John Kringler, Chair & Cropping Systems

• The Cass County USDA County Emergency Board met to complete an assessment of agricultural damage for the 2015 growing season. The CEB determined that no crop in Cass County had been affected so as to cause a 30% yield reduction including taking into account a quality reduction of the crop. This information was forwarded to the State Farm Service Agency to be included in the State assessment.

• The Outlook Conference for Ag. Lenders was held. Topics included: Farm Financial Performance, Energy Outlook, Livestock Outlook and Marketing Strategies, Asset Values and Collateralization, U.S. Economic Outlook, Sugar Beet Economics, Responding to Smaller Operating Margins and Crops Outlook and Marketing Strategies.

• An interesting panel discussion on Genetically Modified Foods was held at the Holiday Inn. The available scientific evidence suggests that the biotechnology currently used in genetically engineered organisms does not present food safety issues that differ from traditional agricultural or breeding practices. Furthermore, there is no verifiable scientific evidence that consumption of a GE organism has resulted in adverse health effects.

Kelcey Hoffmann, Agriculture

• NDSU Extension Fall Conference was held in Bismarck this year and I had the honor to be on the planning committee. Months of planning went into the 4-day event where Extension Agents, Specialists, and Researchers from across the state came together to do some program planning, learn about new technologies, and acquire more information about certain curriculums. It was a great committee to be a part of and it was fun to see how the conference comes together.

Maxine J. Nordick, 4-H Youth Development

• 4-H Club Officer Training: Three 4-H teen volunteers along with myself conducted the club officer training for 31 youth and adults. Youth were asked to identify one thing they learned that they would put into practice at their club meeting. Here are some of the responses:

  I learned to say “I move” instead of “I make” when stating a motion. The secretary report does not need a motion to be approved. I will give receipts for payments made to the club. How to give a treasurer’s report, properly. I will endeavor to see that at our club’s meetings, that motions are made properly and parliamentary procedure is followed. How to properly conduct and lead the 4-H meeting.

• Environmental Science Backpack Training: This was an opportunity for volunteers to explore the hands-on activities in four of the backpacks on Natural Resources, Water, Wood and Soil. Those attending were very pleased with this great resource for lessons they could do at their 4-H club meetings.

Sue Quamme, Parenting Resources

• The beginning of October was inspirational as I attended the NDSU Extension Fall Conference in Bismarck. I was moved to expand my circle of influence and found some fun new teaching tools. My NDSU Human Development and Family Science field experience student, Rachel Rude and I have been working hard to promote and prepare for Dr. David Walsh’s presentation at the Hilton Garden Inn on November 12. Teen parents at Woodrow Wilson High School learned about Shaken Baby Syndrome and were empowered to teach others who care for their children how to cope with a crying baby. Men at Centre Inc. were taught about parenting styles.
Michelle Strang,
EFNEP/FNP Adult Nutrition Program

• During the month of October, I attended the annual Fall Extension Conference.
• Completed the five week course, On the Move to Better Health, with Jefferson Elementary School 5th graders.
• Started the series of Banking on Strong Bones with Jefferson 4th grade students.

Monique Stelzer
4-H Youth After School Program

• After two years of offering the Diabetes Prevention Program, with over 75 successful participants, the Center for Disease Control awarded the NDSU Extension Service- Cass County full recognition status. This is the first and only program in North Dakota to receive this status. Currently, three different sessions of this program are being offered.
• On the Move to Better Health, a 5 week healthy eating and physical activity program for 5th grade students, has begun in 12 different classrooms throughout Cass County. Assisting in this program are NDSU students in Family Consumer Science and Dietetics. This is a wonderful opportunity for these students to gain classroom experience.

Todd Weinmann,
Horticulture

• There has been allot of interest by homeowners and industry people on growing hops. I will be doing a program on this in mid to late winter. The Master Gardener Training program is well on its way. Cass County has the largest group of active Master Gardeners than any other county in the state. I spoke at the NDSU Extension Fall Conference on raised bed gardens, participating in professional organizations, and taught new and seasoned employees on how to make a home visit. I am a member of the Extension Diversity Board and we had a poster on diversity at this conference as well. The SCD meetings that I attended are running smooth and am working with Ashley Fisk their Urban Horticulturist on incorporating into one of my programs this winter “Low Maintenance Alternative Gardens for Urban Settings. I am working with the North Dakota State Seed Department on niche markets for people wanting to sell horticulture seed to the public. Garlic and hardy bulbs such as tulips and tree winterization and care were the major questions for homeowners in October.

Rita Ussatis,
Food and Nutrition

• I met with directors from three community organizations to discuss programming opportunities for myself and Caliton. Out of the three meetings, two new partnerships were formed. I will be offering cooking classes starting next week for a group of teen moms attending Woodrow Wilson, and next month for a group of homeless men living at the New Life Center. I also met with a group from the New American Consortium and got the ball rolling for future classes to be taught by Caliton. I’m also waiting to hear back from the director at Charism about future programming with their audience. All in all it was a pretty successful month!

Nikki Johnson
EFNEP/FNP Youth Nutrition Program

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• Started the series of Banking on Strong Bones with Jefferson 4th grade students.

• During the month of October, I attended the annual Fall Extension Conference.
• Completed the five week course, On the Move to Better Health, with Jefferson Elementary School 5th graders.

4-H Youth Development is growing new leaders. Middle school aged youth are developing problem solving skills and recording scientific knowledge in 4-H Science Club. Youth learn through hands-on activities, and following the scientific model approach to scientific experimentation. In this photo, the 4-H Science Club member has tested and is redesigning a model rocket to act as a food delivery system. 4-H Science club meets weekly during the school year at two school sites—one in Fargo and another in West Fargo—with more than 45 youth participating.

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