

Richland County Extension
418 2nd Ave N, Wahpeton ND
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CROPPING SYSTEMS

Dale L. Siebert, Extension Agent

MARKET CLUBS

During April I met with both the Lidgerwood and Mooreton market clubs. Discussion at the meeting concerned marketing plans for 2007 and beyond. With better than expected prices, storage concerns for the fall of 2007 with increased corn acres and market carry, marketing decisions at this time are difficult. As one stated, marketing at high prices is more difficult than when prices are low. I encouraged producers to look at their own situation, expected production, insurance coverage and their cost of production to make decisions on what to sell.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

During April I visited the after school programs in Wyndmere, Fairmount, Abercrombie and Lidgerwood to do a wood working project with them. The children in the program made a wooden key holder with my direction and assistance. They learned measuring, sanding and staining techniques with the project and were able to take the finished product home with them. I enjoyed time with the youth and they all liked doing the project. Arrangements were made to visit the Hankinson site in early May.

TEST PLOTS

During April I finalized plans for the wheat variety trials, sugarbeet weed control plots and weed control plots on the Todd Toppen Farm near Kindred. The plots are sponsored by the Richland County Crop Improvement Association and rotated around the county.

The plots are established in conjunction with agronomists from NDSU and provide them with valuable data as well as providing a local source of information for Richland county farmers.

The location of the annual corn variety trial was also established near Barney, ND for 2007 as seed company contacts were made to finalize plans for the plot. Planting is planned for early May.

4-H LIVESTOCK PROJECT

I met with the 4-H'ers and parents involved in the 4-H Livestock Project on April 30 in Hankinson. The emphasis area this year is sheep or goats. I talked about the selection care and feeding requirements for both species that evening.

NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY & HEALTH/4-H

Colleen M. Svingen, Extension Agent

Please see attached information.

21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

*Adrian Biewer, Extension Agent,
Project Director*

FUNDING A CONCERN

Our state afterschool programs along with the support of the North Dakota Adult Learning Organization introduced HB 1370 for providing funding from the state surplus general fund for \$4 million for the two year period. The bill was defeated on the floor. They feel we have federal money to



spend. While this is true, our operating costs have increased while our revenues have not. To be most effective, we need lower student to staff ratios. Our staff salaries have also been froze for three years. The state mandated phase out of the vans in 2008 will be another financial burden. We do not have any funds to replace the vans and the pool for donations is continually divided up between all the projects going on in the communities.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

You may find a Richland County Program Needs Assessment or evaluation in your mailbox or child's backpack. The evaluation surveys and needs assessment packet are part of our plan to maintain good programming and continue to improve or add content and procedures that meet the needs of our communities. Students and staff will complete a total of ten surveys on program content and perceptions. Parents will complete one general survey. Our school teachers will complete a program general survey and a student progress survey. In addition, we use fall and spring scores in math and reading from the schools to monitor student academic success.

AYP

State testing results are back and some of our schools did not meet their Adequate Yearly Progress levels. We anticipate that the needs of the schools may change the look of the program in the future. Last year, students in the afterschool program proficiency levels in math included: Increased levels 37% , No Change 42%, Decreased 13%. In reading, students proficiency levels were at levels of: Increased 33%, No Change 53%, Decrease 16%. Students in the state who are in afterschool programs have higher levels of proficiency increase and maintain at higher levels than students who are not.

AIRGUN

Our 4-H shooting sports air-gun league was completed this month with the Fairmount team taking home a trophy plaque for the school and individual trophies. Hankinson was second and claimed honors to the second place team medals. The top shooter for the 4 round county tournament and Fairmount league was Levi Churchill from Fairmount. Top shooters from the other leagues were Seth Harles from Lidgerwood, Destiny Fitzpatrick from Wyndmere, Gavin Mushca from Richland 44, and Jenny Rieman from Hankinson.

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