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## Letter from the President

Dear WIFE Ladies

I am hoping that this letter finds all of you doing well. I also want you ladies to know that if you are struggling, you are not alone. Farming and ranching has always been a hard life. We have delt with circumstances that other occupations have not. We are prepared to deal with mother nature and the economy.

Covid 19 is like no disaster I have ever seen. Not only is it an economic disaster, it is mentally draining. I want each of you to know that you can reach out if you are in need of some support. 2020 has ruined me mentally and financially. Three years ago I would have never dreamt life would turn out the way that it has. What was supposed to be a new adventure has tested me to the core. I just want you to know that if you are having a rough time please reach out to a member.

I thought 2019 was a rough year, but 2020 has it all beat to heck. I'm asking you to crawl out of your comfort zone and contact a WIFE member if you are needing any help. My hope is that we as a group of ladies can build a network to get us though this pandemic stronger than we went into it.

As a way to make the days a little brighter. I am asking you to take a few minutes and share something about your self with other WIFE ladies on one of the WIFE facebook pages. Women Involved In Farm Economics or WIFELINE (which is a closed group). I am interested in getting to know each of you. I would like you to feel safe enough to ask other members questions that you may be having. I want to learn about projects, unique farming and ranching practices, or family life. I want to find out where to find ranch boots that don't weigh 50 lbs.

Farming and Ranching women are the glue that are keeping our families together.

I am sorry if this letter offends any of you, but I needed to send it.

I would like to reach out a hug to each of you ladies in this crisis. Hugs have been scarce for months now. Please take my hug and pass it on to other ladies. Share the gift of a hug and the joy of friendship with one another.

Sincerely,

Gennifer Steen Jennifer Steen, WIFE National President

# **Specialty Crops**

By Mary Ann Unruh

Flax was cultivated in Babylon as early as 3000 BC. In the 8th century, King Charlemagne believed so strongly in the health benefits of flaxseed that he passed laws requiring his subjects to consume it. Now some experts back up what Charlemagne suspected.

The flax plant blooms about two months after planting with many small flowers and grows about three feet tall. The light blue flowers with five petals turn into round seed pods filled with small slippery brown seeds called flaxseed. It is best grown in cooler climates.

Flaxseeds are the golden yellow to reddish brown seeds of flax. One tablespoon of ground flaxseed has 37 calories. The seeds contain phytoestrogens, which are similar to the hormone estrogen, soluble fiber and oil. Flaxseed has been eaten as a food or used as a medicine since 5000 BC.

Flaxseeds contain omega-3 fatty acids, potassium, magnesium, fiber, zinc, iron, vitamin E, and calcium, among other vitamins and minerals, and are low in saturated fat. However, unless you chew them thoroughly, they can be difficult to digest. Grind them in a blender, coffee grinder, or food processor and add to dough or batter, sprinkle on cereal, salads or puddings for a little extra crunch, or add it to a smoothie or yogurt.

Oil from the flaxseed is called linseed oil and is used in paints and oil painting. The cellulose part of the plant fiber can be woven into linen which can be expensive since the fibers are hard to weave. Linen is used for clothing as it is lightweight, warm and comfortable. It makes durable table cloths and other items in the household plus crafts, such as

tapestries and count-cross embroidery.

The fiber in flaxseed is found primarily in the seed coat. Taken before a meal, flaxseed fiber seems to make people feel less hungry. Researchers believe this fiber binds with cholesterol in the intestine and prevents it from being absorbed. Flaxseed also seems to make platelets, the blood cells involved in clotting, less sticky. Overall, flaxseed's effects on cholesterol and blood clotting may lower the risk of "hardening of the arteries".

Flaxseed is used for diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, obesity, breast pain and swelling of the kidneys in people with lupus.

Flaxseed is sometimes tried for cancer because it is broken down by the body into chemicals called "lignans," which are similar to the female hormone estrogen. Some researchers believe that lignans may be able to slow down the progress of certain breast cancers and other types of cancers that need estrogen to thrive, such as prostate cancer and colon cancer.

Flaxseed is thought to improve kidney function and reduce risks of lung disease by decreasing the thickness of blood and reducing swelling .

Flaxseed is found in all kinds of foods from crackers to frozen waffles to oatmeal. It is available in the form of seeds, oils, powder, tablets, capsules, and flour. It comes as a dietary supplement to help prevent constipation, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease and cancer. The Flax Council estimates more than 300 new flax-based products have

been launched in the U.S. and Canada alone.

Agricultural use has also increased. Flaxseed is now fed to chickens to lay eggs with higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids.

The top countries that grow flax are Kazakhstan, Canada, Russia, Ukraine, France, Argentina, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Holland and Belgium. North Dakota leads the U.S. with about 92 percent of the nation's flax.

Numerous farmers in North Dakota have begun to sell flaxseed by the pound as a sideline business. It is a healthy food and inexpensive.

Give it a try!

## **All Grains**

#### By Phyllis Hoskins

Barley growers in the northern plain states will have a new winter variety in a few years if one of Dr. Jamie Sherman of Montana's MSU continues as planned. "In Montana (as in many norther states) already existing winter barley varieties have never been cold-tolerant enough, so we have never been able to brow them." She also explained that because it can be planted in the fall, winter barley has the potential to help spread out the work load of farmers, and in addition to taking advantage of early spring precipitation, winter barley finishes earlier than spring-planted varieties.



Dr. Sherman's work received some help when the University of Montana shared some seed material that had come from the N.I. Vavilov Research Institute of Plant Industry in Russia.

Nikolai Vavilov was a prominent Russian plant breeder who was active prior to World War II. Some winter barley seeds in Vavilov's collection were much more cold-tolerant than those currently available. Dr. Sherman went to work crossing these seeds with varieties that grow better in our northern states.

It takes quite a while to develop a new variety, and although they are "just in the early stages," Dr. Sherman estimates they are four to five years away. She says "Our first goal is to develop a forage line just because the quality isn't such a big issue, but we are going to keep working on the malt quality as well."

The story of the Russian plant breeder, Nikolai Vavilov is very interesting. You can read more about him online.

The information for this report was from an article by Morgan Rose of the Prairie Star out of Tekamah, NE.

## HISTORICAL PHOTOS

#### From Marlene Kouba



Photo taken in 1998.



Past Presidents Mary Ann Sheppard (AL) and Cindy Cruea (MN).



Legislative breakfast in Washington, DC. June 1997. Pictured Jenifer Felzien (CO), Sheila Massey (NM), and Mary Schuler (MT).



Washington, D.C. trip, date unknown,



Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture, 1998.

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## **Homeland Security**

#### By Marlene Kouba

In June President Trump placed a ban on new H-1B visas which are widely used by major American and Indian technology companies, H-2B visas for nonagricultural seasonal workers, J-1 visas for cultural exchanges and L-I visas for managers and other key employees of multinational corporations. There will be exceptions for food processing workers, which make up about 15 percent of H-2B visas. He also extended a 60-day ban on green cards outside the United States which would have expired on June 30 and are largely targeted family members. This could open up to 525,000 jobs for Americans.

The Trump administration added four more Chinese media outlets to a list of organizations that are considered 'foreign missions' because of their ties to the Chinese government. They will be required to submit a list of everyone who works for them in the U.S. and any real estate holdings they may have. None were ordered to leave but five other Chinese organizations were directed to cap the number of people who could work here. All are presumed to be mouthpieces for the Chinese government.

The U.S. Supreme Court is letting work continue on the south border wall, rejecting calls to block some of the construction over the use of Pentagon funds to do the fencing. This is a setback for ACLU and others which sued to block segments totaling 130 miles in Arizona, New Mexico and California. Most has been built but the advocacy groups wanted construction stopped on the last 40 miles.

A company from North Dakota was awarded a \$289 million contract for 17 miles of wall in Laredo, Texas. They had already received \$1.7 billion in two contracts elsewhere on the border. Three miles of the border were inspected as they were close to the Red River due to erosion and re-routing water in potential violation of treaties with Mexico. A tropical storm in July tore open new gashes in the land in front of the fence but it is being repaired.

Hundreds of additional immigration agents are being sent to the Southwest border to apprehend migrants. About 600 went to South Texas in the Laredo and Rio Grande areas. They are being transferred from positions at airports. By invoking the Title 42 of the U.S. Code, agents are bypassing asylum and other



proceedings to quickly deport about 90 percent of those who cross the border. The number in custody dropped from 20,000 last year to about 300 this year. Last year the majority came from Central America but now most are male Mexicans. Non-essential travel is being discouraged.

Three Americans were arrested in California for helping smuggle 52 adult illegal immigrants across the border in a van and tarp-covered truck on August 7. They were sent to a city in Southern California for processing.

ICE announced in mid-September that officers arrested more than 2,000 aliens with convictions or charges for "crimes involving victims." The operation initially was conceived to focus on domestic violence offenders due to the pandemic lockdowns. More than 500 of those arrested had convictions or charges for domestic violence, the second most common offense after assault. Fourteen aliens convicted of homicide were arrested in the operation and 12 with homicide charges. This was a welcome reminder of the public safety value of immigration enforcement, and that there is a real human cost when ICE is not able to do its job, either because of lack of resources or lack of cooperation from sanctuary jurisdictions. Some of the 2,000 criminal aliens arrested in this operation were nabbed at their work places.



### **Beef**

#### By Pam Potthoff

Information from the latest USDA Ag Report: The USDA trimmed slightly its forecast of red meat and poultry production this year due to smaller pork and chicken output, but production in 2020 of 106.3 billion pounds would be 1 billion pounds larger than in 2019. Production was forecast to climb to 107.35 billion pounds in 2021, rather than the previous estimate of a 108 billion pounds, in the face of lowered expected beef, pork and broiler chicken output.

On a per-capita basis, U.S. meat consumption this year, at 224.1 pounds, would be 0.3 pounds below 2019. It is projected to drop to 223.9 pounds per person in 2021. Coronavirus outbreaks at packing plants reduced meat production last spring.

Scientists at Kansas State University are conducting studies which will help inform policies on whether hemp can safely be used in animal feed. As it stands, the practice is prohibited despite the federal legalization of the crop and its derivatives. Little is known about the effects of cannabinoids on cattle, as most studies have focused on humans, mice and pigs. But a main reason for the new research is that there are concerns that feeding hemp to livestock could potentially result in high concentrations of THC in meat and dairy products. Reuters, Tom Polansek and P.J. Huffstutter. September 10, 2020

The U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Smithfield Foods' plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for failing to protect employees from the coronavirus, making it the first major meatpacker to face a fine after outbreaks at slaughterhouses infected thousands of workers.

The citation issued to the company said employees worked close to one another and were exposed to the virus

OSHA proposed fining the world's biggest pork processor \$13,494, the maximum allowed by law.

It is estimated, since mid-April, more than 38,000 meatpacking workers have contracted the virus, and over 170 have died. More than 2,000 documented cases have occurred at Smithfield plants, including the third-largest meatpacking outbreak in the country.

The impending purchase and transformation of the nation's second largest lamb processing facility has sheep producers nationwide wondering whether they will get their lambs sold this fall.

Brazilian beef packing giant JBS recently acquired Mountain States Rosen, a bankrupt lamb packing plant across the road from a JBS beef processing plant in Greeley, Colo. JBS has said it plans to use the processing plant to grind hamburger and cut steaks, which leaves the current industry with about 350,000 more lambs than available processing facilities can handle. From the Fence Post, 7-29-2020



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## **Trade**

#### By Ruth Laribee

Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative, strongly disapproved a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel report released that expressed the proceedings taken by the United states to confront China's widely extended and detrimental theft of United States intellectual property and technology were not compatible with WTO regulations. The panel also verified that the WTO is "completely inadequate" to cease China's adverse technology actions. The U.S. submitted extensive evidence of China's theft of intellectual property, of which the panel did not contest, but decisions of the panel shows the WTO does not provide measures to counteract the intentional wrongdoing. The United States has an obligation to defend our country against China's unjust trade misconduct. Representative Lighthizer said the Administration will not let the WTO "take advantage of American workers, businesses, farmers, and ranchers." Surprisingly this panel report will not become an issue with the Phase One Agreement between the U.S. and China which contain new follow through pledges by China to prevent theft of American technology. The administration announced that it is contemplating putting export restrictions on Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation. The corporation is China's largest producer of semiconductors. A few companies in the U.S. still manufacture chips, such as Micron Technology

and Intel, but the manufacturing activity as a whole has transferred to Asia where Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) has accrued more than half of the market share for making chips and its reported an even stronger share on most "advanced chips". Companies such as Apple, and iPhone, rely on TSMC and other Asian companies for the chips. The U.S. has lost a good share, one half, of global semiconductor manufacturing down to only 12 % over the past two decades and expected to be 10% in three years. An amendment has been introduced putting two bills that have bipartisan support together called "The Chips for America Act". It creates investment tax credit for semiconductor equipment and a 10 billion fund to match any chip manufacturing incentive programs and state level dollars, 12 million, to provide for research grants to private companies or universities. Why is this important to the U.S.? A recent report gives us some insight. "Robust federal incentives valued at 50 billion would create as many as 19 major semiconductor manufacturing facilities and 70,000 high paying jobs in the U.S. in the next 10 years. It will help ensure America out innovates the world in strategic technology of the future. A1, 5G, quantum computing that will determine global economic and military leadership for decades to come". There is so much more to report on, such as Huawei but it makes it too long for this report.

# WIFE Member Survey



Each of you should have received a survey in the mail from Donna Bolz. Please take the time to complete it and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope. Your responses will have an important part in shaping the future of WIFE!

\*Note: Although the letter mentions you must return the survey by October 1st, feel free to return it at any time.

If you did not receive a survey, contact Donna Bolz at: donnab6519@windstream.net or (402) 521-0500.

## **Energy**

#### By Marlene Kouba

The Department of Energy is a department of the federal executive branch responsible for developing policies for effective use of the nation's energy resources. The Department of Energy is involved in energy conservation, regulating oil pipelines, and encouraging research on new sources of energy.

North Dakota's oil production totaled about 1.2 million barrels per day in April, compared to their all-time high of 1.5 million last November. In early March the state had 52 rigs but just 10 on June 12. The state did capture 88 percent of the gases emitted from the wells. The state's Legacy Fund will receive its lowest monthly deposit of \$10.24 million. The Savings account receives 30 percent of all the oil and gas tax revenue which now totals more than \$60 million. Current price of its oil is about \$39 per barrel.

The Wild Springs Solar Project will be the largest solar development in South Dakota with 128 megawatts. The project will be located near New Underwood, South Dakota. The 100 acre solar farm will cost about \$190 million and create about 150 jobs. All of the energy will stay in the state. A portion will be in a special education fund for schools or up to \$25,000 every year for the next 20 years.

Four years ago the Standing Rock Reservation and other Sioux tribes of the Dakotas filed a lawsuit against the

Dakota Access Pipeline. In early July a judge ordered it to stop shipping all oil within 30 days to do further environmental studies for going under the Missouri River. The Energy Transfer Company says they need up to 90 days to do that. This could cause devastation for the oil industry in North Dakota. The pipeline can carry up to 570,000 barrels a day and trucks or the BNSF railroad already carries about 300,000 barrels a day. North Dakota is appealing the ruling to at least let the oil company continue operating while the studies are conducted which could take more than a year to complete.

Owners of electric vehicles in California have to start paying new registration fees that went into effect in July. The fees, which were added in 2017, add an upfront \$100 registration fee for all zero-emission vehicles model year 2020 and later. The law also added a new annual fee that varies depending on a vehicle's value. It's as low as \$25 for vehicles with a market value less than \$5,000 and as high as \$175 for vehicles valued at \$60,000 or more. A 3.2 cent per gallon gas tax went into effect at the start of July, was created by the same 2017 law. Money from the fees and gas tax will go help maintain state highways, local roads and other infrastructure projects. The fees and taxes will generate more than \$50 billion over 10 years. Other states also plan to add new charges for electric vehicles as officials look for ways to make up for lessened gas tax revenue.

Duke Energy Corp. has seen the future and it smells of cow manure. The North Carolina utility giant has made its first investment in renewable gas. Duke has taken a minority stake in SustainRNG, a company that plans to capture bovine emissions of methane on dairy farms with the potential scale up nationwide. SustainRNG's first farm-based project is slated to start in late 2021 and the gas will be transported nationwide on existing gas pipelines. Farmers will be partial owners of the systems installed on their land to gather and process the manure and methane.



## **Dairy**

#### By Chris Anken

The Coronavirus is front and center with the recovery in the US economy and civil unrest in a number of cities across this great nation and the election is just around the corner. "ALL LIVES MATTER." Farmers are just too busy producing good food for this country. The Amish have great faith in God and their communities are busy working, just like the English. We are one of the greatest countries in the world, and yet, there are people going hungry. There is no food shortage in America. Most of the events that usually happened were canceled this year because of the Coronavirus epidemic. County fairs, state fairs, so people came up with different ways to help support their local communities. Doing take out dinners (chicken BBQ, pork) as fund raisers, take-out soups (like clam chowder) as fund raisers for their churches, virtual online festivals to sell items over the internet for the event, all while wearing masks and practicing social distancing. It was certainly a different kind of year. Schools are back in session with crazy schedules that the children and parents are trying to figure out and make sense of. It is frustrating for the children and the parents with the virtual learning. Some children don't have good access to the internet. Where my oldest grandson lives, he has trouble connecting and staying connected. Some of the children have been getting lunches dropped off to them by school buses all summer with milk.

Restaurants, hotels, schools and college cafeterias are in need of bulk items for delivery. Most Americans were preparing meals at home. You can not find canning jars and canning jar lids in stores. Milk sales have increased in the grocery stores, and now the sale of milk to colleges, schools, restaurants, and hotels are starting to

increase. We could not find a gallon of whole milk in our local Stewarts store. We had to buy two half-gallon cartons.

The battle the dairy industry has been fighting over saturated fats for 60 plus years, which started with studies in the 1950's and the belief that saturated fats were unhealthy. It was focused heavily on cholesterol and the build up of plaque in the blood stream that was believed to cause heart trouble. Lowfat and skim milk products and fake mild began to be marketed as alternatives to whole milk. Nina Teicholz, a jounalist, in 2014 came out with the well known book *The Big Fat Surprise* that these long-held

erroneous beliefs were seriously challenged. Her book conclusions clearly demonstrated that reputable research and science focused on saturated fats had never actually provided any evidence that saturated fats have any affect on cardiovascular disease or death. Besides alternates to whole milk, now we got fake burgers to real hamburgers. The nutritional value doesn't hold up to the real whole milk and real beef hamburgers. Look how the egg evolved. Look how good it is for you now. The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) completed its final report on July 15th. It was sent to Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar. These recommendations set the standard for federal and elderly nutrition programs, hospitals, other institutions, and military commissaries for dietary guidelines for 2020-2025. These guidelines will go into effect this fall. The current DGAC failed to consider the importance of foods containing these healthy fats and the contribution of these foods to healthy eating habits. It left a significant gap in the findings of the final report. Children need whole milk when they are growing up, despite scientific evidence, healthy fats like those found in dairy. Dairy still did not receive an endorsement from the DGAC. Without an endorsement on saturated fats. 2% and whole milk cannot be included in school meal programs. Kids do not like skim milk. The taste is not the same. My husband will not drink skim milk. He wants whole milk. The struggle continues. Many issues facing competition from other products. "Why children and the public cannot have 2% and whole milk in schools and institutions as a mother and grandmother I can not figure out. Especially if it is healthy for you."



## Sugar

#### By Klodette Stroh

Throughout the pages of history, a strong agriculture has been the driving force for independence and strength of a great nation. Even in biblical times, agriculture played a significant role in history. The story of Joseph in the bible is one of my husband Rick's and my favorite stories.

Joseph (or Yoseb in Aramiac) was the beloved son of Jacob (Jacob's other name is Israel).

Joseph was sold to Ishmaelites by his brothers because they were jealous of him (Genesis 37:18-20). Ishmaelites sold Joseph to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard. Joseph never gave up, because he knew God was with him. He was honest, loyal and worked hard for Potiphar.

He had to spend some time in prison because of a false accusation by Potiphar's wife. While in prison, he met Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer and chief baker who had offended the Pharaoh and consequently ended up in prison.

Both men had dreams, and Joseph, having the gift of interpreting dreams, asked the two men to share their dreams with him.

Joseph interpreted both men's dreams. For the cup-bearer's dream, Joseph said he would be restored back to his position to serve the Pharaoh within three days. He asked the cup-bearer to remember him when his position was restored, but the cup-bearer soon forgot.

God favored Joseph because he made it to Pharaoh's palace to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. One of the dreams was about seven lean cows which devoured seven fat cows, and the other dream was of seven withered ears of corn which devoured seven fat ears. When the Pharaoh's advisers failed to interpret these dreams, the cup-bearer remembered Joseph. Joseph was summoned.

He interpreted the dreams as seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine and advised the Pharaoh to store surplus grain. Joseph was made Vizier, the second most powerful man after Pharaoh, and was named Zaphnath-paaneah, which means savior. For seven years Joseph made sure the storehouses were full. When the seven years of famine came, it brought people from other nations in the world to Egypt for food.

Our times and the COVID-19 pandemic remind me of Joseph's time in Egypt. During the pandemic American

farmers are still producing food for our great country. People are still eating, and grocery stores are still open. Although there was a short time in areas around our country, when shoppers were looking for meat, milk, and other products, farmers from coast to coast were forced to dump milk, plow up vegetables, and euthanize livestock.

Thank God that was short-lived. Due to COVID-19, 700,000 gallons of nourishing milk were dumped, and 50,000 young chickens were destroyed. Meanwhile farmers are receiving historically low prices for cattle, hogs, milk and grain.

My mother taught us that it offends God to destroy food he has given us, which is why President Trump started the Farm to Table program immediately and made disaster funds available through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP). Disaster funds through the WHIP program helped our sugar farmers to recover some of the losses due to the freeze of 2019.

Park and Big Horn County dry edible bean and corn farmers were also part of the WHIP-Plus and eligible for disaster aid. We are in contact with Sens. Mike Enzi and John Barrasso and Rep. Liz Cheney to work with USDA to provide aid under the 2019 WHIP-Plus to dry bean and corn farmers in Park and Big Horn County, and their staff confirmed in a recent call that the crops qualify for assistance. Farmers lost over 25 percent of beans in the 2019 freeze in these two counties.

Over 22 million jobs are related directly to agriculture. American farmers produce more than \$170 billion in renewable wealth annually. Farmers are the backbone of our nation, and we are blessed to have them. They are in partnership with God to take care of his land and produce food for this country as well as half of the world. United States agriculture helps countries like Afghanistan and Ethiopia where drought in some areas was killing three to five children a day; or Mozambique, where catastrophic flooding has driven tens of thousands from their homes. Food aid agencies have fed more than 88 million people in 82 countries such as Kosova, Russia, and Angola.

There is no doubt in my heart that God protects our beloved America, as America and her people honor his only son. Jesus said to his disciples, "When I was hungry, you fed me; when I needed a place to stay, you sheltered me; when I was sick, you came to visit me." His disciples asked him, "But, Rabbi, when did we do all these for you?" Jesus said, "Whenever you help people in need, you are helping me."

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# 2020 WIFE Leadership

#### **National Officers**

President, Jennifer Steen

Secretary, Pam Potthoff

Treasurer, Jenifer Felzien

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, Ruth Laribee