

CROPPING SYSTEMS

Dale L. Siebert, Extension Agent

WHITE WHEAT PROGRAM

Two planning meetings were held with farmers interested in growing Hard White Spring Wheat in 2006. This group is currently planning to grow a limited number of acres for production in 2006 with the idea of developing a flour or flour based product to add value to and market the production. With the current emphasis on whole grain food products, they hope to fill a market niche and add value to the raw product. Further planning meetings are planned in 2006. Currently I am in the process of locating a seed source for the 2006 production.

BEEF PRODUCERS MEETING DECEMBER 19

A meeting for beef cattle producers was held in Wyndmere December 19. Dr. Karl Hoppe from the Carrington Research Extension Center presented a program on utilizing alternative feeds and Tim Petry, Livestock Marketing Economist discussed the current cattle cycle and where we might anticipate prices to be in the year ahead. With all of the different feed alternatives available in the area and potential for more there is potential for utilizing them locally given the right economic outlook.

SOUTH EAST NORTH DAKOTA CROP IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MEETING

On December 12 I attended the Southeast District Crop Improvement Association meeting in Valley City with Neal Goerger from Mantador. Neal is currently a director from this district for the State Association. Seed increase issues were discussed at the meeting along with the potential for new varieties in 2006. Goerger was also re-elected to his director position at the meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

On December 7 the Richland County Township Officers held their annual fall meeting. With all of the ice the county had received the week before road issues were a major concern. As secretary for the organization I am involved in the planning and organization for the annual meetings.

I also attended the annual Minn-Dak Grower Meeting held on December 6 in Fargo. The sugarbeet growers have had two very challenging years in 2004 and 2005 with excessive rainfall during the growing season and harvest. They remain optimistic, however, and are looking toward a successful season in 2006.

NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY & HEALTH/4-H

Colleen M. Svingen, Extension Agent



AN EMERGING TOPIC--WHOLE WHITE WHEAT!

In the circle of extension workers there has been a lot of discussions surrounding possible *farm to table* or *field to table* projects and/or promotional concepts for our work. Some times *ah-ha* moments unfold before us in unexpected places or at unexpected times. After Deb Evenson, our administrative assistant returned from a trip to Missouri and asked probing questions about whole white wheat foods, it became apparent we needed further answers. In researching and visiting with one of our extension food specialists, we started to explore some project possibilities. Our pilot project is in its infancy, but we have been able to attract some interested county producers. This group is enjoying working together and working with many interdisciplinary specialists from agriculture, community development and nutrition.

2 December 2005

VISIONING FOR THE FUTURE

In the middle of December, I had the privilege of attending an *NDSU Extension Service Leadership Group Meeting* in Fargo. Prior to the meeting we completed an online assessment focusing on NDSU's present organizational leadership and visioning for the future. The results of this assessment stimulated a great discussion and perhaps created some new avenues for the future.

We also discussed the roles of agents and specialists, the possibility of changing our names from agents to educators, NDSU's purpose, deliberated approaches to determining research needs and managing a changing financial portfolio.

RESEARCH TO EDUCATION

Again, this fall we asked the local meat processing centers to help get the word out about safe wild game processing (field to table, food safety). In December we enlisted the help of Richland County groceries to help with food safety topics for the holidays. One of the larger groceries printed turkey safety hints from our office in their marketing flyers. All the groceries in the county agreed to display publications related to holiday food safety. We are always looking for places to connect research to local residents. I would welcome any ideas or possibilities you may have to share information with our county clients.

FNP

*Pamela Leino-Mills,
Extension Agent*



In December I conducted food safety classes for groups at Rainbow Court and for the Wahpeton Senior Center. I was also busy conducting classes for the delightful children in the Fairmount and Lidgerwood afterschool programs and in the Every Child is Important (ECI) Program at Central Elementary School in Wahpeton.

21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

*Adrian Biewer, Extension Agent,
Project Director*



TRAINING

Our site coordinators attended a training on newsletter writing on January 13 in Wyndmere. Jenny Tschakert from our Abercrombie site was the presenter. The two hour training included using Microsoft Publisher for better and more attractive newsletters.

AIRGUN LEAGUE

Our first airgun league events have been held for the state 4-H postal match. The scores and targets have been turned in and we are awaiting the news and the gold, silver, and bronze winners. Shooters complete 4 rounds of ten shots at an official 4-H 10 point target at 5 meters in four positions. Students must score 250 or above for a gold medal, 200 or above for a silver with the rest receiving bronze medals.

ROBOTIC CLUB

The Fairmount Robotics Club has changed their name to the ASPS. This stands for After-school Program. It is also a name of a small snake. We have ordered T-shirts for the State First Lego League tournament. The ASPS will compete on January 28 in Grand Forks. Good Luck ASPS!

FUNDRAISER

Our Tastefully Simple fundraiser raised \$1580 with the Microsoft match. A big thanks to Cara Myers from Richland for her help in that effort. Thank you parents for your orders.

2 December 2005