

CROPPING SYSTEMS

Dale L. Siebert, Extension Agent

WEATHER

Weather was the topic of concern throughout the month of June as heavy rains repeatedly went through the county, creating considerable crop and property damage. In response to the weather problems I met with the County Emergency Board three times during the month to prepare Flash Situation Reports for the state to assist them in determining crop damages. Several tours were made in the county to assist in determining the extent of crop loss. I also attended a meeting held in Wyndmere June 14 with Governor Hoeven as he visited the area to assess crop and property damages. As an office, we prepared packets of flood cleanup information that were distributed in Wyndmere, Fairmount and Wahpeton to assist residents that had experienced flooded basements or sewer backup as a result of the heavy rains. Rainfall amounts during the month amounted to three and four times the normal amount for the month around the county. As a result, potential crop losses were estimated to be 35% for corn, 38% for soybeans, 30% for sunflowers, 25% for sugar beets, 30% for HRSW, 60% for hay land and 60% for pasture. In addition, an estimated 5% of the crop acres in the county were not planted in 2005 due to the extreme wet soil conditions.

In addition, numerous contacts were made with media during the month as they were reporting on weather damages in the county. The weather related questions I received

during the month related to late planting of soybeans, weed control, disease problems and other weather related problems.

4-H ACTIVITIES

During June I assisted with the District Communication Arts Contest held in Fargo on June 1. Several 4-H members from the county participated and did well in the contest that day. I also assisted with the set up and take down for the 4-H Rummage Sale held on June 3-4. This county wide sale is a major fund raiser for the County 4-H Program.

I also arranged a rabbit showmanship workshop for 4-H members in the rabbit project on June 28. JacylN Weber, a former 4-H member, showed a group of young 4-H members how to prepare and show their rabbit for Achievement Days. This program is a part of the 4-H Council's plan to promote a species of livestock each year with the intent of increasing participation in the livestock projects in the county.



MARKET CLUB

I met with the Mooreton Marketing Club three times during the month of June. The club meets every two weeks and meetings in the summer months are typically short and held primarily to update members on

current markets and as a chance for them to take a look at their marketing plans to see if adjustments are needed based on current market signals.

NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY & HEALTH/4-H

Colleen M. Svingen, Extension Agent

4-H RUMMAGE SALE

The first weekend in June our county 4-Her's were helping people treasure hunt at our Richland County 4-H Rummage Sale! The volunteers and 4-Her's juggle their schedules to manage a large volume of donations for the rummage sale. It was fun to see shoppers find treasures and members and leaders discover new friends as they work together for 4-H.



FLOOD RESOURCES

Our office and Public Health collaborated to share flood resources with county residents seeking advice on how to clean and cope with water in their homes. KBMW provided air time for county residents to call in with their questions for Richland County Public Health's contracted specialist from Cass Public Health.

OFFICE REMODEL

We spent a great deal of time compressing files, etc. as we prepared for our office remodel. I am delighted to have new office furniture, carpet, and anticipate that we will

enjoy our new heating system. We would like to thank the commissioners for giving us permission to upgrade our image and the maintenance staff for all their assistance in the move. My co-workers tease me that I never come out of my office now!!

4-H SHOWCASE

The 4-H County Showcase event is unique in its format. Each 4-Her plans and prepares their display so that ideas and information can be shared with everyone else at the event. There are three categories our 4-Her's enter in: Buy & Show, Sew & Show, and Project Expo.



4-H ACHIEVEMENT DAYS

Our 4-H Achievement Days were held July 14-15 at the Sisters of St. Francis School Gym in Hankinson. Our 4-H members, volunteers and office staff spent a tremendous amount of time in preparation for Achievement Days so it was fun to experience a fun and festive atmosphere. I would like to give you a *thumbnail sketch* of what kind of support the Extension Office provides to Achievement Days. Our responsibilities include registering and providing support for projects, securing



judges and assistants, locating and transporting additional

equipment from fans to food, gathering and disbursing prize



incentives, scheduling and encouraging volunteer follow-through (development of leadership skills), and gathering and documenting paper work etc. needed for the state fair.

Richland County had a record number of exhibits go to the North Dakota State Fair in Minot.



Our horse 4-H club is in the developmental stages, but Deb Knudson is excited about the program and willing to share her skills with the 4-H kids.

Thanks to the generosity and community support, our 4-Her's received great premium rewards for their hard work, creativity, and learning investment.



This is the first year we have had an all county 4-H Picnic. The idea came from one of our new leaders and it was a big hit!! Our great hostesses,

the Sisters of St Francis, joined in the fun!

KBMW graciously lets us commend the county and state winners on the radio!



RICHLAND/WILKIN 4-H ACTIVITY DAY

Richland /Wilkin Activity Day sponsored by United Way was held the end of July. 94 area youth were able to pick from eleven different activity tracks. The tracks included



two technology tracks, food tracks, craft tracks, outdoor tracks, and nature, sewing, and animal tracks. The afternoon also

included a zoo tour, swimming, snacks and a pizza evening meal. All for three dollars! It was a great event because of the kids, many volunteers, a great host site and help from United Way! The Richland County After-School Staff helped chaperone and transport kids to Chahinkapa Park.



Colette Barton, Director of United Way, was a track leader.

COLOR TRAINING

I had the opportunity to spend a fun afternoon teaching the Matrixx System (Colors Temperament Theory) to the after-school coordinators and staff.

Becoming familiar with Temperament Theory helps us predict such things as how people teach, learn, lead others, socialize, manage money, and relate to others.

Experts recognize that the theory may not be logical, but is behaviorally sound. My goal was to give the staff another tool to make their job as educators easier.

FNP

Pamela Leino-Mills,
Extension Agent



5 + 5 PROJECT

A 5 + 5 project took us to the Blikre Activities Center on June 8, where we served “healthy” snacks and offered materials and education to six groups of children at the Wilkin/Richland Community Bible School.

We offered the same to volunteers working



with the children. Our “giraffe” snack (made with string cheese and two fruits) fit in with the Serengeti

theme and was a hit with all. We brought a carrot suit worn by an engaging volunteer who passed out bags of mini carrots, also provided through 5 + 5 funds. This young



man was extremely popular! We reached approximately 750 people with our message, and were pleased with the



comments we got regarding the healthy snacks.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

During June, I also worked with the WIC Director in Hankinson on June 9, teaching

food safety to WIC customers. I spoke with EBT customers, conducted a class at CNS, and worked with four people seeking help with menu planning and budgeting for food.

In July I taught seven EBT classes, three CNS classes, a class for the After-school Program coordinators, and four groups referred to me through Public Health and Social Services. I set up a display for Social Services and Public Health, which will stand until the end of August. I met with groups of senior citizens in Christine, Walcott, and Abercrombie to set up fall classes with them. I attended the Aging Coalition meeting.

21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

Adrian Biewer, Extension Agent, Project Director



FUNDING

We have received notice that our continuation grant for 2005-2006 has been awarded for \$215,000 from the 21st Century State Program Director, Dale Patrick. It is for one year and we will have to apply again next spring for our final year of funding. Next year’s funding will be reduced and we will be required to replace that reduction from another funding source in order to continue with the grant program.

NEW STAFF

We have hired new staff for several of the schools. Jenni Tschakert has accepted the site coordinator position at Richland 44 site. Aleshia Miranowski will join her as a teaching assistant. Teri Church will be the new teaching assistant at Fairmount. Sarah Haberman will join the Wyndmere site as teaching aide.

INSERVICE

We have completed our two day inservice for child care requirements. Dr. Jane Edwards presented information on the new food pyramid and meal planning, Pam Leino-Mills discussed body image, Colleen Svingen conducted a 4-hour Colors training, and I presented teaching strategies for ADD and hyperactive children.

REGISTRATION

Registration packets for the afterschool program will go out the first week of school in student backpacks. We anticipate fees to be similar to last year with the exception that United Way has given funds to cover the registration costs of income eligible families.

NEW STAFF

The afterschool program has added new staff to Fairmount, Abercrombie, and Richland 44. Teri Bertelson-Church has been hired as a teaching assistant to replace Marni VanOverbeke at Fairmount site. Jenni Tschakert is the new site coordinator and Aleshia Miranowski the new teaching assistant at Richland 44. Kelly Haberman, Annie Schmit, Casey Foertsch, and Karly Steinwehr have left to finish college degrees. Dena Offerdahl has moved to Minneapolis, MN. Sara Haberman will be the new high school teaching aide at Wyndmere. She replaces Megan Griffin who has enrolled at Minnesota State University at Moorhead, MN.