• Soil conditions changed dramatically from early May drought conditions to late May excess soil moisture. Some of the seeds planted in April and early May were placed in dry soil, so did not germinate, causing grower concerns expressing need for moisture. Frequent rains started May 10th, in some cases were extremely heavy rains, resulted in the third wettest May on record. Areas received over 10 inches for May.

• ND Genesis 2-Row Barley was allocated for increase through the Cass County Ag. Improvement Association. Buchholz Seed Farm and Howe Seed Farm received 70 bushels each of Foundation Seed to increase in 2015 for distribution to growers in 2016.

• The “Spring Fever Horse Workshop” was held May 16th at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds for Cass County 4-H members! These 4-Her’s learned about the proper equipment needed to safely compete in county horse events, ways to get their horses ready for these events, and had showmanship practice. The members were able to spend the day both on and off the horse getting one on one attention from our instructors. Positive feedback came from both the parents and members about how they appreciated the hands-on experience and are excited for the summer horse events to come!
Michelle Strang,  
EFNEP/FNP Adult Nutrition Program

- As President of the North Dakota Nutrition Council, I attended and helped plan our annual Spring Conference on May 12th and 13th. We had many fantastic speakers and learned about cutting edge nutrition research dealing with protein, whole grains, lactose intolerance and how to cultivate “adventurous tasters”.

Sue Quamme, Parenting Resources

- The month of May was filled with trainings and wrapping up of classes and budgets. The Prevent Child Abuse committee wrapped up events with a grant report, Multi-Disciplinary Team Approach to Child Maltreatment Spring Training, Walk of Courage and Vender Fair. Cass County Parent Resource Center was host to the PRC Annual Meeting. Parent Resource Coordinators from across the state came together to learn about better using technology to promote and enhance our programs, and examined our vision and direction. I also attended NDSU Building Strong and Effective Extension Program training.

Rita Ussatis, 
Food and Nutrition

- This spring I hosted two Dietetic Interns from Concordia College for a total of 12 weeks. The interns supported many research and educational programs in the Family Consumer Sciences area.
- I continue with the Diabetes Prevention classes. Five months after the initial educational classes completed, the group has maintained or continued to lose weight with the total weight loss being 247 pounds or an average of 9.3% for the group. A second group in the initial core classes is also having success and almost everyone is close to the weight loss goal of 7% per participant.
- The Cass Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission is meeting bi-monthly and the steering committee is meeting monthly. I participate in both of these groups. The area of focus is urban agriculture and community gardens.

Nikki Johnson  
EFNEP/FNP Youth Nutrition Program

- Attended the National Urban Extension Conference and National Health Outreach Conference in Atlanta, GA.
- Participated in the Annual North Dakota Nutrition Council Conference.
- Took part in NDSU’s Communications Camp.
- Wrapped up 24 elementary nutrition series and 2 high school nutrition programs for the year.

Todd Weinmann,  
Horticulture

- McKinley Youth Gardens are filling up. If you know of a child interested in gardening have their parent or guardian call me. I did a horticulture talk to children at McKinley Elementary School with Nikki Johnson. Master Gardeners in our county are picking up Japanese beetle traps for the summer season. The picture is of one of these traps. I am working with ND LIVE, KVLY on doing television spots for them. Please check out www.ag.ndsu.edu/yardandgardenreport/ for what is going on horticulturally for ND.