



AGNOTES

ed by sire type and age. They will offer the Hampshire ewes as individual lots.

All lots will be posted with photographs, details, and pedigree information on the Hampshire ewes. The consignment will be posted on Aug. 12 at the SDSU Animal and Range Sciences Department Web site at this link: <http://ars.sdstate.edu/sheep/home.htm>.

SDSU Sheep Unit staff will only accept bids until 4 p.m. on Aug. 18. Held said the specifics of the sale are straightforward.

"Any interested producer can submit a bid on a per head basis, with the lot awarded to the highest bidder," said Held. "Bids will increase in \$5 increments per head, and any ties will be broken using an auction format with the same \$5 increment per head. Floor price for the commercial and Hampshire ewes will be \$175 and \$300, respectively."

SDSU Sheep Unit staff will take bids by phone, email, and traditional postal mail between the posting date and the closing date on Aug. 18.

Buyers can place bids by calling SDSU Sheep Unit Manager Rob Zelinsky at 605-693-3808, or they can e-mail him at this address:

Robert.Zelinsky@sdstate.edu. Extension Sheep Specialist Jeff Held also can answer questions or take your bid. Call him at 605-688-5433 or 605-690-7033, or e-mail Held at this address: Jeffrey.Held@sdstate.edu.

SDSU Research Review Set On Aug. 25

BROOKINGS—South Dakota State University scientists will host a research review focused on crop production and bio-fuels on Aug. 25 in Sioux Falls.

The annual research review is entitled "Food, Fuel and Economic Vitality" and begins at 9:30 a.m. at the University Center, 4801 N. Career Ave., Sioux Falls. The event is free and will take place in room 186 at the center.

SDSU crop scientist C. Gregg Carlson, who is organizing the event, said it is a chance for experienced corn, soybean, and wheat growers to discuss the roles their crops will play in the economic future of South Dakota.

"The purpose of this meeting is to bring together the voices of senior growers and commodity group leaders, to examine the industries of the state, and to see how together we will shape the future of soybean, corn, and wheat crop production in our state," Carlson said. "We welcome all producers, especially higher-level growers with experience in the bio-fuel spectrum of agriculture, and we look forward to examining our industry with them."

Speakers for the event include Barry Dunn, dean of the SDSU College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. He will speak on the development of an Internet information system that can better link SDSU and producers.

Jim Burg, a producer from Wessington Springs, will present information about wealth creation and its connections to South Dakota industry, including agriculture. SDSU plant science professor David Clay, director of the SDSU Drought Center, will discuss profitability and productivity management practices.

Carlson will speak on the food versus fuel debate, and South Dakota Cooperative Extension Dairy Specialist Alvaro Garcia will share information on compatibility between the ethanol and livestock industries.

For more information about the meeting, call Carlson at (605) 688-4761, or e-mail: Gregg.Carlson@sdstate.edu.

MARKET INSIDER

A Special Look At The World's Wheat Supplies

BY BRIAN HOOPS

Yankton

Since the June 30 acreage report, where the USDA estimated all wheat acres at 54.3 million, the smallest United States acreage total since 1971, the wheat market has had an impressive rally. Comparing the high scored on Aug. 6 to the close on June 29, wheat has traded in a range of \$3.84. In fact, the month of July saw the largest single monthly gain since 1973.

Part of the reason wheat has rallied is world and U.S. fundamentals. True there is no shortage of wheat in the U.S. As of the July supply/demand report, United States wheat ending stocks were estimated at 1.093 billion bushels, the largest supplies of U.S. wheat since 1982-83. To say we have



Brian Hoops

plenty of supplies available in the United States would be an understatement. At the end of June, large trading funds were comfortably holding a net short position of 48,883 contracts.

Since that time, talk about drought affecting the European Union countries of Russia, Kazakhstan and other Black Sea region wheat areas has garnered market attention. At one time, Russia's wheat production forecast was close to 75 mt, however this is expected to fall sharply this year. "The forecast of 75 mil-

Crude Awakening: Biobased Solvent Could Help Clean Up Gulf

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. —The bleeding of oil into the Gulf of Mexico may be tapering off, but the work of cleaning up the coastline's sensitive marshland and beaches will last for years. Some of the same innovators who produce biodiesel are eager to help.

"Biodiesel is America's first commercially available advanced biofuel, and one of its main benefits is displacing crude oil. Now biodiesel producers can make a green product that can also clean up that same oil," said Steve Howell, technical director of the National Biodiesel Board.

Methyl esters, the chemical yielded in biodiesel production, can be formulated into a biobased solvent that is federally listed as a shoreline washing agent for oil spill clean-up. An effort is underway to encourage the use of this effective product to remediate oiled shorelines, particularly the more sensitive marsh habitats.

"The chemical dispersants used in the Gulf have been criticized because all they do is dissolve the oil back into the water, which actually makes it more toxic to sea life," said Randall Von Wedel, founder and principal biochemist of CytoCulture International, a company that pioneered the method in the 1990s. "A biobased solvent does the opposite of a dispersant. It removes the oil from impacted vegetation and shoreline and floats it into the water for easy recovery."

The process involves crews spraying the methyl esters from shallow draft boats onto oil-covered marsh vegetation or small beaches normally unreachable by land. After the biobased solvent is applied, a gentle "rain" of seawater rinses the dissolved petroleum mixture off the plants and shoreline for recovery, using small mechanical skimmers. The mixture can be recycled.

Von Wedel recently visited the Gulf

of Mexico, where his team submitted documentation on his product, branded "CytoSol Biosolvent." He says a BP contractor and the U.S. Coast Guard have submitted a proposal to use the process to enhance a mechanical beach cleaning technology.

"Several scientific publications have shown that methyl esters can help clean up shores contaminated by petroleum spills," said Gerhard Knothe, Lead Scientist at USDA, and Editor of The Biodiesel Handbook, 2nd Edition, AOCSS Press. "That may be a use of this product in cases such as the contamination in the Gulf of Mexico."

The methyl ester product was licensed by the State of California in 1997 and used to clean oiled ships and response vessels during the San Francisco Bay oil spill of 2007.

"This is another example of what our innovative biodiesel producers can contribute to society," said Howell.

Forester: Working On Storm-Damaged Trees Can Be Hazardous

BROOKINGS—Working on storm-damaged trees can be hazardous to your health.

That's according to South Dakota Cooperative Extension forestry specialist John Ball, who said the series of major storms the state has faced this summer, along with heavy rains, can lead to hazardous conditions for people working on downed or damaged trees.

"The combination of strong winds and saturated soils has toppled many trees, and tall evergreens particularly have been affected," said Ball. "Countless other large trees have suffered snapped trunks or limbs and either need to be removed or heavily pruned."

Ball cautioned homeowners to use extreme care when attempting storm cleanup of trees and other woody vegetation.

"Tree work, as performed by arborists, is listed among the most hazardous professions in the U.S., and working with storm-damaged trees only compounds the risk," Ball said. "Homeowners are often unaware of the hazardous nature of the work or the unpredictable nature of storm-damaged trees accidents, some of which can be fatal. People sometimes attempt to perform tree cleanup work that would be better left to professional arborists."

Each year, homeowners are seriously injured or killed while working on storm-damaged trees. These accidents range from chainsaw kick-back lacerations to falling limbs or trees striking workers.

"There are more than 40,000 emergency room visits each year by homeowners working with chainsaws," said Ball. "Not only do they injure themselves in their efforts to clean up the damage, but they sometimes injure others, particularly children who are standing nearby watching the work."

For all these reasons, homeowners are strongly advised to use professional arborists for cleaning up storm damage. Ball said that in some cases, if the homeowner believes they are capable of performing the work, they should consider a few points before picking up the saw.

"Do not perform the work if any part of the tree is within 10

feet of an electrical power line or any line capable of becoming energized, including cable and telephone lines on poles," Ball said. "All power lines carry fatal voltages and the dark covering on the lines is not meant as insulation. If any portion of the tree, even a single branch, is within 10 feet of the wires or the potential arc of the falling tree could come within that zone, do not perform any pruning or removal. Instead, call a professional arborist."

Professional workers have the training required to work in the vicinity of power lines, Ball said.

"We also remind people to avoid operating any power equipment from a ladder. Arborists will suspend themselves in trees with the use of special harnesses and ropes or work from aerial lifts," said Ball. "Ladders are not stable platforms for pruning or removing trees and homeowners have suffered severe injuries when a falling branch knocks the ladder out from under them."

For people who are operating chainsaws, Ball recommends only doing so from the ground while wearing the proper personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as PPE.

"The essential PPE for operating a chainsaw includes a helmet, eye protection, hearing protection, leg protection, and cut-resistant boots," Ball said. "A helmet provides protection from falling branches and debris, a common source of injury while working around trees. Most severe injuries in tree felling are not from chainsaws, but from broken branches hitting the operator. Helmets designed for tree work can provide protection from the impact of small flying objects."

A helmet should come with a mesh visor and earmuff. The earmuff will prevent hearing loss that can occur from operating loud power equipment. Sounds more than 85 decibels (dB) are considered potentially hazardous.

"The recommendation from EPA is to limit unprotected exposure to sounds of 106 dB to less than 23 seconds a day, and chainsaws under load may operate at more than 110 dB," said Ball. "Most of the time, you're probably not going to get a lot

of wood cut in 23 seconds, so hearing protection is essential for long-term health. Hearing loss is gradual and usually painless, but also permanent. It's not treatable, but it is 100 percent preventable. A muff, soft plugs, or banded plugs all provide good protection, but only if you use them."

Chainsaw users also should consider eye protection and protection for their limbs. "Specialized eyewear that includes wrap-around protection to keep splinters from reaching the eye from the side is important, and since almost 40 percent of chainsaw injuries occur on the legs, protecting this part of the body makes perfect sense," Ball said. "One big difference between pros and homeowners is the severity of chainsaw cuts. Professionals commonly wear leg protection, but homeowners rarely do. Chaps provide excellent protection but they only resist cuts. They are not cut-proof."

Ball said most leg protection is designed to jam the chain against the bar, but only when the chain is moving at less-than-maximum speed.

"A chainsaw running at full speed may still penetrate the protection and move quickly into the leg, and that's why professional chaps work to stop injuries from becoming severe," said Ball. "The chain hits the outer shell first, it moves through this layer very quickly, then it hits the safety pad beneath and usually snags in this fuzzy material. It's designed to wad up and clogs the chain and sprocket."

Leg protection should extend down to the user's feet, to include boots. Chaps should overlap the boots by a couple of inches.

Ball said homeowners who do embark on their own tree work should never work alone. "Always have someone around so that if an accident occurs, there is someone to call emergency services," he said. "Tree work is risky enough that you must have someone standing by in case something goes wrong. That fact alone should remind people that when in doubt, or when unable to procure the proper gear to complete a job safely, it's time to call a professional."

to declare a "force majeure" and prevents any new sales from being made. It is anticipated, this ban will effect as much as 600,000 mts of Russian wheat sales that are already sold to Egypt, but not yet shipped.

In the U.S., traders are hoping the United States will be able to fill the missing void of EU wheat exports with wheat from the United States and thus trim U.S. ending stocks. Funds have covered their once large net short position and are, as of the August 6 COT report, now 20,542 contracts net long. This represents a buying spree of 69,425 contracts in only five weeks.

How high will wheat prices go is a popular question. Weekly charts have major resistance around \$7.50. If wheat can close above this level, the 2008 highs of

\$9.47 are the next objective.

For producers, marketing year's wheat crop and next year's well makes good marketing sense.

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Update From The Brhel Farm

BY RITA BRHEL

P&D Correspondent



Rita Brhel

for this winter when the weather is too nasty to let the chickens out free-range or when we're gone for a couple days and I don't want any critters to get them. It's slow going, as we don't have the money to buy all the supplies at once, but I know it'll be a great shelter when it's done.

We're still enjoying more eggs than we need, and give away the extras to grateful family and friends. We're also still milking the goats and get a half gallon or so from the two goats who haven't dried up yet. And we'll be picking up two lambs from the butcher shop in another week or so. The garden had a hard year. We got a lot of cherries off our tree and a lot of green beans for a while there, but the corn was small, the zucchini and cucumbers and yellow squash light, and the peas nonexistent. We're currently getting potatoes, peppers and tomatoes.

We spend our days inside, hiding from the high humidity and heat, waiting for an evening cool-down that never seems to come. I take the kids to the community swimming pool to get some relief and to get out of the house. The kids don't seem to mind this weather, going out frequently to ride bicycles, hold kittens or run around in the pastures without a care in the world.

But my husband and I certainly do mind this humid, hot summer we're having and are secretly looking forward to a cooler fall — though, by that time, we'll be a little sad because that means the warm weather is going away and winter, with its bitter chill, will soon be here. So, it's hard to know how to think — to want cooler weather but to not want what will inevitably follow.

And there's no telling what the fall will be like. It could be an Indian summer, or it could go right from a hot summer into a cold winter, with no transition at all. It'd be nice, though, for all of us if we could have a little drier, little cooler autumn and a couple months of enjoyable weather.

"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

CHIEF SEATTLE, 1854

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