

Here are dates of upcoming events:

February 17th – Steele County Extension Ag. Update; 8:30AM, Hope Legion

February 18-19th – International Crop Expo; Alerus Center, Grand Forks

February 24th – 25th – Eastern Crop & Pest Management School; Fargodome, Fargo

February 27th – Last day to update your yields and base acres with FSA

March 2nd-8th – North Dakota Winter Show; Valley City

March 3rd – Steele County Private Pesticide Re-certification Training, *Registration 8:30am, Finley Legion

March 19th – Steele County Private Pesticide Re-certification Training, *Registration 8:30am, Hope Legion

March 24th – Steele/Trail Private Pesticide Re-certification Pesticide Training, *Registration 8:30am, Galesburg Memorial Hall

*Pre-registration is required for all re-certification trainings. Testing will be available for first time certifiers following the training. Contact the office at 701-524-2253 to pre-register.

February and March prove to be busy times for farmers and ranchers. Between calving and lambing, and the multitude of crop production meetings, there just never seems to be enough hours in one day! However, if you're looking for a coffee break and time to visit with friends and meet the new Extension Agent for Steele County, you should attend the Steele County Extension Ag. Update.

The Steele County Extension Ag. Update will be Tuesday, February 17th at the Hope American Legion. Registration begins at 8:30am with the Corn Commodity Election to take place at 9am. The District II sector (Steele, Traill, and Cass counties) of the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council is seeking a corn grower to be the county representative for Steele County. Any corn grower from Steele County, who has a definite interest in the in becoming a member of the Council, is encouraged to participate. A voting producer is a person who plants or causes to be planted a corn crop in which the person has ownership interest, with the intent that upon maturity the crop will be harvested in the next available or immediately preceding growing season. Producers **must reside in the county** and have not requested a corn refund during the preceding year. The elected Corn Council representative of Steele County then has the opportunity to be elected the overall representative of District II. North Dakota is divided into seven districts, and members of the Council are elected to serve producers in these districts. The Corn Council has the responsibility of allocating the state check off program dollars. Most of this money is distributed in the form of grants for corn related research. Some areas include northern plant breeding, livestock, ethanol, dry distillers grains (DDG's), no till & strip till studies.

After the Corn Commodity Election, Keith Finney, Clifford Farmers Elevator Grain Merchandiser will be discussing the current grain market outlook, especially for corn, as he hints that there will be "Little Room for Error". Keith knows what it takes to procure large volumes of grain and how logistics can enhance the procurement activities of a facility. When Keith worked at Alton Grain Terminal, the largest single shipper in North Dakota, Keith coordinated all the shuttle freight needed to handle in excess of 25 million bushels a year. He also managed all of the hedging activities associated with the risk management of those bushels. As Commodities Manager at Red Trail Energy, Keith bought 20 million bushels of corn while managing the logistics of those bushels which were received by shuttle trains and truck.

Following Keith's presentation, Tim Petry, the NDSU Extension Livestock Economist, will be sharing with us the current "Cattle Market Situation and Outlook". Tim joined the NDSU Extension Service in 2002 as a Livestock Marketing Economist. He travels extensively in North Dakota and the surrounding

area conducting meetings on livestock marketing educational topics. Tim writes a popular monthly "Market Advisor" column on current livestock marketing issues.

Next up, is Reggie Laframboise who is the District Conservationist for the Steele County Soil Conservation District. With the very limited amount of snow cover we have received this winter, soil erosion due to wind has been an issue. With the removal of shelterbelts within the past five to ten years, fields have become more open, and accessible to the whipping North Dakota winds. Reggie plans to discuss with us the "Blowing and Drifting Soil", and what landowners can do to reduce the loss of their topsoil, as it can take up to 500 years or more to develop an inch of topsoil!

In a new addition to end the event, Linsey Bauer, FSA County Executive Director for Steele/Griggs Counties, will be joining us to answer any questions you may have about the 2014 farm bill. She will be discussing the spreadsheets that NDSU has to offer in order to help producers make a decision regarding the base acres and yields, and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) programs.

Please take advantage of this great opportunity to meet some of the best in the industry! They will be available for questions, and you will also get a chance to meet your new Steele County Extension Agent! For more information, call the Extension office at 701-524-2253, e-mail Angie at angela.b.johnson@ndsu.edu or "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/steelecountyextension. NDSU is an equal opportunity institution.