



EXTENSION HIGHLIGHTS

Mercer County Narrative, March 2020

AGENTS



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April Extension Calendar

Covid-19: Effective March 13, NDSU Extension will postpone, cancel or offer alternative means of delivery of all face-to-face meetings, trainings, etc. through May 15, 2020. This directive includes 4-H activities, programs taught by volunteers and all events sponsored by NDSU Extension. NDSU Extension has created a COVID-19 resource page in response to the rapidly evolving nature of the situation. The site includes information about proper handwashing, and sanitation, ways to save money and links to the most up-to-date government resources.
<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/alerts/coronavirus>

Pesticide Training/HealthWise For Guys

On March 2, Craig conducted a pesticide recertification class at the civic center.

Eleven producers participated. Topics included: personal safety relating to skin



protection and personal protection equipment, a live demonstration on sprayer nozzles showing the different types of nozzles on the market and which nozzle is best to use in different conditions that would be the most cost effective and less labor intensive, and how to identify new troublesome weeds in the county such as hounds-tongue and palmer amaranth. Anyone who wants to use a restricted use pesticide must have a pesticide certification. Applicator certifications are valid for three years.



HealthWise For Guys was taught in conjunction with pesticide certification. Skin cancer is the uncontrolled growth of skin cells due to DNA damage. Basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma are the most common and highly curable types of skin cancer. A third type, melanoma, causes the most deaths. Almost twice as many men die from melanoma as women. According to one study, self-checks of skin may decrease mortality from melanoma by 63 percent because doctors do not routinely check for skin abnormalities. All participants stated on a post survey that they would recommend this program to others.

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www.facebook.com/NDSUExtensionMercerCounty



Craig Askim, Extension Agent Ag and Natural Resources

Other meetings attended:

- Soil Conservation District Meeting
- Mercer County Fair Board Meeting
- Livestock Agents Zoom Meeting
- Agriculture Disaster Zoom Meeting
- Zoom Training
- FieldView Overview Zoom Meeting
- Horticulture Zoom Meeting
- Professional Development Zoom Meeting
- ANR Program Zoom Meeting

I helped producers determine the best option between ARC or PLC (new farm bill) for their operation, using NDSU software. Between the 37 producers that visited or called, there is potentially \$302,000 in payments coming to these individuals if the safety net reference prices are met. The second half of the month was almost completely silent with the coronavirus outbreak. Producers still need to move forward with calving, spring planting and a few are still trying to finish harvesting the 2019 crop.

On March 3, I helped conduct the pesticide re-certification training in Watford City, along with Devan Leo, first-year Extension agent. I am also her mentor.

On March 5, I attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting in Stanton. We learned about the new direct link 911 system.

I helped conduct the 911 awareness station at the RDO Equipment's Farm Safety Tour on March 12. There were 109 first grade students from Beulah, Hazen and Center that participated in six different hands-on stations.



March Statistics		
<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>
48	Telephone Calls	64
24	Office Calls	38
12	Meetings/Events	14

Dena Kemmet, Extension Agent Family and Community Wellness

Other meetings attended:

- Population Health Meeting
- Hazen Community Health Task Force
- FCW Zoom Meeting
- West District Zoom Meeting
- 4-H Monthly Zoom Meeting

On The Move—**Stronger Bodies** began with fourth grade in Hazen on February 27 and had completed three weeks before ordered to stop. On The Move—**Better Health** began March 4 and had completed two weeks before ordered to stop. I visited the classrooms once a week to increase students knowledge of healthy lifestyle topics such as fruit and vegetable consumption, calcium needs and physical activity. At this point I'm not sure if we will be able to complete even if the students are back in school in May. I'm looking at some alternative ways to allow teachers to share information remotely so students can feel they have "completed" the program.



March Statistics		
<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>
24	Telephone Calls	38
11	Office Calls	31
16	Meetings/Events	14