

Richland County Extension
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CROPPING SYSTEMS

Dale L. Siebert, Extension Agent

ANNIE'S PROJECT

The Annie's Project, farm management program for farm women, wrapped up on March 8. The final program combined a presentation from Cole Gustafson, Professor of Agribusiness at NDSU on communication and goal setting over the IVN system and Joe Burgard, Marketing Specialist from Ag Country Farm Credit System on Marketing and Crop Insurance. The final evaluations on the six week program were very positive from the 20 women who participated. With eight people on a waiting list for 2008, plans are underway to do a similar program next winter.

PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION

I completed the annual round of Pesticide Certification meetings in March with workshops on the 6th and 21st. A total of four workshops were conducted this winter for the applicators needing certification. I again used the problem based learning model weed control exercise with the attendees in 2007. This exercise allows them to work within a group to design a weed control program for various crops based on a given crop rotation and weed spectrum. Evaluations on this activity indicate most like this type of learning activity.

HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

The annual Home and Garden Show was held on March 24 at the Blikre Activity Center on the NDSCS Campus. This program is planned with the Wahpeton Chamber of Commerce and master gardeners from the area. Throughout

the day 20 different seminars were conducted on horticulture related topics. This year we also featured Dr. Dale Herman, Horticulturist from NDSU, as a featured speaker with a talk on Trees for North Dakota at the program. Although the weather was extremely nice that day, 90 people participated in the various seminars. Evaluations contained many positive comments and suggestions for future programs.

MARCH MEETINGS

During the month I conducted and participated in a variety of organizational meetings. The market clubs continued to meet with meetings on the 14th and 22nd. I participated in Township Officer meetings on March 26 and their annual meeting on March 26. I assisted with the 4-H Consumer Choice judging contest taking official reasons on March 17 and assisted with the Family Fun and Fitness program on March 25. I also attended the annual Spring Extension Conference March 27-29 held in Fargo.

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%, and 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 airgun 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.

