

LET'S COMMUNICATE
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Vinyl Material for Banners, Table Runners and More

Ag Com can produce banners, table runners and other materials in study vinyl material with UV-resistant ink. However, the ink may run if liquids are spilled directly on them, though they'll last years under normal indoor conditions. Contact us for to learn about options for materials for various uses.

Now you can purchase your own retractable banner stand with vinyl banner from Ag Com. The banner rolls into a canister, which also stores the pole and fits into a nylon carry pouch for easy transporting and storage.

John Grindahl, (701) 231-7898, john.grindahl@ndsu.edu

More Extension Notecards Now Available

A new supply of NDSU Extension Service notecards is now available. The card and envelope set is 10 cents. Send your order to ndsu.distributioncenter@ndsu.edu.

MS Office Available for Home Use

NDSU faculty and staff may purchase Office 2007 Enterprise (just like the version we use on campus) for home use. The Microsoft Campus Agreement allows NDSU employees to purchase one copy of the software for installation on one computer at home.

For information on how to obtain the software, work with your software contact for on-campus departments or Blair Johnson at (701) 231-7896 or blair.johnson@ndsu.edu for county Extension offices and the Research Extension Centers.

Contact ITS for Videoconference Support

NDSU Information Technology Services has agreed to help Agriculture and University Extension with videoconference support. Continue to use the forms at

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/agcomm/videoconf/scheduling.htm> for scheduling or changing a videoconference and contact the Interactive Video Network technicians at (701) 777-6486 for connection problems. However, for general Polycom equipment support, contact Steve Beckerman, ITS media technologies consultant, at Stephen.Beckermann@ndsu.edu or (701) 231-8486.

Report Flood Activities Online

Please enter the activities you and your office carried out for flood preparedness, response and recovery education this spring at http://www.ext.nodak.edu:3000/disaster_work/activity. The site requires your Agriculture and University Extension, not NDSU, login, so contact the ITS help desk at (701) 231-8685 if you forgot yours. Include work-related activities such as media interviews, publication distribution, consulting, volunteer management and the like rather than sandbagging.

Write the Right Word

Consistency can be good in writing. But just because you hyphenate words or numbers in one instance doesn't mean you hyphenate the same combination of words or numbers all of the time. Whether you use the hyphen depends on the structure of the sentence.

Ages are a good example. You would say "the 8-year-old boy" or "the boy, who is 8 years old." You'd hyphenate in the first instance because "8-year-old" is a compound modifier (two or more words that express a single concept) preceding a noun, "boy." The hyphens tie the compound modifier together. If the modifier comes after the noun, it usually doesn't need to be hyphenated.

Here are some other examples of when to hyphenate compound modifiers because they precede a noun: yellowish-brown leaves, full-time job, well-known man. If these modifiers came after the noun, you might say: "The leaves turned yellowish brown." "She works full time."

However, do not use a hyphen with words ending in "ly" or with the word "very." For example: "This does not seem to be an easily remembered rule." "2009 had a very short growing season." "The breeders developed an early season variety."

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New Publications in the NDSU Distribution Center

E1457 Integrated Pest Management of Sunflower Insect Pests in the Northern Great Plains by Janet Knodel, Laurence Charlet and John Gavloski
Information in this full-color publication provides identification, life cycle, damage and pest management strategies for the insect pests of sunflowers in the northern Great Plains of the U.S. and southern Canada.

YD1470 Understanding and Working with Youth by Sharon Query and Camie Stokesbary

Children show common development characteristics at each age level. Although children differ in the rate at which they develop, the order of the stages does not vary. This publication covers the characteristics of different childhood stages and implications and applications to guide them.

FN1447 Now Serving: Recipe Makeovers! by Julie Garden-Robinson, Jessica Ryant and Abby Gold

This publication helps you learn to modify old family favorites in new, healthier ways.

GWC14 Biology and Management of Common Ragweed: The Glyphosate, Weeds, and Crop Series by Rich Zollinger

This publication examines the biological characteristics of common ragweed that make it a troublesome weed. It also outlines management practices that help growers better manage the weed and slow the selection of biotypes with herbicide resistance.

See all reviewed publications at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/>.

eXtension Technology Trainings for April

No preregistration is necessary for eXtension professional development. Join from your computer at <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/Learn>.

30-minute Sessions – all at 1 p.m. Central Time

- April 13 -- Google Wave Tips and Tricks
- April 15 -- How Can Our Community of Practice Get Started in Second Life? with LuAnn Phillips, eXtension Virtual Worlds Coordinator
- April 20 -- Beginning with the Ask an Expert Widget with Aaron Hundley, eXtension
- April 21 -- Keeping your eXtension Community Home Current with Ashley Griffin, eXtension Content Design Leader
- April 27 -- Instructional Design for Online Education with Jennifer Jahedkar and Susanna Coppernoll, Texas AgriLife Extension
- April 28 -- Engineering Project Management in eXtension: How eXtension develops systems and software with Jason Young, eXtension Engineering Manager
- April 29 -- New Features in Second Life with LuAnn Phillips, eXtension Virtual Worlds Coordinator

Longer Sessions

- April 13 at 2:00-3:00 Central Time -- New Question Wrangler Orientation with Beth Raney and Kevin Gamble, eXtension
- April 14 at 2:00-4:00 Central Time -- Evaluation Methods in Action with Nancy Grudens-Schuck and colleagues from Iowa State University
- April 16 at 12:30-1:30 Central Time -- Extension 2.0: Beyond Blogging and Into the World of Social Media with Kara Kewby, Andy Kleinschmidt, Mark Light, Jamie Seger and Jerry Thomas, Ohio State University Extension
- April 23 at 2:00 p.m. Central Time -- Public Talk, Public Action with Wynne Wright of Michigan State University
- April 29 at 11 a.m. Central Time – repeat of Public Talk, Public Action

Learn more about all these sessions plus Second Life trainings at http://about.extension.org/wiki/Schedule_of_Professional_Development_Opportunities.
Recordings of all previous trainings are at http://about.extension.org/wiki/Recordings_of_eXtension_Professional_Development_Sessions.

Let's Communicate

Past issues of Let's Communicate are at www.ag.ndsu.edu/agcomm/letscomm/letscomm.htm. If you have questions or comments, or would like to submit information or make a suggestion for Let's Communicate, please contact me.

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