

Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

June 2025

Stackin' Hay Just Became Easier With New Business

Seems as though there is always a need for speed these days and that's what lead Doug Andersen of rural Hay Springs on a new business adventure. A little over a year ago, insurance agent and auctioneer Andersen was checking out an ad in "Tractor House".

"There is a need to speedup the process of accumulating bales and getting them out of the fields, so the irrigation water can be turned back on," said Andersen. "Most of this ground is irrigated with center pivot water systems."

So after further studying and pondering, he contacted the company where the stackers are built in Burrton, Kan. and purchased a 6500 Stinger Stacker.

"With the Stacker, I can move as many as 70 big bales (round or square) per hour. I can easily clear a pivot less than a day and the people can continue on with more important duties and get the water back on for greater production. " The machine can move up to 60 miles per hour on the road and has a Cummins Industrial 91, 320 hp engine. Andersen can work in comfort with heat and air conditioning with a seat that produces the same comfort.

The Stinger Stacker will handle eight big round bales at a time or 12 big bales at a time when handling 3x3 or 3x4 bales. Bales can be stacked on edge, on the twins, or at combination of the two."Depending on how smooth the field is it will move 15 to 30 mph loaded and hauling to the stack yard. It is designed for clearing a meadow so the water can be turned back on," explained Andersen.

Doug's Stacker's jobs have been primarily in the Northwest Panhandle, however he has gone as far east as Valentine and south to Eustis, Neb.

Andersen has lived in Sheridan County most of his life, with a stint in Oregon. He wears many hats for sure. He graduated from UNSA in Curtis and studied ag one year at UNL. He holds a private pilot's license, real estate license



Doug Andersen sits up high in his Stinger Stacker with plans of a busy summer picking up hay.

and insurance license. Being an auctioneer, he has visited several states selling purebred Red Angus seed stock.

His wife, Wendy, is the office manager for University of Nebraska Extension in Sheridan County. The blended family have a total of four children, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

If that's not enough to keep him busy, he enjoys helping out at area brandings. "A lot of people here still rope and drag calves to the branding fire and that is one (Continued on Page 2)

Doug's Stacker loaded with big round bales heading to the stack yard.



Doug's Stacker--

(Continued from Page 1)

of my greatest joys. Just being with other horsemen and women is a great pleasure," explained Andersen. On the other hand he likes to golf but hasn't found much time to do so. "We have several young horses and they are taking up a lot of our spare time." The Andersens live 3.5 miles north of Hay Springs. In addition to the Stacker business, he works with Platinum Supplement Insurance, licensed in several states.

To learn more about Doug's Stacker, call him at 308-762-2424 or visit his Facebook page "Doug's Stacker".



Summer Farm Safety: Preventing Heat Stroke on the Farm

In addition to farm safety tips concerning tractors, chemicals, and livestock, make sure you look into heat stress prevention tips for farmers as well. Summer is typically one of a farmer's busiest times, and there is little time or ability to slow down or take a break during the heat of the day. Heat illness in agriculture is a common occurrence, but it can be prevented by following heat safety tips and keeping summer farm safety top of mind.

Heat Stress Explained

The summer's heat causes health problems when the body's mechanisms for cooling are interrupted. The body perspires so the sweat can evaporate and cool the body. If a person is dehydrated, their body is not able to produce sweat. Similarly, if the outside air is humid, the sweat cannot evaporate; it sits on the skin and actually increases the body's temperature. In either instance, heat exhaustion or

heat stroke can occur.

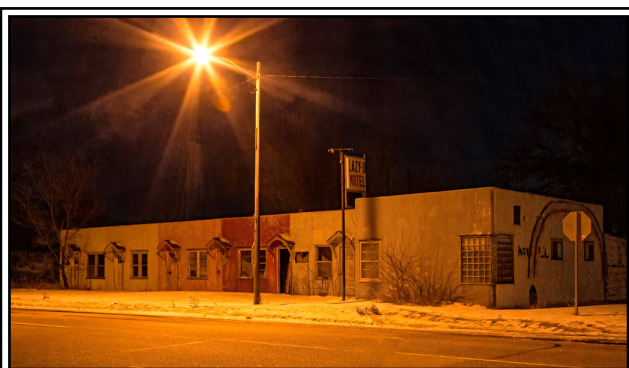
Heat exhaustion is marked by cool skin that is pale and clammy, dizziness, headaches, cramps, nausea/vomiting, weakness, confusion, and unconsciousness. It is caused by dehydration and loss of the salts and electrolytes that the body needs to function. Heat stroke is a medical emergency where the body is unable to cool itself at all. Characteristics of heat stroke include skin that is hot and dry, a high body temperature, changes in behavior like confusion or anger, chills, nausea, dizziness, unconsciousness, convulsions, and delirium. Heat stroke could even cause death if not treated.

In both cases, the sufferer should be moved to a cool area, given fluids if conscious, and have excess clothing removed. In the case of heat stroke, it's advised to try to cool the person by applying cool water to their skin. Lastly, medical professionals should be called in either case.

Summer Farm Safety: Heat Safety Tips

The best treatment for heat exhaustion and heat stroke is to avoid the conditions altogether. Young children, the elderly, and those with health issues are more susceptible to heat stress in agriculture settings. These heat safety tips are a good way to avoid heat stroke on the farm:

- Make sure all farm workers and employees know about preventing heat stroke.
- Plan 15-minute breaks in a cooled area or shade for every two hours of work.
- Drink one cup of water for every 15 to 30 minutes working in the heat.
- Avoid eating or drinking caffeine, alcohol, and sugary items because they increase dehydration.
- Wear light-colored, lightweight, loose clothing.
- Schedule strenuous work, or that which requires personal protective equipment, for the morning and evening hours.
- Take a break at the hottest part of the day.
- Gradually adjust to working in the heat.
- Know if your prescriptions and over-the-counter medications might make you more susceptible to heat stroke.
- If you have a chronic health condition, get clearance from your doctor to work in hot and humid environments.



Countryroad Shot:

Rainbow Motel

Broadwater, Neb - Jan. 2017

~ by Jim Manternach

If you are interested in a print, you can contact Jim at jmm@millcomps.com or his website www.jimmphoto.com



Recipe Corner

Hash Brown Crust Quiche

- 4 cups shredded hash brown potatoes, slightly thawed
- 6 tablespoons butter, divided
- seasoning salt or garlic powder to taste
- 6 large eggs, divided
- 1 cup diced cooked ham
- 1/3 cup finely diced red bell pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion, plus more for garnish
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup heavy cream
- salt and pepper to taste



Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F.

Place hash browns in a medium bowl. Melt 5 tablespoons butter and pour over hash browns, season with seasoning salt or garlic powder as desired. Add 1 egg, mix well and press mixture onto the bottom and sides of a 9-inch spring form pan or pie dish.

Bake in preheated oven until potatoes are golden brown and crispy around the edges, about 25 to 30 minutes.

While crust bakes, melt remaining tablespoon of butter in a medium skillet over medium-high heat. Add ham, pepper, and green onion; cook and stir until bell pepper slightly softens, about 4 minutes. Remove from heat.

When crust is ready, spread ham mixture over the bottom; sprinkle cheese evenly on top. Whisk remaining 5 eggs and cream in a medium bowl; add salt and pepper to taste and mix until well blended. Pour mixture evenly over ham and cheese mixture.

Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Bake in the preheated oven until filling is puffed and quiche is lightly browned around the edges, about 35 minutes.

Orange Creamsicle Protein Shake

- 1 orange - zested, peeled, and separated into segments
- 1 cup soy milk
- 1 (5.3 ounce) container plain Greek yogurt
- 5 ice cubes
- 1 scoop vanilla protein powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Combine orange segments, zest, soy milk, yogurt, ice, protein powder, and vanilla in a blender. Blend until smooth

Save Energy & Reduce Your Energy Costs This Summer With These Tips

The heat is on! It's time to make a game plan to conserve energy this summer and avoid skyrocketing electricity bills. Learn how to lower your electric bill in the summer while keeping your cool.

1. Fan yourself

Buying multiple stand, box, or ceiling fans is a small investment that can reduce your energy costs for years to come. Using fans to help you feel cooler means you can raise the thermostat setting by 4 degrees without reducing your comfort level. Just remember to turn off the fans when you're not in the room. They aren't intended to cool the space — just the people in the space, via the wind chill effect.

2. Optimize your thermostat setting

According to the Department of Energy (DOE), setting your thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer can save you up to 10% in energy costs each year. If 78 degrees is too warm for you, you can adjust it a bit lower to be comfortable. Just remember that for every degree you raise your thermostat above 72 degrees, you save up to 3% on your cooling expenses.

Consider getting a programmable thermostat, so you can program a warmer setting when you're not home and automatically start cooling your home right before you get back. If you're into technology, use the Trane Home App to control your air conditioning system from wherever you might be.

3. Upgrade your air conditioner and appliances

If you're ready to take your summer energy savings to the next level, go for a system upgrade. Heating and cooling uses nearly half of the energy in your home, so investing in an energy-efficient system is a smart move that will save you money in the long run.

Whether you're upgrading your air conditioner or your refrigerator, look for ENERGY STAR®-certified systems. Energy-efficient appliances can save you money throughout the year - not just in the summer.

If you decide this is the year for air conditioner replacement, look for a unit with high Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER2) and Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER2) ratings. They'll be 15% more efficient than other models.

Even if you don't upgrade your air conditioner, be sure to change or clean the air filter regularly. A clogged filter can cause the system to work harder and cost you more money.

4. Light things up with LED

Upgrading your lightbulbs to LED bulbs not only saves energy, but it helps keep your house cool. Again, look for ENERGY STAR®-rated lightbulbs. LED bulbs use up to 90% less energy than old incandescent bulbs, and up to 80% less than fluorescent bulbs.

Words of Wisdom from Children

- Booking plane tickets for a family trip is a fun little test to see if I still remember all my kids' birthdays and genders. -- Ken Jennings
- Having one child makes you a parent. Having two kids makes you a referee. -- David Frost
- Having children is like living in a frat house. Nobody sleeps, everything's broken and there's a lot of throwing up. -- Ray Romano
- Men should always change diapers. It's a very rewarding experience. It's mentally cleansing. It's like washing dishes, but imagine if the dishes were your kids, so you really love the dishes." -- Chris Martin
- The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get. -- Tim Russert
- Raising kids may be a thankless job with ridiculous hours, but at least the pay sucks. -- Jim Gaffigan
- By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong. -- Charles Wadsworth
- Buying your kid a goldfish is a great way to teach them about responsibility for 24-36 hours. -- Conan O'Brien
- You can tell what was the best year of your father's life because they seem to freeze that clothing style and ride it out. -- Jeff Seinfeld
- Getting a burp out of your little thing when she needs it is probably the greatest satisfaction I've come across at this point in my life. It is try one of life's most satisfying moments -- Brad Pitt
- Fatherhood is great because you can ruin someone from scratch. -- Jon Stewart

June Historical Anniversaries....

- **June 2** - National Cancer Survivors Day
- **June 5** - World Environment Day.
- **June 10** - National Black Cow Day!
- **June 11** - Corn on the Cob Day
- **June 14** - Flag Day
- **June 15** - Father's Day
- **June 19** - Juneteenth
- **June 21** - National Daylight Appreciation Day
- **June 16-22** - Lightning Safety Awareness Week

June Birthstone: The pearl, an iridescent object that's formed within the soft tissue of a living shelled mollusk (like an oyster or mussel). The name "pearl" comes from the French word "perle," which originated from the Latin word "perna" meaning "leg," in reference to the bivalvia, a class of freshwater mollusks shaped like ham legs. The pearl has often been viewed as a symbol of purity, but it also symbolizes wisdom, serenity, and loyalty.

June's Birth Flower: Rose & Honeysuckle. Roses are among the most recognizable flowers, often given as a sign of affection because they have long been a symbol of love. The honeysuckle, with its tubular flowers, is a magnet for hummingbirds and represents happiness and positive energy.



HAPPY
Father's day

Office Hours:
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday- Thursday
Service Calls
After Hours:

Please call
800-847-0492 if
your call is long distance or **638-4445**
for the local Hay Springs area at all times.

We have an answering service that answers these numbers on a 24-hour basis - after hours, Saturday, Sundays and holidays. Please state legal description, account number or meter number where the outage is and your phone number when you call.

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