

*Richland County Extension*  
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## **CROPPING SYSTEMS**

*Dale L. Siebert, Extension Agent*

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### *MAY NARRATIVE*

#### **ANNIE'S PROJECT**

Planning for Annie's Project 2008 began on May 2 with a planning session in Carrington, ND. Plans are to begin the program again in Wahpeton on January 24, 2008 and continue for six continuous weeks similar to 2007. The Wahpeton site will again be linked to the sites in Fargo, Oakes and Jamestown via the IVN system. Currently we have eight people on a waiting list from last year and we will again limit class size to a total of 20 due to classroom size limitations.

#### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

I taught a session at the Hankinson After School Program site on May 9, on making key holders similar to what I had done at the other four sites during April. The key holder project worked very well at all of the sites and fit well into the time allowed.

On May 10 I assisted Adrian with the Wal-Mart fishing derby held at Mooreton pond. At the derby I conducted the casting contest for the participants and was kept busy with retying lines and fixing equipment in between groups. It was a fun evening and a chance to assist the youth in the program.

#### **CORN VARIETY PLOT**

The Richland County Corn Growers corn variety trials were established on the Randy and Joe Mauch farm in early May. Despite challenges with wet fields and getting

varieties delivered from seed companies, we were able to get the plot planted in a timely fashion this year. We again have over 50 different varieties entered in the plot so planting and harvesting the plot can be a challenge for the growers involved as well as the staff involved.

#### **CROP-WEATHER**

Heavy rains during the month of May created difficult spring planting conditions for area producers with flooded fields common throughout the county. Many acres of spring wheat were replanted after the heavy rains and crusting problems caused by the rains May 4-5. Common questions were on fertilizer loss and how late do we recommend replanting of HRSW.

#### **4-H**

During May I assisted with the Communication Arts contest held on May 17 in Wyndmere. The 4-H Council also held a county wide rummage sale on May 4-5 in the 4-H Building in Wahpeton. The office staff assisted with the set up and sale during that week-end. Special thanks to Brenda and Deb for filling in for Colleen and myself Friday evening and Saturday as we both had family commitments that week-end.

The sale of the 4-H property located in Wahpeton by the city became a possibility when the city announced they were advertising for bids on the property on which our building is located. Negotiations with the city and meetings with 4-H Leaders were on going at the end of the month.

### *JUNE NARRATIVE*

#### **FLOOD**

Heavy rainfall in early June created issues with flooded fields and several home owners experiencing flooded basements in the Wahpeton area. Crop damage was surveyed and estimates of loss prepared for the County Emergency Board on June 5. Packets of information on clean-up after a flood were prepared and given to the County Emergency Manager who handed them out with clean-up kits to local residents. Over 250 packets of information were distributed in this manner. Radio programs were also utilized to get information out about proper clean-up after experiencing sewage back up or flood water seepage. We also made available a moisture meter for residents to use to check if wood materials had properly dried to recover with sheetrock or other materials. It seems that water damage of this type has almost become an annual event in some parts of the county.

### **PLOT TOUR**

The annual Plot Tour of the field plots sponsored by the Richland County Crop Improvement Association was held on June 21 at the Todd Toppen Farm near Kindred. Plots included Hard Red Spring Wheat varieties; sugarbeet weed control and corn weed control demonstrations. The plots were in a good location this year as the site was well drained and did not suffer water damage. The plot tour happened to be on an evening where farmers could be in the field catching up on weed control activities and this hurt our attendance that evening, but it still provided those attending with a very good educational experience.

### **TREE WORKSHOP**

A workshop for Tree Professionals was held in the Wahpeton Park on June 14. Michael Kangas from the North Dakota Forest Service was present to update us on the status of the bronze ash borer which has been very deadly to ash trees in the eastern United States. So far it has not been found east of Wisconsin,

but is expected to affect ash trees in the future. No one can predict how soon or how fast this insect will move. A tour of the park and neighboring areas followed to identify tree and insect disease problems.

### **LIVESTOCK INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

In preparation for 4-H Achievement Days a showmanship workshop was held for members in the Livestock Incentive Program on June 27. Members were given tips on preparing sheep and goats for Achievement Days and how to show them. Currently we have nine 4-Hers enrolled in the incentive program. Megan Weber, a past 4-H member assisted with the workshop. Megan was active in showing goats throughout her 4-H career and was very willing to assist with the workshop.

### ***JULY NARRATIVE***

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Richland County Extension Advisory Committee met on July 9 at Mantador. Extension staff reviewed programs and generated discussion on possible program ideas for the coming months. Terms and possible replacement of committee members were also reviewed at the meeting. The Advisory Committee continues to be a good sounding board and support group for our Extension programs.

#### **MARKET CLUBS**

The Mooreton and Lidgerwood Market Clubs met on July 11 and 12. I arranged for Jon Anderson, from USBio Hankinson to talk at the Mooreton meeting regarding the corn procurement plans for the ethanol plant at Hankinson. Jon discussed the pricing and discount policies currently in place as well as current construction progress. The plant is currently projected to be online in the spring of 2008.

#### **4-H ACHIEVEMENT DAYS**

The annual Richland County 4-H Achievement Days were held in Hankinson July 13-14. This event requires considerable preparation ahead of the event in procuring judges, pre-registration of exhibits, setting up facilities etc. Thanks to everyone in the office the event ran smoothly this year and weather cooperated as well with moderate temperatures for mid-July. I also interviewed and judged the horticulture exhibits so I get to visit with the 4-Hers' first hand about their projects. Thanks go out to all of the parents, leaders, staff and 4-Hers' for making this a successful event.

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS**

I attended the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan July 15-19. This annual meeting is always a good chance to renew old acquaintances as well as gain knowledge about new programs and ideas. The emphasis of many of the keynote programs was on the Farm Bill discussions and renewable energy.

### **NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY & HEALTH/4-H**

*Colleen M. Svingen, Extension Agent*

Please see attached information.

### **21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS**

*Adrian Biewer, Extension Agent,  
Project Director*

#### **YEAR COMPLETED**

The Richland County Afterschool Program has completed another successful year. The program enrollment was up nearly 60 students from last year. Our evaluation



and needs assessments are completed and I am working on putting them into easy formats to distribute our families, sponsors, and most importantly--our state director. Full reports will be available at your school or you call our office to request one starting in August.

### **FISHING DERBY**

Our annual Wal-Mart Fishing Derby went off without a hitch - and nearly some bait. Thanks to Brenda Vertin, the shortage of bait was soon taken care of. Participants had an opportunity to compete in the casting contest, a hoola hoop contest, and the fishing derby. We had a great turn out with approximately 90 kids and 21 parents at the site. We chose Mooreton pond for the central location and the fact that the trout and bluegills were biting. However, as weak cold front and some windy weather made fishing a little tough with only five contestants catching fish. Lindy Little Joe sent us 300 bobbers and Northland Tackle sent 200 packages of jigs and hooks to give out to the participants. Top prizes included rod and reel combinations, tackle boxes, and tackle packs. Three parents received appreciation prizes of Rapala fillet knife and plier kits. Alyssa Ernst took top fish awards with a two pound trout.

We received some good news in the last couple weeks as our GPS and GIS Program is off to a running start. We received support from local businesses and Cargill to the tune of \$10,000 to start a program for our kids. The money will be used to purchase GPS units, to develop a GPS educational trunk, and to train staff for the program. A big thank you is due to the community businesses.

Funding for next year is at the forefront of business this month. We have submitted our continuation grant to the state director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century and another JC Penney grant. Keep your fingers crossed.

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