S. government's fleet of cars and trucks with American-made electric vehicles. Tesla is one of three car manufacturing companies that assemble electric vehicles in the U.S.

The 240 wind turbines that make up the Sagamore Wind Project near the New Mexico-Texas border was going online at the end of December following final testing. The \$900 million project spans 100,000 acres and will be capable of producing enough electricity for nearly 194,000 homes. At 522 megawatts it represents the largest wind farm built in New Mexico and the second largest in Xcel Energy's 8-state system and one of the largest connected to the grid in central U.S. It is expected to lower costs for customers and provide millions of dollars to landowners and tax revenue to the state and local government over the next 25 years which includes \$101 million in property taxes and \$44 million in gross receipts taxes. New Mexico hopes to shift electricity from coal and natural gas to wind, solar and battery storage. Xcel is based in Minnesota.

During the Valentine weekend, temps dropped all over the nation. During a major snow storm some wind towers in Texas froze and drones were tried to de-ice them but were not very effective. Work is being done to make them more reliable in cold weather. Solar panels also froze over. At least 8 million were without power. When it gets too cold wind towers cannot run. When it gets -24 degrees, they have to be shut off because the metal becomes too brittle and cannot operate. They used helicopters run by fuel to spray de-icer on the tower blades.

In South Dakota wind power only contributed 8 percent of power in summer and 10 percent in the winter. Average use is 65 to 70 percent. In 2019 wind accounted for nearly 20 percent of South Dakota's power.

Biden has pledged to achieve a net-zero electricity grid by 2035 and a net-zero economy by 2050. Solar and wind make up a respective 1 percent and 3 percent of all U.S. energy while coal, petroleum, and natural gas account for a combined 79 percent of U.S. energy. Biden's \$2 trillion climate plans are designed to "get coal-fired and natural gas-fired electricity prices high enough that solar and wind became competitive."

The shale revolution and fracking have caused natural gas prices to plummet over the past decade. Prices early in the year were under \$2. Coal prices were also declining. But electricity prices are already going up because of the duplicative solar and wind on our grid and the new energy rules under this administration. Because solar and wind are unreliable energy sources and don't replace power plants on the grid, their costs are not replacement costs but are instead additional costs. Mining for materials and solar panels requires oil and forging the different components of solar panels and wind turbines use coal.

Twenty-five million Americans say they have forgone food or medicine to pay for electricity and 10 million say they've kept

their home at an unsafe temperature. "Climate Czar" John Kerry actually said almost 90 percent of global emissions come from outside the U.S, mostly China and India. There's no doubt we're in a warming trend that started 300 years ago. There's really no evidence that limiting gas emissions will help. Some scientists say we have gained less than 2 degrees in temperature in pastwind on our grid and the new energy rules under this administration. Because solar and wind are unreliable energy sources and don't replace power plants on the grid, their costs are not replacement costs but are instead additional costs. Mining for materials and solar panels requires oil and forging the different components of solar panels and wind turbines use coal. ~ Twenty-five million Americans say they have forgone food or medicine to pay for electricity and 10 million say they've kept their home at an unsafe temperature. "Climate Czar" John Kerry actually said almost 90 percent of global emissions come from outside the U.S, mostly China and India. There's no doubt we're in a warming trend that started 300 years ago. There's really no evidence that limiting gas emissions will help. Some scientists say we have gained less than 2 degrees in temperature in past 100 years.

One of the new nearly 50 Executive Orders was to stop the Keystone oil pipeline to promote climate change. It has been a several years project costing \$8 billion and would carry up to 830,000 barrels a day. It starts in Alberta, Canada and is to go to Louisiana where the oil could be refined. That refinery can handle up to 520,000 barrels of crude oil a day but not the sweet oil from New Mexico and North Dakota which takes different equipment. About 300 miles of pipeline have already been built. With no pipeline, the alternative is trucks or trains. A truck can only carry 16 to 20,000 liters a trip and would cause much more pollution. Many drivers plus new trucks would be needed and more accidents could occur. A train car could carry about 700 barrels of oil but many are being phased as they are aging. Currently in the nation, 100 percent of natural gas and 70 percent of crude oil is carried by pipeline. Only 4 percent of oil goes by truck and 3 percent by rail. Stopping the pipeline is killing 10,000 jobs and taking out \$2.2 billion in payroll. The pipelines have helped make America energy strong while being able to export but now Russia and Iran may force us into buying from them while our demand and use still goes up.

If the pipeline is causing pollution, what would all the trucks emit? What about all the planes our officials and dignitaries use for vacation spots and home for the weekends? Even John Kerry has his own private jet and his house uses more electricity than many cities. Electric cars, cell phones and your electricity for heat and air conditioning all comes from coal or other cheap sources of fuel. California had a blackout last summer during the fires and now China wants to use our technology. Currently about 17 Attorneys General are asking to restore the Keystone Pipeline since there is a gas shortage on the Colonial pipeline in the eastern part of the country.

The Colonial pipeline sends more than 100 million gallons of gasoline daily through a system more than 5,500 miles long, between Texas and New Jersey.

Dairy

USDA Dairy Market News May 24-May 28, 2021

BUTTER: Grade AA closed at \$1.8100. The weekly average for Grade AA is \$1.8090 (-0.0445).

CHEESE: Barrels closed at \$1.5700 and 40# blocks at \$1.5300. The weekly average for barrels is \$1.6055 (-0.0320) and blocks, \$1.5430 (-0.0705).

NONFAT DRY MILK: Grade A closed at \$1.2925. The weekly average for Grade A is \$1.2910 (-0.0130).
DRY WHEY: Extra grade dry whey closed at \$0.6225. The weekly average for dry whey is \$0.6395 (-0.0015).

CHEESE HIGHLIGHTS: Cheese production is active, although there are some plants that will take a long holiday weekend. This has kept milk handlers busy with finding homes for extra milk. Spot milk prices decreased this week, ranging from \$6 to \$4.50 under Class in the Midwest. Cheese demand remains mixed. Western cheese contacts reported a slower demand week, while retail sales in the East are noted as healthy as grilling season is underway. Cheese market tones are aquiver. Block prices fell below barrel prices last week and have remained there this week. Cheese availability varies from plant to plant.

BUTTER HIGHLIGHTS: Cream is widely available for immediate butter making needs. Some butter plant managers plan to pause churns over the upcoming holiday, while others will maintain steady and unchanged production schedules instead. Inventories are stable for near term needs, and some butter makers are working to grow inventories now for later this year. Retail demand is lower but steady. Food service orders show continued improvement as various eatery sectors return to pre-pandemic levels of service. Some contacts, however, report hesitation from buyers concerned about winding up with an oversupply of butter if food service trends change unpredictably. Bulk butter prices across the country range from 1.0 to 8.0 cents above the market this week.

June is Dairy Month!



FLUID MILK: The peak of flush season is beginning to ease in some parts of the country. In the upper Midwest, dairy farmers note cool temperatures are keeping milk yields steadily high. There are areas reporting steady to slightly declining milk yields. Production remains generally strong in the mountain states of Idaho, Utah, and Colorado. Class I demand varies from flat to lower, as schools begin to prep for summer break. Cheesemakers are taking extra spot loads at pre-holiday discounts. Spot milk prices ranged from \$6 to \$4.50 under Class III in the upper Midwest. Condensed skim markets are stable for the near term. Cream markets are somewhat stable, as cream remains generally available. Butter producers are finding spots at affordable rates, even as ice cream and cream cheese producers are actively producing. Cream multiples are 1.32 to 1.37 in the East, 1.22 to 1.42 in the Midwest, and 1.05 to 1.29 in the West.

DRY PRODUCTS: Low/medium heat nonfat dry milk (NDM) prices are generally mixed throughout the U.S. regions this week. Trading activities are steady to slightly slower. Market tones are somewhat unsettled. High heat NDM prices are fairly unchanged. Trading activities are limited. High heat NDM markets are mostly stable. Dry buttermilk prices are steady to higher. Export demands remain solid. Dry whole milk prices are steady to a bit higher. Dry whole milk markets are fairly firm. The dry whey tone is displaying a mixed market. Buying demands are stable for the near term. Whey protein concentrate 34% prices are steady to higher. Market participants note current demands are moderate. Lactose prices are unchanged. Current supply/demand is reportedly in good balance. Prices for acid casein and rennet casein are mostly steady. Trading activities are fairly stable.

Sugar

By Klodette Stroh

May God's blessing shower America in 2021. I pray this year bring good weather for our farmers and much hope to have a productive and blessed year. The 2020 Corona virus changed America and people's way of living. The United States economy is struggling our deficit has climbed to 2.3 trillion dollars. United States congress is in process to approve an addition of 1.9 Trillion Coronavirus aid to help people.

In this difficult pandemic time we have to salute our sugar, barley, wheat, corn, dry beans, cotton, dairy, cattle, poultry producers for working hard to provide food and fiber for American people.

As a farmer it weighs heavy on my mind where farmers place is in Mr. Biden heart and his administration.

Farmers and farming business still is the only industry that produces crops and sells at the whole sale price and buys at retail price we pay freight both ways. We have to have higher price for barley, dry beans, oats, corn, wheat, soybeans, tobacco, sugar for all crops grown in this country.

Government regulation on agriculture has increased the cost of production for American farmers. There are no way U.S. farmers can compete with foreign subsidies crops coming in our country. The new administration has to pay attention there will be the new secretary of Agriculture Mr. Tom Vilsack has been in the same office before. Hopefully he will make sure all U.S. grown crops have a fair chance.

What will happen in the next Farm bill? I am worrying about Mr. Chuck Schumer he has introduced bills to eliminate the sugar program in past. He is in favor of importing sugar.

American farmers produce safe and good crops. it doesn't matter if they are growing sugar beet or sugar cane, beans, oats, wheat, corn, fruits, alfalfa hay or cattle are growing it for American people. Having food for our country gives us independence and prosperity. Neighbors will not shack hands if their stomach is empty.

I truly believe this country is blessed and we have to protect our farmers and agriculture industry.



U.S. agriculture should not be compromised it is the corner stone of our culture and financial system. Its contribution is more than \$1.3 trillion to our gross domestic products and more than \$50 billion in export product to feed people in other countries. We lose our farmers our national security will be gone in the meanwhile farmers are receiving historically low price for cattle, hogs, milk and grain.

Over 22 million jobs are related directly to agriculture. American farmers produce more than \$170 billion in renewable wealth annually. I pray 2021 will be a blessed year for our country and the world. As you can tell American farmers will be a strong force to pull America's economy out of economic deficit and bring back independency and security back to this country.



Sugar Fact:

The use of sugar as a medicine dates back at least as far as ninth century Iraq, where it was combined with fruits and spices to make medicinal syrups, powders, and infusions. Centuries later, British doctors prescribed sugar to cure a range of diseases—one 18th century physician even suggested blowing sugar powder into the eyes to cure eye ailments and irritations.



Edited by Belinda Sturges
1001 County Road G
Lamar, Colorado 81052

Important Dates to Remember!

June 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm All membership Call

June 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

Call in information is 605-313-5105

Code 748949#

Call to Order 7:00 pm

National Convention November 4-7, 2021 McCook, Nebraska

2021 WIFE Leadership

National Officers

President, Jennifer Steen

Vice President, Belinda Sturges

Secretary, Pam Potthoff

Treasurer, Jenifer Felzien

Area Director, Chris Anken

Area II Director, Donna Bolz

Past President, Diane McDonald

Commodity/Topic Chairman

All Grains, Phyllis Hoskins

Beef, Pam Potthoff

Dairy, Chris Anken

Energy, Marlene Kouba

Sugar, Klodette Stroh

Specialty Crops, Mary Ann Unruh

Trade, Judy Trent