

NRHEG  **Star Eagle**

***Happenings
in the
local
ag
community***

A Day in the COUNTRY

Remi Wayne
and Max

Star Eagle photo
by Kathy Paulsen

INSIDE:

**4-H Champion likes it on the farm
JWP grad builds breeding herd**

Page 2

Page 6

‘Always something to do’ on the farm, says Remi

Area 4-H'er is bringing her animals to prestigious 4-H livestock show

By KATHY PAULSEN

Staff Writer

For 18 years, living on the farm has been a part of Remi Wayne's life. Her parents, Rodney and Barb, lived on farms in the Hollandale and Geneva areas when she and her sisters Jessica and Tricia were born. Farming was a family affair, with her grandpa, dad and uncle sharing acreages and machinery raising crops. In 1999 Remi and her family moved to the farm where her grandparents, Roger and Joyce Wayne, had lived before they built a new home.

But last weekend this busy lady was preparing to head to Nebraska.

A 2015 graduate of NRHEG, Remi was home from South Dakota State University to start getting things ready for a beauty contest. Not a Miss America or Miss Teenage America contest, though she might qualify for either.

Remi is on her way to the Ak-Sar-Ben livestock show in Nebraska where her pigs will be judged at the fair.

Until four years ago, when North Dakota was the first state to be invited to Ak-Sar-Ben, the show was only open to those states bordering Nebraska. As the only youth show in the Nation specifically for 4-H, youth must be 10 by January 1st of the current year and must meet state 4-H criteria to be eligible to exhibit.

Starting with her pony, Black Beauty, when she was five years old, Remi and her sisters have shown their horses and pigs through 4-H.

Tricia showed pigs, and Jessica and Remi showed both pigs and horses in Owatonna at the Steele County Fair, but Remi later started showing her animals at the Freeborn County Fair. She changed to Freeborn County and joined the Hartland Hi-Liners 4-H Club when she became old enough to play volleyball, and the tryouts conflicted with the Steele County Fair.

Remi has been showing hogs since she was about 10 years old. She enjoyed it and didn't want to give it up. Her older sister, Jessica, was the one who introduced her to showmanship and the care of "critters." You couldn't call those critters dirty, because they got washed just about every day to make them loveable, and outstanding in their class year after year.

This year will be Remi's first showing at the AK/Sar/Ban Livestock Show, but she has had



PIGS TO NEBRASKA – Hartland 4-Her Remi Wayne is headed for the AK/Sar/Ben Livestock Show with friend Max. This is her first year showing at Ak/Sar/Ben. Remi is currently attending South Dakota State University.

Star Eagle photo by Kathy Paulsen

many other memorable experiences on the way there.

Winning in her class often took her to the Minnesota State Fair. In 2014 she had the Reserve Champion lightweight at the State Fair. Over the

years she has also had a Grand Champion heavy-weight and middleweight and Reserve Champion middleweight and lightweight. In 2012 Remi

Wayne continued on 3

Star Eagle "A Day In the Country" Special

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Reed Waller, Editor • Tracie Rosacker, Advertising Manager

■ Wayne

from Page 2

earned Grand Champion honors overall, and she has been top showman three years and placed in the top five for another three years.

Remi likes being on the farm.

"There is always something to do," she says.

If she wasn't bathing those pigs in the wash rack next to the barn, she was walking them, checking their welfare for the right feed, and running fans for temperature changes. During the summer months, it was morning and night.

During the school year, Dad would often do the chores in the morning, but after school it was her job to keep her pigs happy, healthy and "tip top." They were brushed and shampooed, complete with hair conditioner. If they needed supplements or medication they were hand fed to be sure they received them. Their pens were cleaned often. And Jessica was often there to encourage and coach her little sister.

As for the animals, it is hard for Remi to see them go to slaughter, but it was nice to know what got them there: wholesome food and care they were given for clean, healthy living.

Graduating and going to college at South Dakota State will make a difference in how Remi handles the farm connection, but it will also be a plus, as she undertakes her studies in Human Development and Family

Studies.

A close member of Remi's family, LaVerne Utpadel, was inducted into the Steele County Equine Hall of Fame this summer at the Steele County Fair, as he was instrumental in getting the first horse arena built at the fairgrounds. Her mother, Barb, was and is a horse lover and enjoys riding too.

Remi and her family have all been a part of the YAUNT 2 rodeo circuit out of Ellendale, which has competitions in several events every summer. Started by Randy and Chuck Hagen, Steve Quam, the Jensen boys, Wayne and Steve, and Leroy Bluhm, it has been a successful experience for old and young riders alike.

Trail rides have also added to the enjoyment she has experienced with the horses.

Here too, Remi gives her big sister Jessica credit for being a good mentor.

"Cutting cattle," penning, and barrel raising, etc. is not only enjoyable, but a learning experience. Brushing, feeding, cleaning, and grooming is a chore but an enjoyable one. When you talk to a horse it is like talking to a best friend. They appreciate the attention.

Not all activities on the farm are fun, but they are interesting. Like that old saying goes, "You never know until you've tried it." Over the years this farm girl has walked beans to remove weeds, picked rocks and been a guide dog for her dad and friends when they are hunting. But that's where she draws the line.

"No," she said, "No way could I ever shoot those animals. They are just so special and innocent creatures."

Living the farm life with cats, dogs and chickens may not be for everyone, but Remi smiles about the clashes that Zena, their big-hearted pit bull dog, has from time to time with the cats and pigs on the farm.

Remi says she has learned a lot from living on the farm – time management, care and feeding of animals, along with responsibility. She also has met a lot of people, in a lot of different places and situations, and as a result has made many friends besides making her parents proud.

A day, a year, a lifetime on a farm – hands on education!



ALSO FEATURED – Remi's other pig, Ratt, will also be shown at AK/Sar/Ben.

Star Eagle photo
by Kathy Paulsen



**Call now for fall fertilizer,
fuels, L.P. gas needs**

502 SW 42nd Ave

PO Box 38

Ellendale, MN

Ph: 507-684-3511

or 684-3531

Southern Seed Service

RICK SCHULTZ 465-8241
DOUG CHRISTOPHERSON 465-3313
New Richland



MONSANTO
Food • Health • Hope



L&N

Concrete Pumping of Southern MN, Inc.

PO Box 454

10 Years Experience

Owatonna

Commercial • Agricultural • Residential

Poured walls • Floors • Driveways • Footings • Patios

Boom Lengths 75ft-140ft

FREE ESTIMATES

507-213-2288

SONNEK'S CUSTOM INJECTION

**We are fully equipped to handle your Application Needs.
NEW OPTIONS AVAILABLE**



Umbilical - Frac

Call: Chris Sonnek – 507-381-2526

**For all your agronomy, grain,
feed, petroleum and propane needs.
Your local coop since 1927.**

Crystal Valley



www.crystalvalley.coop

Study shows loss of crop diversity the past 34 years

(AGprofessional) – A study by Kansas State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and North Dakota State University examined crop diversity data from Farm Resource Regions developed by the USDA Economic Research Service.

U.S. farmers are growing fewer types of crops than they were 34 years ago, which could have implications for how farms fare as changes to the climate evolve, according to a large-scale study by Kansas State University, North Dakota State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Less crop diversity may also be impacting the general ecosystem.

The study is the first to quantify crop species diversity in the U.S. using an extensive database over a relatively long period of analysis, Aguilar said.

Farm resource regions

In addition to the national trend, the researchers studied regional trends by examining county-level data from areas called Farm

Resource Regions developed by the USDA's Economic Research Service. Although the study showed that crop diversity declined nationally, it wasn't uniform in all regions or in all states.

"There seem to be more dynamics going on in some regions or states," Aguilar said, noting that not all of the factors affecting those regional trends are clear.

For instance, the Heartland Resource Region, which is home to 22 percent of U.S. farms and represents the highest value, 23 percent, of U.S. production, had the lowest crop diversity. This region comprises Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and parts of Ohio, Missouri, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kentucky.

In contrast to all of the other regions, the Mississippi Portal Region, which includes parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky and Arkansas, had significantly higher crop diversity in 2012 than in 1978.

While overall, the national trend was toward less crop diversity, the

region called the Fruitful Rim (parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina) and the Northern Crescent (states along the northeast border from part of Minnesota east through Wisconsin, Michigan through to Maine and south to New Jersey and Pennsylvania) had the most crop diversity.

The data used was specific enough that the researchers were able to quantify crop diversity and trends even down to the county level.

"A significant trend of more counties shifting to lower rather than higher crop diversity was detected," the team wrote in the study results. "The clustering and shifting demonstrates a trend toward crop diversity loss and attendant homogenization of agricultural production systems, which could have far-reaching consequences for provision of ecosystem services associated with agricultural systems as well as food system sustainability."

Implications for agriculture and

the environment

"Biodiversity is important to the ecosystem function," the researchers wrote. "Biodiversity in agricultural systems is linked to critical ecological processes such as nutrient and water cycling, pest and disease regulation, and degradation of toxic compounds such as pesticides. Diverse agroecosystems are more resilient to variable weather resulting from climate change and often hold the greatest potential for such benefits as natural pest control."

A classic example where high crop diversity could have been crucial was during the corn leaf blight epidemic in the 1970s, Aguilar said.

During the 20th century, increases in the value of human labor, changes in agricultural policies and the development of agricultural technologies led to increased specialization and scale of production. Economic and social factors helped drive the adoption of less-diverse cropping systems.

THE SHOP

32452 State Hwy 13
Waseca, MN 56093

(507) 835-7040

On the Spot Appliance Service



Repairs, service, parts
Household appliances
Commercial cooking appliances

Over 30 years experience

Ellendale & surrounding area

507-256-8099

Orrin Mortensen - Owner



PIONEER
BRAND PRODUCTS

BRIAN WAYNE

Ellendale, MN
home **684-9663**
office **685-3021**

Waseca Glass, Inc.

For All Your
Farm Glass Needs

Randy & Sandi Prange
507-835-2590

1200 South State St.
Waseca, MN 56093

Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30
Sat. 8-noon

JESSE'S BOOT STORE

SHOE REPAIR



112 Hwy 218 South
Blooming Prairie, MN

Office:
507-583-9900

Mon - Fri: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - Noon

Red Wing • Wolverine
Tony Lama Soft Toe • Steel Toe

HOLLAND AUCTION & REAL ESTATE

Tracy Holland
#7405002
Ellendale, MN

- A Professional Full Service Auction Company
 - Member of State & National Auctioneer's Association
- (507) 684-2955**



Visit Our Website www.hollandauction.com

Morgan's MEAT MARKET

Dean & Barb Morgan, Prop.

Accepting whole carcass or
properly cleaned boneless

VENISON

Guaranteed:
your OWN venison back!

202 S. Ash Ave. New Richland

507-465-3888

Hours: M-F 7:30 am - 5:30 pm; Sat. 7:30 am - 1 pm

Waldorf Welding & Machine Shop



403 S. Main St.
Waldorf, MN


507-239-2395 (days)
507-461-0903 (nights)

AGRO-ECONOMICS

Mark Bernard, CPAg

(507) 465-3707
cell: 507-340-2923

121 3rd St. NE • New Richland, MN 56072

Jensen

Heating, A/C,
& Plumbing

We'll treat your home as if it were our own!

- design your HVAC duct system
- high efficiency furnaces
- multi-zone comfort systems
- geothermal heating & cooling systems
- tankless water heaters
- water treatment systems

104 Central Avenue North
Geneva, MN 56035

www.jensenhtgac.com
507-256-4712




Thank You to All Our Ag Customers
Your Complete Auto Care Provider!

We are here to help you with Repair and Service on Auto, Truck and Tractor.

AAA Approved Auto Repair
Tires, Brakes, Exhaust, Air Conditioning, Engine Systems (diesel and gas), Customized Tubes & Hoses

KECK'S REPAIR INC.
507-455-2679
7123 SW 82nd Ave. • Owatonna, MN 55060
1-507-463-2679 • www.kecksrepair.com




TIMM'S TRUCKING & EXCAVATING

Pulverized Black Dirt • Boulders • Colored Wood Mulch • Decorative Rock
Excavating • Site Preparation • Final Grade • Basements • Demolition Work
Septic Design & Install • Bobcat Work • Mini Excavator Work • Ag Lime Spreading

507.685.2222 | www.timmstrucking.com
24366 Holland Ave | Morristown, MN 55052



B&D Metal Works, Inc.
Brett and Dynette Niebuhr



www.bdmatalworks.com
bdmatalworks@bevcomm.net
507-553-6388

Custom Metal Work Especially For You.

General Machining
Large and Small Machining
Steel and Rebar Sales

Hydraulic Hoses • Bolts
MIG Welding • TIG Welding
Portable On-Site Welding

15897 St. Hwy 22, P.O. Box 206, Wells, MN 56097



Call Mike Budach
at 507-373-1945
for Ag Real Estate & Equipment Loans!

FSB FARMERS STATE BANK
HARTLAND • FREEBORN • ALBERT LEA

farmersstatebankmn.com Member FDIC



BiG GAIN

For Current Bid
www.biggain.com
Or Call: 507-385-7241

A feed company servicing the Midwest
416 Mathews St. Mankato, MN
At the same location locally owned since 1972

At Big Gain Inc. we manufacture a full range of quality animal feeds and provide management services to get the best performance for your feed dollar.
To find a dealer near you:
www.biggain.com
1-800-795-1277



Wick Buildings
Authorized Wick Builder

Call Jesse Routh
507-256-7501

BROSKOFF STRUCTURES, INC.
601 North Central • Geneva, MN 56035
www.broskoffstructures.com




'I'm definitely pursuing a career'

Janesville native finishes 4-H career with honor, now breeding show pigs

By TROY THOMPSON
Contributing Writer

As Tucker Roeker enters his sophomore year of college at South Dakota State University, he has his sights set on big achievements in the agriculture industry. And should he reach his goals, Roeker would be quick to credit his development to his years in 4-H.

"4-H has really helped me," says Roeker, a 2014 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton. "It helped me to excel as a younger person and helped to make me into a better adult."

Roeker began his 4-H career when he was 8 years old, showing barrows he raised on the family farm outside of Waldorf. He's shown in the swine category every year since then, with 2015's showing at the Minnesota State Fair being his last.

In his final year of 4-H competition, Roeker claimed the Reserve Grand Champion award for Showmanship, and also claimed his third straight win in the Swine Interview competition.

"Everyone that shows at the state fair gets tested on their knowledge," says Roeker. "The top twenty percent get called back as finalists, and from there, the top one to two percent are named winners."

According to the official 4-H Interview winner announcement, "Animal Science Interviews at the State Fair are designed to further enhance educational opportunities for young people exhibiting livestock. The interview process offers a visual philosophy of recognizing 4-Hers who have utilized their livestock project to grow and develop as a young person. Livestock Interviews emphasize many life skills such as communication, responsibility, decision making, and problem-solving. The interview process is seen as a step to help insure the stability of youth livestock shows as a positive form of youth development."

It's a rigorous interview process designed to test the depths of knowledge about your chosen industry.

Roeker began showing at the Minnesota State Fair as a seventh-grader, and has steadily improved his showing, culminating in his recent run of success to end his 4-H career.

"When I started, I didn't know a whole lot," he says. "I just watched the other kids a lot to see what they would do, and a lot of them would give me pointers on how to improve."

One of those pointers was to put in the work at home and it will translate to the fair.

"I started putting in a lot more time and effort," says Roeker. "I spent a lot more time with the animals at home, working with them every day. All the



TIME TO RELAX – Tucker Roeker gives his animal a tummy rub to relax after a walk. Roeker walked the pig every day, morning and night, to be in shape for show. Submitted photo



TREATS – Tucker Roeker feeds a marshmallow to a particularly well behaved partner getting ready for the state fair. Roeker walks the pig morning and night preparing for show. Submitted photo

Roeker continued on 7



HARD TEAM TO BEAT – Tucker Roeker and his dad, Kevin, relaxing for a change. Submitted photo

■ **Roeker**
from Page 6

hard work really started to pay off.”

In addition to the demonstrated knowledge he’s gained, Roeker also says he has gained a lot of life-long friendships through his participation in 4-H.

“Being involved at the state fair, you get to meet a lot of people with similar interests,” he says. “You meet people from all across the state and you form bonds with a lot of them. 4-H provides a lot of opportunities to meet people, not only at the fairs, but at camps, too.”

Now, Roeker is carrying the tested knowledge he’s gained from a life in 4-H to help him pursue his college degree.

“I’m still getting my feet wet in school,” he says, “but I’m definitely pursuing a career in the livestock industry.”

For the last three years, Roeker has been building a breeding herd for show pigs with the help of his father, Kevin, and friends.

“We had three litters last year, and this year, we’ll have about eight to ten

litters,” says Roeker.

You can see some of the results of Roeker’s passion on his Facebook page under “Roeker Showpigs.”

Another benefit Roeker says he gained from 4-H, was the ability to seek out knowledge from adults.

“Doing a lot of the projects, they really kind of made you talk to your elders to gain their perspective and learn from their experience,” he says.

And as he reflects on his past 4-H experiences, Roeker has now become the adult with the proven knowledge to pass down to those that follow his path.

Use temperature to guide nitrogen application timing

Network of soil temperature monitoring stations provides real-time data

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) advises farmers and fertilizer applicators to check soil temperatures when timing application of ammonium-based nitrogen fertilizers this fall.

“In areas where fall nitrogen applications are appropriate, soil temperature, not harvest progress, should be your guide of when to apply,” says Bruce Montgomery, manager of the MDA Fertilizer Management Section. “Waiting until soil temperature stays below 50° F before applying anhydrous ammonia and urea increases the availability of nitrogen to next season’s crop and decreases the amount of nitrate that could

potentially leach into groundwater.”

Soil temperature is measured at a six-inch depth; the same depth anhydrous ammonia is typically applied. To help farmers know when the target 50° F soil temperature has been reached, the MDA has established 21 real-time, statewide soil temperature monitoring stations. Station data is updated every 15 minutes with the help of satellite uplink technology from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the National Weather Service.

According to Dr. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota Extension climatologist, on average soil temperatures reach 50° F during the first week in



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

October in northern Minnesota and the fourth week of October in southern Minnesota.

In addition to delaying application until soil temperatures stay below 50° F, best management practices for nitrogen use developed by the University of Minnesota Extension recommend using a nitrification inhibitor when fall applying anhydrous ammonia and urea in south-central Minnesota. In southeast Minnesota’s karst region and statewide on coarse-textured soils, fall application of nitrogen fertilizer is not recommended regardless of soil tem-

perature. Specific nitrogen use recommendations by region of the state.

The MDA has announced plans to develop a rule over the next two to three years which will restrict fall nitrogen fertilizer application in areas vulnerable to groundwater contamination. This would include southeast Minnesota’s karst region and statewide on coarse-textured soils. The rulemaking is part of the state’s revised Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan which was completed March of this year. More information on the plan.

**CORN PALACE
AG CENTER**

Precision
PLANTING

121 3rd St. NE,
New Richland, MN 56072
Phone: 507-465-3320

QU PONT

PIONEER

Scott Routh 465-3320 • Layne Janike 995-6627

www.cornpalaceagcenter.com

Mike's TIRE SERVICE
AG & HEAVY TRUCK
REPAIR

870 32nd Ave NW 507-455-0388
Owatonna, MN 55060

- Steinbauer Performance
- Truck Tires
- Ag Tires
- Rubber Tracks

WFS 75 years 1940-2015
Working for Farmers' Success

Grain • Agronomy • Energy
Feed • Financing

Working for Farmers' Success...it's not just a phrase, it's our PROMISE. As your local full-service cooperative, WFS' mission is to continually work to grow member value and cooperative strength.

We know that your business or farming operation requires hard work and dedication. That's why we take pride in having knowledgeable, hardworking employees, that are dedicated to being your most valued partner; helping you reach new levels of success.

Find us on:

Serving these Minnesota and Iowa communities:
Amboy • Blue Earth • Bricelyn • Clarks Grove • Delavan • Dolliver, IA • Easton • Freeborn • Granada • Lewisville
Mapleton • Minnesota Lake • New Richland • Northrop • St. James • Truman • Welcome • Wells • Winnebago

General Office: 233 West Ciro, Truman, MN 56088 • 507-776-2831 • www.wfsag.com

Al-Corn proposes \$136 million ethanol expansion

Move would make Al-Corn the largest ethanol plant in the region

By HANNAH YANG

(Agri-News) – The Al-Corn Clean Fuel cooperative hopes to build a \$146 million expansion of its Claremont ethanol plant, but some members oppose a plan to devalue its shares to help finance it.

Al-Corn Clean Fuel — a farmer-owned cooperative — held a shareholder meeting on Sept. 15 to seek member approval of a proposal to increase the number of shares of common stock that Al-Corn is authorized to issue and to reduce the par value of the co-op's shares.

The proposal would lower the par value from \$2.50 to 50 cents per share.

"If we do this project, we're required to have at least half of the shares come from our members," said Randall Doyal, CEO of Al-Corn. "We don't have enough. We need additional commitments."

The drop to a more affordable price would increase the number of shares that the farmers would be able to purchase for the plant's potential expansion, according to plant officials.

"We thought it'd be a price that'd be

attractive to our members, and they can buy as many shares as possible," Doyal said. "We need to raise a little bit more equity, and we hope the share sales will do that for us."

The plant processes 17.5 million bushels of corn into 50 million gallons of ethanol fuel. The proposed expansion would increase that amount to 42 million bushels of corn, producing 120 gallons a year. That would be among the state's largest.

The cooperative has 13.5 million shares of bushel commitments from its members as of now.

The total cost of the expansion project would be an estimated \$146 million, Doyal said.

Al-Corn's business model runs on the investments of its members through finances but also through the agreement to deliver a certain quantity of corn determined by their investment.

"It's not a normal business; it's not a Wall Street business," Doyal said. "It's trying to get more value for (the farmers') corn as a commodity."

The expansion seeks to modernize existing equipment, change current processes to become more efficient

in producing ethanol and to become more competitive in the local ethanol fuel industry while increasing demand for corn and its value.

"Our business is going to be extremely competitive with the advantage going to low-cost ethanol producers," said Rod Jorgenson, president of Al-Corn Clean Fuel, in a news release. "Expansion allows us to reduce our operating cost per gallon, to update and modernize certain areas of our existing plant and moves us toward lower cost ethanol production."

However, several members of the co-op are wary of the potential vote and are concerned about not receiving the value of their corn with the proposed increase for shares.

"Why would we sell 30 million shares for 50 cents when we have considerable more equity and cash today than we had nine years ago?" asked John Steele, a Hayfield farmer and member of Al-Corn. "I would urge members to vote against increasing the number of shares and devaluing the shares until our board comes up with an exit plan."

As of Sept. 30, 2014, the total

patron's equities and partner's capital was more than \$70.9 million, with \$10 million disbursed to members.

"Today, with \$60 million of cash in the bank, and no debt, just the cash in the bank is a value of \$4 a share. Counting owner equity in the plant and other plants, our total equity value is over \$9 a share," Steele said.

From Doyal's perspective, the decreasing value of the shares will grant members the ability to purchase more shares at a lower cost and receive more revenue and value from their shares in the long run.

"If you want to add value to your corn, then you have to buy a share," Doyal said. "You have to consider that cost of membership as well as what you anticipate from added value from processing your corn here."

"There's never been an exit strategy — that's up to the individual member. But, from my perspective, the best exit strategy is if we can continue to make this a strong viable business, and there's a market for the shares."

Ballots for the resolution must be sent in by noon Oct. 15 to Al-Corn.

USDA Extends Dairy Margin Protection Program Deadline

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the deadline to enroll for the dairy Margin Protection Program for coverage in 2016 has been extended until Nov. 20, 2015. The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating farmers when the margin — the difference between the price of milk and feed costs — falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

"The fall harvest is a busy time of the year for agriculture, so this extension will ensure that dairy producers have more time to make their choices," said Vilsack. "We encourage all operations to examine the protections offered by this program, because despite the very best

forecasts, markets can change."

Vilsack encouraged producers to use the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Agency Service (FSA) online Web resource at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool> to calculate the best levels of coverage for their dairy operation. The secure website can be accessed via computer, smartphone or tablet.

He also reminds producers that were enrolled in 2015 that they need to make a coverage election for 2016 and pay the \$100 administration fee. Although any unpaid premium balances for 2015 must be paid in full by the enrollment deadline to remain eligible for higher coverage levels in 2016, premiums for 2016 are not due until Sept. 1, 2016. Also, producers can work with milk mar-

keting companies to remit premiums on their behalf.

To enroll in the Margin Protection Program for Dairy, contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Payments under the program may be reduced by a certain percentage due to a sequester order required by Congress and issued pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Should a payment reduction be necessary, FSA will reduce the payment by the required amount.

The Margin Protection Program for Dairy was made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six

years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

Safety and awareness for this harvest season

Reminders from National Farm Safety and Health Week

Federal and state statistics show farming is one of the most dangerous professions. In 2013, the latest year reported, 17 of the 69 work-related deaths in the state were in the ag industry, according to data from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

"Farmers are compressing a great amount of work into a short amount of time and are competing against the elements," said Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson. "Shortcuts are not the answer. Farmers must be mindful to use equipment properly and take time to ensure all safety guidelines and measures are followed."

Roadways may be just as dangerous for producers and non-farmers alike, as equipment is transported and grain is hauled from fields. Statistics from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety show that of the more than 190,000 people involved in crashes in Minnesota in 2014, 119 people were involved in a crash with a tractor or other farm equipment. Those crashes resulted in 12 injuries and one death.

According to Frederickson, ensuring an injury-free fall is everyone's responsibility. "While traveling through rural areas, all drivers need to pay attention to and respect farm equipment that may be on the roads."

In addition to road safety, the MDA is highlighting a wide range of farm safety topics this season, including child safety on the farm, proper livestock and grain handling and guidelines for reducing physical stress.

Safety tips are below, and will also be available on the MDA's Facebook page and Twitter.

Road Safety

For people living or driving through rural areas:

- Be on the lookout for farm equipment.
- Slow down when encountering

slow moving vehicles.

- Wait for a safe place to pass.
- Avoid using a cell phone while driving.

For farmers:

- Make yourself easy to be seen by using your lights and flashers.
- Remember it is Minnesota law to use slow moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 miles per hour.
- An escort vehicle is required when moving large equipment that extends over the center line.

Physical Stresses

- Get Some Sleep
- Make sure to get enough sleep and rest to refresh the mind and body. If you are spending long hours in a combine or tractor, be sure to take short breaks often.
- Eat Right, Eat Often
- When the busy season rolls around, we fill our bodies with fast food and other high-fat, low nutrition junk. Worse yet, we sometimes don't eat at all. It's worth the time to wake up a few minutes earlier to eat a quick breakfast and pack a nutritious lunch. Make sure to include a couple servings of fruits and vegetables to munch on during the day. Limit your intake of fatty meats, candy bars, and sugar.
- Don't Rush
- It may take an extra moment or two to walk down every step or double-check a piece of equipment. But that extra time may be a lifesaver. Don't cut corners when it comes to safety.
- Learn to accept the things you cannot change
- Look for the best in people and situations. Remember, no one is perfect. Realize that fiscal and time pressure challenges due to weather, crop prices, and market demand are beyond your control.

Child Safety

- Inspect your farm on a regular basis for hazards that can injure children wandering on your farm. Correct obvious hazards immediate-



ly.

- Children who are physically able to be involved in farm work should be assigned age-appropriate tasks and continually trained to perform them. They should also be constantly supervised.
- Equip all barns, farm shops, chemical storage areas, livestock pens, etc. with latches that can be locked or secured so that children cannot enter.
- Always turn equipment off, lower hydraulics and remove the key before leaving equipment unattended.
- Do not expose children to hazards. Never carry them on tractors and equipment or invite them into the farm shop, livestock barns, grain bins, etc.

Equipment Safety

- Pay attention to all safety information. Read operator's manuals and warning decals.
- Inspect the equipment and correct any hazards before operating.
- Identify hazardous areas on equipment and make sure you stay away from moving parts. Beware of pinch points, shear points, wrap points, pull-in areas, thrown objects, crush points, stored energy hazards and freewheeling parts.
- Shut down equipment, turn off the engine, remove key and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting equipment.
- Keep bystanders and others away from equipment operation area. Do not allow "extra riders", especially children.

Grain Handling Safety

- Lock entrances to grain handling areas to keep bystanders and children out.
- Install ladders inside bins.
- Do not enter grain bins that are being loaded or unloaded. Flowing grain can trap and suffocate you in

seconds.

- If it is necessary to enter a bin, shut off and lockout power before entering. Use a safety harness and safety line. Have several people available outside the bin to lift entrant out in case of an emergency.
- Wear proper dust-filtering respirators when working in and around grain handling areas. High amounts of dust and molds could be present and are extremely dangerous.

Livestock Handling Safety

- Label livestock handling areas to warn away visitors.
- Design livestock pens and handling facilities using recommended plans.
- All facilities should be designed to allow workers easy access to and exit from animals.
- Keep children and bystanders out of livestock handling areas.
- Animals can be unpredictable. Be sure you understand some of the common instincts of animals.
 - A strong territorial instinct is common.
 - Changes in lighting or shadows can excite or spook them.
 - Separation from other animals can cause unpredictable behavior.
 - Sudden or loud noises can frighten animals.
 - Some types of livestock, such as beef cattle, swine and dairy cattle, are colorblind and have poor depth perception. This causes them to be sensitive to contrasts in light, movement, and noises.
 - Cattle and horses can see everything around them except directly behind their hindquarters.

**Safety tips provided by the National Safety Council, National Education Center for Agricultural Safety, and the University of Minnesota Extension.*

www.agleader.com

Power Meets Precision!

INTEGRA

The All-New INTEGRA™ Display Year Round Precision Farming:

- Automated Steering and Manual Guidance
- Planting with SeedCommand™
- Application with DirectCommand™
- Yield Monitoring
- And More ...



L&D
LEADERS IN DESIGN
HARTLAND, MN

L&D Ag Service
408 Broadway Hartland, MN 56042
www.ld-ag.com
Call us at 1-507-845-2100

Ag Leader® Technology

Agriculture → Evolved.

POLARIS

FACTORY AUTHORIZED CLEARANCE

» REBATES UP TO «
\$1400

» FINANCING AS LOW AS «
2.99%

ACT NOW TO EXPERIENCE THE BIGGEST DEALS OF THE YEAR

» ONLY FROM POLARIS «




We Specialize In Ag Lending

We're a strong, healthy bank that's committed to the future of agriculture.

Our loan officers are experienced and our loan rates are competitive.

If you're looking for a good ag bank to work with, we invite you to talk with us.



Ann Hagen, Cindy Holland

STATE BANK
OF NEW RICHLAND
Since 1898
www.sbnr.biz
Phone 507-465-3218 24-hour Bankline 507-465-3373

FDIC

NORTHSTAR
POWERSPORTS & MARINE

507-373-9000
2120 Consul St. • Albert Lea

Visit Our Website At:
www.northstarpowersports.com

RESTRICTIONS: *Offers valid from 7/28/15 - 9/30/15 on select new 2014-2015 Polaris® Off-Road Vehicles. Youth models excluded. Does not apply to prior purchases. Rates as low as 2.99% for 36 months are available. Approval, and any rates and terms provided, are based on credit worthiness. Fixed APR of 2.99%, 6.99%, or 10.99% will be assigned based on credit approval criteria. 72 month financing available with rates as low as 7.99% based on approval and credit worthiness. Fixed APR of 1.99%, 10.99%, 13.99% will be assigned based on credit approval criteria. Other financing offers are available. See your local dealer for details. Minimum Amount Financed \$1,500. Maximum Amount Financed \$50,000. Other qualifications and restrictions may apply. Financing promotions void where prohibited. Offer effective on all new and unused 2010-2016 Polaris® Sportsman, RANGER®, RZR®, and ACE® models purchased from a participating Polaris® dealer between 7/28/15 - 9/30/15. Offer subject to change without notice. An example of monthly payments required on a 36-month term at 2.99% is \$29.08 per \$1,000 financed. An example of monthly payments required on a 36-month term at 6.99% APR is \$30.87 per \$1,000 financed. An example of monthly payments required on a 72-month term with a Fixed APR of 7.99% is \$17.53 per \$1,000 financed. See participating retailers for complete details and conditions. Approval, and any rates and terms provided, are based on credit worthiness. Applies to the purchase of all new Sportsman, RANGER, ACE and RZR models made on the Polaris Installment Program from 7/28/15 - 9/30/15. See participating retailers for complete details and conditions.

WARNING: Polaris® off-road vehicles can be hazardous to operate and are not intended for on-road use. Driver must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license to operate. Passengers, if permitted, must be at least 12 years old. All riders should always wear helmets, eye protection, and protective clothing. Always use seat belts and cab nets or doors (as equipped). Never engage in stunt driving, and avoid excessive speeds and sharp turns. Riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix. All riders should take a safety training course. Call 800-942-3764 for additional information. Check local laws before riding on trails. ©2015 Polaris Industries Inc.

REMODEL • REPLACE • RETHINK

REMODEL.

REPLACE.

RETHINK your windows.

MARVIN
Windows and Doors

Built around you.®

**Thinking of remodeling?**

Think about long-term beauty and durability. Think about energy efficiency, comfort, and quality craftsmanship.

Don't settle for anything less than Marvin® Windows and Doors for your remodeling project.

At **FREEBORN LUMBER COMPANY**, we'll help you think and rethink all the possibilities. Explore your options and get started today.

Marvin Windows and Doors, Warroad, MN 56763. © 2011 Marvin Windows and Doors. All rights reserved. ® Registered trademark of Marvin Windows and Doors.



**971 Plaza Street
Albert Lea, MN
507-377-4284**

www.freebornlumber.com • M-F 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Thurs. until 7 p.m.

FREEBORN LUMBER COMPANY offers window and door products from Marvin® for their quality craftsmanship, design options and energy efficiency.

Committed to Agriculture.



Roundbank®
Positively Impacting Peoples' Lives since 1881

Waseca: 507-835-4220, 200 2nd Street NE
Waldorf: 507-239-2166, 102 South Main
New Prague: 952-758-BANK (2265), 1100 1st Street NE
Farmington: 651-463-8300, 3380 Vermillion River Trail
www.roundbank.com



Member FDIC



Roundbank®
Insurance Agency

Waseca: 507-835-1499, 200 2nd Street NE
Waldorf: 507-239-2166, 102 South Main
New Richland: 507-465-8111, 121 South Broadway Avenue
Farmington: 651-463-4300, 3380 Vermillion River Trail
www.roundbankinsurance.com



SAVE ON POWERFUL PERFORMANCE.

**X758 Signature Series**

- 24 hp, 993 cc (17.9kW) diesel engine
- Full-time 4WD
- Power steering
- 4-year/700-hour bumper-to-bumper warranty³

\$700 OFF¹

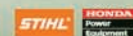
3032E Compact Utility Tractor

• 4WD

\$2,750 OFF⁴
(Implements sold separately)



www.agpowerjd.com



Belle Plaine, MN
1051 Old Hwy 169 Blvd
(952) 873-2224

Hollandale, MN
West Hwy 251
(507) 889-4221

Northwood, IA
1806 Central Ave
(641) 324-1154

Owatonna, MN
3555 SW 18th St
(507) 451-4054

Osage, IA
2197 Hwy 218 E
(641) 732-3719

¹ Offer ends October 30, 2015. \$700 off any X700 Signature Series Tractor. Price and model availability may vary by dealer. Some restrictions apply; other special rates and terms may be available, so see your dealer for details. ² The engine horsepower and torque information are provided by the engine manufacturer to be used for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower and torque will be less. Refer to the engine manufacturer's website for additional information. ³ Term limited to years or hours used, whichever comes first, and varies by model. See the LIMITED WARRANTY FOR NEW JOHN DEERE TURF AND UTILITY EQUIPMENT at JohnDeere.com/Warranty or www.JohnDeere.ca/TUWarranty for details. ⁴ Offer ends October 30, 2015. Available only on new 3032E Compact Utility Tractor and only at participating United States dealers. \$2,750 USD cash bonus is in lieu of financing offers. Prices, models, and savings may vary by dealer.