

• McLean County •

Ag Show

February 7, 2024

*Hosted by the
Garrison FFA Chapter*

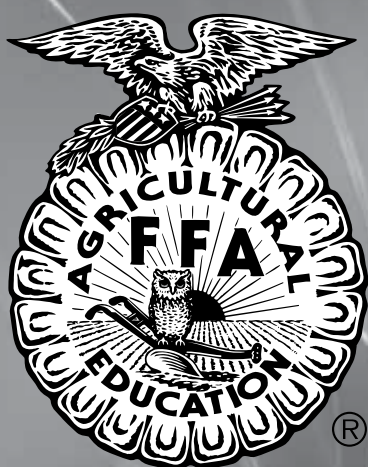
*Supplement to: McLean
County Independent & Xtra*



Photo by: Lisa Stumvoll



The 2024 McLean County Ag Show is run by FFA members, who serve as committee chairs. This year's chairs include, from left to right, Teagan Rensch, Courtney Collings, Molly Jochim, Sadie Majeres, Javier Parlier, Harmony Kallberg, Bailey Berntson, Bella Wimer and Kendlee Nordstrom.



Garrison FFA's 30th Annual McLean County Ag Show

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024
Garrison High School Gym

- 9:00 AM Exhibit Hall Opens - Coffee and Cookies served in the gym
- Sponsored by Farm Credit Services
- 10:00AM Concessions Open: Lenore's Outdoors and Catering
- 10:30 AM Speaker: James Rogers, Ph.D., Extension Forage Crops Specialist
- 11AM-1PM Free Will Lunch
- Sponsored by TruCommunity Bank-Garrison
- 1:00 PM Labor Auction
- Hosted by the Garrison FFA Chapter Members
- 3:00 PM McLean County Crop Improvement Meeting-Ag Room
- 3:00PM Exhibit Hall Closes

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2024 McLean County Ag Show Managers & Committee Chairs

- Managers & Committee Chairs
- Teagan Rensch: Parking/Set-up
- Courtney Collings: Parking/Set-up
- Molly Jochim: Assistant Show Manager, Concessions
- Sadie Majeres: Registration Table
- Javier Parlier: Speaker Committee, Public Relations
- Harmony Kallberg: Show Manager, Labor Auction
- Bailey Berntson: Showbook Committee
- Bella Wimer: FFA Store
- Kendlee Nordstrom: Packets, Lunch



Harmony Kallberg is the manager and Molly Jochim is the assistant manager of the 2024 McLean County Ag Show.

2024 GARRISON AG SHOW WELCOME

The Garrison FFA Chapter is ready to bring on our 30th annual McLean County Ag Show. It's an exciting way to get the community together and a great way to jump start the new year. At the show this year we will be featuring many exhibitors, old and new. The Ag Show will be held on February 7, 2024 in the Roy Shei Gymnasium of the Garrison High School. Along with all the great

exhibitors, join us for many door prizes, and cookies and coffee provided by our good friends at Farm Credit Services. From 11:00-1:00, there will be a free will donation lunch sponsored by TruCommunity Bank. The Garrison FFA Labor Auction will take place during the Ag show at 1 pm on the stage. Throughout the day, make sure to attend the speaker. A Forage Crop Specialist at NSDU North

Central Research Extension Center, James Rogers will speak at 10:30 am. The Ag Show will be from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Along with the Garrison FFA Alumni, our Garrison FFA Chapter is excited for another great Ag Show, and are looking forward to seeing all of you there!

*Manager – Harmony Kallberg
Assistant Manager – Molly Jochim*

ALUMNI MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Emily Alyea | Olivia Klein |
| Hunter Baer | Kasey Kolden |
| Clay Bendickson | Alexys Kramber |
| Alison Betz | Sarah Lagge |
| Troy Betz | Gavin Mautz |
| Charles Bonney | Pauline Minoza |
| Skylla Folden | Hunter Moore |
| Mackenzie Fuller | Caleb Phelps |
| Lynda Haynes | Jackson Rensch |
| Benjamin Heger | Coy Saylor |
| Elizabeth Heger | Shelby Schenfisch |
| Riley Janz | Thomas Tabor |
| Aaron Johnson | Jacob Torno |
| Taylor Johnson | Kolin Westman |
| Averey Kerzmann | Dawson Wimer |
| Seth Kerzmann | Abbigail Zeiszler |

2023-2024 Garrison FFA Membership

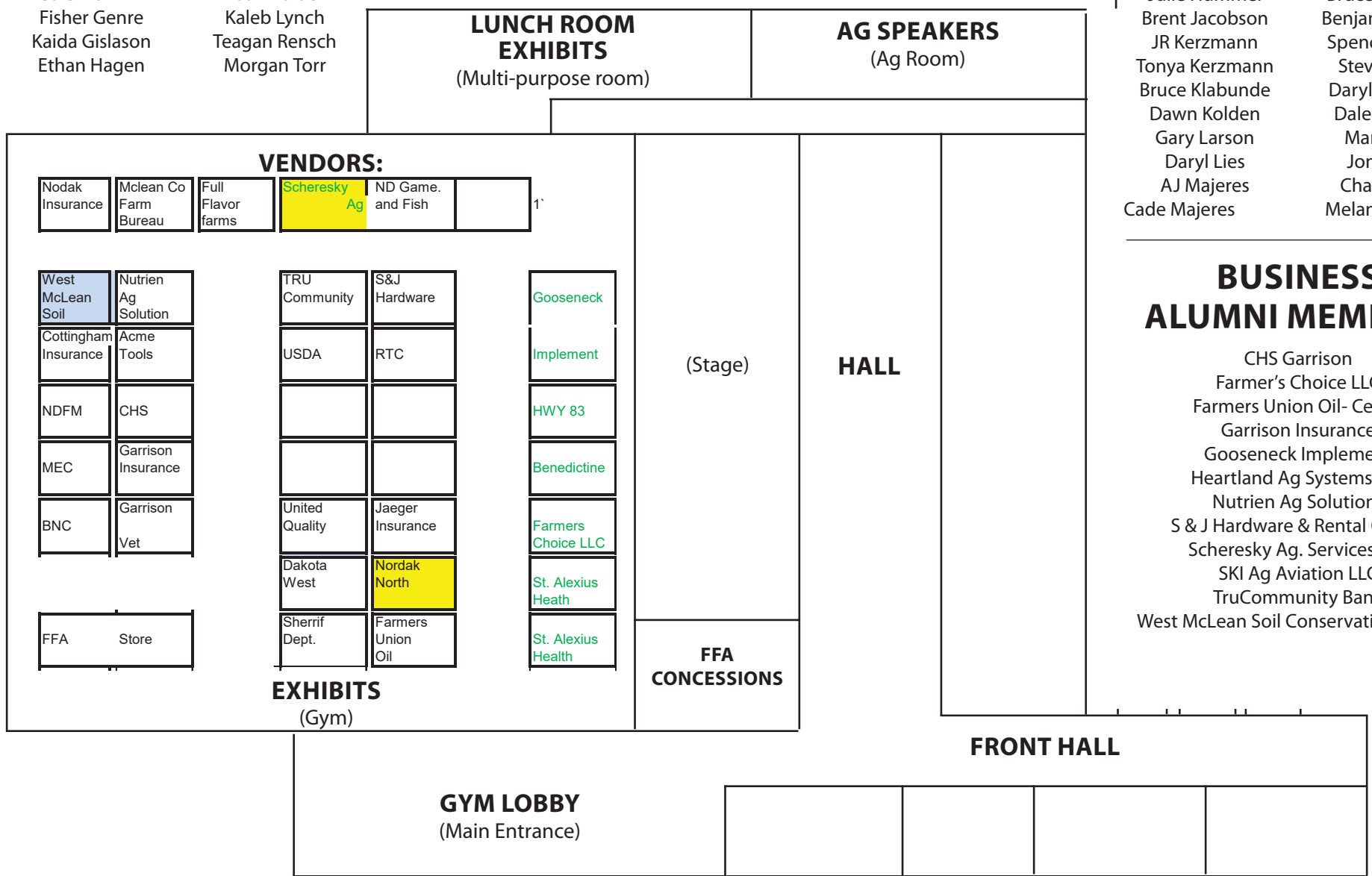
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|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Hagen | Kimimilazi Halsey | Bailey Berntson | Morgan Seidler | Triniti Klinker | Presea Meek |
| Addyson Iglehart | Payten Klingbeil | Ethan Butman | Cooper Coble | Kane Kolden | Julianna Myers |
| Khloe Jerome | Noah LaCount | Aaron Fuller | Lithan Concepcion | Kiara Lies | Chelsea Rime |
| Molly Jochim | Piper Peterson | Christopher Jewett | Colton Iglehart | Savannah Meyers | Delilah Savicki |
| Caleb Kallberg | Rylan Pochant | Emmit Lagge | August Majeres | Eugene Paulson | Aiden Schmidt |
| Harper Kolden | Kaia Radke | Sadie Majeres | Trevor Mautz | Eli Ruud | Jacob Seidler |
| Kaylee Magandy | Adyn Zeiszler | Slade Nordstrom | Ethan Myers | Talayna Savage | Sienna Starr |
| Shawn Mautz | Conner Andrews | Javier Parlier | Kendlee Nordstrom | Braelynn Smith | Sean Stroe |
| Kennedy Meyers | Douglas Berntson | Dominic Pete | Zachary Olson | Hailey Trautman | Jaxson Tesch |
| Conrad Stelts | Courtney Collings | Owen Trautman | Jamison Rime | Bella Wimer | Austin Thelen |
| Jordyn Butman | Illione Concepcion | Jayden Diffely | Finnigan Smedstad | Jazmyn Ferguson | Emeril Voth |
| Hoyt Carter | Mason Davidson | Kyler Guodace | Jamian Stelts | Journey Folske | Laken Beyer |
| Molly Coble | Troyal Franklin | Harmony Kallberg | Gamble Carlson | Mason Hanson | Stomy Evans |
| Thomas Collings | Levi Hanson | Justis Klabunde | Bentley Coombes | Nicholas Heinzen | |
| Liam Crawford | Carter Hurt | Kadin Kolden | Brynn Iglehart | Nova Holland | |
| Miley Everett | Analiese Kallberg | Alexis Pavlick | Nathaniel Klabunde | Brayden Kastner | |
| Cole Franklin | Noah Kolden | | | | |
| Fisher Genre | Kaleb Lynch | | | | |
| Kaida Gislason | Teagan Rensch | | | | |
| Ethan Hagen | Morgan Torr | | | | |

ALUMNI LIFE MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Kim Essler | Donald Majeres |
| Donald Franklin | Mike Matteson |
| Andrew Haugen | Robert Miller |
| Alan Huettl | Carl Riemer |
| Glen Huettl | Heather Riemer |
| John Huettl | Kevin Rime |
| Duane Hummel | Gus Rud |
| Julie Hummel | Bruce Schreiner |
| Brent Jacobson | Benjamin Seidler |
| JR Kerzmann | Spencer Seidler |
| Tonya Kerzmann | Steve Seidler |
| Bruce Klabunde | Daryl Simmons |
| Dawn Kolden | Dale Stumvoll |
| Gary Larson | Mark Torno |
| Daryl Lies | Jon Wilcox |
| AJ Majeres | Chad Wimer |
| Cade Majeres | Melanie Zimney |

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- TruCommunity Bank
- West McLean Soil Conservation District





Kendlee Nordstrom

I am currently working with Alexys Kramber at AK Auto Body and Detailing. I help to detail cars and boats, as well as prepare vehicles for paint jobs. I have learned how to remove dents from body panels, reform body lines, use body filler, and paint and clear coat vehicles. Through the school, I can do this as a job and earn an elective credit.

Growing Sweet Potatoes in the North

By Tom Kalb,
Horticulturist, NDSU Extension

Do you like sweet potatoes?

I love them. Sweet potatoes are a favorite food for Thanksgiving, and my kids love sweet potato fries.

Can we grow sweet potatoes in North Dakota?

It's not easy.

Sweet potatoes are from the tropics. They need a long growing season, a lot of heat and moist soil.

That does not suit us well in North Dakota.

We have one of the shortest, coldest and driest growing seasons in the U.S. Many sweet potatoes harvested in North Dakota are scrawny and yields are low.

Don't be discouraged. I've seen several families in our state grow bumper crops of high-quality sweet potatoes. Let me share with you some of their secrets.

Sweet potatoes are not grown from seed. They are grown from vine cuttings called slips. You can purchase slips online or at some garden centers.

If you buy slips, look for the earliest maturing variety you can find. Popular choices include Beaugard, Covington or Georgia Jets. Other varieties may not mature before frost.

Many successful gardeners in North Dakota grow their own slips. Slips purchased online suffer significant shock when they are dug and transported across the country. These slips will arrive at your home wilted and sometimes do not have any roots on them.

In comparison, slips grown at home have healthy root systems and suffer much less shock before being set in the garden.

It's easy to grow your own slips. They can be grown in water or in soil. Homegrown slips are started now in mid-March.

Get a sweet potato from the grocery store, cut it in half, and place the cut ends in shallow trays of water. Change the water at least every few days.

Another option is to poke toothpicks in the middle of a sweet potato and suspend the potato in a glass of water so the bottom half of the root is submerged.

Slips also may be started in soil. Fill a tray with about four inches of seed starter mix or potting soil. Lay the potato on its side, burying at least half of it with the moistened soil mix. Place it in a warm area.

Whether you use water or soil, keep an eye open for the emerging sprouts. Once a sprout gets about 4 to 6 inches long, twist it off the potato and put it into water to develop roots.

After roots develop, you can pot them into potting soil mix for transplanting in late May. If it is already late May, you can set the bare-root slips directly into the garden.

Sweet potato slips are planted in late May after the soil has warmed up. They will not tolerate frost.

Choose a sunny spot in the garden. A raised bed is best because it warms up quickly.

You can warm the soil by setting black plastic mulch over the bed. Poke holes in the mulch

about 18 to 24 inches apart. Transplant the slips into the holes. Keep the soil fairly moist until the slips get established.

Sweet potatoes require very little care over the growing season. Your major foe will be deer who love to eat the vines. You can eat the vine tips, too. They are delicious and very nutritious.

Row covers can be used to generate more heat for your plants. Apply them for a few weeks after planting and then again in early fall before the harvest. These lightweight, clear blankets accelerate growth, shield the vines from deer and protect plants from light frosts.

You can enjoy delicious, home-grown sweet potatoes for Thanksgiving and well into next spring. Now is the time to get started.

For more information about gardening, contact your local NDSU Extension agent. Find the Extension office for your county at <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/directory/counties>.



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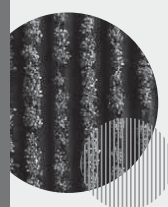
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Colton Iglehart

My SAE project is a beef cattle production placement. I calve out cows, fix fences, feed cows, work on equipment, and make hay. I also have my own cows. I help my dad and step mom with their cows. I do a lot of stuff around the farm.



Kadin Kolden

My SAE is a forage production placement. I made most of the hay for the ranch this year. I made mostly large round bales but also a few hundred small square bales to keep in the barn throughout the winter. I cut, bale, and haul the hay for the ranch to keep the animals fed and healthy.



Justis Klabunde

My Co-op involves me working for Steve at Steve's Plumbing. I work there as an apprentice plumber. I worked after school and during the summer. I was able to work on maintenance, repair, new construction, and do undergrounds for new houses. I also cleaned the shop and took care of the lawn.



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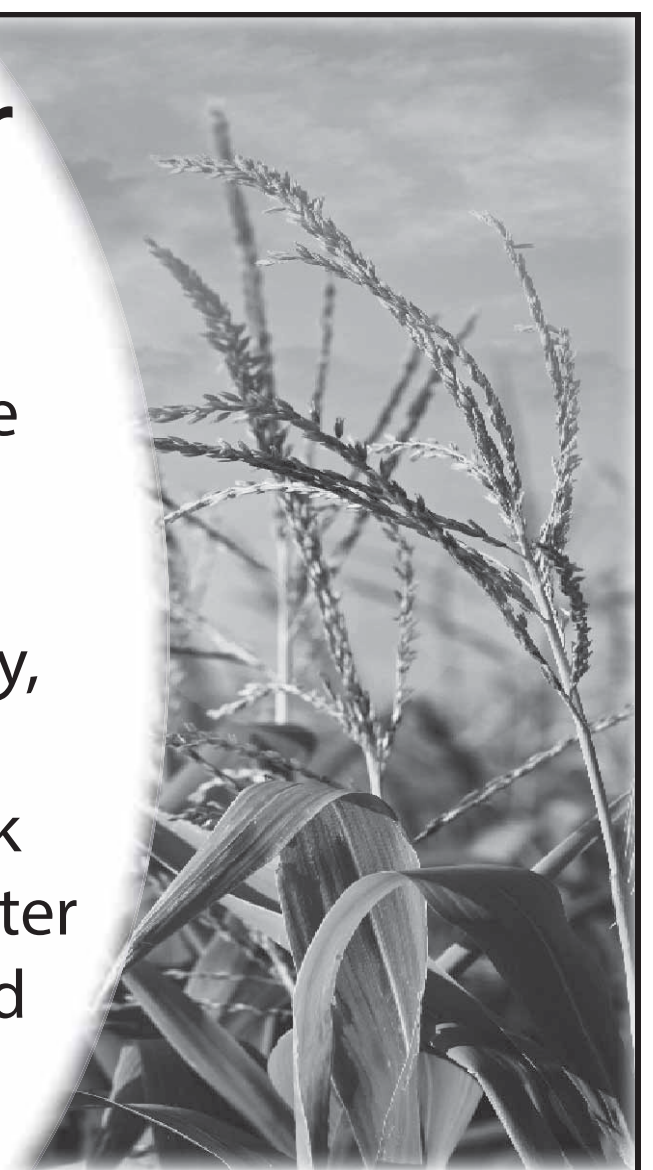


Bailey Berntson

The purpose of my SAE project was to determine what affects consumer's buying decisions. Sadie Majeres and I went to our local grocery store, and we saw that there was a large variety of brands. We wanted to see if the brand name or if the generic name of a food product would affect a consumer's buying decision. This study was conducted by putting all the food items we picked out at our grocery store into a survey. In this survey, since the prices were put with the food we also found out if price affects a consumer's buying decision. The results of this study have shown that with five out of the nine products, the name brand was over-powering the generic brand. It shows that taste and price is the biggest target for most consumers.

Producer Meeting

All producers are welcome to an informational meeting Monday, February 12th at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center at 10:30 A.M. and lunch to follow.



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Harmony Kallberg

My SAE project is working with horses and cows. My family currently has 4 horses and 3 heifers. I work with horses to get them saddle broke and halter broke. I also help them stay fit. Last summer I taught my little sisters to ride and the importance of riding. Some important things that I teach my little sisters is the safety of not getting bucked off, letting the horse know that you are around them and being gentle with them. I groom the horses every day and usually before I ride. Usually once a week I bathe them. After I get done riding them they are usually sweaty. I spray them every morning with fly spray to prevent the flies from bothering them. My uncle comes down to my house once in a while and we train the wild mustang that my family bought from Medora. He is currently easy to catch with people that he is aware of or people that he is used to and he does really well when he has a halter on which is our goal.



August Majeres

My SAE project this year was working for the family farm. This includes moving vehicles around, planting the whole sunflower crop, running to town to get chemicals for the sprayer, and running grain cart.

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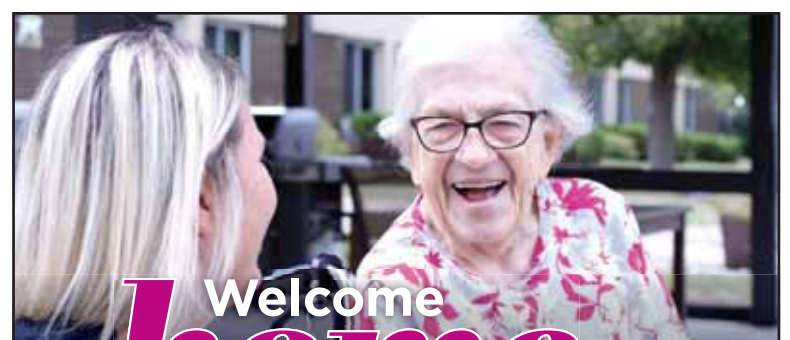


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How farmers are using drones

The farmers of yesteryear might not be too familiar with their surroundings if they were to visit a modern farm. While the men and women who made their livings as farmers decades ago would no doubt still recognize certain farm features that have withstood the test of time, they might not understand the inner workings of the modern farm, particularly in regard to the role technology now plays within the agricultural sector.

Technology has changed agriculture in myriad ways. The methods farmers employ to produce food and improve the efficiency of their operations has changed as technology has evolved. One of the more noticeable changes that's hard to miss on modern farms is the use of agricultural drones.

Drones have been around for decades. Sometimes referred to as "unmanned aerial vehicles," or "UAVs," drones can be utilized in ways that can save farmers money and protect the planet.

• **Monitor crops:** According to senseFly, the commercial drone subsidiary of Parrot Group, drones can help farmers effectively monitor their crops. With a drone flying overhead, farmers can spot and quickly identify issues affecting their crops before those issues escalate into something larger.

• **Soil analysis:** Another potential benefit of agricultural drones highlights their role in analyzing soil. Agricultural drones utilize complex mapping functions to gather data about the soil, including areas where it might be stressed. That enables farmers to develop accurate soil samples that can be used to guide decisions in regard to irrigation and fertilization.

• **Reduce waste:** SenseFly notes that data gathered by drones can help farmers determine the vigor of their crops at various stages of growth. Such information can prevent overfer-

tilization and overwatering, thereby reducing waste and runoff, benefitting the planet as a result.

• **Planning:** Drones can be used to collect data on crop growth and health at various times throughout the growing season. That can help farmers develop accurate predictions regarding harvest quality and crop yield, making it easier for them to plan ahead.

Agricultural drones are one of the many examples that illustrate how technology has changed and will continue to change the ways modern farmers conduct business.

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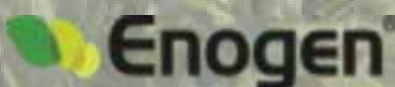
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Jamian Stelts

My SAE project is a Diversified Crop Production placement. I worked out on the farm all last summer helping with various tasks. During the spring I rolled soybeans, during the summer I threw square bales, and in the fall, I ran grain cart during harvest. I enjoy working for the farm and look forward to being out there again this year.

How to prepare soil for spring planting

Spring is a season of rejuvenation, and perhaps nowhere is that rebirth more noticeable than in the yard. Each spring, grass begins to grow again as inviting landscapes beckon people outdoors.

Extra sunlight and rising temperatures make spring a great time to plant flowers, grasses and trees. To ensure successful planting, homeowners must take steps to prepare the soil. Healthy soil can provide the ideal conditions for roots to take hold, helping plants establish themselves before potentially harsh summer conditions arrive. Preparing soil might seem like an extensive job, but a simple approach may be all that's necessary to create conditions that promote plant growth this spring.

Clean up the previous months' mess. Whether homeowners live in regions marked by year-round warmth or places where winter typically features heavy snowfall, it's a good idea

to clean up an area prior to spring planting. Fallen leaves, rocks, grass clippings, and other debris can contribute to compacted soil that makes it hard for plants to establish strong, healthy root systems. Clear away any debris prior to planting before taking the next step in your soil preparation routine.

Loosen the soil. Once debris has been cleared away, loosen the soil. Depending on the size of the area where you'll be planting, you may need to invest in tools like a shovel, spade, spading fork, and/or a lawn edger. If you're planting in a small area, such as a deck planter box that still has soil from last year's planting inside it, you can either clean the box and replace the soil entirely or dig around with a handheld trowel, cultivator and/or weeder. It's important to loosen all of the soil around where you will ultimately plant prior to planting to ensure water can reach the roots and help

them establish themselves once planting is completed.

Test and, if necessary, amend the soil. A simple pH test can help determine the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. This is an important step as soil that is too acidic or alkaline can decrease the availability of nutrients the plants will need to thrive. In addition to conducting a pH test, which can be purchased at little cost at a local home improvement store, homeowners can contact their local Cooperative Extension Service to test their soil quality. These tests will reveal soil pH, but also can shed light on the texture of the soil and other components. Once the test is conducted, the local Coop Extension Service may recommend amendments to improve the nutritional quality of the soil so new plants can thrive.

Soil conditions go a long way toward determining if new plants will thrive. Preparing the soil prior to spring planting can ensure a successful season.

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How rising food demand is affecting farming

The population is growing and so is its demand for food to fuel those extra bodies. Harvard Business Review reports the global population has quadrupled over the last century. It's predicted that, by 2050, the population will exceed nine billion people.

The world is not able to feed all of its inhabitants, according to Penn State. There are more than one billion people who are estimated to lack sufficient food, and two billion who do not receive adequate nutrition. Researchers from the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota concluded that, to feed the world by 2030, yields on maize, rice, wheat, and soybeans will have to rise by 60 to 110 percent. At the start of 2023, projections show them only increasing by 45 to 60 percent. There are a few reasons why food supply may not meet up with demand.

· Climate change: Climate change is predicted to cause issues to crop yields, especially in portions of the world where the population is growing the fastest. For example, a recent NASA study published in the journal Nature predicts that high greenhouse gas emissions may cause corn output to decline as early as 2030, but wheat output would increase. Farmers may need to roll with the punches and shift operations to cope with the environmental changes.

· Decreased commercial farming interest: Fewer people are working in farming. Land prices for expansion, new government mandates and regulations, and the impact of immigration and

trade policies have made farming less attractive than it once was. Fewer commercial operations result in a diminished food commodity output.

· Consumer waste: Food loss and waste (FLW) is a widespread issue, posing a challenge to food security. The World Bank estimates 30 percent of all food across the globe is wasted, amounting to 1.3 billion tons of food per year. The average global household wastes 74 kg of food each year, according to the United Nations Environment Programme's 2021 Food Waste Index. Food waste is an issue that needs a solution as the world looks for ways to feed an expanding population in the decades to come.

In order to improve output, farmers have to make some

changes. These can include investment in tools and technologies that enable farmers to apply nutrients more precisely and at lower cost, advises the Environmental Defense Fund. Seeds that need less water and fewer nutrients, as well as new fertilizers that are less likely to be lost to air and water, are some additional ideas. Farmers also may want to employ green practices, such as hydroponics and drip irrigation, if they haven't already, to improve efficiency and cut costs. The public also may need to petition their lawmakers to make it easier for farm workers arriving on working visas to man the fields.

Food demand continues to rise, and it has become challenging for agricultural operations to keep up.



Morgan Seidler

My SAE is helping my dad on the farm when he asks. Some of the things I do are run gates, fill water tanks, feed the bottle calves when we have some, and sort cows. Sometimes I help him during haying season by giving him rides to different fields. My favorite thing about this project is feeding the bottle calves and working cattle with my family.



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Ethan Myers

My SAE project is a placement at Myers Meats. I help with retail products such as ground beef, bacon, and jerky. I also help at work during deer season with processing, and occasionally get to cut up beef, and measure seasoning for orders.

What consumers can do to support local farmers

Farming has never been a vocation for individuals looking for easy work. Farmers typically work long hours, braving the elements regardless of how unpleasant the weather may be.

All that hard work ensures individuals who live in rural, urban and suburban communities have constant, readily available access to healthy foods. Such devotion merits support, and thankfully there are many things consumers can do to show their appreciation for local farmers.

- Buy fresh foods at your local farmers market. Farmers markets are many foodies' favorite places, but they aren't exclusive to individuals with a passion for food. Everyone needs to eat, so why not eat foods grown locally, which are generally more fresh and appetizing than imported fruits and vegetables sold at chain grocery stores? Even individuals who don't typically eat fresh fruit and vegetables can find something delectable at a local farmers market, where anything from homemade tomato sauces to locally raised fresh beef and pork might be on sale.

- Order directly from local farms. Some farmers have embraced the e-commerce revolution and begun selling the foods they grow to consumers via their



- own websites. Research local farms and determine if it's possible to buy directly from them. Farms may offer delivery or pick-up, and consumers can enjoy fresh foods even more knowing that they helped farmers earn higher profits by buying directly from them.

- Check labels before buying in local grocery stores. Packaging labels will indicate where fruits and vegetables came from. When possible, choose items produced by local farmers. This may include fruits, vegetables, meat, pork, or even desserts like pies. Locally produced foods often taste more fresh than items sent from overseas or distant farms, and consumers will feel better

knowing they helped to support local farmers.

- Spread the word. Get the word out after a satisfying experience with local farms and farmers. Whether it's buying food from farms or taking advantage of family days that let kids enjoy a day on the farm, sharing positive experiences via social media or word-of-mouth can be a great way to inspire your neighbors to support local farmers as well.

Consumers can do much to support hardworking local farmers. In addition to feeling good about supporting their rural neighbors, consumers also might feel good when they sit down and enjoy a meal featuring locally grown, fresh foods.

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Growing Fancy Veggies in the Garden

By Tom Kalb,
Horticulturist, NDSU Extension

What is the fanciest, most exotic food you have ever eaten?

I once ate snails.

When I was young and single, I used to eat at Wendy's or Taco Bell almost every day. A friend told me that I was missing out on the best things of life. She took me to a French restaurant and ordered escargot for me.

I ate the slimy critters, but that was my first and last meal of snails. By the way, I went to Wendy's and had a cheeseburger on the way home.

Then I lived in Asia for several years. I ate lots of foods, sometimes with people who did not speak English very well. They prepared fancy foods for me, and I often ate the food without knowing what I was eating. These foods included squid, octopus, turtles and froglegs. Some of these foods actually tasted delicious until I later found out what I had eaten. Disgusting!

I'm done eating exotic animals. I much prefer eating exotic vegetables. Here are some of my favorites.

Start with French filet beans. These beans are crisp, tender and absolutely delicious. It's hard to get too excited about beans, but gardeners in our North Dakota variety trials rave about filet beans.

They love them. Crockett, Maxibel and Velour are popular varieties.

Another exotic bean is yardlong bean. Yardlong bean is one of the most popular vegetables in the world, but few Americans have eaten it. Harvest the pods when they are young, about 16 inches long. They taste like asparagus. That's a nice surprise.

There is little reason to grow the standard 'Straight 8' cucumbers any longer. Asian burpless cucumbers are slender, thin-skinned, nearly seedless and free of bitterness. Their vines produce earlier, are more productive and resist diseases. Summer Dance and Tasty Green are good performers in North Dakota.

I have mixed feelings about peas. I hated them as a kid. They always ripened on the 4th of July. My ten siblings and I always shelled bushels and bushels of peas that day, and sometimes we missed the fireworks.

I much prefer snap peas. Snap peas are easy to grow and juicy. The best news is you don't have to shell them. You can eat the shells and go to the fireworks. Sugar Ann is the top variety.

There are lots of Asian greens that are fun to grow. Mizuna is one of my favorites. The deeply cut leaves are beautiful, and they add color and volume to salads.

Speaking of salads, try a Bata-

vian crisphead lettuce. The leaves are crunchy and delicious. Best of all, these German varieties withstand heat and keep producing all summer. Popular varieties include Muir, Nevada, Sierra and Magenta.

Cabbage? That's for common gardeners. Grow something more exotic like kohlrabi. The round, swollen stems are easy to grow and have a fruity, crunchy flavor. I think kohlrabis look like Martian spaceships.

Other unusual vegetables that are delicious include orange cherry tomatoes, super sweet corn, yellow watermelons, golden beets and vegetable soybeans.

Not all unusual vegetables taste good. Purple carrots, for example, look beautiful and are extremely nutritious. Unfortunately, they taste bitter.

You can add purple carrots along with snails on my list of disgusting foods.

If you want to try some special vegetables in your garden this summer, join our team of backyard researchers. I'll send you a catalog full of promising varieties that gardeners in North Dakota are testing this year. To learn more about testing these varieties in your garden, visit www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials. More than 200 families participate every year and you are invited to join us.

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