

Grant County Producer Update

By Tessa Osterbauer, Grant County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent

Important Dates to Remember:

Jan. 17 – First workshop for **DYSP** – Farm Credit Services, Mandan @ 6:30 pm. – 9:00 pm. CT

Jan. 23 – Feedlot school in Carrington

Jan. 24 – Second **DYSP** workshop @ 6:30 pm. – 9:00 pm. CT

Jan. 25 – Big Buck Contest put on by the Grant County Fairboard! - Fair building, Carson @ 2:00 pm. – 7:00 pm. MT

Jan. 28 – Final **DYSP** workshop @ 6:30 pm. – 9:00 pm. CT

Jan. 30 – 1st Grant County Private General Pesticide Training and Wheat Commodity Elections – Fair building, Carson @ 1:00 pm. MT

February:

Sausage making class - Day TBD

Feb. 19 - Sioux County Pesticide Training – Fort Yates Courthouse @ 1:00 pm. CT

Feb. 25 – 26 – Farming and Ranching for the Bottom Line – BSC National Energy Center of Excellence, Bismarck

Contact Information

Extension Office
106 2nd Ave NE
Carson, ND 58529-0137
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Designing Your Succession Plan!

Preparing for Family Farm Succession

Grant, Morton, Oliver, and Mclean County Extension offices are partnering to host a design your own succession plan workshop. The dates are set for January 17th, 24th, and 28th. All sessions will be set in the evening 6:30 pm. – 9 pm. CST at the Farm Credit Services building in Mandan, ND. This program is open to the public and tailored to families looking at transitioning the family business or farm to the next generation.

Who should attend?

Families interested in shaping the future ownership of the family farm or ranch. Design Your Succession Plan is a multi-session workshop developed to help families get started on their plan, open lines of communication, and work with professionals.

This program is for families who want to shape the future ownership of their family farm or ranch – the family legacy – whether that is transferring a viable business to the next generation or determining how to divide farm/ranch assets.

Even if you have attended other transition, estate, or succession planning classes, consider attending this program to get a **start** on your succession plan.

Participant Quotes:

“It is often hard to start the conversation and through this workshop we now have the tools.”

“Very interesting, made me so much more aware of the importance of planning.”

“Having our son register us for this program was the best Christmas gift we ever received.”

The first step is the hardest. Creating a succession plan takes time, effort, family communication and working with professionals. Design Your Succession Plan will help you explore what you want for your business, how to discuss it in the family and how to get started creating a succession plan. It also will help you choose and prepare to work with professionals who will make the plan legal and viable.

This program will explore the four components of succession planning: planning for your business, retirement, transition and estate. You will be prepared to communicate, write, plan, vision and shape the legacy of your family farm/ranch business, as well as save hundreds of dollars by completing these crucial planning steps before visiting with professionals.

Succession Plan Continued....

You will receive a resource binder and a workbook to use during and after the sessions. Starting the workbook during class will give you a jumpstart on your succession plan. When you leave the program, you will be motivated to continue communicating and working on the family farm/ranch legacy.

Registration is required for the program, as well as a registration fee. Fees for this workshop are structured to encourage multiple family member participation. The registration fee is \$125 for the first family member and \$50 for additional family members from the same operation. There is an additional \$10 fee for registrations paid the day of the event. A complete listing of sites can be found at www.ag.ndsu.edu/succession.

Contact:

Grant County: Tessa Osterbauer 622-3470
Morton County: Renae Gress 667-3340
McLean County: Calla Edwards 462-8541
Oliver County: Rick Schmidt 794-8748

Who should attend?

Fees for this workshop are structured to encourage family members to participate together. The registration fee of \$125 for the first family member covers the cost of meeting expenses and includes a resource binder and workbook. Additional family members from the same operation may attend for \$50 each which includes a workbook. Additional resource binders may be purchased for \$75 each.

_____ \$125 registration for first family member
_____ \$50 per additional family member(s) attending
(will only receive a workbook with this registration)
_____ \$75 additional participant binder (optional)
_____ *Total registration fee

*Registrations at the door will be an extra \$10 per person

register by mailing this form to:

NDSU Extension Morton County
210 2nd Ave NW
Mandan, ND 58554

Make checks payable to **NDSU Extension**

Refund Policy

A full refund will be made if cancellation notice is received at least two weeks before the start of the program by calling the site you will attend. NO REFUND will be given for no-shows or cancellations less than two weeks before the start of the program.

Individuals with disabilities are invited to request reasonable accommodations to participate in NDSU-sponsored programs and events. To request an accommodation(s), please contact the location you will be attending at least one week before the workshop to make arrangements.

NDSU Offers Updated Crop Compare Program

North Dakota State University Extension has updated the Crop Compare program, which is a spreadsheet designed to compare cropping alternatives.

The program uses the direct costs and yields from the 2020 projected crop budgets for nine regions of North Dakota, but producers are encouraged to enter the expected yields and input costs for their farm.

The user designates a reference crop and enters its expected market price. Depending on the region, a broad selection of nine to 18 crops are compared. The program provides the prices for competing crops that would be necessary to provide the same return over variable costs as the reference crop.

"Producers can compare these 'break-even' prices to expected market prices to see which crop is most likely to compete with the reference crop," says Andy Swenson, NDSU Extension farm management specialist. "Grain prices can move quickly. The program provides a tool for producers to check the changing scenarios until final planting decisions are made this spring."

It should be noted that an underlying assumption is that fixed costs, such as machinery ownership, land, and the owner's labor and management, do not vary among crop choices and therefore do not need to be included in the analysis.

"In practice, there may be differences in fixed costs that should be considered," Swenson says.

"For example, there may be additional labor, management and risk associated with a competing crop," Swenson adds. "If all the labor and management is provided by the owner-operator, it would be considered a fixed cost and could be excluded. However, the producer should add some cost if he or she would only want to produce the crop when an adequate reward would be received for the extra time and management required relative to the reference crop."

A similar rationale could be used if a competing crop is considered higher risk.

The Crop Compare program is available online at <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/farmmanagement/tools>.

How to identify Palmer

Palmer amaranth is ultimately a competitive and aggressive pigweed species that incites concern for North Dakota crop production. Here's why.

- Grows aggressively: Can grow 2 to 3 inches per day in optimum conditions
- Can grow to 6-8 feet tall
- Has reduced yield up to 91 percent in corn and 79 percent in soybean
- Prolific seed producer: Up to 1 million seeds per plant
- Emerges throughout the growing season

There are some key characteristics you can look for when identifying the plant. One is its petiole length from stem to leaf. Generally, Palmer Amaranth plants have a longer petiole than leaf. If you fold the leaf back over the petiole the petiole should be longer. Also, the stem is generally smooth and free of hairs. And a key characteristic for female plants is the prickly seed head and spiny bracts.



Palmer plant pictured in Grant County.

Palmer Amaranth in Grant County

So, Palmer Amaranth has been confirmed in our County. As well as Morton, Sioux, and Emmons Counties. What now? There is a lot of concern behind the presence of this weed, and rightfully so. It can come in through many different passages. Manure, equipment, birds, and seed are all possible carriers. Specialists say it wouldn't be a bad practice for farmers/producers to check their cover crops, millet etc. Seed sizes are similar there and millet has been a significant pathway in the past.

All hope is not lost if we are diligent stewards for our land and keep a watchful eye. See a suspicious weed? Report it.

The important thing to remember is if you suspect you may have Palmer Amaranth, **don't pull it**. Contact the County Weed officer and Extension office for help identifying it. It is important to try to not spread the seed. The county Weed Officer, Extension Agent and other specialists will identify the weed and help you bag and pull the weed. After samples are collected and sent in to the Genotyping Center at NDSU, to help confirm the weed is Palmer Amaranth, the bagged plants will be destroyed properly at the discretion of the producer and specialists.

This weed has been under constant scrutiny by weed specialists, because it poses a threat to North Dakota farmers and ranchers. Here is what one retired specialist had to say when the weed first emerged: "Palmer amaranth's prolonged emergence period, rapid growth rate, prolific seed production, and propensity to evolve herbicide resistance quickly makes this the most pernicious, noxious, and serious weed threat that North Dakota farmers have ever faced." - Rich Zollinger, Retired NDSU Extension Weed Scientist

If anyone would like help identifying the weed or to learn more about it, don't hesitate to contact your County Weed Officer or Extension office.



Top of a Palmer plant pictured in Nebraska.

Farm and Ranch Stress

Farmers/ranchers and their family members experience pressure from all directions. While all of us must contend with economic ups and downs or family concerns, farmers have added uncertainties such as the weather and commodity prices that directly influence their lives and farming operations.

Farm/ranch stress stirs up many images: racing to town to buy spare parts (and finding they have to be ordered), listening to the radio and hearing the market drop daily (and your bins still are filled with last year's crop), rushing to get the hay baled before a storm, or listening to a spouse's frustration with long hours and limited family time. You may find yourself getting more and more frustrated, irritated, or just worn out and discouraged. Yet you are unlikely to reveal the stresses you face or the frustrations you feel as you meet again with the loan officer.

Farm/ranch families often experience pressure, conflict and uncertainty, especially during harvesting and planting. If feelings of frustration and helplessness build up, they can lead to intense family problems involving spouses or partners, children, parents and other relatives. If left unresolved, these feelings can lead to costly accidents, poor decisions, strained relationships, health concerns and deaths. However, you have things you can do to feel better and find help if you need it.

Recognizing early warning signals of stress in your body, your actions, your emotional life and your relationships with others is important.

Physical Symptoms

- Head aching
- Back or neck muscles tense, aching
- Stomach upset or distressed
- Breathing short or labored
- Low energy, body fatigue, tiredness

Behavioral Symptoms

- Difficulties with sleep
- Inability to relax, concentrate
- Getting angry easily
- Trouble making decisions

- Increased use of alcohol or other drugs
- Difficulty being flexible

Emotional Symptoms

- Irritable about little things
- Sense of frustration, anger
- Impatient, restless
- Feeling discouraged, hopeless
- Withdrawal, isolation
- Anxiety, panic feelings

Relationship Symptoms

- Communication difficulties
- Conflict with family members
- Lack of satisfaction
- Verbal or physical outbreaks
- Strained interactions
- Avoiding others



We love to hear your ideas and feedback! If you have any comments, questions, concerns or just want to talk please feel free to contact me, Tessa (Keller) Osterbauer at the Extension Office, 701-622-3470 or email Tessa.osterbauer@ndsu.edu.