

**LET'S COMMUNICATE**  
**Agriculture Communication Newsletter**  
**May 2010, No. 172**

**Contents**

New Flip Video Camera for Checkout  
New Posts on The Winnowing Oar Blog  
Write the Right Word  
Publications Update from the Distribution Center  
May eXtension Technology Training

**New Flip Video Camera for Checkout**

Ag Communication now has a small flip video camera available for checkout. It is a Flip Ultra HD camcorder that records up to 120 minutes on an 8 GB internal hard drive. Files then can be transferred to your computer. The camera also includes a rechargeable battery pack, wrist strap, soft case and quick-start guide. See the list of other equipment available for checkout at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/agcomm/equipment.htm>.

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**New Posts on The Winnowing Oar Blog**

Two new posts are on The Winnowing Oat, the Web technology blog for NDSU Agriculture and Extension. Learn about Ning discontinuing free social networking sites and Internet Explorer 8 not displaying certain JPGs at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/roller/winnowingoar/>.

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**Write the Right Word**

Just when you've gotten the Associated Press' writing style rules firmly in mind, the AP updates them.

The AP, whose style rules Ag Communication follows, has made a few significant changes. Here are four that could affect our writing:

website - It's now one word and lowercase except when it falls at the beginning of a sentence. For example: "Visit NDSU's revised flood information website." Web, however, still must be capitalized in all uses.

Percents - You no longer have to repeat the word "percent" when talking about a range of percentages. For example: "University administrators estimate 5 to 10 percent of the students

attended the forum.” But, you still must repeat the word “million” when referring to a range of numbers. For example: “The addition will cost \$3 million to \$4 million.” Without adding “million” after \$3, the number would appear to be just that, three dollars.

Flu-like – The hyphen is contrary to the AP’s rule that “like,” as a suffix, should not be preceded by a hyphen unless the letter “l” would be tripled or it follows a proper noun. For example: “The woman exhibited flu-like symptoms.” “You should conduct yourself in a businesslike manner.” “The surface had a shell-like appearance.”

Down payment – This also is contrary to the AP’s general rule that you don’t use a hyphen when “down” is a prefix. For example: “The down payment will be 5 percent of the purchase price.” “The National Weather Service downgraded the hurricane to a tropical storm.”

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## **Publications Update from the Distribution Center**

### **New Publications:**

AE1373-A            Infrared Thermometer Home Energy Assessment Questionnaire by Carl Pedersen

This questionnaire is to be used with the publication AE1373, “Determining Insulation and Air Infiltration Levels Using an Infrared Thermometer” to identify areas that might need attention. The material is based on work supported by the U.S. Dept. of Energy State Energy Program.

W1411                Identification and Control of Invasive and Troublesome Weeds in North Dakota by Rod Lym and Andrea Travnicek

This booklet is a collaboration of the authors, NDSU and the N.D. Dept. of Agriculture with funding from the U.S. Forest Service. It is intended to help land managers properly identify and control noxious and invasive weeds found in the state. Because of the funding of the 76-page full- color publication, there is no charge for it.

### **Publication Out of Print, *Web-only Copies:***

AE1327 Aerial Application of Fungicide for the Suppression of Fusarium Head Blight in Small Grains

### **Publications to be Eliminated:**

HE497 Leadership Development Within Groups: Leadership for Effective Groups

HE498 Developing Trust and Cooperation

HE499 Communicating Effectively

HE500 Managing Conflict

HE501 Coping with Criticism

See the entire list of current peer-reviewed publications at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/>.

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## **May eXtension Technology Training**

30-minute Sessions at <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/learn>

- \* May 6 at 1 CDT, How Can Our CoP Get Started in Second Life? with LuAnn Phillips, eXtension Virtual Worlds Coordinator
- \* May 19 at 1 CDT, How U.S. Government Agencies are using Virtual Worlds for Training, Outreach, and Collaboration
- \* May 20 at 1 CDT, What's All the (Google) Buzz About? by Kevin Gamble

1-hour Sessions at <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/learn>

- \* May 12 at 1-2 CDT, A Leader's Framework for Decision Making: A Strategy for Dealing with Complexity, by Anne Adrian, Kevin Gamble, Beth Raney, and Jerry Thomas
- \* May 13 at 1-2 CDT, Taming Twitter: How to Find and Share Value 140 Characters at Time, by Dan Toland, communications specialist for Ohio Farm Bureau
- \* May 18 at 1-2 CDT, Question Wrangler Monthly Meetup with Beth Raney and Kevin Gamble

For more explanation about these sessions, see

[http://about.extension.org/wiki/Schedule\\_of\\_Professional\\_Development\\_Opportunities](http://about.extension.org/wiki/Schedule_of_Professional_Development_Opportunities). For recordings of past trainings, go to

[http://about.extension.org/wiki/Recordings\\_of\\_eXtension\\_Professional\\_Development\\_Sessions](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](http://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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