



Spry



American
Profile

Bird Flu Found On 15 Turkey Farms

BY KEVIN BURBACH
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — A bird flu strain that's deadly to poultry has been confirmed in a second commercial turkey flock in eastern South Dakota and preliminary tests have confirmed the presence of some form of bird flu at a North Dakota farm, bringing to at least 15 the number of Midwest farms infected in the latest outbreak.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed the strain of avian influenza in the flock of 34,000 turkeys in Kingsburg County, South Dakota, which sits between Huron and Brookings. The flock is located within the Central flyway where the strain has previously been found.

A North Dakota state veterinary lab on Thursday confirmed the presence of bird flu in a commercial turkey flock but it's still unknown whether it's the highly contagious H5N2 strain.

The North Dakota State

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DOT Nixes 50 Bid

Delay May Push Construction Work Back A Year

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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By a 6-1 vote, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) rejected Thursday the lone bid for the Highway 50 reconstruction project in Yankton, delaying this year's planned start.

The DOT action was taken during a Transportation Commission conference call.

The bid for the Highway 50 project had come at around \$11 million, far above the estimated \$8.7 million. The DOT had put the project on hold prior to Thursday's conference call.

The DOT rejected the bids for both the state and city portions of the project, which included city utility work.

D&G Concrete Construction of Sioux Falls submitted the lone bid for the two projects.

The Yankton project runs from Broadway Avenue to Burleigh Street and from Marne Creek to Archery Road. The project has been placed on the DOT's Surface Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), with construction planned for

submitted the lone bid for the two projects.

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The Search Goes On



Yankton Police chief Brian Paulsen addresses the media during a press conference Thursday on the disappearance of Lincoln Hilt. Hilt, 6, disappeared during a fishing outing in Riverside Park Sunday evening.

Paulsen: Major Push In Search For Missing Child Set

BY ROB NIELSEN
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The search for Lincoln Hilt, 6, of Hurley will be ramping up over the weekend.

Yankton Police chief Brian Paulsen called a press conference Thursday morning to update the public on the status of the search, saying that the effort had to be temporarily scaled back due to weather conditions.

"We're going to be limited by weather today," Paulsen said. "The wind is going to affect the boats. They're aware of that. They're going to stay as long as possible as long as it's safe. With the low ceiling, aircraft will not be operating today."

One to two boats were utilized throughout the day on Thursday. The current search area has been centered around a roughly one-mile stretch of the Missouri River starting at Riverside Park and heading east, though it is likely to expand.

Paulsen said a larger search is set to start today. "We're gearing up for a major push this weekend because of the weather," he said. "The Nebraska Game Commission and South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks both will be out with their boats. Our search and rescue will respond from Yankton. The divers are available."

SEARCH | PAGE 10A

Officials Muscle Up Vs. Mussels

GFP Takes Aim At Invasive Species

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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As a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks staff member, Mike Smith generally welcomes tourists.

However, there's one visitor he's working extremely hard to keep out of the state.

Smith serves as the agency's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) coordinator. He spoke Thursday night at an open house in Yankton about the work under way to battle invasive species.

"Prevention, control and regulation — you need all three to be successful," he said.

Southeast South Dakota has battled the arrival of the Asian carp, which has made its way to the face of Gavins Point Dam near Yankton and into tributaries such as the James River.

Another invasive species arrived last November, when an individual adult zebra mussel was discovered at the Midway boat ramp on Lewis and Clark Lake near Yankton. Crews surveyed an additional 11 ramps, but no other zebra mussels have been found.

Lewis and Clark Lake remains on "suspect" status for three years, Smith said. He described the regular samples and other actions that will be taken during that time.

Smith outlined the GFP's new regulations, set to go into effect in mid-May, seeking to stop the transport of invasive species. The regulations focus on water craft and the movement of invasive species from location to location.

"We're trying to eliminate the transfer of water from one lake to another," he said.

The precautions are crucial because invasive species tend to have traits allowing them to reproduce and relocate quickly, Smith said.

"In the adult mussels, the females release 1 million eggs for each spawn," he said. "There's a 90 percent mortality rate, but that's still a tremendous number when you figure 10 percent of 1 million (that survive)."

The mussels were introduced to the United States in the 1980s, Smith said. In 30 years, they moved from two sites in the Great Lakes to the infestation of the Mississippi River,

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Chamber Head Sums Up Session

BY ROB NIELSEN
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New transportation taxes were a dominant topic during a Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce post-legislative luncheon, held Thursday at the Hillcrest Golf and Country Club.

South Dakota Chamber of Commerce & Industry president David Owen was on hand to speak about the recently completed 2015 session of the South Dakota Legislature.

One of the main highlights was a breakdown of the new transportation taxes, which include a six-cent increase in the state gas tax (\$39 million in revenue per year), ethanol tax (\$2 million in revenue

per year), 4 percent sales tax on cars (\$27 million in revenue per year), a license plate fee increase (\$14 million in revenue per year) and non-commercial truck fees (2.5 million in revenue per year) that are hoped to bring in \$85 million for the state's non-federal road system.

Owen said he was a bit surprised that the effort came together.

"I thought we would increase taxes and funding for roads," Owen said. "I was surprised at the final package going straight to six cents instead of two cents per year, which everybody talked about through most of the session. And then the idea that they put it into effect immediately so

we're paying it now, I thought, was an ingenious way of making up for the fact that some of the legislators wouldn't go to as much gas tax as the governor and the interim committee wanted."

Owen said it was an effort that was a long time in the making. "There's been a group of legislators that have offered increase gas tax bills for seven years or so," he said. "But this was the first legislative session for (Gov. Dennis Daugaard's) second term. That's a safe time for a governor to spend political capital, so he didn't just endorse an idea, he offered his own bill."

Owen also discussed the blue-

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South Dakota Chamber of Commerce & Industry president David Owen speaks during a post-legislative luncheon sponsored by the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce Thursday.

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