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



Letter from the President

Hello from the Red River Valley of North Dakota,

I am so ready for 2019 to be over, between a slow start this spring to lack of rains in the summer to the low prices that our industry are facing, I am ready to put it to bed. I will probably tell myself that next year has to be a better one.

There is a lot of stress that comes with the life we have chosen- financial, weather and markets. Things we really don't have much control over, but I wouldn't trade being able to live where I do and be a part of agriculture. I hope you feel the same.

The administration has provided the MFP payments which hopefully will help with the financial end. I am hopeful that we get our markets back. Be sure to keep in contact with your legislators and urge them to pass the USMCA. It seems to be stuck in the House of

Representatives.

The suicide rate among farmers has risen this year. Please keep and eye out for your loved ones, friends, and neighbors. Let them know that you would be willing to get them help or just lend an ear. We must look out for each other.

I truly appreciate each and everyone of you and all you do for Agriculture.

I look forward to seeing you in Fargo, ND in November for Convention. If you haven't made your reservations yet be sure to do so soon. You will find a registration form included in this WIFeline.

Have a safe Harvest.

God Bless,

Diane McDonald
Diane McDonald,
WIFE National President

Trade

By Ruth Laribee

The thirteenth round of trade talks are scheduled to take place in Washington D.C. on October 1st. Negotiations between the United States and China are ongoing reported United States Trade representative Robert Lighthizer. The administration postponed another round of tariff increases on two hundred and fifty billion worth of products from China but will put the increase in place October 15th. The administration stated several times the United States is not going to give China billions of dollars, and we need reciprocal and fair trade. China has filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) asking that they ease discussions with the United States to reduce or end tariffs.

China has achieved limiting its imports from the U.S. than we have limiting imports from China. Do the import items differences make it so? Maybe. We import technology, footwear, toys, pharmaceuticals, etc. They import from us crops, oil, gas, and forestry products. China is the largest purchaser of several agriculture products-soybeans being one of them. Several reports repeat the statement that China has reduced the quantity of soybeans imported to hurt and or crush U.S. markets, thereby putting pressure on the administration. There could be an additional reason also as China has had an outbreak of African swine fever which has extremely shriveled the number of pigs and they feed the pigs soybeans. They did commit



to buy twenty million metric tons of soybeans but only nine or ten have shipped and accepted. Brazil has exported thirteen million

plus soybeans to China. Brazils Amazon is being cut down for planting more crops.



Hundreds of soybean buyers from fifty countries came to Chicago attending a soybean conference. Its reported that the delegation from "Vietnam and China were banned from visiting U.S. farms during their visit because of the U.S. efforts to keep the African swine fever a killing disease of pigs out of the United States." There is information that the administration is compensating the American farmer for losses over two years with approximately 28 billion of aid. I do not know at this time if any monies have been dispersed. With the tariff war, prices down, flooding, bad weather and income declining it makes it harder for our farmers and rancher to continue growing the quality and quantity foods we have grown to enjoy.

The medical community has some concern about the pharmaceuticals we import from China. Antibiotics, high blood pressure medicine, to name a few of a long list do not meet our United States standards but it was stated that we are afraid of running out of the medicines we have become so dependent on. The reporter continued saying China cheated with the generic meds and drove out the European Union and the United States by making cheaper medicines. ■

2019 WIFELINE SCHEDULE

Any articles or information that you would like printed in the December WIFeline must be sent to Sarah Bledsoe by November 30th.



43RD ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Fargo, North Dakota | November 13-17, 2019

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DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION FORM [HERE!](#)

WIFE Members: \$100

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Visit www.nationalwife.org for up-to-date convention information!



Specialty Crop

By Mary Ann Unruh

The word 'potato' refers to the edible starchy tuber portion of the plant but it can also refer to the plant itself, which was native to the Andes in South America.

There are six basic types but with many varieties. Russet (starchy) Russets are the classic "Idaho" potatoes with thick brown skin good for mashing, frying and baking; Yellow potatoes are all-purpose potatoes perfect for mashing, steaming and French fries; Red waxy potatoes are firm and excellent for boiling and serving in salads. There are also long white, fingerlings, blue and purple.

Potato plants produce flowers during the end of their growing season. They can be white, lavender or pink in July and August. Flowers usually just dry up and fall off. Potatoes grow underground as tubers.

A medium potato has 170 calories but is high in potassium plus has sodium, carbohydrates and sugar. A 100-pound bag of raw potatoes will yield about 25 to 30 lbs of chips due to the high water content of the potatoes. The brown spots in the chips are caused by the high sugar content in the raw potato or temperatures too low or high. They are best stored at 50 degrees F.

Potato chips are the biggest selling snack food in the United States and Canada. Seven out of ten people snack on potato chips. The average person eats 6.5 pounds of chips each year.

There are at least two versions of how they were created. One is that Chef George Crum was cooking at a Lodge in New York in 1853 for Cornelius Vanderbilt. He ordered fried potatoes but sent them back as they



were too thick. The chef sliced them very thin and they were a hit. The other is that Crum's sister created them when she accidentally dropped some slices in hot oil as she was preparing a meal in the Lodge.

The first known factory was set up in a converted barn in 1895 outside Cleveland, Ohio. They became more popular in 1920 when the potato peeling machine was invented.

In stores, chips were sold in barrels, with the grocer measuring by a scoop. In 1926 Laura Scudder thought this was inefficient and opened her own chip factory in Monterey, California. She had her workers take paper bags home where they ironed strips of waxed paper inside them. The bags were filled the next day and ironed shut. This provided airtight seal in humid weather and could be displayed on store shelves.

In the 1930s the J. D. Ferry Company of Pennsylvania invented an industrialized chip machine that carried the chips through a bath of hot oil, sending them out four minutes later on a conveyor belt. In 1931 the Dixie Wax Paper Corporation was the first to perfect the cellophane package. These packages could be printed on and shipped long distances. A worker filled each bag with a scoop and sealed them by hand. A factory could turn out 1,000 lbs of chips per hour but could only fill 20 bags per minute. Dan Woodman was working for Lays in 1940s when he designed a machine to load, turn, fill and seal the bags.

Manufacturing of chips was almost curtailed during WWII when materials were scarce. In 1944 there were 418 potato chip companies in the U.S. Television became popular and sales of chips soared. Ruffled chips were developed to be stronger in dips.

Herman Lay acquired a chip and snack business in 1938 and changed the name to Lay's. He then purchased a deep-fried corn chip business and called them Frito's. In 1961 Frito-Lay's revenues totaled \$127 million with Frito's, Lay's, Cheetos and Ruffles. Pepsico bought the company in 1965.

There are less flavored chips than plain in a bag. Baked chips were introduced in 1994 and have about 2 grams fat while normal chips have about 10 grams. Many flavors are now on the market. ■

Sugar

By Klodette Stroh

I wish all of you a prosperous 2019 harvest. Our crops in Powell suffered some hail in the second week of July, but we still harvested our hailed malting barley. It is such a joy to plant the crops but so overwhelming to watch a hail storm chop their beautiful leaves. On the up side of the damage caused by hail is watching a miracle unfold as beans and corn start to regenerate new leaves, thrive, and grow again. Praise be our loving God for all the little miracles. He is merciful to all his children. It seems as though this year has been a difficult year for farmers because around the same time in July, a portion of a 102-year old concrete tunnel on the canal that delivers water to over 100,000 acres of land in Gering-Ft. Laramie-Goshen county in eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska collapsed, blocking the water.

Gering-Ft. Laramie Irrigation District officials repaired the tunnel immediately by inserting steel ribs covered with metal plates and grouting. Finally, on September 4th, dry and empty canals (since July 17th) were filled with precious water. Many farmers who lost their water as the result of the damage also lost most of their corn, dry eatable beans, alfalfa hay, oats, and sugar beets. The good news is that the federal crop insurance will be able to assist those farmers financially. In addition to the disasters farmers faced as the result of the tunnel collapsing, sugar beet harvest in Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, and Colorado has been postponed until the middle of September due to cold spring and late start. This is a delay of over two weeks for western sugar cooperative growers which means facing possible freezing conditions and losing more crops to weather.

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 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.

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 cane farmers. Bumper harvests have increased India's sugar stockpiles to around 17.6 million tons, according to the USDA. The prospect of these being sold on international markets has weighed on global prices for much of the year.

On September 10, 2019, the Wall Street Journal reported India's government decided to renew its export subsidy program. It will be nearly \$880 million in subsidies to incentivize the export of 6 million tons of sugar in the 2019/20 marketing year, which begins 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.

I assure you that there is no payment to American sugar beet or sugar Cane farmers.

Due to government intervention, the economics of the world market are reporting the price of sugar has dropped below the cost of production.

America's no-cost sugar policy helps level the playing field for our farmers and secures a stable supply of high-quality sugar for food manufacturers and consumers. U.S. farmers are highly efficient, and they are the back bone of Americas economy. We need to urge congress and the United States government to support America's agriculture if they want our country to maintain its global position as the world's super power. I ask you without American farmers producing high quality commodities, how long will our country be able to maintain its global position? ■



30 Fun Facts About North Dakota!

From Marlene Kouba

As you prepare to travel north for the 43rd Annual National Convention in Fargo, ND, here are some fun facts to get you familiar with the area!

1. North Dakota and South Dakota both entered the United States on November 2, 1889. President Benjamin Harrison had the two applications shuffled so nobody knows. North Dakota is listed first alphabetically.
2. Four countries once owned part or all of North Dakota at the same time--France, England, Spain and the United States.
3. Sakakawea was 17 years old when she guided Lewis and Clark's expedition and died when she was about 26.
4. The word "Dakota" means Dakotah in Sioux.
5. Some of the nicknames for the state are Prairie Rose State, Flickertail State and Peace Garden State.
6. The railroads owned the early bonanza farms in the Red River Valley and leased the land to farmers.
7. Thomas D. Campbell in the Red River Valley invented Petroleum Jelly. He died in 1996.
8. Severe blizzards ended Theodore Roosevelt's ranching career in North Dakota.
9. The first capitol building was made of red brick but burned down in 1930. The new one is 19 stories high and cost only \$.46 per cubic foot to built in 1932-35 while those in Nebraska and Louisiana cost \$1.10 per cubic foot.
10. North Dakota leads the nation in the production of spring wheat, durum, oats, barley, flaxseed, navy beans, pinto beans, dry edible peas, oil sunflowers, non-oil sunflowers, canola and honey.
11. North Dakota's sunflowers, alfalfa and sweet clover produces some of the nation's best honey.
12. North Dakota ranks second behind Texas in producing oil and natural gas with 1.44 million barrels per day.
13. Average rainfall in North Dakota is 17 inches.
14. Coldest temperature in North Dakota was -60 in Parshall in 1936.
15. Hottest temperature in North Dakota was 121 in Steele in 1936.
16. North Dakota has three major land regions--the Red River Valley which used to be Lake Agassiz, the Missouri Escarpment or Plateau and the Missouri Plateau which is west of the Missouri River.
17. The Red River flows north.
18. North Dakota ranks 17th in size in the nation with 70,665 square miles.
19. White Butte in Slope County is the highest point at 3,508 feet above sea level.
20. North Dakota is bordered by Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
21. North Dakota has 53 counties.
22. North Dakota has 3 mountain ranges--Killdeer Mountains, Turtle Mountains and Pembina Mountains.
23. Lake Sakakawea is the largest man-made lake in the world. It is also known as Garrison Dam which took 14 years to build.
24. North Dakota has enough lignite coal to supply the world for at least 1000 years.
25. Numerous dinosaurs have been found in southwestern North Dakota.
26. Petrified sequoia trees are found in the Badlands and thousands of pieces of all sizes are on numerous farms in southwest North Dakota and are believed to be about 62 million years old.
27. The longest unfortified international boundary in the world lies along our northern border and an International Peace Garden covers land in both countries.
28. A rock cairn monument signifying the geographical center of the North American continent is in Rugby.
29. Strasburg, ND, is the birthplace of bandleader, Lawrence Welk and numerous famous singers.
30. The 50th Anniversary of the United Tribes International Powwow was held in September 2019.

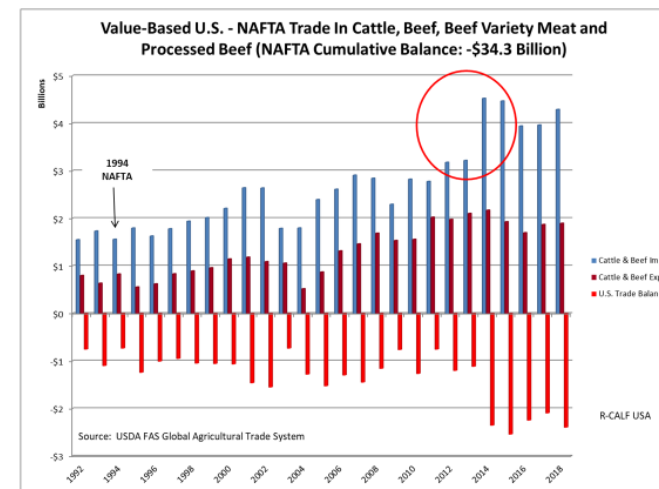
Beef

By Pam Potthoff

Your Senators can be reached by phone at 202-225-3121. Your Representative in the House can be reached at 202-456-1111. Either can be reached at 202-224-3121. Either house can be reached at 202-224-3121. Please call on the issues in this report.

There are six recent events concerning beef:

1. COOL: Congress is expected to take up the USMCA (new NAFTA) shortly after it returns from summer recess. The USMCA does not currently contain any changes in the trade for cattle and beef. In other words, it locks in the detrimental provisions contained in the 25-year-old NAFTA agreement which opened the borders for ever-increasing numbers of cattle and beef products coming into the US (see chart below to see how beef imports from Canada and Mexico increased after NAFTA). WIFE policy supports the inclusion of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) provisions for all international trade. Now is the time to urge our elected officials not to support USMCA unless it includes COOL. Both U.S. food consumers and U.S. food producers must have the right to honest and transparent labeling so U.S. consumers can make an informed food buying decision. CALL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TODAY.



2. Animal ID: The National Animal Identification System, (NAIS) is a government-run program in the United States intended to extend government animal health surveillance by identifying and tracking specific animals. WIFE opposes mandatory animal identification, (see Livestock Policy #11, 12, 13, 18 and 19). However, starting January 1, 2023, RFID Ear tags will be required as the only official animal id

device in beef, dairy, and bison. Other USDA animal identification techniques (swine, goats, sheep, etc.) remain unchanged as of 5/13/19. The countries we import from will not need to use EID's. This will be one more input expense US producers will experience that our foreign competition will not have.

3. Beef Trade with Japan: the US and Japan have agreed in principle on a trade deal under which Japan will slash tariffs on US beef, pork and other agricultural products. Currently, US producers face a 38.5pc tariff on chilled and frozen beef exports, while our competitor, Australia paid 29.3pc on chilled and 26.9pc on frozen last year with next year's rate falling further to 25.8pc. This agreement should help level the international beef trade playing field.

4. Dumping of excess beef production: WIFE should agree with this statement by Farmers Union: The blessing of excess agricultural production should not be used to as a weapon to depress agricultural product prices in neighboring countries. Selling excess production at prices below the full cost of production is dumping and should not be allowed. Neither NAFTA nor USMCA has dealt with the issue of dumping. Both Canada and Mexico's excess livestock production has been used to depress domestic livestock prices for U.S. livestock producers. Dumping uses excess production to become a price depressing weapon.

5. Continued attacks on meat production: On her show Ellen DeGeneres encouraged her fans to cut meat out of their diet for the good of their health, the animals, and the planet. WIFE must continue to provide accurate, scientific facts on all issues concerning agriculture. ■



Dairy

By Chris Anken

I read this article lately by Cary Spivak from Milwaukee Journal Sentinel updated on September 8, 2019.

20,000 dairy farms have left the dairy industry nationwide in the past decade, while there's one corner that is doing just fine. Sagging milk prices, economic factors, and global forces are driving farmers out of one of the most important industries. With the milk prices looming for the fifth straight year, the percentage of farms closing down, especially small family operations, is higher than at any other time since the Great Depression. It breaks my heart to see a young family go out of business because the price they get for their milk is so low. Even though the price of milk is going up, I have heard a lot of family farmers say they had enough and are planning to close their doors.

The top executives at Dairy Management Inc., on the other hand, are doing fine. They are paid from farmers' milk checks. The Illinois-based nonprofit charged with promoting milk, cheese, and other dairy products spends nearly \$160 million a year collected through federally-mandated payments from farmers, but sales continue to fall.

In 2017, a year which a lot of dairy farms closed, IRS records show ten executives at the organization were paid more than \$8 million - an average of more than \$800,000 each. Dairy Farms are plummeting in one corner, and another corner is thriving. The CEO has topped \$1 million three times from 2013 to 2017. The most recent year for which data is available, a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel investigated into the spending by the group fund. They found his compensation included access to first-class travel and money to cover part of his taxes. A Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the group's Executive Vice President was paid \$800,000 in 2017. Spending on events and salaries have riled farmers, including some former board members, who are struggling week to week to balance their own checkbooks.

One farm woman who served on the Dairy Management Board from 2013-2016 said she would leave the meetings and weep on her way home. "These high-priced marketing people sitting in fancy offices in suburban Chicago were driving up to meetings in luxury foreign SUVs," she said "They were using my money and (other) farmers' money

when farmers' kids are on free and reduced lunch. The contrast was just maddening."

The system is overseen by U.S. Department of Agriculture and the amount paid by farmers is set by Congress. Dairy Management is funded by one of nearly two dozen federally-mandated agriculture check off programs covering everything from Christmas tree farmers and avocado farmers to pork producers and cattle ranchers. The idea is that by banding together farmers, including small, family-run operations, will get more for their marketing buck.

Dairy Farmers continue to pay an outsized amount to the check off programs, according to USDA records. The program carries a heavier burden for the dairy farmers than pork and beef farmers. In 2018, the programs collected a combined \$875 million to promote the various commodities. Forty-seven percent came from dairy producers, equaling \$420 million.

Dairy farmers are required to pay 15 cents per hundred pounds of milk sold. Ten cents goes to the state and regional marketing program. A nickel goes to national programs, such as Dairy Management. The check-off payments from each are calculated differently of dairy, pork, and beef producers. When the three are compared on a per-\$100 basis, individual dairy farmers wind up paying a larger share of the revenue than pork and beef producers.

At the current prices, dairy farmers are paying in 15 cent per 100 pounds of milk sold into the check off program per \$100 sold, estimating 80 cents. This is twice what pork producers pay. Pork producers pay 40 cents for every \$100 sold. Beef producers pay \$1.00 for every head of cattle sold. And yes, dairy farmers pay for beef when they sell their cull cows or calves to the market.

We sold a jersey newborn couple of days old calf to the market and actually got a bill on it. The calf brought \$3.15, 5 cents a pound, and commission was \$3, Market fee was 40 cents, BEEF CHECK OFF was \$1.00, and trucking was \$10.00 Total deductions was \$14.40 minus \$3.15. We got a bill for \$11.25. Family dairy farmers are caught in the middle of an economic system with no winning formula. We are at the mercy of trade wars and a complex pricing system. ■

Homeland Security

By Marlene Kouba

According to data for border arrests, illegal immigration and border crossings dropped to 51,000 in August, a 60 percent decrease from a peak in May. President Trump cut a deal with Mexico in June to crack down on their own southern border and that has helped send a message to migrants seeing asylum in the U.S. that it is not as easy as they were told it was going to be. They are learning that if they come to Mexico they have to respect the Mexican law. They are waiting in Mexico rather than on the U.S. side so that helps alleviate the crowding at our border facilities. One lady who is more than 8 months pregnant is disappointed that her baby may not be born in America.

On September 11 the Supreme Court handed the White House a partial victory by ending the nationwide injunction against the asylum policy that the 9th Circuit had denied. Under new rules migrants who pass through another country on their way to the U.S. will be ineligible for asylum but the 9th Circuit had blocked it. It can now go into effect. This affects Central Americans, plus those from Africa, Asia and South America who arrive at the southern border.

With a new trade deal with Mexico they have to curtail migrants coming through their southern border or a higher tariff on their goods coming into the U.S. will be charged.

Greyhound bus is no longer allowing U.S. authorities to drop off immigrant families inside bus stations, forcing those who have been released from custody to wait outside until they have a ticket. They had only dropped them there when volunteer places ran out of space. For years ICE had been dropping migrants at their stations, mainly in Phoenix, pending court hearings to decide if they can stay in the country. From the station they traveled to their intended destination. In Arizona alone between December 21, 2018 and March 5 ICE processed for release 14,500 people who came as families.

Immigrant children 13 years and younger are now being fingerprinted at the border as many are fraudulently posing as families but are quickly sent back into Central America to pose as family for other adults. The children are being 'rented'. They cannot fingerprint anybody over 14 without an adult's

permission.

Foreign demand for U.S. real estate has dropped by more than a third in the last year. Increasing global political, economic and trade tensions are the reasons. Home purchased by Chinese buyers have dropped by 56 percent from 2018. They say they have less confidence in owning property here. After peaking at more than \$150 billion in purchased in 2017, sales fell to \$121 billion in 2018 and are now below \$80 billion. Chinese were the top buyers with \$13.4 billion in purchases followed by India at \$6.9 billion. Mexican buyers had accounted for \$2.3 billion but have dropped to \$9.3 billion in 2017. The purchased homes are valued at about \$280,000 average and more than 40 percent were in cash.

Fraudulent marriages are part of a massive operation that allegedly provided rings, doctored wedding albums and rides to the courthouse for dozens of Vietnamese immigrants hoping to attain legal status through green-card marriages in the U.S. One lady in Houston orchestrated the fake wedding business out of her home charging up to \$20,000 per immigrant for the one-stop shop. All were prosecuted.

Mumps and other contagious diseases are hitting at least 52 immigrant facilities recently. The virus sickened 898 adult migrants and 33 staff members, mostly in private facilities. ICE gave more than 25,000 doses of vaccine in the affected facilities. Migrants are being held in 315 detention facilities in the U.S.

Hot weather in the southern region is also slowing down migration for now. ■





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