



McINTOSH

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Lloyd Schleicher and Clifford Bartz each celebrated birthdays on July 15th at the McIntosh Heritage and Arts Center Heritage Homestead event at the Curt Bartz farm where there was a hearty breakfast served to all, and birthday cake too!



There was lots of laughter and smiles shared by friends and family during the MHAC Heritage Homestead brunch at the Curt Bartz farm last Saturday. Pictured here (l-r) Roger Rolf, Lee & DeeDee Narum, Connie Strom and Diane Boucher.

Young at heart

There were 95 and 97 reasons to celebrate at the McIntosh Heritage Homestead brunch last Saturday, July 15th. The brunch was held at the farmstead of Curt and Judy Bartz where, along with a hearty breakfast, there was birthday cake to celebrate the birthdays of Clifford Bartz, who turned 95 years and Lloyd Schleicher who turned 97 years.

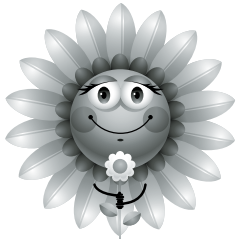
The two were greeted with many friends and family members who came to enjoy the beautiful day.

There was a speech by each

of the men's daughters, Bev Anderson who is Cliffords only daughter and Carol Eckstrom who is Lloyds oldest daughter.



Lloyd Schleicher celebrated his 97th birthday with his daughter, Carol Eckstrom during the MHAC Heritage Homestead Brunch at the Curt Bartz farm on Saturday, July 15th.



Community Calendar

- Wed. July 19:** McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Computer Class at McIntosh Library 1pm to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm;
- Thurs. July 20:** McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Fri. July 21:** McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Mon. July 24:** McIntosh Library 10am to 3pm; Children's Story Time at McIntosh Library 10:30am; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Tues. July 25:** McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm



Clifford Bartz's kids, grandkids and great-grandkids were at the Curt Bartz Farm on Saturday, July 15th to celebrate Clifford's 95th Birthday during the McIntosh Heritage and Arts Center Heritage Homestead Brunch.



Laurie and Bob Bursheim's home is the McIntosh Times/Community Club Yard of the Week this week. Laurie and Bob have spent many hours and a lot of hard work to make this yard so beautiful. There is a lot to see everywhere you look from whimsy to antiques to great masses of flowers and greenery. Congratulatoins Bob and Laurie!



Curt Bartz and Donna Larson had some fun together while serving the large crowd that turned out for the MHAC Heritage Homestead Brunch and the birthdays of Clifford and Lloyd.



Clifford Bartz visiting with an old friend, Jim Wertish, at the MHAC Homestead Heritage Brunch last Saturday.



The birthday boys celebrated together last Saturday, July 15th. Clifford Bartz who turned 95 years and Lloyd Schleicher who turned 97 years.



Clifford Bartz celebrated his 95th birthday last Saturday, July 15th with all 4 of his great-grandchildren at the party.



This small photograph was donated to MHAC by Alt Mandt of Perham, MN.

We can tell it was taken in the 1940's by the cars parked on the street.

On the left is the First National Bank. All the other buildings on the block, including the City Hall/Fire department are gone.

In 1953, the L.B. Hartz Store was purchased by the bank and remodeled to make more space for operations.

In 1977, the bank bought the building next in line, which was a grocery store, and the area was remodeled into the addition that stands today.

The next three buildings, one with the unreadable sign, Jensen's Store, and the Gamble's Store were destroyed by fire and in 1965, the Bjella Building was built in their place.

The two remaining build-



ings were removed in 1982 and the new Strom Drug Store, now Espeseth Insurance, was erected.

On the right is The Coop. The next two buildings are the 5 & 10 Tavern and Felix Cafe, which were demolished to make way for the new Post Office in 1984.

Only three of the remaining buildings on the block still bare any resemblance to their pasts, the vacated Polk County Health Office, Ron's Barber Shop and the old Marion's Style Shop.

In the distance, we can see the Reese Drug Store, later Reese-Hoialmen Funeral Chapel,

which is where the Community Center is now located.

Source: "About Time: A History of McIntosh, Minnesota" by Milan Ingman. This book is available from Lake Agassiz Regional Library.

The McIntosh Times Office Hours

Wednesday 9:00 am to Noon

Friday 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Call or fax: (218) 563-3585

Ad deadline is Noon on Friday prior to publication

Letter to the Editor

Public Should Submit Comments on Proposed MDA Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule

To the Editor:
I recently attended a listening session in McIntosh and heard concerns from farmers regarding a proposed new Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) rule that will affect how and when farmers can apply nitrogen fertilizer.

The proposed rule consists of two parts. The first restricts nitrogen fertilizer application in the fall and on frozen soil in vulnerable groundwater areas. The second part provides for a mitigation process and application of best management practices in areas with high concentrations of nitrate in groundwater.

As a farmer and a state legislator, I understand that for both health and economic reasons, we want to make the best use of Ag nutrients, and have no reason to over-apply them. Many farmers in our area feel that bureaucrats in St. Paul don't understand the amount of soil testing we do and the care we use when farming our land. If this rule goes into effect, it may be a one-size-fits-all solution.

As I stated at the listening session, this proposed rule is not a legislative initiative. MDA can adopt the rule administratively, but I am hopeful that they will take into account all input from Minnesota farmers and citizens.

While informal listening sessions are complete, written comments will be taken by MDA through August 11, 2017. Furthermore, MDA may be required to hold a public hearing in 2018 if more than 25 requests for a hearing are received after the department revises the draft rule this fall.

I encourage folks to share your input and thoughts.

Written comments should be submitted to:

Larry Gunderson
Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55115

More information and an online commentary submission page can also be found on the MDA website (www.mda.state.mn.us), with the page for written commentary at this condensed link: <http://bit.ly/2tQNNIE>

It's an honor to represent the people and priorities of Northwest Minnesota. Please contact me if you have questions about the proposed Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule.

Rep. Deb Kiel



As we leave on another mission trip, we want to thank the Mac Fire Dept., Jered's Grocery, Winger Lions Club, Marial Harbor, Vernes Lutheran Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, and several local community members for their generous donations in support of our trip. Blessings to all of you!

2017 Grace Lutheran Mission Trip Group M17C



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Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

Wed. July 19: Justin Shultz, Joshua Andres, Jake Juve, Sarah Schlaegel-Lundquist, *Randy & Julie Christianson

Thurs. July 20: Darlene Solie, *Marvin & Janis Wikstrand

Fri. July 21: Patrick Rolf, Lukas Linds-eth, *Sam & Amber Finseth

Sat. July 22: Mad-chen (Mae) Mero

Sun. July 23: Charley Carlson, Nicolai Sveen, Brady Langemo, Mary Kroening, Shannon Svalen, *Harald & Adella Thompson

Mon. July 24: *Jon & Elizabeth Klemmer

Tues. July 25: Easton Vetteson, Angela Olson



ST. MARY'S CHURCH Fosston

Fr. John Suvaakeen, Pastor
Wed. July 19: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

Fri. July 21: 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

Sun. July 23: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Wed. July 26: 6:00pm Mass at Lengby Lake Pailion

Sun. July 30: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

If you have any questions please call 435-6484.

CALVARY-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN PARISH

Winger/Bejou Supply Pastor

Gordon Syverson

Sun. July 23: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

Sun. July 30: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

McIntosh Supply Pastor

Gordon Syverson

Sun. July 23: 11:15am Worship Service.

Sun. July 30: 11:15am Worship Service.

GOSEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Independent

Gary Johnson, Pastor

www.gosen-church.com

Face Book: Gosen Church

Wed. July 19: 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place; 7:00pm Bible Study at Don & Sharon Ramberg's

Sun. July 23: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Worship Service

Tues. July 25: 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship service telecast on Garden Valley Cable TV--Channel 2

Wed. July 26: 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place; 7:00pm Bible Study at Don & Sharon Ramberg's

For information on free rides to any of the above activities call 218-268-4242 or 218-687-3461 Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Hwy. 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then ½ mile east on County Road 206.

MCINTOSH AFLC

McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:

Pastor Karl Anderson

Thurs. July 20: 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Mt. Carmel

Sun. July 23: 9:30am Worship at Mt. Carmel; 11:00am Worship at Trinity

Thurs. July 27: 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Mt. Carmel

Sun. July 30: :30am Worship at Trinity; 11:00am Worship at Mt. Carmel

VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)

McIntosh

Pastor Jill Torgerson

Sun. July 23: 9am Worship

Sun. July 30: 9am Worship

DOVRE

FREE LUTHERAN

Pastor Don Edlund

Wed. July 19: 7:00pm Bible Study

Sun. July 23: 10:00am Worship Service

Wed. July 26: 7:00pm Bible Study

Sun. July 30: 10:00am Worship Service

Wed. Aug 2: 7:00pm Bible Study

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

McIntosh

Rev. John Anderson, Pastor

Thurs. July 20: 10:30am Devotions at Pioneer Care Center

Sun. July 23: 10:45am Worship Service

Sun. July 30: 10:45am Divine Worship with Holy Communion

Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays



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Winger News

Linda Pulskamp

Greetings once again from Winger and the Union Lake areas where we have had a couple cloudy, misty and gloomy days with little rain to speak of in our area. Fortunately once again we avoided the severe weather that was all around us during the storms that Tuesday night brought.

The weather was beautiful for the 4th of July as many people attended the parades held in the area, and the weather continued to be beautiful for the Fertile Fair also. If you didn't get over there, the new barn that housed all the animals under one roof is a state of the art building. There were lots of activities and a good place to see and visit with people from far and near.

The gardens are starting to produce fresh vegetables, so far we have enjoyed peas, kohlrabi, beets, cauliflower and broccoli and are on our second planting of radishes along with little green onions not to mention the new potatoes. There is something to be said about the fresh vegetables right from the garden.

Eddie Martin of New Brighton was a Friday overnight guest at the Pulskamp home. He came to spend a few days with Dean Johnson as he recuperates from recent hip surgery.

Last Wednesday the 5th Dick and Wanda Donavon of St. Francis arrived at the Milton Carlson home to spend a few days with Milton and the rest of the Carlson families.

Monday afternoon Mark Messelt of Phoenix and his son Justin Messelt and Talan of North Dakota were brief visitors at the Pulskamp home. They were in the area visiting with other family and friends, and were here especially for a Helgaas reunion being held at the Craig and Bev Helgaas home in Glenwood this coming weekend.

July the 6th Judy Gieseke was a visitor and dinner guest at the Milton Carlson, visiting with Milton and house guests Dick and Wanda Donavon. That evening Kari Keller was a visitor at the Carlson home.

Ernie Flermoen of Muskegon, MI spent a few days at the Lucy Brtek home while he visited with family and friends in the area.

Last Friday the 7th, Milton Carlson spent some time at the Fair in Fertile where he took in the 4-H activities that his grandchildren were participating in. Kristen's girls had pigs and a beef cow for show and placed very well in the competition.

Butch and Linda Pulskamp and Eddie Martin were visitors at the Sanford Hospital in Fargo last Saturday with Joe Pulskamp who is a patient there. That afternoon Dean Johnson returned home with them following his hip surgery there.

Last Saturday the 8th Lonnie and Judy Gieseke and Paul Carlson were dinner guests at the Milton Carlson home as well as Milton's house guests, Dick and Wanda Donovan who

were house guests there.

Tuesday afternoon Alex Brtek of Bagley was a visitor with Grandma Lucy Brtek at Lucy's home. The girls enjoyed their time together chatting.

Sunday the 9th Dick and Wanda Donovan left for their home in St. Francis after spending a few days at the Milton Carlson home. Later that afternoon Milton went on over to the Fertile Fair where he attended a retirement party that was held for Donna Carlson. Donna is joining the ranks of the retired after having spent over 40 years in leadership in the 4-H Program. CONGRATULATIONS Donna, and enjoy your retirement.

After taking in Senior Meals at Moran's one day this past week, Wilma Wang, Patty (Broske) Brown and Sylvia McCollum were visitors with Lucy Brtek at Lucy's home. Was a lot of visiting done in the duration of their visit and enjoyed by all.

In closing and until next week, happiness is not something ready made, it comes from your own actions.

From Bun Manor:

Saturday, Steve and Lorri Massmann along with Jill, Kory, Kristen, Grayson, and Kyle Sonsteli attended the wedding for Blake Bixby and Kendra Pahl in Walker. It was a beautiful day with the wedding held by the lake which was followed by reception and dance. It was a very enjoyable time for everyone attending. Congrats to the couple.

Monday afternoon, Mark Messelt, his grandson Talon from the Phoenix area and his son Justin from Nome N.D. stopped by for a short visit to Bun's. They were in the area visiting friends and headed for a Helgaas reunion this weekend.

Thursday afternoon, Bun was heading home from Fertile when he decided to stop and see Fish Benbo at his home. He got hold of him on the cell but fish was taking a nap and didn't feel like entertaining him at the time. Bun figures that all the gardening he is doing is making him tired.

Bun headed into Winger and stopped in for an afternoon dice game at the C-store. He

had mentioned last week how his brother was hopeless. You guessed it. He also lost for coffee shaking dice. Hopeless!

The neighbor girl Breanna Carol and a friend stopped over at Bun's with a crate full of raspberries they had picked over at her place. They were looking for donations for a trip they are taking to Kenya with their youth group. Bun took some off their hands.

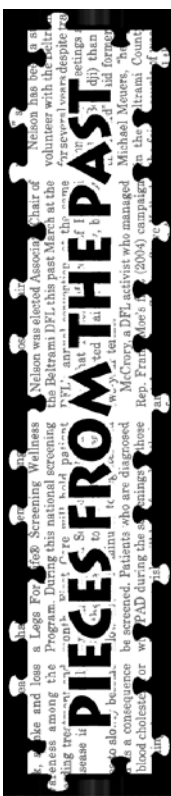
Saturday found Bun attending an outdoor wedding about a mile north outside of Winger. Abby Burcham got married to Andrew Hillstad. The couple got lucky on the weather. They couldn't have asked for a better day. Abby is the daughter of Shelly and the grand daughter of Steve and Becky Vesledahl. Congratulations to the two of them. Following the ceremony a reception and dance was held at the Winger community center. When Bun and Ole were leaving around midnight Bun looked at

Winger News...

Continued on page 4 ...

North to Alaska

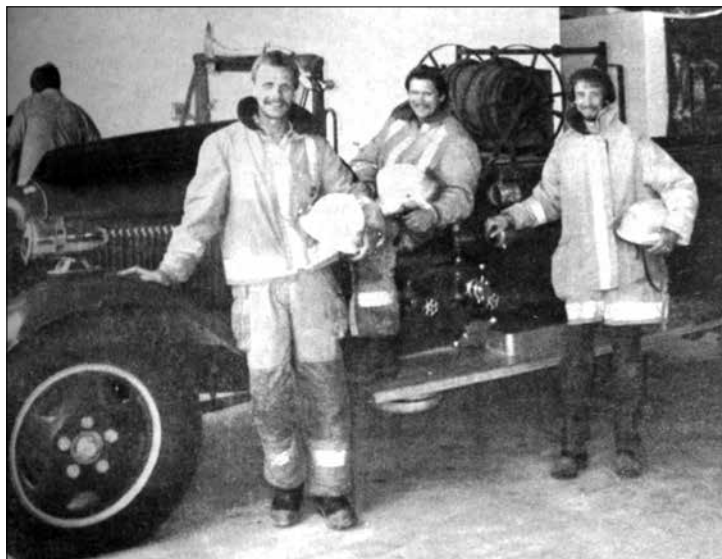
On June 22nd to July 1st, Steve and Lorri Massmann along with Matthew and Haley traveled to Vancouver, B.C. to meet up with Evan, Nikki and Harrison along with Nikki's parents and brother Matt to embark on a most splendid Alaskan cruise. Steve had waited a lifetime to see Alaska and the trip finally became a reality. After a day in Vancouver enjoying Canadian fare such as poutine, Tim Hortons, and some Canadian bowling the crew set sail on the Celebrity Millennium for a seven day cruise up the inside passage of Alaska. The highlights of the trip were many. Here are a few.. Matthew and Haley enjoyed a float plane tour of the Alaskan wilderness in Ketchikan seeing the Misty Fjords from the air which was truly stunning. The following day Steve, Lorri, Matthew, and Haley enjoyed an ATV ride through the wilderness by Hoonah, AK while searching for bears. They did not see any bears but did enjoy some fantastic scenery. Steve seemed to be a bit nervous about running into a bear so had the bear spray close at hand. The Massmann boys were also able to enjoy the freshest of crab at "The Office" bar in Hoonah.



50 years ago...1967: The above picture shows the Mac-Hi Marching band as it began its long march in the Lions International parade which was held in Winnipeg on June 18th. The picture was taken from the top of a building just before the parade began, this accounts for the lack of people on the street. Because of the distance between the twirlers and the banner girls, they were not shown in this picture.



40 years ago...1977: Glen Smeby of McIntosh won a blue ribbon on his Angus cow (1 yr.) and calf (3 months). Kevin Zahl of Winger placed first in the 2 yr. category of cow-calf at the NW Agriculture Fair in Fosston.



30 years ago...1987: Firemen Clyde Kringlen, Bruce Haaven and Wes Kaupang posed by the old 1933 Ford V-8 fire truck at the Open House in the new fire hall in McIntosh last Saturday. The '33 V-8 former cattle truck was purchased from Art Swanson in 1934 and converted into a fire engine by Harry Lillesve, who installed the water tank and hoses. Water was pumped out by the V-8 engine and the firemen (no longer) had to pull a tank of water by hand to any future fires.



20 years ago...1997: It's raining, it's pouring...but Holly Jones, Marie Lagerstrom, Brenda Fritz and Hilary Hansen are defying Mother Nature to spoil their fun. The puddles are just as much fun to jump in at age 13 as they are as a toddler!



Pictured right: 10 years ago...2007: Polk County Dairy Princess, Rebecca Lee, enjoys some time with her Grandpa Joseph Kissner. Rebecca is the oldest daughter of hosts, Mark & Joan Lee. Breakfast on the Farm has been held at the family farm for twelve of the last thirteen years.

Ag news...

Continued on page 4...



The group from the Alaskan Cruise.

Regional Ag News

Ed Gindele, Extension Educator

Just the facts: A review of the biology and economics behind soybean aphid insecticide recommendations

Costs of treating soybean aphids too early

While some newer insecticides target a narrower range of insects, most insecticide applications are not specific. They will kill beneficial insects (lady beetles, parasitic wasps, etc.) as well as pests, later allowing soybean aphid populations to rebound in fields without those beneficial insects to slow them down. By using the ET, natural enemies will have a chance to suppress the aphid population and possibly prevent it from reaching economically damaging levels. After application, insecticide residues will kill insects for a short time, but insecticide activity invariably declines over time (generally, this is considered a good thing). With most insecticides registered for soybean aphid control (such as pyrethroids), soybean foliage emerging after treatment is not protected. Insecticides that are absorbed and

translocated within soybean plants typically move upward only a leaf or two and eventually leave unprotected foliage, especially when applied early in the season.

Applying treatments early can result in a false sense of security and a reduced reliance on scouting. If a re-infestation is not detected before reaching the EIL, yield may be reduced. If detected, the cost of additional insecticide applications are incurred. Early treatment can reduce or eliminate the cost efficiencies of a single, well timed threshold-based treatment. Finally, unnecessary insecticide applications do nothing positive for a short-term return on investment. Importantly, long-term returns can be reduced if insecticide resistance becomes fixed in the soybean aphid population. This has happened many, many times in the history of pest management. We know that managing pesticide resistant pests is seldom "cheap and easy" (for example, consider the problems with herbicide resistant weed control).

How do you know if you have a soybean aphid problem?

All soybean fields are not equally likely to have a soybean aphid problem. Geographic, landscape, biological and agronomic factors all influence soybean aphid populations. The research results generated on commercial and University farms across the North Central Region can help identify when and where to target early- and late-season aphid scouting efforts. Early aphid infestations are often found in smaller fields near buckthorn (1) and are often more abundant near field edges. Soybean aphids prefer moderately dry soil moisture conditions (20). Soybeans grown in soils testing low in potassium contain higher levels of amino acids favorable for soybean aphid development (25) and aphid feeding can intensify potassium deficiency symptoms on these soils. Aphids are often most abundant in late maturing fields.

During vegetative growth stages, soybean aphids are often on the upper, newly expanding leaves. During reproductive

growth stages, soybean aphids tend to move to leaves, stems and pods lower in the canopy (15). Soybean aphids should be scouted by examining individual plants throughout the field (7). Because soybean aphids remain attached to the plant while feeding and can occur throughout the canopy, use of a sweep net is not recommended for assessing populations of this pest.

It takes time for aphid populations to grow. It's important to note that sometimes soybean aphid populations never grow at all - a single aphid does not invariably lead to

Random Things
and Stuff



Summer
Camp

By: Emily
Lynne

I would like to
share with you
a poem written
by Amy Ludwig
VanDerwater

entitled, **“Bedtime At Camp”**.

We lie in sleeping bags
Wearing woven bracelets
On our ankles
Spilling giggles
Into cabin air.
Our jokes
Swirl with secrets
Told by long ago campers
And our words
Float warm and spicy
Like cinnamon
From bunk to bunk
Year to year.
We have new batteries
In our flashlights
Marshmallow goo
In our hair
And our hearts are
Carved with music
Of paddles
Dipping in water
Horse hooves
Trotting on dry dirt
A dinner bell
Calling us
For tacos and grace.

Winger News...

Continued from page 3 ..

Ole and said“It doesn’t seem like long ago when we would be the last dogs to go. Bun figures its time for a changing of the guard

Bob and Ann Vesledahl and their entire immediate family helped Harold and Adella Thompson celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary in Mac on Sunday afternoon. The Thompson’s other children, Naomi, Ruth and Mark were there also there to join the occasion.

Elizabeth and Brian Massmann hosted her sister Kayla and brother-in-law Justin Ohleen, from Sioux Falls, SD in Fertile. Friday they took in a round of golf at the Sand Hill River, walked through the mid-way and grabbed a snack at the fair, then enjoyed some yard games and grilling. Saturday morning they all headed north to Winnipeg for a brief getaway. While north they stopped at the Forks and enjoyed the Market. They also took a couple different Poutines, toured around the city, and then headed back home on Sunday.

The following Winger ladies attended the shower for Jessica (Wang)Bjerk and baby Regor at the Fireside supper club in Bagley on July 9th. Jeanine Perrault, Darlene Ferguson, Lorri Massmann, Marilyn Natwick, Sue Balstad, Lila Lucken, Sandy Balstad and Cheryl Wang.

Ag news...

Continued from page 3

hundreds! Soybean aphids can initially colonize a field and be rapidly wiped out by a combination of inhospitable environmental conditions and predatory insects. Once established, populations can grow at a rate where numbers double every 1 ½ days to as many as 6 days depending on environment and natural controls (14, 23). Most often, research documented that in-field populations doubled every 3 days (23).

Soybean fields should be scouted on a regular basis. Soybean aphid populations can increase rapidly, particularly with winged aphids migrating into fields. Early-season scouting can focus on fields with high risk for colonization or a history of early colonization by aphids.

As aphid populations develop, more fields should be scouted. There may not be a need to visit every field every week, but fields with a history of high populations may need to be scouted weekly or more. The following resources may help to develop an efficient scouting strategy (Scouting guide for North Central Region).

Biology helps determine the profitability of crop production on your farm – Ignoring biology is expensive

None of what we have presented here is new, or groundbreaking information. However, all of what we have presented here is based on science that has been vetted and implemented over thousands of acres for more than a decade.

Economic injury levels take commodity prices, labor and control costs into account. Fortunately, the biological components of an EIL are not sensitive to commodity or input prices.

The insects on your farm do not eat faster or more when crop prices are high or insecticide costs are low; nor is your crop more sensitive to insect damage (remember the dam-

MDA grants help
increase healthy food access

\$165,000 awarded to ten statewide food hub projects

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) awarded more than \$165,000 in grants to ten food hub projects that will help Minnesotans gain access to locally grown and raised foods.

The competitive Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Food Hub Grants were awarded to food hubs and other alternative community-based food distribution businesses throughout the state of Minnesota.

Awardees will use AGRI Food Hub Grant funds to develop their business plans, conduct feasibility studies, or create marketing plans; other projects will use funds to purchase equipment, or make physical improvements to their businesses that will allow them to purchase, process and distribute more Minnesota agricultural products.

Increasing healthy food access for Minnesotans in all parts of the state remains a priority for Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith.

“More than 1.6 million Minnesotans live in a food desert, or more than one mile from a grocery store in urban areas

or ten miles in rural areas,” said Lt. Governor Tina Smith. “These grants issued by the Agriculture Department will help reduce these disparities across the state, and help more Minnesotans access nutritious, affordable food options.”

Jim Gehrke has led efforts to complete business planning for a proposed food hub for the City of Crookston. AGRI Food Hub Grant funds will continue Gehrke’s work to examine the feasibility of a food hub in that area, where about 90 percent of farmers surveyed voiced interest in selling more locally grown produce to a food hub. The proposed Crookston food hub would also work with schools and other institutions to help distribute Minnesota agricultural products.

“There’s a lot of excitement in finding a way to bring healthier, locally grown produce and food into schools, and we’re feeding the next generation” said Gehrke. “That should be a high priority for us. If we’re able to do that and bring quality produce into the schools at a low cost, then everybody wins because that leads to economic opportunities and expansion in regions that may otherwise be struggling to grow.”

New website to offer
help with Buffer law

Landowners have new options and a new website to help with Buffer law

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources announced two additional resources for landowners working to come into compliance with the state’s buffer law. The law, which was passed with bipartisan support in 2015 and signed into law by Governor Dayton, requires the implementation of a buffer strip on public waters by November 1, 2017 and a buffer on public drainage ditches by November 1, 2018.

These additional resources, both financial and found online, are designed to help landowners be successful in complying with the law.” explained John Jaschke, Executive Director BWSR. “Local SWCDs and landowners have been working together over the past 18 months and, we are making great progress with 64 counties already 60-100% compliant.”

COST-SHARE PROGRAM

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has approved a new buffer cost-share program, allocating almost \$5 million dollars to support landowners in meeting the requirements of the state buffer law.

The funds will be distributed to soil and water conservation

districts (SWCDs) and are to be used for cost-sharing contracts with landowners or their authorized agents to implement riparian buffers or alternative practices on public waters and public drainage ditches.

These Clean Water Funds, passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Dayton at the end of the 2017 legislative session, provide important support to the Governor’s Buffer Initiative.

The 2017 legislation also recognizes that some landowners may have hardships (such as weather) in meeting the public waters deadline. The added language allows for an eight-month extension for implementation when a landowner or authorized agent has filed a riparian protection “compliance plan” with their local SWCD by November 1, 2017. Compliance waivers offer a buffer deadline extension until July 1, 2018.

NEW ONE-STOP WEB-SITE

Minnesota landowners with questions about compliance waivers and other buffer topics also have another option available today with the launching of a new one-stop website for information and tips to implement the buffer law. The new site, mn.gov/buffer-law, is a user-friendly and convenient re-

commended by agricultural research universities are another red flag.

Hopefully, this article has provided you with information that will help you sort through the information clutter on TV, radio, print media and especially the internet.

A list of research references is included for those who would like to read and learn of some of the research supporting our soybean aphid management guidelines and economic threshold recommendations. Contact Extension for the most up-to-date and state-specific recommendations.

Source: *UMN-Extension*
www.extension.umn.edu

Did you know?

Soy shows promise as natural antimicrobial agent

Soybean byproducts can already be found in food products; such as oils, cheese and baked goods. The use of these isoflavones and peptides may inhibit the growth of microbial pathogens that cause foodborne illness, according to a new study. Researchers at University of Guelph found soy can be more effective antimicrobial agent than current synthetic options. The team found soy peptides and isoflavones limited growth of some bacteria, including *Listeria* and *Pseudomonas* pathogens and are biodegradable, environmentally friendly and non-toxic.

Peptides are part of proteins, and can act as hormones, hormone producers or neurotransmitters. Isoflavones act as hormones and control much of the biological activity on the cellular level. The next step is for researchers to conduct large-scale tests.

EQIP signing
for 2018 funding

Agricultural producers looking to solve natural resource problems on their farms will want to plan ahead and sign-



During the McIntosh Library Summer program featuring the Win-E-Mac Robotics, Mr. Johnson the WEM Robotic's team coach, showed kids at the program how to maneuver the robots.



Mr. Johnson, the Win-E-Mac Robotics coach showed kids at the McIntosh Library Summer program all about the robots used by the WEM high school robotics team.

source for landowners and the public to learn about the law, find answers about alternative practices, and get information about financial and technical assistance and more.

The new buffer site, launched by the State of Minnesota is found at <https://mn.gov/portal/natural-resources/buffer-law/> For more information on the buffer law, including the cost-share program, contact the East Polk SWCD at 563-2777.



Win-E-Mac Robotics team uses robots just like these to perform many tasks during competition.

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up for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding. Cathee Pullman, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist in Minnesota, announced that farmers interested in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) need to apply by August 18, 2017, for funding in 2018.

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers.

These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

“EQIP is just one tool for landowners who want to apply conservation practices on the ground,” said Pullman. “By working with the local NRCS offices, you can apply for NRCS programs which work best for your land.”

Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis, however, NRCS establishes application acceptance or submission deadline dates for evaluation and ranking of eligible applications.

Contracts will be awarded to producers’ with the highest rankings until funds are exhausted.

To learn more about EQIP, contact your local NRCS field office or visit the MN NRCS website.



During robotics competition, the robots are tasked at picking up objects, like this giant jack.

6 steps to creating
fairy gardens for kids

Gardening can be an enjoyable activity for adults and children alike. Gardening encourages creative thinking and can make for an eco-friendly activity as well.

Adding a touch of whimsy to gardening can make it that much more attractive to children. Perhaps that is why fairy gardens have become so popular among youngsters. Fairy gardens can be designed in outdoor gardens or in containers that children can nurse and enjoy indoors. Here are six steps to get your fairy garden up and running.

1. Choose your container or location. Decide where to place the fairy garden. Hollowed-out tree stumps are both contained and outdoors, and kids may feel like the fairies inhabited this neglected area of the yard and made it their own. Otherwise, use containers you already have, such as old pots, hanging baskets, picnic baskets or cookie tins. Wooden birdhouses with their roofs removed also can make for clever places to house the gardens.

2. Choose a theme. Fairy houses can take on any theme their creators prefer. Themes help children decide what to include in their gardens. For example, a seaside retreat may work well with little reclining chairs, sea grasses and succulents. You can then complete the theme by adding some seashells and colored stones.

3. Draw up your design. Before securing anything in the container or digging into your garden bed, sketch out a garden design. This gives you an idea of how the finished product will look. Even before planting, gently place plants and other components in their

spots and move them around accordingly until you find the desired look.

4. Include similar-needs plants. Mixing plants that have different requirements can make it challenging to care for the fairy garden, so select plants that require similar levels of sunlight, prefer similar soil conditions and require roughly the same amount of watering. Herbs are a smart choice because they stay small and are easily maintained.

5. Don't forget a fairy dwelling. You will need to add a house for the fairies to inhabit. Small bird houses can work, but you also can consider old teapots, bird-nesting boxes or even homemade houses assembled out of bark and twigs. Use your imagination and the garden will take on a life of its own.

6. Invite the fairies. Children can invite fairies to take up residence (fairies often show up at night and tend to remain unseen), or children can create their own fairies using craft materials.

Fairy gardens are a fun way to introduce children to gardening. Once families get started, they may want to create entire fairy villages.

