

September 22, 2010

**A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY  
WARREN FROELICH  
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE  
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

**Cattle on Tour**

Some of the best cattle in the area will be under the spotlight when their owners put them on display during the All Breeds Cattle Tour scheduled Tuesday, October 5.

Featured breeding programs will be Washburn Angus, Nelson Angus, Best Angus, Badlands Red Angus, DK Red Angus and Charolais, LBJ Angus, Ledahl Tarentaise and the Sorenson Ranch.

The bus tour will begin with a 7 am CT registration at the Long X Trading Post Visitor Center in Watford City and culminate with a social and supper at Vic's 29 Club that evening. The bus will return its riders to Watford City.

To help with meal counts and bus reservations, please pre-register by calling the North Dakota Stockmen's Association office at 701-223-2522 or send an e-mail to [tkoester@ndstockmen.org](mailto:tkoester@ndstockmen.org). A tour map, detailed schedule and directions will be posted on the Stockmen's website [www.ndstockmen.org](http://www.ndstockmen.org).

**Acreage Report**

Cory Paryzek, Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency of Williams and Divide Counties, recently sent a summary of 2010 crop acreage. Farmers in Williams did make some changes compared to what they planted in 2009. The biggest change was in lentil acres which grew to 125,384 acres. This represents an increase of nearly 40,000 acres over the previous year.

With the land base remaining the same, there are some crops that lost acreage. The biggest losers were peas coming in at 40,691 acres or 13,124 less than 2009, wheat losing 29,612 acres and fallow coming in at only 42,122 acres which represents a reduction of almost 12,000 acres.

Over the past 20 years some of our cropping patterns have changed dramatically while some have changed very little. Williams County farmers are still growing about 400,000 acres of wheat, but these days most of the wheat acres are planted to durum instead of what used to be hard red spring wheat which now represents about 12 percent of the total wheat acres.

Another big change on the farm is the amount of acres devoted to summerfallow. This was a practice to control weeds and accumulate moisture for the following year's wheat crop. In the 80's and early 90's Williams County growers consistently saved 350,000 to 370,000 acres for fallow, almost an amount equal to the total wheat acres. This past summer, farmers reported only 42,000 acres of fallow. Most of those fallow acres have been lost to such crops as lentils, peas, canola, garbanzo beans and mustard.

### **Optimism Realistic**

Globally 75 million people are being added to our planet's population each year. Along with this population increase the agricultural branch of the United Nations estimates that global beef production will need to double by 2050 just to keep pace with rising incomes and populations. Rising incomes in other nations will put pressure on market barriers imposed by these same governments whose people are experiencing economic growth. This can only be good for a nation like the United States who exports 9% of its beef products. The balance is consumed domestically.

Some of the folks who we have believed to be on the other side of animal agriculture are starting to take note of the numbers regarding food supplies and population growth projections. Take for instance the senior vice-president of the World Wildlife Fund who was quoted as saying "We want agriculture to become more intensive. We've got to figure out how to do those things in ways that are more intensive and have less pollution and fewer harmful impacts."