



## Yankton Native Wins NC/DC Extreme Contest

ORANGE CITY, Iowa—Abigail Slattery, a student at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, was named the winner of NC/DC Extreme, an “American Idol” type singing competition with students from nearby Dordt College. She received a \$500 prize.

After the NC/DC Extreme semifinals at Dordt on Saturday, April 11, students voted online to determine which four musical acts would advance to the finals out of the 10 semi-finalists. Slattery was among the finalists—two each from Dordt and Northwestern—competing for the top prize at Northwestern on April 18.

Slattery was named the winner of the singing competition after performing two songs, “Seven Nation Army” by the White Stripes and “Bright” by Echosmith. “I never expected to

make it to the finals, and it was an amazing opportunity to be able to perform for so many people,” says Slattery. “You don’t get chances to

**You don’t get chances to perform like that very often, and it was my first time performing alone, so it was both an awesome and occasionally terrifying experience.”**

ABIGAIL SLATTERY

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Slattery is a freshman and is majoring in writing/rhetoric and literature at Northwestern College. She is the daughter of Richard and Barbara Ann Slattery of Yankton.

Northwestern College is a Christian college of more than 1,200 students in Orange City, Iowa. Rated the nation’s eighth-best baccalaureate college by Washington Monthly and a top-10 Midwestern college by U.S. News & World Report magazine, Northwestern provides an education committed to academic rigor and a Christ-centered worldview.

### Sodak Stamm Germans To Go On Tour

KAYLOR — Sodak Stamm Germans from Russia Heritage Society is presenting their second annual tour to the homeland of Germany in late September, which will include France and Switzerland this year.

If you think you might at all be interested in this tour, please attend the meeting on Sunday evening, May 3, at 7 p.m. at the Heritage Society hall on the north end of main street in Kaylor. Tour escorts Gary Jerke and Vi Ranney will conduct the meeting and answer any questions.

For information contact Gary Jerke at 605-583-4544 or Vi Ranney at 605-665-4596. Coffee and sweets will be served.

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### Dr. Mike Rosmann

## What Americans Think About Farming Is A Big Deal

BY DR. MIKE ROSMANN

Sponsored By L&C Behavioral Health

“Farmers are rich” is a popular search topic on the website, [www.corncorps.com](http://www.corncorps.com), says this Illinois farm organization. “Farmers live off the government” is a common perception, according to recent Barron’s articles.

A September 9, 2013 Bloomberg Business report reflects both sentiments: “A Depression-era program intended to save American farmers from ruin has grown into a 21st century crutch enabling affluent growers and financial institutions to thrive at taxpayer expense. Federal crop insurance encourages farmers to gamble on risky plantings in a program that has been marred by fraud and that illustrates why government spending is so difficult to control.”

There are many opinions about U.S. farm policy and farming methods, and possibly even more misconceptions about farming. Many Americans are concerned about the impact of the current drought in the West on farming and fear rising prices for fruits, nuts, vegetables and beef, but few understand what is happening to agriculture across the entire country presently.

Net U.S. farm income in 2015 is forecast at \$73.6 billion, which is down 32% from 2014 farm income of \$108.0 billion, according to the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) in two February 2015 reports. After six “very good” years, starting with 2009, net farm income this year is forecast to be same as the average of the six years preceding 2009.

Government payments to farmers, including crop insurance and livestock indemnities, are expected to rise about 15% to \$12.4 billion in 2015, which is the highest level since 2010, but about half the level of 2005 disbursements, according to the ERS. This translates into government payments to farmers in 2015 that will comprise 3% of their gross farm income and 17% of their net farm income.



Dr. Mike  
**ROSMANN**

usually they were small producers who relied mostly on other sources of family income or raised crops not covered by the previous Farm Bill.

American agricultural exports account for about a third of income from farming activities. Farm exports are expected to be lower overall in 2015.

A number of factors contribute to reduced foreign purchases of American farm products, including but not limited to a strong American dollar, refusal by some countries to purchase grains if they contain GMOs or meats if they come from animals where diseases such as avian flu are suspected, a large current supply of grain worldwide and political disputes with some countries that have imported American products in the past.

Meanwhile, farming input costs for 2015 were estimated by the ERS to rise about 1% this year. Some fertilizer and fuel prices decreased recently, but seed and herbicide prices have decreased little, if any.

The currently lower fuel costs, if they hold, will not show up immediately in supermarket prices, because getting most crops from planting to market distribution takes at least a year, and more than that for biennials and perennials.

The production of milk from dairy animals, and meat from beeves takes nearly three years from gestation to market. Poultry, pork and fish take less time to reach the dinner table, but still

longer than many consumers understand.

2015 net income from farming is forecast at \$15,851 per farm household, with another \$97,400 from off-farm sources like jobs and investment earnings. Despite the current negative impacts on farm income, the average farm household income of \$113,251 is considerably above the average U.S. household income, which was \$72,641 in 2013, the latest year for which data about all U.S. households are available.

The average farmer usually owns land and other assets, most of which are necessary for production, but requires non-farming income to make the farming operation work successfully. Few Americans know working two jobs is almost a requirement to farm.

How Americans think about farming is important for farmers to understand. Ninety-eight percent of the populace is not engaged in farming.

The few who are farm owners or operators are remnants of decades of “survival of the fittest,” and most have needed an incredible work ethic and careful financial planning to get to where they are presently.

The majority of agriculturalists care about how they produce food and fiber and if they can pass along their land and assets in better shape than when they acquired them. Their voices need to be heard.

How agricultural producers inform the rest of the country’s residents about their agrarian livelihoods is a key to their economic survival. Even if some information about agriculture is less than fully positive, providing complete and accurate information is a big deal.

The next two weekly articles will expand on this topic and offer recommendations about what farmers can do to improve the image of farmers.

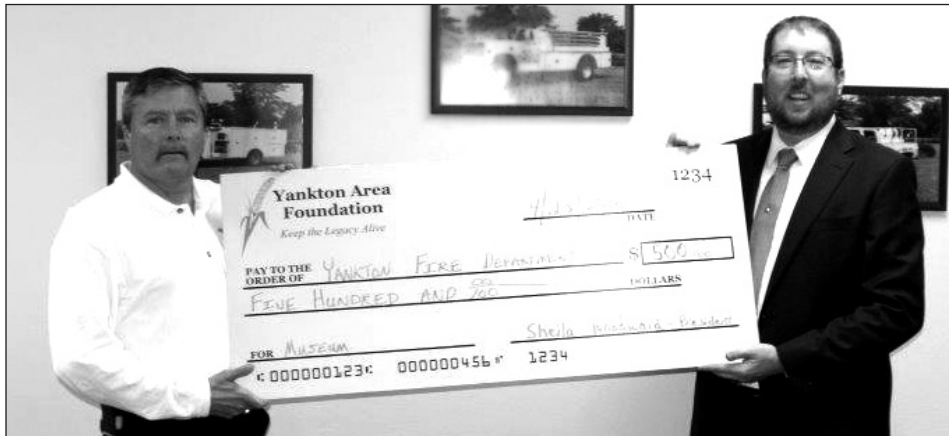
*Dr. Rosmann welcomes readers’ comments; go to the website: [www.agbehavioralhealth.com](http://www.agbehavioralhealth.com).*

## Yankton Area Foundation Awards Yankton Volunteer Fire Department For Building A Local Museum

The Yankton Area Foundation awarded a \$500 grant to Yankton Volunteer Fire Department for a museum they are building to store historic items such as a 1925 American LaFrance pumper and a 1937 Luverne pumper.

Also on display inside the 30’x40’ museum will be pictures and other equipment depicting the history and changes of fire and rescue. A piece of steel from the World Trade Center attacks will be displayed under lights.

The Yankton Area Foundation, a local non-profit corporation provides a reliable source of funds for the purpose of benefiting the social and economic well-being of the community of Yankton, South Dakota, and



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Pictured is Larry Nickles from the Yankton Fire Department and Steve Pietila, from the Yankton Area Foundation.

the surrounding area.

The Foundation provides a source of grant funding for community needs today and

for years to come. To learn more about the Foundation,

please visit <http://yankton.sdcommunityfoundation.org/>

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