John Kringler, Chair & Cropping Systems

• April had above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Planting of crops progressed and some of the seed was placed in dry soil. Because of that some fields looked ragged with areas not germinating. Farmers remarked about the planting conditions of the soils. Cass County is considered in a moderate drought due to the dry soils. A conference call was held to discuss NDSU Extensions role in helping producers deal with the drought situation. The Cass County Soil Conservation District board reorganized with a new District Coordinator, Jeff Miller and the resignation of a board member and appointment of a new member. The Harvest Bowl Committee met to discuss planning for the fall event that will be held November 6th and 7th.

Maxine J. Nordick, 4-H Youth Development

• I taught a 4-H Food Science class series where youth explored protein chemistry and learned how heat affects coagulation as they experimented with different methods for cooking eggs. They also experimented with different methods for stabilizing egg white foams that were mechanically coagulated as they went through the process of making a soufflé. The third topic covered was separating the curds from the whey. They made a fresh cheese as they learned about the process for coagulating the milk protein. A before and after evaluation was conducted for all three classes.

• Other youth classes held this month were Pottery Wheel, Wood Turning and .22 Rifle.

Kelcey Hoffmann, Agriculture

• Equine Encounter, an equine producer meeting, was hosted at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in April. At this event, horse enthusiasts learned about how to select hay for their horses and how to store this hay to get the most out of it. Extension specialists were brought in to talk about manure management, how to control weeds in your pasture, and how to manage these pastures. Dr. Kenton Morgan, a Zoetis Veterinarian, presented on deworming, spring vaccinations for horses, and how to control diseases in your horses. Comments heard after the meeting ranged from, “I wish we had more meetings like this” to “Thank you for this great opportunity!”

Monique Snelgrove, 4-H Youth After School Program

• Sixth and seventh grade students in 4-H Science Club celebrate the end of the club year by making Science Club Soda. Of course, no 4-H Science Club activity is complete without a little applied science; frozen carbon dioxide (dry ice) is used to carbonate the soda. As the dry ice sublimes (converts from solid to gas form) in the enclosed soda bucket, pressure builds, and… BOOM!...the lid blows off! Club members enjoy their Science Club soda with a pizza party to celebrate the end of the 4-H Science Club year.
Michelle Strang,  
EFNEP/FNP Adult Nutrition Program  
- In the month of April I wrapped up Go Wild with Fruits and Veggies for approximately 110 3rd graders. Students participated in 7 hands-on lessons that focused on the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables of all colors, as well as increasing physical activity.

The photo is Mrs. Michelson’s 3rd grade classroom.

Rita Ussatis,  
Food and Nutrition  
- Financial literacy for youth was a focus this month. Real World, a program attended by 250 Cass County youth taught the students basic money concepts. I taught the session on Wants vs. Needs. One-hundred and seventy-five Cass County sophomores and juniors attend SMARTZ. This program focused on the financial needs as the students prepared for college. The session taught me was on Making a Money Plan. Feedback from both of these programs, indicated increased knowledge in money management.
- FaithCommunitiesAlive held a fire-up breakfast in which the participating faith communities shared their successes over the past year. Successes included; offering healthy items at fellowship hours with financial support from congregation members, community gardens and donating to the food bank, a fund raiser 5K walk and many other successes.

Sue Quamme, Parenting Resources  
- April was Prevent Child Abuse Month. Region 5 Parenting Resource Center assisted Cass County Social Services in decorating the Cass County Annex with posters and displays celebrating the event. Other efforts to promote the month included coordinating with other agencies, creating a challenge video, posting parenting help on social media. PRC classes offered included: Parents Forever, Nurtured Heart Approach, Crossroads of Parenting and Divorce, Parenting with Love and Logic, Infant Massage and presentations at Centre Inc., Woodrow High School and Job Service. Classes were offered in Fargo and Moorhead and met the needs of more than 100 parents. I attended a Human Development and Family Science Spring Training, Nurtured Heart Approach training, Clay County Youth Regional Forum and Nurse Family Partnership Board meeting. A meeting was held with Nancy Kalor to discuss two NDSU summer field experience students who will be doing several projects for the PRC.

Todd Weinmann,  
Horticulture  
- With the weather starting to turn, people were excited to start gardening. Two new publications are available: H1754 From Garden to Table: Leafy Greens! and E1631 Japanese Beetle in ND. http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/lawns-gardens-trees is a website with several horticulture publications. I worked with Native American connections for a renewal of a garden in Fargo. My Master Gardeners had a horticulture booth at the Latter Day Saints Spring Event. I have spoken to several of the local service clubs in the past.