

The County Agent

A PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Volume LXVIII No. 4 October/November, 2007

THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE NEEDS YOU!

*Partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to Help Educate
Farmers on the Value of Their Participation*

As a county extension agent, you serve a vital role in your local community. You are the expert who provides useful, practical, research-based information to the many people you serve – including small business owners, retailers, consumers, and farmers and ranchers. In particular, our nation's agricultural producers rely on you to provide the information they need to make sound business decisions for their operations. Between now and February, they need your help even more.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is gearing up to conduct the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The Census of Agriculture, taken every five years, is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranchers and the people who operate them. It is the most complete agricultural resource available, providing uniform and comprehensive data for every county in the nation.

U.S. farmers need to know how critical their participation in the Census is and how it can impact the future of their operation and their entire community.

As a trusted agricultural advocate in your community, your partnership with NASS is vital to help educate farmers on the value of their participation.

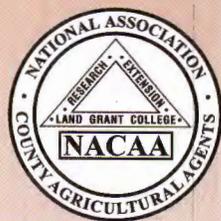
Everyone needs to work together to let farmers and ranchers know that the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their responsibility.

"We're committed to making this Census the best count ever," says Ron Bosecker, NASS Administrator. "It's about the future of our nation's agricultural and rural communities, and we need all farmers and ranchers to complete it as accurately and quickly as possible."

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and many other important areas. This is all key information that farmers need as they plan their short- and long-term growth. However, the information published in the Census is only as accurate as the responses received from producers.

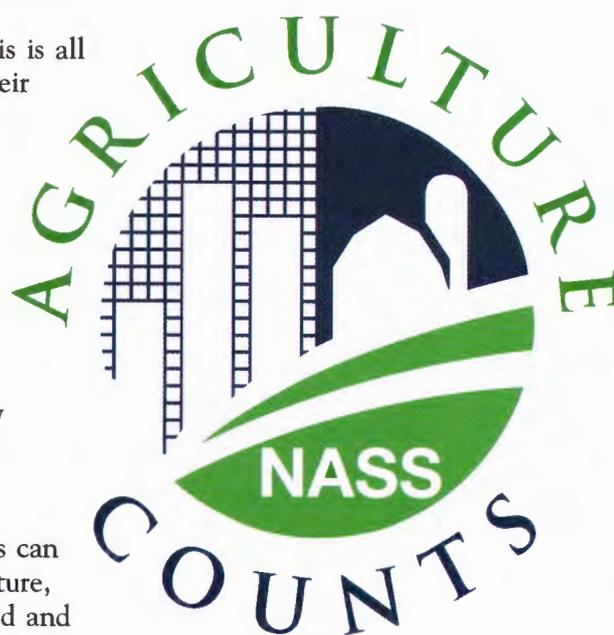
To assist NASS in spreading the word about the Census of Agriculture, we are asking that you convey the following points to your local farmers. These key messages illustrate the importance of their participation and explain why completing the Census is their voice, their future and their responsibility.

- By participating in the Census, farmers can demonstrate the value of U.S. agriculture, which many farmers feel is undervalued and underappreciated.



NACAA

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continued on page 2

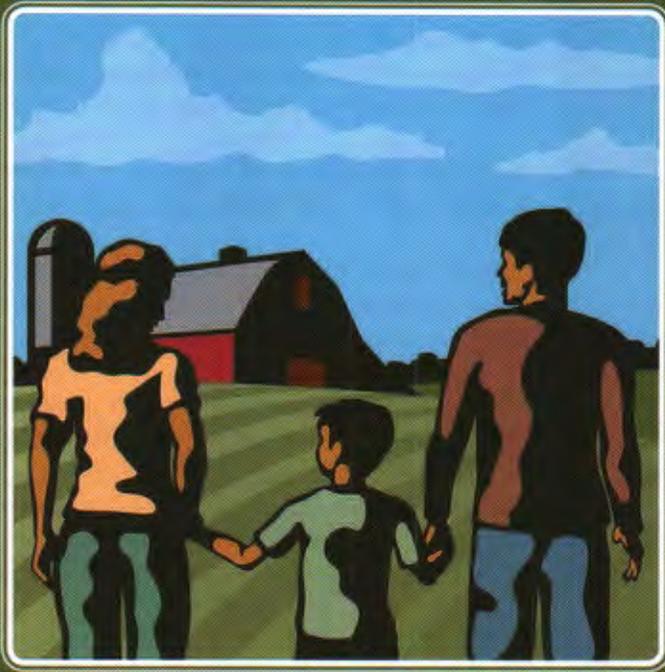
- The Census provides the information that is used by all of us who provide services to farmers and rural communities – federal, state and local governments, Extension agents, agribusinesses and many others.
- Census data is used to make decisions about many things that directly impact farmers, including: community planning, store/company locations, availability of operational loans and other funding, location and staffing of service centers and farm programs and policies.
- By responding to the Census, producers are helping themselves, their communities and all of U.S. agriculture.
- The Census is the responsibility of *every* farmer and rancher, regardless of how large or small.
- Participation in the Census is required by law, and that same law protects the confidentiality of all responses.
- This year will be the first year producers will have the opportunity to fill out the Census online.

To partner with NASS and help educate farmers about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, please contact the NASS field office in your state. They can provide a variety of tools to use when spreading the word about the Census. Among the materials that will be available are:

- Talking points.
- Statement stuffers that you can include in your mailings to producers.
- Drop-in ads and sample articles for any publications you might produce.
- Posters to hang in your local offices.
- Brochures that you can distribute.
- Frequently Asked Questions to help your staff respond to any inquiries from farmers.

The Census will be mailed out December 28, 2007, and NASS is asking farmers to reply by February 4, 2008. Results will be published a year later, in February 2009. In the meantime, producers need to understand how important the Census is to them, their operations, their local communities, and all of U.S. agriculture. NASS appreciates your help in encouraging producers to stand up and be counted, because it is their voice, their future, and their responsibility.

For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call toll-free (888) 4AG-STAT or (888) 424-7828.



YOUR VOICE

The 2007 Census of Agriculture is your chance to share your voice. Your response provides vital information that impacts decisions about community development, funding availability, farm policy and other key issues. By actively participating in the Census, you join with other voices to make positive changes.

Look for the Census in your mailbox in early January 2008. Complete and return it by February 4, 2008. Remember, when you lend your voice, you help ensure a better future for your operation, your family and your community.

United States Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service

2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

www.agcensus.usda.gov

The soybean checkoff is here.



Creating demand for your soybeans.

From soy biodiesel to record exports, the checkoff has thousands of accomplishments all geared toward one goal – keeping demand for U.S. soybeans strong. Here are just a few of them:

- **Soy biodiesel.** This renewable fuel all started with research funded by the soybean checkoff. Today, annual sales are expected to top 300 million gallons.
- **Production advances.** Since the soybean checkoff started in 1991, acreage has increased from just over 59 million acres to 75.5 million acres. At the same time, yields have increased nearly 25 percent to a nationwide average of 42.7 bushels per acre.
- **Record exports.** The checkoff delivers results in international marketing, successfully doubling U.S. soybean exports since its inception. This year, a record 1.11 billion bushels of soybeans went to other countries.
- **Rust-resistant varieties.** Five years ago the soybean checkoff funded the first research in the U.S. to identify rust-resistant soybean varieties. So far, two genes have been identified that could lead to rust resistance in the near future.
- **New traits.** The soybean checkoff helped fund the development of three enhanced-value soybean traits, including low-linolenic oil. This year, U.S. soybean farmers are estimated to have planted up to 1.9 million acres of these high-demand varieties.
- **Association support.** In 2007, the soybean checkoff gave more than \$2.4 million in direct and indirect support to the American Soybean Association and their efforts. For U.S. soybeans to remain competitive, farmers need both a strong checkoff and strong membership associations.

To find out more about the checkoff's accomplishments, visit www.unitedsoybean.org.



The soybean checkoff works because every soybean farmer contributes to it. These accomplishments are all thanks to U.S. soybean farmers.

Our soybean checkoff.
Effective. Efficient. Farmer-Driven.

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President's Message

I would like to offer my congratulations to the organizers and participants of the recently completed Western Region County Agents Professional Improvement Conference. Michele Hebert, Western Region Director, represented the national board at the meetings and gave the program high marks.

One of NACAA's main objectives is to enhance the professionalism and scholarly efforts of our members. This can be achieved in a number of ways, and I hope that more and varied opportunities will be explored by our members at the state and regional levels. If such an opportunity comes your way, I would encourage you to participate. Let me tell you about the Western Region meeting.

Agents created the Professional Improvement Conference several years ago to meet a specific need identified as the promotion and tenure process in their states became more rigorous. Each state in the region takes a turn in hosting the annual conference. Agents submit an abstract which is then peer reviewed. If selected, the applicant is given the opportunity to present their paper during the conference. Many agents report that their participation in the program has given them a leg up during their promotion and tenure process.

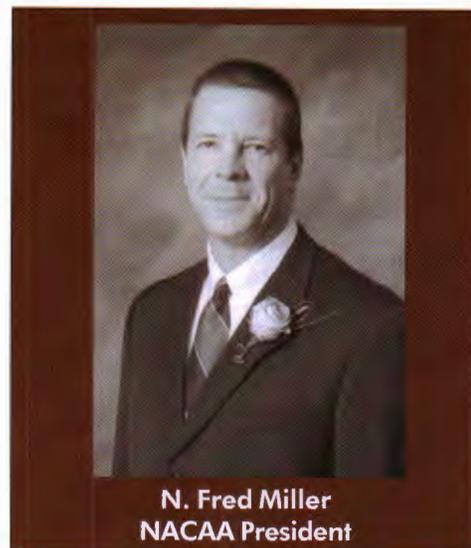
This year's conference was organized by members of the Arizona Agriculture Extension Association under the leadership of **Jeff Schalau**, state president. There were thirty-five agents in attendance. The states represented included Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Missouri, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and host Arizona.

In addition to the scheduled presentations, the Arizona team hosted the participants to a day-long tour organized by **Dean Fish**, Santa Cruz County agent. Stops included the world's largest irrigated pecan orchard, a working cattle ranch and a tour of a vegetable transfer station in Nogales, Arizona where fruits and vegetables from Northern Mexico enter the United States in trucks licensed in Mexico and then are transferred to US carriers before they are sent on their way to markets all over the country.

There were several highlights of interest that generated a lot of discussion during the tour. At the Farmers Investment Company's Green Valley Pecan orchards, retired Extension specialist **Mike Kilby** treated the participants to a tour of the shelling and packaging plant. Then, it was off to the orchards to view a pruning trial designed to determine the best way to manage mature orchards that have grown too tall air blast applications of zinc fertilizer.

Dan Bell, owner of the ZZ Cattle Company in Nogales, described his ranching operation and the challenges of working cattle on a ranch that ends right at the Mexico-US border. His description of dealing with cut fences, sometimes on a nightly basis, as smugglers and illegal aliens move north certainly caught the attention of the tour group. Dan's description of their efforts to protect endangered species on the ranch, including Mexican jaguars, was also interesting. Perhaps of most interest, I hear, was the Mexican food buffet lunch that appeared at just the right time during the day.

It appears that the participants in the Arizona meeting not only had a good time, but also an opportunity to learn each day of the conference. When I hear of excellent programs such as this, I can only think that it is continuing evidence of a healthy, vibrant NACAA organization. I, for one, am glad to see these opportunities come into existence. They are an excellent example of what can happen when we work together.



Save the Date...

Joint Council of Extension Professionals

JCEP

JCEP Regional Leadership Meetings

Southern and Northeast Regions:

February 5-7, 2008
February 10-12, 2009

Grosvenor Resort in Walt Disney World Resort
Orlando, Florida

Western and North Central Regions:

February 20-22, 2008
February 18-20, 2009

San Diego Marriott Del Mar
San Diego, California

JCEP PILD Conference

April 28-30, 2008
April 27-29, 2009

Marriott Key Bridge
Arlington, Virginia

Publication Deadlines *The County Agent*

January, 2008 Issue

Committee Awards Directory

Deadline for articles: December 5, 2007

Mail Date: January 5, 2008

April, 2008 Issue

AM/PIC Issue

Deadline for articles: March 1, 2008

Mail Date: March 28, 2008

August, 2008 Issue

AM/PIC Recap

Deadline for articles: August 1, 2008

Mail Date: August 24, 2008

Editors Note: The national award winner for the 4-H and Youth Programming was incorrectly stated in the August, 2007 edition of "The County Agent" Listed below is the correct winner.

National Winner - **4-H and Youth Programming**

YOUTH FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DAY

Chizek,* J. W.

Calhoun County Extension Education Director, Iowa State University,
521 4th Street, Rockwell City, Iowa 50579-0233

There is a shortage of volunteers among many of the 824 all-volunteer fire departments in Iowa. The Youth Fire and Emergency Services Day program addresses the importance of volunteerism to a community; big or small. The six-hour program introduces high school youth in grades 10-12 to a volunteer fire department, opportunities for community service and volunteerism within their communities, and a brief experience of the training that firefighters go through. The curriculum developed

utilizes the role of "volunteer firefighter" as the vehicle to encourage young people to get involved and has been endorsed by the Iowa Firemen's Association and the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau. Curriculum topics include fire behavior, fire extinguisher training, personal protective equipment, hose handling and firefighting strategies, interior operations, search and rescue, and volunteerism. All hands-on activities are conducted under the close supervision of local firefighters. Since September, 2001, 16 programs have been conducted in nine Iowa counties involving 446 youth from 17 school districts. Firefighters from 20 fire departments have been involved as instructors and support personnel in the program. Even though this is a program designed to highlight the need for volunteerism and community service and not to actively recruit for the local fire departments, 16 of the respondents to the six-month follow-up evaluation indicated that they had started taking classes to become firefighters. Over 82% of the total respondents said they learned the value of volunteering time for community services.

Connecting to National Experts on Animal Manure Management Issues

Jill Heemstra and Rick Koelsch, University of Nebraska; Joe Harrison, Washington State University; and Mark Risse, University of Georgia

National experts share their knowledge and experiences with farm advisers on the most current science on animal manure issues through the LPE Learning Center.

Do your continuing education opportunities keep you on top of emerging animal manure issues? The Livestock and Poultry Environmental (LPE) Learning Center was established to improve the connection between national experts and those advising animal producers on environmental issues. This article will answer questions about the LPE Learning Center and how it might help you.

What Services Does the Learning Center Provide? Our primary product is a monthly seminar delivered to your office with webcast technologies. You can connect to this 1-hour seminar from your office computer using free software called Real Player. These seminars occur on the third Friday of each month at 1:30 pm Central Time. If you cannot attend a live seminar, all presentations are recorded and available for viewing at your convenience.



The Learning Center web site also provides a web connection to the "Best of the Best" national resources on many animal manure topics. A team of about 60 national experts are developing a more content rich animal manure issues web site for release in early 2008.

Presentations Available for On-Demand Viewing and CEUs

- ◆ Value Added Processing of Manure
- ◆ Value of Manure in Land Application Systems,
- ◆ Lessons Learned from the Smithfield Agreement,
- ◆ Nitrogen Availability from Organic Sources
- ◆ Manure Application to Legumes

- ◆ Integrated Nutrient Management and Limits of the Phosphorus Index
- ◆ Pathogens in Animal Manure—Should We Be Concerned?
- ◆ Proposed CAFO Regulation Changes

What webcast seminars have been held to date? The Learning Center's Customer Advisory team helps set our agenda. At their request, our initial seminars have addressed Value of Manure, Alternative Technologies, and Nutrient Issues from a national perspective. With the emergence of hot news topics, we have added presentations on Changing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Regulations, and Pathogens.

What seminars are planned? Scheduled webcast seminars will address Innovative Manure Treatment Technologies Being Evaluated Through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program, December 14, 2007; Updates to EPA CAFO Regulations - as soon as the final regulations are issued (anticipated: December, 2007 or early January, 2008); Dry Manure Housing Systems for Beef and Dairy Operations, January 18, 2008; Ethanol Co-Products and Their Effects on Manure Management, February 15, 2008; Pharmaceuticals in Animal Manure—Potential Impacts and Their Management (2-part series), March 21 and April 18, 2008.

How Do I Access the LPE Learning Center? Seminars and web resources can be accessed through our web site, <http://lpe.unl.edu> or from the Animal Manure web page of the Heartland Water Quality web site. Check out the "Webcast Series" options in the left hand column of the home page.

Who is the customer for these seminars and web resources? The project targets individuals and organizations that influence animal producer decisions on environmental issues. Regulatory and USDA agency staff, extension educators, and private sector advisors are regular participants. Producers are always welcome, but we tend to focus on the needs of those advising animal

LPE Learning Center (<http://lpe.unl.edu>) provides your access to the best available resources in animal manure issues maintained by a team of national experts.

LPE Learning Center might be your first web click if you need access to:

National Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center
Connecting Experts With Those Assisting Producers

Home About the Center Project Team Subscribe to Newsletter

Education | Regulatory/Policy | Research | Technical/Planning | Financial | CSREES National Water Quality

Educational Resources

- Find your state's online [Cooperative Extension Publications](#) library.
- [Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship \(LPES\) Curriculum](#)-a national educational program that includes resources for [Small Farms](#) and [Environmental Management Systems](#).
- The [CNMP Core Curriculum](#) will provide a curriculum and instructor-ready materials to those wishing to develop TSP training courses in their state.
- USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) [Manure and Nutrient Management](#).
- NEW! 2/7/07 SERA-17 Organization to Minimize Phosphorus Losses in Agriculture [Publications](#)

Regulatory/Policy Resources

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Ag Compliance Assistance Center [Animal Feed Operation Resources](#) and [Agriculture Environmental Management Systems \(EMS\) Information](#).
- EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) [state contact information](#)
- LPES Curriculum [Confined Animal Feeding Operation \(CAFO\) fact sheets](#)
- EPA maintains websites about [Animal Feeding Operations \(AFOs\)](#) including the [Animal Feeding Operation \(AFO\) home page](#), and [AFO Virtual Center](#)
- The Association of State and Interstate Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA) maintains a [state CAFO programs website](#).

Technical Assistance and Planning Tools

- NRCS [electronic field office technical guides \(eFOTG\)](#) are available in a wide range of topics including [nutrient and pest management](#).
- NRCS [Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning procedures handbook](#) includes criteria for the development of a CNMP.
- NRCS [Ag Waste Management Field Handbook](#) is a comprehensive resource about livestock manure containment and utilization.
- NEW! 2/7/07 Create maps of your operation with the NRCS [Web Soils Survey](#) and the USGS [National Map](#)

Callout Boxes:

- Comprehensive national educational products for animal producers.
- Latest research summaries on Phosphorus.
- EPA Compliance Assistance.
- NRCS Handbooks, technical guides and web soil survey.

producers with the intent that these advisors will adapt this national information to local needs.

Can I Receive Continuing Education Credits for Seminars? Yes, all seminars since November 2006 are approved for continuing education units from both Certified Crop Advisors and Animal Registry for Professional Animal Scientist (ARPAS). Instructions on receiving credit are found along with the webcast seminars.

How do I stay aware of upcoming webcasts? The LPE Learning Center provides subscribers with a monthly 2-page newsletter introducing upcoming web casts and highlighting national resources. Join the 950 current subscribers by going to <http://lpe.unl.edu/subscribe.html>.

What is planned for the LPE Learning Center's future? The Learning Center is currently assembling plans for 8 to 10 additional seminars in 2008 in addition to the three planned for fall 2007. However, our biggest current project is to substantially expand the richness of the content of recommended resources accessible from the LPE Learning Center's web site. A team of 60 university and public agency representatives are assembling web pages that will provide you with access to the "Best of the Best" educational resources and decision tools on nine animal manure management topics. Look for this expanded web resource in early 2008.

Who is the LPE Learning Center? The Learning Center was the vision of the late Frank Humenik, professor from North Carolina State University who provided leadership for multiple national collaborations in research, public policy and outreach education targeting environmental stewardship in animal production. The Center is led by the authors of this article. A team of 15 representatives from other land grant institutions, US Geological Survey, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Agriculture, and Environmental Defense have contributed to making this vision a reality.

If you work with the livestock and poultry industry on environmental issues, we invite you to become familiar with the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center.

Water Wells 101:

Water Well Basics That You Should Know

As a county agricultural agent, it's impossible to be an expert in all the issues that confront you. It is possible, however, to have basic knowledge about some key areas vital to the health and welfare of your constituents.

Understanding water well basics is one such area. Without access to fresh water, much if not most rural living would simply not be possible. More than 40 percent of all water for agricultural irrigation is supplied by wells. And were it not for private household water wells, much of rural America would be uninhabitable.

This is the first of a three-part series from the National Ground Water Association on water well basics focusing on planning a well. By understanding what makes for good planning on the front end may help you diagnose water well problems on the back end.

Consider, for instance, about how a detective solves a crime. A good detective looks for clues preceding the crime to indicate what led to that point. The same goes for a doctor trying to make a diagnosis. What contributed to or caused the disease, injury or ailment? In the same way, water well problems sometimes, but not always, can be traced back to a poorly planned, constructed or maintained water well system.

Before going further, it should be stated that the best protection against future water well problems is to use a qualified water well

system contractor at every stage. Proper planning, construction and maintenance of a water well system involves specialized knowledge, skills and equipment.

As with any service provider, it is critical that consumers do some homework, ask lots of questions, check references and talk to more than one contractor if necessary to feel confident in their choice.

In this installment, we will look at planning a water well system.

Types of Wells

Following are some of the basic types of wells:

Drilled wells. Drilled wells are constructed by either cable tool (percussion) or rotary-drilling machines. Drilled wells that penetrate unconsolidated material (material that is not cemented together, such as sand) require installation of casing (the vertical pipe that goes in the borehole) and a screen to prevent inflow of sediment and collapse. They can be drilled more than 1,000 feet deep. The space around the casing must be sealed with grouting material of either neat cement or bentonite clay to prevent contamination by water draining from the surface downward around the outside of the casing.

Driven wells. Driven wells are constructed by driving a small-diameter pipe into shallow water-bearing sand or gravel. Usually a

screened well point is attached to the bottom of the casing before driving. These wells are relatively simple and economical to construct, but they can tap only shallow water and are easily contaminated from nearby surface

sources because they are not sealed with grouting material. Hand-driven wells usually are only around 30 feet deep; machine-driven wells can be 50 feet deep or more.

Dug wells. Historically, dug wells were excavated by hand shovel to below the water table until incoming water exceeded the digger's bailing rate. The well was lined with stones, bricks, tile, or other material to prevent collapse, and was covered with a cap of wood, stone, or concrete tile. Because of the type of construction, bored wells can go deeper beneath the water table than can hand-dug wells. Dug and bored wells have a large diameter and expose a large area to the aquifer. These wells are able to obtain water from less-permeable materials such as very fine sand, silt, or clay. Disadvantages of this type of well are that they are shallow and lack continuous casing and grouting, making them subject to contamination from nearby surface sources, and they go dry during periods of drought if the water table drops below the well bottom.

Well Location

The best location for a well should

be determined before constructing the facility that will rely on it. Why? If problems arise, the cost to repair them is less if the well is constructed first because only the cost of the well is involved. Also, if a second well must be drilled, there is more likely sufficient space on the property if the house is not already there.

Many factors can determine the quantity and quality of water that a well will produce. Totally dry holes are uncommon, but low-yielding wells are more so. Some causes of low yield include a low natural or seasonal water table, and interference with other wells (for example, in a subdivision). Also, geologic conditions can indicate how successful a well may be in producing an adequate water supply.

A qualified, local drilling contractor and neighbors should be knowledgeable about the quantity and quality of water produced by area wells.

How much water is enough?

“Enough” water means sufficient quantity to meet the following needs:

- Everyday use: drinking, cooking, and water for “plumbing” (toilets, bathtubs, showers, automatic washers, dishwashers, and many other water using automatic appliances)
- Seasonal use: lawn and garden watering, car washing, and swimming pool
- Other special uses: animal watering, crop irrigation, and water treatment devices that require backwashing
- Fire protection: this is a special



need for which a home seldom depends on a well. The local fire department usually has access to large quantities of water from non-drinkable ponds or surface water.

A day's use may be concentrated into a period of one to two hours, often in different areas of the house at the same time (laundry, bathroom, and lawn). The water supply system must be able to meet this type of peak demand. A conservative estimate is that a home will need about 150-300 gallons per day for two to four people to meet all these needs.

Three factors must be considered when determining how much is enough:

- Flow rate: continuous rate of yield for well
- Size of the well: diameter and depth of well
- Static level: level at which

water stands in a well when no water is being pumped from the well.

In addition to providing for regular household use, wells sometimes supply water for heating and cooling purposes—another consideration that may need to be taken into account with siting a well. Some energy-conscious homeowners install ground water geothermal systems, which extract and concentrate heat energy from water and make it available for heating or cooling purposes.

The actual location of a well will often be determined by land surface features such as steep slopes and poorly drained areas. Whenever possible, wells should be located at higher elevations than the surrounding areas to decrease the potential for contamination.

Wellowner.org

Also, the well should be located and maintained so that it is accessible for cleaning, treatment, repair, testing, inspection, and other activities which may be necessary over time.

The following minimal distances should be maintained (from the wellhead), unless other state or local codes or regulations prescribe more stringent standards:

- Cesspool (receiving raw sewage) - 200 feet
- Pit, privy, filter bed - 50 feet
- Septic tank, tile sewer, foundation drain - 50 feet
- Iron sewer with approved mechanical joints - 10 feet
- Pump house floor drain - 2 feet
- Property boundary - 5 feet
- Outer boundary of any road - 20 feet
- Landfill, garbage dump - 200 feet

Septic Systems

Nearly 25 percent of the population in the United States—in more than 25 million homes—disposes of waste water through onsite, or unsewered systems. With unsewered systems, homeowners are responsible for treating and maintaining the disposal of waste water.

Most are typically found where centralized waste water treatment would be impractical, such as in rural areas.

Septic Systems and Ground Water

A properly maintained septic system poses no threat to ground water. However, a failing system can be harmful as waste water can include many types of contaminants.

Also, there are regulations that require the septic system to be certain distances from water wells, streams, lakes, and houses. These are horizontal separation distances. In order to remove contaminants effectively, the absorption field must also be adequately separated from the ground water. This is the vertical distance. Both distances are specified by local regulations.

However, various geologic conditions, such as fractured bedrock or shallow ground water tables, can also allow bacteria or viruses to reach the ground water. This is why it is essential to also have the home's water well system and the well water checked regularly.

How Septic Systems Work

Septic systems are the most popular unsewered system. Septic systems use soil to treat small waste water flows. When properly maintained, septic systems are safe and reliable.

There are many types of septic systems, but a typical system contains a septic tank, a distribution box, and a rock-and-gravel-lined absorption field, sometimes called a drain field. All are connected by pipes called conveyance lines.

Tanks are made of concrete, fiberglass, or plastic. They are usually buried, and should be watertight. They are usually designed to hold a minimum of 750 to 1000 gallons of sewage. Their purpose is to temporarily hold the waste water as solids and liquids separate. The solids, known as sludge, collect at the bottom of the tank, while scum floats on top of the liquid. The sludge and scum

will remain in the tank and need to be pumped out periodically.

The waste water, or effluent, will pass through the tank to the distribution box. The distribution box separates the flow of the water into a network of underground, perforated pipes in the absorption field. The effluent passes through the holes in the pipes into the rock-and-gravel zone. It will be stored there until it is absorbed by the soil.

The absorption field treats the waste water through physical, chemical, and biological processes. The soil acts as a natural buffer to filter out bacteria, viruses, and excessive nutrients. Essentially, the waste water is treated before reaching the ground water.

For more information, visit NGWA's Web site Wellowner.org at www.wellowner.org.

Part II of this series in the next issue will focus on water well maintenance.

NGWA is a membership organization representing more than 14,000 U.S. and international ground water professionals. NGWA provides members, government and the general public with the scientific knowledge and economic guidance necessary to responsibly develop, protect and manage the world's ground water resources.

2007 AM/PIC PRESENTATIONS ON-LINE

Did you know that much of the outstanding information that was shared at the 2007 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference is available for viewing and download at the NACAA website (www.nacaa.com). Not only can you review the Proceedings and AM/PIC photos, you also have the opportunity to review information from the 2 General Sessions and many of the featured speakers/presenters from the Educational Luncheon sessions. Simply go to the website and click on the information that interests you. Many of these presentations are available in Power Point format for you to use for local/regional programming.

Here's a sample of what's online:

2007 NACAA AM/PIC

- [Proceedings](#)
- [2007 AM/PIC Home Page](#)
- [AM/PIC Photos](#)

Presentations

General Sessions

- [Impacting the World: From Land-grant to World-grant](#)
Jeffrey Riedinger, Dean, International Studies & Programs, Michigan State University [PPT]

VIDEO from Teaching & Educational Technologies Presentations

- [Imported Fire Ant eXtension](#)
Kathy Flanders (WMV Video)
- [MSU's My Horse University](#)
Karen Vignare and Christine Skelly (WMV Video)

Monday, July 16

Trade Talk Concurrent Sessions

- [Capturing Value From RFID](#)
David L. Knupp, Global Animal Management (PPT - 5.3 MB)
- [Why Cellulosic Ethanol is Nearer Than You Think](#)
Dr. Bruce Dale, MSU (PPT - 3.2 MB)

Professional Improvement and Search for Excellence Luncheons

- [The Farm and Ranch Survival Kit](#)
Susan Kerr & Brian Tuck (PPT - 1.5 MB)

Educational Luncheon Seminars

- [Resistance Issues with Anthelmintics in Cattle](#)
Dr. Bill Burdett, DVM (PPT - 726 KB)
- [Building Entrepreneurial Capacity for Agriculture](#)
Dr. Chris Peterson, MSU (PPT - 209 KB)
- [Contrasting Water Quality and Health Issues in the Rural and Urban Communities](#)
Dr. Joan Rose, MSU (PPT - 6.4 MB)
- [Sustainable Approaches to Conventional Landscaping](#)
Dr. Bob Schutzki, MSU (PPT - 6.4 MB)
- [Sustainable Farming with Cover Crops](#)
Dale Mutch, MSU (PPT - 17 MB)

Commercial Technology Luncheon Seminars

- [Fertilizer Best Management Practices](#)
Tom Bruulsema, IPNI (PPT - 18 MB)

Tuesday, July 17

Extension Development Council Seminars

Administrative Skills

- [Learning Today - Leading Tomorrow](#)
Jon B. Laughner, Penn State (PPT - 254 KB)
- [Strategies for Promotion and Funding of Extension Programs](#)
Brian Tuck, Oregon State (PPT - 5.9 MB)

Early Career Development

- [Ten Easy Steps to Program Impact Evaluation](#)
(PDF - 1.5 MB)
- [Rutgers Client Consultation Evaluation Post Card](#) (PDF 104 KB)
Dan Kluchinski

Teaching & Educational Technologies

- [Technology Tools \(part 2\)](#)
Neal Vines (PPT - 827 KB)
- [Imported Fire Ant eXtension](#)
Kathy Flanders (PPT - 5.7 MB)

Educational Luncheon Seminars

- [Environmental Opportunities for Animal Agriculture: Extension's Critical Role](#)
Dr. David Beede, MSU (PPT - 7.3 MB)

- [Turfgrass Issues and Answers](#)
Dr. Ron Calhoun, MSU (PPT - 7.3 MB)
- [Urban Pressures & Farming; Positioning Agriculture for the Future](#)
Dr. Soji Adelaja, MSU (PPT - 1.5 MB)
- [Opportunities and Challenges in More Localized Food Systems](#)
Dr. Michael Hamm, MSU (PPT - 3.6 MB)

Professional Improvement Council Seminars

Ag Economics

- [Evaluating Alternatives to Tobacco Production; Grapes, Vegetables and Cut Flowers](#)
Ben Beale (PPT - 5.5 MB)

Animal Science

- [Effective Use of Video-Conference Technology in Delivering Animal Science Programs Across State Lines](#)
Lisa Kriese-Anderson (PPT - 1.1 MB)
- [Manure Side-Dress Nitrogen Corn and Wheat Plots](#)
Glen Arnold (PPT - 1.1 MB)
- [Successful Dairy Systems](#)
Chuck Schwartz, Jim Salfer, Neil Broadwater (PPT - 371 KB)
- [Security Alerts and Why Agriculture Should Care](#)
Julie Smith (PPT - 1.4 MB)
- [Use of the Hobo Temperature Recorders to Document Mortality Composting Temperatures](#)
J. Craig Williams (PPT - 4.9 MB)
- [Beef Carcass Education by Participating in the Juab County Fair Steer Carcass Contest](#)
Jeffrey Banks (PPT - 4.1 MB)
- [Supplemental Feeding Program Eliminates Hay Feeding and Reduces Winter Feed Costs in Beef Cattle Operations](#)
Richard Garrard (PPT - 9.0 MB)
- [Evaluation of Forage-Based Weaning Systems in Spring-Born Cross-Bred Beef Calves](#)
Ronnie Helmondollar (PPT - 511 KB)
- [Utilizing Video Image Analysis and Warner-Bratzler Shear Force Data as Educational Components of the OK Steer Feedout](#)
Greg Highfill (PPT - 2.8 MB)
- [A Production Practices Survey of Cow-Calf Producers in Northeastern Oregon: Assessing the Industry's Educational Needs](#)
Cory Parsons (PPT - 421 KB)

- [Beef Production from Pasture to Plate Taught Through the Master Cattle Producer Course](#)
M. Kent Staford (PPT - 282 KB)
- [Lamb 300: Producing High Quality, Wholesome Lamb at the Farm, Packer and Retail Levels](#)
Mark Heistuman (PPT - 788 KB)
- [Meat Goat Pocket Calendar Supports Meat Goat Producers](#)
James Humphrey (PPT - 1.1 MB)
- [Regional Educational Outreach Program for Producers of Small Ruminants in South Alabama](#)
William Kelley (PPT - 1.4 MB)
- [Comparing Rates of Gain of Market Lambs Fed Managed Intensive Pasture, Plus Corn and Concentrate in Confinement](#)
Chet Parsons (PPT - 1.2 MB)
- [Using the FAMACHA System to Control Internal Parasites in Small Ruminants During the Summer Grazing Season](#)
Susan Schoenian (PPT - 1.1 MB)
- [Meat Goat Sire Evaluation Test Using the GrowSafe 400 System](#)
David Seymore (PPT - 263 KB)

Natural Resources

- [Managing Small Woodlots](#)
Daniel Goerlich (PPT - 1.4 MB)
- [Chemical Rates and Application Methods Used to Control Russian Olive](#)
Ronald Patterson (PPT - 1.3 MB)
- [Evaluation of Changing Farm-Gate Marketing Strategies to Increase Profits](#)
Gary Graham (PPT - 1.3 MB)
- [Natural Resource Programs for Youth at the Utah Botanical Center](#)
Shawn Olsen (PPT - 2.8 MB)
- [Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program](#)
Howard Siegrist (PPT - 1.3 MB)
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H. Glenn Hughes (PPT - 1.8 MB)
- [Phosphorus Fate and Transport in an Impounded River System; Implications for TMDL Stakeholders and Extension Educators](#)
Dean Baas (PPT - 1.7 MB)

- **Enabling People to Create Community and Environmental Impact: The Rutgers Environmental Stewards**
Bruce Barbour (PPT - 1.5 MB)
- **Nebraska Agricultural Water Management Network**
Gary Zoubek (PPT - 26 MB)
- **Watershed Characterization of Agricultural and Recreational Lands**
William Sciarappa (PPT - 7.5 MB)
- **Environmental Impacts of Ethanol Plant in the Missouri Ozarks**
Bob Schultheis (PPT - 2.9 MB)
- **What is in that water? A Water Testing Program for El Paso County, Colorado**
Gary Hall (PPT - 311 KB)

Horticulture and Turf Grass

- **Neighborhood Stormwater/Landscape Program**
Rebecca Jordi (PPT - 1.1 MB)
- **Rain Garden Demonstration Sites to Promote Groundwater Protection**
Madeline Flahive-DiNardo (PPT - 4.5 MB)

Thursday, July 19

General Session

- **The Role of Extension in Addressing the Effects of Climate Change in US Agriculture and Its Global Impact**
Dr. Louie Tupas, USDA-CSREES National Program Leader for Global and Climate Change (PPT - 6.5 MB)

Educational Luncheon Seminars

- **Invasive Species Arrive, Survive and Thrive**
Dr. Chris Difonzo and Dr. Deb McCullough, MSU (PPT - 6.0 MB)
- **Managed Intensive Grazing and Dairy Profitability (part 1)**
Howard Straub, MSU Extension (PPT - 8.4 MB)
- **Managed Intensive Grazing and Dairy Profitability (part 2)**
Richard Leep and Nasser Saleh Al-Ghumaiz, MSU Extension (PPT - 15 MB)
- **Managed Intensive Grazing and Dairy Profitability (part 3)**
Jerry Lindquist, MSU Extension (PPT - 59 MB)
- **Equine Management Options in an Urban/Suburban Setting**
Dr. Christine Skelly, MSU (PPT - 1.9 MB)
- **The Long & Storied History of Henry Ford, Ford Motor Company and US Agriculture**
Jim McCabe, the Henry Ford Museum (PPT - 4.6 MB)
- **The Role of Renewable Fuels in Today's Automotive Industry (Part 1)**
John DiMartini (PPT - 801 KB)
- **The Role of Renewable Fuels in Today's Automotive Industry (Part 2)**
Steven R. Mazure (PPT - 1 MB)
- **A National and State Perspective on Historic Barn Preservation**
Vera Wiltse, MSU Extension (PPT - 6.6 MB)



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
Area Extension Specialist, Nutrient Management
NDSU Extension Service



DEADLINE: Postmarked by 11/30/07.

POSITION LOCATION: Headquarters is the Carrington Research Extension Center, Carrington, North Dakota.

POSITION DESCRIPTION: Provide livestock waste technical assistance and education to farmers and ranchers, Extension agents, agency personnel and industry professionals.

QUALIFICATIONS: Masters degree in Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering, Agricultural Systems Management, Animal Science, Plant Science, Soil Science or closely related discipline.

SALARY AND FRINGE BENEFITS: Salary commensurate with academic training and experience.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: For full consideration and further details see http://www.ndsu.edu/ndsu/jobs/non_broadbanded/positions/00021847.shtml or contact Karl Hoppe, Search Committee Chairman at 701-652-2951. North Dakota State University is an equal opportunity institution.

Historic Chisholm Trail

By Katie L. Reim

STILLWATER, Okla. – For many the only cattle drive they have seen is from the classic western Rawhide where drovers “keep the doggies rolling” north to Kansas. This year, people did not need to turn on their television to see an old time cattle drive, they just headed to the Chisholm Trail.

Cowboys and cowgirls from across Oklahoma packed their saddlebags, hitched up the wagons and mounted up on their horses to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail and the Oklahoma Centennial celebration.

A total of 450 longhorn cattle made their way up the Historic Chisholm Trail starting at the Red River of Texas through Oklahoma to the end of the trail in Caldwell, Kan.

These drovers recreated the drives that took place back in the 1800s: chuck wagon in the lead with the hands keeping the herd of longhorns rolling closely behind up the trail.

Meals came via an open fire and cast iron pots and consisted of sour dough biscuits, scrambled eggs, sausage, gravy, bacon and ham for breakfast and chili, cowboy stew, rib eye steak, chicken fried steak, green beans and mashed potatoes, to name a few, for supper. Lunch was a quick bite of whatever the cowboys and cowgirls could fit in their saddle bags – usually oranges, apples, beef jerky and crackers.

Scott Price, Grant County Extension educator, served as one of the cooks on the drive and said this was one of the toughest things he has ever done physically.

“A typical day was getting up at 4 a.m. to build the fire and

begin cooking, and feed 40 hungry cowboys and cowgirls by 6:30 a.m. Then clean up breakfast, break camp, load the kitchen in the chuck wagon and be ready to travel by 8 a.m.,” he said. “After breaking camp we would travel 15 miles then reverse the process.”

When cooking with wood it takes approximately two hours for coals to get hot enough to prepare meals and wind or lack of it is important with outdoor cooking.

While the work was tough, Price enjoyed visiting with people along the way and took in many memorable experiences. Many schools bused their students to watch the steers go down their town’s main street and in the evenings families were encouraged to come to camp to visit the cowboys and cowgirls.

“When people visited the camp in the evening they had the opportunity to pet the horses, see the cattle close up and watch us cook,” Price said. “Visiting with the kids was great; I told them to be a cowboy you had to do four things: Work hard in school, mind your mom and dad, eat your vegetables and go to church.”

This cattle drive was conducted as closely as people may have done it 100 years ago, but on occasion a few modern conveniences were brought in.



Scott Price, Grant County Extension educator and Jim Bechdoldt, drove the covered wagon across Oklahoma on the Oklahoma Centennial and Chisholm Trail cattle drive held recently along the historic Chisholm Trail. (Photo by: Jerrica Lockwood)



Cowboys and cowgirls from across Oklahoma participate in the Oklahoma Centennial and Chisholm Trail cattle drive held on the historic Chisholm Trail. Here the covered wagon leads the group to their destination. (Photo by: Greg Highfill)

Price said the ponds supplied enough water for the livestock, but some camps didn't have enough water for cooking and drinking, so it was brought in the modern way in barrels in the back of the pickup.

"We had pickups to charge our cell phones, had a portable restroom and we rigged up a shower with solar heated water," Price said. "But we did sleep under the stars, travel from Texas to Kansas either by horse back or on the seat of a wagon, all the cooking was done over a fire in Dutch ovens and we didn't lose a single head of beef to rustlers."

Price noticed after traveling the state at 4 miles per hour, there are a lot more things that can be observed. He noticed almost everyone has a dog and this is a throw-away society.

"We saw everything you can imagine dumped in the ditch or over the side of the bridge," he said. "If we don't take better care of our precious resources in the next 100 years, then we may be condemning our grandchildren to live on a pile of our neighbor's trash

and discarded couches."

Reflecting back on the drive and what it was like 100 years ago, Price has a new found respect for people who lived in this time period.

"Pioneers worked long and hard hours because that's what it took to get everything done. Today we have cell phones, horseless carriages, refrigerators, microwaves and lots more," he said. "After being on the cattle drive for a month you begin to realize you can get along just fine without some of the modern conveniences we now enjoy."

Using Feed Readers & del.icio.us To Keep Up In Your Field

*By John Dorner, NACAA Electronics
Communication Coordinator*

Information is changing at an ever-increasing rate! As knowledge workers, we need to stay ahead of the curve. A couple ways to do this is to get the news in your field delivered to you - without having to go search for it. One method is to use an RSS Feed Reader. Another is to share bookmarks between people with the same interests.

Feed readers or aggregators collect RSS (really simple syndication) feeds from many websites into one page. RSS is a way websites syndicate their content. There are many Feed Readers to choose from. The one I've been using for a while is Google Reader - <http://reader.google.com/>. When you are viewing a page, look for the little orange wave icon in your browser. In Firefox, it is in the location panel. In MSIE 7, it is on the toolbar. When you see this icon, the page you are viewing offers a RSS feed and there is probably content on this page that changes often. If you would like to keep up with the changes without having to return to this page, subscribe to this page's feed. Each feed reader and browser does this a little differently. In the current version of Firefox, just click on the orange icon and follow the prompts to subscribe. In MSIE you can copy the URL of the page and paste it into your feed reader's subscribe dialog. Or you can subscribe by clicking on the orange icon and use MSIE as your feed reader.

Start looking for this icon as you use the web. You'll be surprised by how many sites offer feeds of their content. Once you have a few feeds added to your feed reader, use it as your browser's start page. It makes a lot more sense to have a page that changes with the content you want to see as your start page than a page that never changes.

To learn more about how to use a feed reader, see Anne Adrian's article at: <http://blog.aafromaa.com/2007/05/how-to-use-news-reader.html>

For some sites that have feeds that are of interest to Extension Agents - look at: <http://pageflakes.com/jdorner>

del.icio.us is a **social bookmarking** website — the primary use of del.icio.us is to store your bookmarks

online, which allows you to access the same bookmarks from any computer and add bookmarks from anywhere, too. If you use more than one computer, you know what a benefit that is. On del.icio.us, you can use **tags** to organize and remember your bookmarks, which is a much more flexible system than folders. If you use Firefox as your browser, there are 'extensions' or 'add-ons' so that your del.icio.us bookmarks are in your browser as well as online.

The real power of using del.icio.us comes from the ability to share your bookmarks! Just think how much more quickly you would learn about new things in your field if you could see what the other agents and specialists were bookmarking. You could share your bookmarks with your clientele and the other agents and specialists. Of course, when you upload a bookmark, you can choose to 'not share' if it is of a personal nature.

To get started, go to: <http://del.icio.us/> and create an account. Upload your bookmarks. And start using del.icio.us when you bookmark a page. If you stop there, you will benefit by being able to get to your bookmarks from any computer. But to get the real benefit, build a network of people who are bookmarking the things you want to keep up with. Talk to the people whose bookmarks you would like to see and encourage them to use it. Add them to your network. Come up with a unique tag and agree to tag relevant pages with that tag. For example, if you find a page that would be of interest to NACAA members, tag it "nacaa". Then, anyone can go to: <http://del.icio.us/tag/nacaa> and see it.

Currently, there are more 'tech' type people using del.icio.us, but there is no reason for it to stay that way. Ag agents can really benefit from this tool too! For more information about del.icio.us see: <http://del.icio.us/about/>

If you want to see what I've bookmarked, my bookmarks are at: <http://del.icio.us/jdorner>
The people I'm watching are at: <http://del.icio.us/network/jdorner>

THE CODE OF ETHICS

My professional standards shall note an understanding for our common humanity. My work, ambitions and relations shall always cause me to take into consideration my highest duties as a member of society.

In every position of business life, in every responsibility that comes before me, my chief thought shall be to fill that position and discharge that responsibility to lift the level of human ideals and achievements a little higher than I found it.

I shall:

FIRST: Consider my vocation worthy and as affording me distinct opportunity to serve society.

SECOND: Improve myself, increase my efficiency, and enlarge my service.

THIRD: Remember that I am a professional and want to succeed, but that I am first an ethical person and wish no success that is not founded on the highest justice and morality.

FOURTH: Respect and hold in high esteem science in all its phases and to recognize that Experiment Station and U.S.D.A. findings constitute professional authority in agriculture and to respect the opinion of those who have established themselves as authorities in this branch of science.

FIFTH: Be loyal to our State Universities, the U.S.D.A., our local, state, and national government.

SIXTH: Hold in high esteem the callings of both rural and urban activities.

SEVENTH: Recognize that the development of leadership and the building of communities is the highest service I can render as a County Extension Agent.

EIGHTH: Maintain an open mind, seeking always to understand the viewpoints of others.

NINTH: Not engage in any activity which will interfere with the proper fulfillment of my professional duties and bring discredit to my office.

TENTH: Support and contribute to strengthening my State or Regional and National Association of County Agricultural Agents in their efforts to improve and advance the Extension Service Program for the betterment of our nation.

Updated March, 2007

The County Agent

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Call of the Week



We encourage County Agents to submit some of their humorous, strange or unusual calls you've had over the years. These are the ones that make you shake your head in amazement or just tickle your funny bone. We know you've had some. Take a minute and E-mail them to us at nacaemail@aol.com or send them by snail mail to NACAA, Attn: Call of the Week, 252 N. Park St. Decatur, IL 62523.

THE COUNTY AGENT

Throughout the day the people call
The man they think should know it all;
I think my garden's full of slugs!
My tree is getting yellow now.
My lawn is turning brown somehow
My bush is losing all its leaves.
My garden's dying! someone grieves.

They bring the bugs they find at home;
They cart in soil from sand to loam
And spiders, crickets, worms and weevil.
They want to know if their bites are evil.
They bring the limbs of ailing trees;
They ask advice on killing bees
And how to rid their barn of bats.
They want a trap for neighbor's cats.

They question when to plant their beans
And when to harvest their turnip greens.
They bring in sickly-looking shoots
And unknown weeds pulled up by roots.
They ask him to stop by their house
To trap a skunk or kill a mouse,
Get rid of pesky hornet's nests,
Identify a garden pest.

They seek to know how much to water
And when to send their pig to slaughter.
From eight to Alate@ the Agent hears
Complaints and questions, dreams, and fears;
He does his best to help them all,
Extending knowledge with each call.
On his advice, folks can depend;
The County Agent is their friend!

—Grace Diane Jessen
Utah State University Extension -
Sevier County Office

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PS Form 3526, September 2006 (Page 2 of 3)

LIFE MEMBER REPORT

'Life Member' is a membership category of NACAA. Anyone who has retired from Cooperative Service and was eligible to be an active member of NACAA is eligible to be a Life Member. A one time \$50 membership fee is the only other requirement for membership. The \$50 is paid to the national treasurer of NACAA.

There are some state associations that pay the \$50 dues when they have an active member retire. If your association does not pay your dues when you retire, then it is up to the individual to do so.

As Life Member Committee Chair, I have reviewed the Life Member list for each state, and I know there are a number of retirees who are not Life Members. Let me encourage those who have not become Life Members to do so. The National Association needs your support!

The leadership of NACAA continues to support Life Members with funds and activities at the AMPIC. They appreciate the long term commitment each retiree has made to the Cooperative Extension Service and NACAA. Life Members are a vital part of NACAA. However, Life Members can build a stronger relationship by showing our interest and commitment to NACAA. It would be outstanding if *all* retirees were Life Members! Let's work toward that goal.

One of the major concerns about Life Members is that not many recent retirees attend AMPIC and the Life Member program at the conference. To answer this concern, I would like input from retirees and active members on how to address this issue. Reasons I give for new retirees not participating are:

- Many have begun second careers
- Did not participate as active member and will not as retiree/life member
- Do not relate to older Life Members who do participate
- Life member program does not interest new retirees
- As a new retiree, would rather be a part of the active member program

I'm sure there are other reasons. If you have suggestions, concerns, or criticisms, Send your thoughts to me at (e-mail) tatumsp@bellsouth.net or 134 Clack Circle, Eatonton, GA 31024.

The Life Member Committee will work toward increasing and improving the program and activities of all retirees. Thanks for your help!!

Hal Tatum
Life Member Chair



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- Master of Science in Crop Science
- Doctor of Education in Agricultural Education (joint degree with Texas A&M University)

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ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES

2008

Greensboro, North Carolina...July 13 – 17

<http://www.ncacaa.org/2008ampic>

2010

Tulsa, Oklahoma.....July 11-15

2009

Portland, Oregon.....September 20-24

2011

Overland Park, Kansas..... August 7-11

The County Agent

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