

Richland County Extension
418 2nd Ave N, Wahpeton ND
701-642-7793 www.ag.ndsu.edu/county/richland

CROPPING SYSTEMS

Dale L. Siebert, Extension Agent

AUGUST NARRATIVE

CRON GROWERS PLOT TOUR

The Richland County Corn Growers held their annual variety plot tour on Tuesday, August 21. The plots were located near Barney, ND on the Randy and Joe Mauch Farm. A good representation of farmers and seed dealers were present for the variety tour with 65 people present. Following the tour a sponsored supper was served at the Barney Firehall. Guest speakers at the event included representatives from Cargill Corn Milling and USBioenergy Hankinson. The plot appears to be very good this year and we are awaiting yield data later this fall.

STRIP TILL TOUR

On August 14 I attended a strip till tour near Rothsay, MN, sponsored by the University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University Extension Service. With the high cost of both fuel and fertilizer it was evident that there was a lot of interest in strip till with 450 people present. With improvements in equipment strip till offers the advantages of reducing tillage by tilling only a small strip for each row while allowing fertilizer to be placed in a band in the same area. The remainder of the soil remains undisturbed allowing conservation benefits at the same time. As input costs remain high I would expect this type of tillage to become more common in the future.

GPS/GIS TRAINING

On August 30, I assisted Adrian Biewer, After School Coordinator, with a GPS training for the after school coordinators. Adrian was able to purchase GPS equipment for the afterschool program with a grant from Cargill and local donations. Basic GPS functions and geo-caching were covered at the training. A GPS trunk will be shared with the schools and utilized in the 4-H Program.

MARKET CLUBS

The Lidgerwood and Mooreton Market Clubs met during the month of August. With continually better prices in HRSW and soybeans there is always plenty of discussion as to when to market or make sales. The current volatility makes planning and timing of sales even more critical.

MPU MEETING

The Richland County Extension staff hosted a Multi-County Program Unit meeting for MPU 5 on August 28 at the Bagg Farm. The Extension staff from the other counties of Steele, Trail, Griggs and Cass enjoyed a tour of the farm and lunch at the Bagg Farm as a part of our planning meeting.

SEPTEMBER NARRATIVE

MARKET CLUBS

The Mooreton and Lidgerwood Market Clubs met during September on the 5, 6 and 19th. Marketing plans with volatile markets were discussed and 2007-8 marketing plans were updated. With the busy harvest schedule during October the clubs decided to wait until November to resume their regular meeting schedules.

4-H

With the sale of the 4-H building in Wahpeton 4-H members, parents and leaders met at the building on September 10 to remove any personal property from the building. Livestock pens and panels as well as cages were removed at that time. The city of Wahpeton will take possession of the building on November 1.

4-H leaders gathered on September 20 for the annual 4-H Awards selection. Leaders as well as office staff reviewed the member applications for awards to be sure the requirements had been met before awarding the award. Awards will be presented at the awards night presentation in Wyndmere on October 7.

4-H Leaders' Council met on September 24 to elect officers for the coming year, review the past year and to make plans for 2007-8. Discussion on Achievement Days and where to hold it in the future also took place. The possibility of holding Achievement Days at the Bagg Bonanza Farm is presently being explored. Elected as officers for 2008 were Sharon Ritten, President; Joan Beyer, Vice President; Karen Weber, Secretary; and Deb Knudson, Treasurer.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

On September 19 I attended the market club facilitators training held in Carrington, North Dakota. This training is a good opportunity to network with other facilitators from across the state to gather ideas and information to use with the market clubs in 2008.

September 25-27 I attended the training held in Minot, North Dakota for the counties involved in Annie's Project in 2008. Annie's project is a six week program to empower farm women to become better business partners. The program will be offered in Wahpeton beginning in January 2008.

NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY & HEALTH/4-H

Colleen M. Svingen, Extension Agent

21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

Adrian Biewer, Extension Agent, Project Director
