



## NDA: Communicate With Neighbors

LINCOLN, Neb. — As trees and plants green up and soil temperatures rise across the state, farmers of all sizes and types are getting into full swing of planting season.

Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Greg Ibach is encouraging anyone who will be applying herbicide products during this busy season to be mindful of best management practices and use good communication with their neighbors.

"It's important for our commodity crop farmers and our growing sector of specialty crop farmers to work together so everyone can be successful," Ibach said. "Herbicide applications are critical for corn and soybean production, but there are a number of specialty crops, such as grape vines, that are sensitive to these products."

One way farmers can open the door of communication is through Driftwatch. This website is a free, voluntary service that allows those with pesticide sensitive crops, organic crops and beehives to report their locations. Herbicide applicators can review the site to gain an understanding of the locations of specialty crops in their area.

"For example, Nebraska's vineyards are currently beginning 'bud break,' or the official start of the vines' annual growth cycle, so these plants are extremely vulnerable right now," Ibach said. "It's also time for our commodity crop farmers to ready their fields for planting, including herbicide applications. Communication between all parties right now is important to ensure successful crop production for everyone."

Pesticide applicators also can register on the Driftwatch website, facilitating e-mail notifications to the applicator when a new sensitive crop site is registered in their local area.

The Driftwatch website can be found online at <http://www.fieldwatch.com/specialty-crop-registry.html>. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture monitors the Driftwatch site for the state. For questions about it, contact Craig Romary with NDA at 402-471-2351.

## May Is Noxious Weed Control Month

PIERRE — Gov. Dennis Daugaard declared May as South Dakota Noxious Weed Awareness Month to highlight the importance of managing noxious weeds, which negatively affect agriculture, water quality, recreational opportunities and wildlife.

"Noxious weeds threaten the integrity of all the lands in South Dakota," said Ron Moehring, South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) Weed and Pest Control specialist. "By working together, we can effectively control noxious weed infestations and minimize the threat weeds pose to agriculture, our natural lands, and our quality of life."

Seven weeds are currently listed as noxious in South Dakota, including Canada thistle, Leafy spurge, Perennial sow thistle, Hoary cress, Russian knapweed, Purple looses-trife and Saltcedar. In addition, counties can list up to eight locally noxious weeds such as Field bindweed, Musk and Plumeless thistle and Wormwood sage.

Weeds cost landowners millions annually in lost productivity of range and cropland. Noxious weeds have infested more than three million acres in South Dakota. Federal agencies estimate that noxious weeds are spreading on federal public lands at a rate of 4,600 acres per day.

To protect the state's lands, SDDA has implemented an aggressive program to manage weeds. The Department of Ag has helped communities form partnerships and coordinate weed management activities and the State Weed and Pest Control Commission has distributed \$650,000 in grants to assist counties and others in their weed management efforts.

For more information on South Dakota's noxious weed program, contact your local county weed supervisor or Ron Moehring at 605 773-3796.

## Farm Labor Housing Loans Offered

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA's Rural Housing Service (RHS) is soliciting pre-applications for Farm Labor Housing loans and grants to construct off-farm units and related facilities for domestic farm laborers, or to purchase and substantially rehabilitate non-farm labor housing properties.

This year, RHS will assign additional points to pre-applications for projects based in or serving census tracts with poverty rates greater than or equal to 20 percent over the last 30 years. RHS will publish on its website the amount of funding available in FY 2015.

Pre-applications will be due June 23, 2015. For additional details, see Page 15743 of the March 25 Federal Register.

# Lake Andes Farmer Wins National Sorghum Award



Pictured is National Sorghum Producers CEO, Tim Lust shaking hands with Lee Linnell of Linnell Farms, Lake Andes, for being the 2014 mulch-till non-irrigated South Dakota yield contest winner.

LUBBOCK, Texas — National Sorghum Producers is proud to announce the South Dakota mulch-till non-irrigated state winner of the 2014 NSP Yield Contest, Lee Linnell of Linnell Farms, Lake Andes.

Farmers from 27 states entered to win this year's contest.

Producer yields are highlighted in nine different categories: Conventional-Till Irrigated, No-Till Non-Irrigated, Conventional-Till Non-Irrigated, Reduced-Till Irrigated, Double Crop Non-Irrigated category, Mulch-Till Non-Irrigated and Double Crop Irrigated. This year's top yield was achieved by Henson Land & Cattle of Texas in the Conventional-Till Irrigated with 246 bushels per acre, just shy of NSP's 250 bushel per acre yield goal.

"Congratulations to all the 2014 Yield Contest national and state winners," said NSP board of directors Chairman J.B. Stewart. "The yield contest is a fantastic opportunity for producers to display their achievements while demonstrating the yield potential grain sorghum offers when using good management practices."

COURTESY PHOTO

## Commentary

# Pro- Or Anti-GMO: It All Depends On Your Personal Conviction

BY RITA BRHEL

P&D Correspondent

The Nebraska Corn Board and the Nebraska Soybean Board are on the offensive, defending foods made with genetically modified ingredients.

I recently caught a look at a "GMOs are A-OK" ad in the *Omaha World-Herald*. It did its best to quell concerns that genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, like corn and soybeans, are perfectly OK to eat.

I learned some new things from the ad, like that there are six other GMO products commercially available in the United States now, beyond corn and soybeans, including sugar beets, cotton, alfalfa, papaya, squash and canola. And if Nebraska was its own country, it would produce more corn than any other country in the world, except China. Wow, that's a lot of corn!

Much of the rest of the information published about GMO safety was nothing I hadn't heard before.

There was one point of the ad, which was trying to explain how GMOs are not a new thing, that seemed to stretch the truth a bit. It described how genetic manipulation is actually a centuries-old practice and that GMOs simply accelerate the process. It's hard to cover up a spin like this. The truth is, yeah, people have been selecting for

specific plant and animal traits for centuries by preferring to breed plants and animals with certain traits over others, but this is far cry from the laboratory-controlled GMO process. And I don't think many savvy consumers will be able to gloss over the ad's GMO description.



Rita  
BRHEL

Certainly, there were consumers within the Nebraska sustainable agriculture industry that didn't gloss over this. I heard comments in response to the ad ranging from, "It is a classic example of how both information and lies can be massaged to sell something," and "Proving that enough money and some glossy graphics can keep the masses eating junk," to "They aren't going to fool very many consumers," and "This propaganda may actually get more people asking questions about GMOs."

Now, these comments were from a group of farmers with strong convictions toward non-GMO, preferably organic, farming systems. And that is something to consider.

For most of us, in most areas of our

lives, we are middle-ground people. We may have opinions one way or the other about a topic but not enough conviction to put a lot of effort into trying to convince others to side one way or another.

Of course, nearly every person has at least one area of their life where they do have strong convictions that cannot be easily bent and for which we may expend a lot of effort in convincing others or at least supporting those who share that conviction. For many of us, these convictions lie in our faith, family values or political beliefs, which make up a significant part of our individual identities.

There's nothing wrong with that. However, there is a fine line between standing up for a conviction and bashing the other side. There is a fine line between being persuasive and being offensive. Of course, this goes for both pro- and anti-GMO crowds.

There was one comment from the sustainable crowd that did support GMOs, that the GMO industry has benefited the agricultural industry and beyond. This comment was from a farm kid who is now working toward his PhD in plant breeding, so he has a vested interest. But then again, the earlier comments were from people with a vested interest in less GMO use, whose farm sales depend on a consumer demand for non-GMOs.

So, I guess, we're all a little biased.



## With Fondest Memories

We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us.

On Saturday, May 23rd we will publish in print and online at Yankton.net a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.



### Aneta Burrows

Dec. 30, 1960-Nov. 8, 2002

Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.

Dan, Ann & Sarah

Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute.

1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
2. May God cradle you in his arms, now and forever.
3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in Gods heavenly glory.
6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
8. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
9. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
10. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
11. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
12. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
13. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
14. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.
15. I have written my own message and it is included.

Name of deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of passing \_\_\_\_\_

Number of selected verse \_\_\_\_\_ OR Personal message (25 word limit)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$12.00 per listing, up to 25 word verse and \$5 for photo. (One Name Per Ad)

Fill out the form and mail to:  
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan/  
With Fondest Memories  
319 Walnut St.,  
Yankton, SD 57078

**Deadline: Tuesday,  
May 19, 2015, 5pm**

## CORN FARMERS

Did you harvest or sell corn between November 1, 2013 and the present? You may be entitled to compensation.

Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson  
1-800-535-5727

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