Making a difference

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

AUGUST 2015

John Krügler, Chair & Cropping Systems

• Discussed Soybean Cyst Nematode management at a Soybean Plot tour near Buffalo. Soybean Cyst Nematode is present in almost all fields in Cass County. It cannot be totally controlled, but can be managed through crop rotation, tolerant variety selection and potentially nematicide use. Examples of herbicide resistant weeds were shown to the group. They included Waterhemp, Common Ragweed, Marestail (Horseweed) and Kochia. Growers will need to develop a strategy for controlling these weeds in future soybean fields.

• Small grain harvest progressed as fields ripened. Barley yields and quality were very good, with most samples making malt quality. Wheat yields varied from 50 to 80 bushels per acre. Most samples had a good test weight and protein content. Some growers commented that they had 80 bushel straw and only a 50 bushel grain yield.

Kelcey Hoffmann, Agriculture

• NDSU Extension Service is currently conducting a statewide pilot program evaluating ditch hay in North Dakota. The goal of this program is to determine the quality and quantity of ditch hay harvested and how producers utilize ditch hay. In the month of August, I was able to meet with producers around the county that put up ditch hay. During this time, I sampled their harvested hay and visited with them about what are some of the challenges they face on their operation and what ways NDSU Extension Service can help them better their operation. Producers answered the questions with a variety of answers. Some of the challenges these producers face included weed control, loss of pasture ground, and feed cost. Producers stated that they would like the Extension Office to continue to send out Ag Alerts regularly, host classes on weed control, and help them understand the government programs more. My time was well spent visiting and learning how we can help local producers succeed.

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Maxine J. Nordick, 4-H Youth Development

• 4-H Club Management included end of 4-H year wrap up details, calendar scheduling for 2015-2016 and 4-H Council Fall meeting.

• National 4-H Science Experiment Motion Com- motion with 53 participating in train-the-trainer explored the physics of motion and distracted driving. Many comments in the evaluation about distractions such as texting and driving and how it affects your reaction time.

• Outdoor Skills Shooting Sports youth classes have been scheduled: .22 rifle in Oct., Archery in Nov. and Air Rifle in Jan.

Sue Quamme, Parenting Resources

• The Parenting Resource Center wrapped up summer session parenting classes with the How Much is Too Much class. Parents were appreciative of summer offerings and the convenient time during the lunch hour. The court ordered in-person Parents Forever class for families in divorce transition was well attended and many more took the online version of the class. JOBS at Job Service was presented with an introduction to parenting styles. Fall classes were finalized and the newsletter sent out to approximately 3000 people via mail or email and registration is off to a good start. The 15th Annual Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference Sue attended was packed full of great speakers and useful information and networking.
Michelle Strang,
EFNEP/FNP Adult Nutrition Program

- In addition to the typical horticulture issues, I have had an interview with KVLY discussing blossom end rot of tomatoes, planting chocolate mint, how to plant garlic, and planting iris in the fall. The Master Gardener Class Registration is coming to an end (September 1) https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/mastergardener if you’re interested. Attached is a tomato with Gray Mold or “ghost Spot” disease that diagnosed this month.

Monique Stelzer
4-H Youth After School Program

- Cass County 4-H recruitment efforts are in full swing! Members and leaders had an astounding presence at Back-to-School nights this fall, reaching 16 elementary schools throughout Cass County. Not to be outdone by Cass County 4-H’ers, the 4-H Program Assistants are spreading 4-H Science club throughout the community this fall too, recruiting for the Carl Ben Eielson and Liberty Middle School 4-H Science Clubs. And, don’t forget to watch for the Harwood Helpers 4-H Club in the NDSU Homecoming Parade on October 9!

Todd Weinmann
Horticulture

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Rita Ussatis,
Food and Nutrition

- A series of canning classes were held. Participants learned the proper and safe method to can their produce for the upcoming year. One participant stated “I’m so glad I came and found out the correct methods and don’t follow what I found on the internet or what my neighbor told me. I’m more confident I will can properly and safely.”

- I attended a “Design Your Succession Planning” workshop. This program will help provide the necessary tools for individuals while they prepare documents needed in developing their succession plan. We will offer this program this upcoming spring.

- The Diabetes Prevention class continues to be successful with participants making the lifestyle changes needed to prevent diabetes.

Nikki Johnson
EFNEP/FNP Youth Nutrition Program

- During the month of August I wrapped up my summer programming and began planning class schedules for the fall and winter months. In addition, I attended the Southeast District Meeting in Jamestown. There I was able to collaborate with agents from neighboring counties to work on some new programming efforts.

Cass County Extension Staff attending district meeting