

Richland County Extension
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CROPPING SYSTEMS

Dale L. Siebert, Extension Agent

ANNIE'S PROJECT

Annie's Project, the farm financial management program for farm women, continued each Thursday evening in February. This six week program has 20 very enthusiastic farm women involved in Wahpeton. The program is partially conducted over the Interactive Video Network each evening with the remainder of the program conducted by a local speaker. IVN sessions this month have included Women and Money by Deb Pankow, Family Economics Specialist from NDSU; Financial Analysis-Importance of Keeping Records by Andy Swenson, Extension Farm Management Economist from NDSU; and Developing and Implementing a Marketing Plan by George Flakerud and Tim Petry, Extension Marketing Economists from NDSU.

Local presenters have included Communicating with Your Lender, Annette Loken from Wells Fargo Bank; Understanding a Balance Sheet and Using Adult Farm Management Record for Comparison, Keith Torgerson, Adult Farm Management Instructor from NDSCS; and Farm Service Agency 101 with Dayne Bedford and Nikki Miranowski from the Richland County FSA Office. In addition, on February 15 I conducted a computer lab utilizing various software tools and spreadsheets currently available. All of the classes and speakers have been well received and this has been a very rewarding program to facilitate and teach this winter. The final session of the class will be held in March.

PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION

Certification classes for farmers that need to recertify their general certification for three years were held on February 22 in Lidgerwood and the evening of February 27 in Wahpeton. As a part of the class I have been using the Problem Based Learning Model with the farmers as they design a weed control plan for a farm given different crops and weed control problems. Farmers continue to be appreciative of the training they receive at the update sessions as many positive comments are received. A smaller number of farmers, 84, require recertification in 2007. Accordingly, I have three workshops planned for 2007.

LIDGERWOOD MARKET CLUB

The Lidgerwood Market Club met on February 20. Club members had requested information on how to use Balance Sheets and Cash Flow Plans with a marketing plan. With the help of Ron Heley, Loan Officer at Bank of The West in Lidgerwood, we put together a program on how they might be used together. Club members continue to support the club and meet on a regular basis.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

February is a busy month for meetings for different commodity groups and organizations. During February I attended and participated in the annual Sugarbeet Research Update held at the Wahpeton Eagles on Feb. 1 for Minn-Dak Sugarbeet Growers; The Soybean Expo which is put on by the North Dakota Soybean Growers on Feb. 13; the Cornvention, which is sponsored by the North Dakota Corn Growers; and a meeting held in Colfax on February 15 titled Today's Markets with Modernized Agriculture, a focus on the emerging identity

preserved, specialty grain industry which was sponsored by the Midwest Shippers Association. Richland County has several producers active in leadership in each of these organizations. Area producers and industry representatives are also in attendance so it is an opportunity to network with them.

4-H COUNCIL

I attended the Richland County 4-H Council which met in Mantador on Feb. 13. This was the regular quarterly meeting of the council and focused on coming activities and events. The county Awards Form was also recently revised and I spent time assisting other office staff in writing and re-writing the forms and it was formally accepted at the meeting.

NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY & HEALTH/4-H

Colleen M. Svingen, Extension Agent

Check out the attachments on the future narratives.

FNP

Pamela Leino-Mills, Extension Agent

During February and March, I made a great effort to reach adults. I have made contact with Interstate Properties, a company that maintains several apartment complexes in the Wahpeton area that house the adults I am trying to reach. I taught two classes to senior citizens at the Northland Apartments.

I have continued to work with students in the after school programs, totaling 36 classes in Lidgerwood, Hankinson, Fairmount, and CNS. I have also taught two lessons for the Lidgerwood 2nd grade, and four for the CNS 5th grade.

21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

*Adrian Biewer, Extension Agent,
Project Director*



Be watching next month for the Afterschool Report.

