

MIDWEST DIGEST

Air Force Issues Report On Training Airspace

PIERRE (AP) — The U.S. Air Force has issued a draft environmental impact statement on its plans to expand the airspace in which it can conduct training exercises with its B-1 and B-52 bombers stationed in the Dakotas.

The draft outlines potential impacts dealing with noise, air quality, the use of land and the effect on both ground and air safety. The Air Force will hold a series of meetings to get public comment in South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

The Powder River Training Complex is centered just northwest of where South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana meet. The Air Force wants to expand the training area for B-1B Lancers from South Dakota's Ellsworth Air Force Base and B-52 Stratofortress bombers from North Dakota's Minot Air Force Base.

S.D. Won't Use All Of Health Premiums Grant

PIERRE (AP) — Gov. Mike Rounds says South Dakota will use only about half of the federal grant the state has been awarded to monitor health insurance premium increases.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on Monday announced that South Dakota would get \$1 million as part of grants nationwide through the federal health care reform law enacted earlier this year.

The government says the goal is to help states improve oversight of insurance premiums and crack down on those that are excessive.

Rounds said Friday that South Dakota applied for about \$585,000, and that is all that will be spent. He said he won't waste federal funds just because they're available.

S.D. Red Meat Production Down From June

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Agriculture Department says commercial red meat production for South Dakota totaled 72.9 million pounds during July, down 12 percent from June but up 23 percent from the previous year.

July pork production was up but sheep and lamb production was down over the year.

Commercial hog slaughter in South Dakota totaled 329,600 head, compared to 259,500 head in July 2009.

Ethanol Spill Reported At Neb. Plant

WOOD RIVER, Neb. (AP) — Officials say about 8,000 gallons of ethanol spilled out of a tank at an ethanol plant in Wood River.

Assistant Chief Roger Dvorak of the Wood River Fire Department says fire crews were called to BioFuel Energy ethanol plant a little before 4 a.m. Thursday.

Dvorak says a temporary storage tank had overflowed. The ethanol reached a drainage ditch but never left the plant property.

Dvorak says nearby U.S. Highway 30 and a railroad line were shut down as a precaution, because ethanol fumes were being blown their way. The highway and rail line were closed about two hours.

He says BioFuel Energy would be conducting the cleanup.

School Of Mines Has Record Funding

RAPID CITY (AP) — Researchers at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology were awarded a school record \$35.3 million in funding during fiscal 2010.

The amount includes awards from state and federal agencies, corporations and congressional appropriations. It was a dramatic increase from \$21 million the previous fiscal year.

President Robert Wharton says the record showcases the caliber of research at the school.

90 Become U.S. Citizens At Mount Rushmore

RAPID CITY (AP) — Ninety people became U.S. citizens in a ceremony at Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Officials say Thursday's event was the largest naturalization ceremony in South Dakota history. The new Americans originally came from 36 countries, from China to Guatemala to Nigeria.

Representatives of U.S. District Court, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the South Dakota Army National Guard all took part.

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Recall Expands To More Than Half A Billion Eggs

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — More than a half-billion eggs have been recalled in the nationwide investigation of a salmonella outbreak that Friday expanded to include a second Iowa farm. The outbreak has already sickened more than 1,000 people and the toll of illnesses is expected to increase.

Iowa's Hillandale Farms said Friday it was recalling more than 170 million eggs after laboratory tests confirmed salmonella. The company did not say if its action was connected to the recall by Wright County Egg, another Iowa farm that recalled 380 million eggs earlier this week. The latest recall puts the total number of potentially tainted eggs at about 550 million.

FDA spokeswoman Pat El-Hinnawy said the two recalls are related. The strain of salmonella bacteria causing the poisoning is the same in both cases, salmonella enteritidis.

Federal officials say it's one of the largest egg recalls in recent history. Americans consume about 220 million eggs a day, based on industry estimates. Iowa is the leading egg producing state.

The eggs recalled Friday were distributed under the brand names Hillandale Farms,

Sunny Farms, Sunny Meadow, Wholesome Farms and West Creek. The new recall applies to eggs sold between April and August.

Hillandale said the eggs were distributed to grocery distribution centers, retail groceries and food service companies which service or are located in fourteen states, including Arkansas, California, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Thoroughly cooking eggs can kill the bacteria. But health officials are recommending people throw away or return the recalled eggs.

A food safety expert at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., said the source of the outbreak could be rodents, shipments of contaminated hens, or tainted feed. Microbiology professor Patrick McDonough said he was not surprised to hear about two recalls involving different egg companies, because in other outbreaks there have also been multiple sources.

Both plants could have a rodent problem, or both plants could have gotten hens that were already infected, or feed that was contaminated.

"You need biosecurity of the hen house, you want a rodent control program and you want to have hens put into that environment that are

salmonella free," McDonough said.

The salmonella bacteria is not passed from hen to hen, but usually from rodent droppings to chickens, he added. This strain of bacteria is found inside a chicken's ovaries, and gets inside an egg.

CDC officials said Thursday that the number of illnesses related to the outbreak is expected to grow. That's because illnesses occurring after mid-July may not be reported yet, said Dr. Christopher Braden, an epidemiologist with the federal Centers for Disease Control.

Almost 2,000 illnesses from the strain of salmonella linked to both recalls were reported between May and July, almost 1,300 more than usual, Braden said. No deaths have been reported. The CDC is continuing to receive information from state health departments as people report their illnesses.

The most common symptoms of salmonella are diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever within eight hours to 72 hours of eating a contaminated product. It can be life-threatening, especially to those with weakened immune systems.

The form of salmonella tied to the outbreak can be passed from chickens that appear healthy. And it grows inside eggs, not just on the shell, Braden noted.

Hyperion Says Refinery Still Planned For 2015

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Hyperion Resources says it does not expect the poor economy to derail plans to have a \$10 billion oil refinery operating in southeast South Dakota by 2015.

The statement Thursday came in response to South Dakota governor candidates Dennis Daugaard and Scott Heidepriem both saying this week that they are unsure whether the plant will be built, in part because financing the project might be difficult.

Hyperion spokesman Eric Williams said the Dallas-based company is not commenting on specifics of the financing but that in the past six weeks there has been "a real uptick in inquiries from potential investors, wanting to be ahead of the curve when the economy does come back."

"Remember, our startup is scheduled for 2015, so the economy has substantial time to become more robust before we're producing ultra-low-sulfur gas and diesel," he said. "Investors see that as an opportunity."

The Hyperion refinery on 3,800 acres of farmland near Elk Point would process 400,000 barrels of Canadian crude a day. It would be the first new U.S. oil refinery built since 1976.

Opponents worry about its effects on the environment, and not just in South Dakota.

The head of Iowa's Department of Natural Resources recently asked South Dakota officials to study the environmental effects in that state of the proposed refinery. Iowa DNR Director Richard Leopold acknowledged South Dakota is under no obligation to do so but that it made sense to assess the impact of the project on the air, water and land of northwest Iowa.

Hyperion said numerous issues being raised by Leopold already have been addressed. South Dakota's Department of Environment and Natural Resources did not immediately respond to Iowa's request.

South Dakota's Board of Minerals and Environment granted an air quality permit for the refinery last August. The Sierra Club and two local groups have filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn the permit, saying it does not address some environmental issues.

S.D., Neb. Among Lowest In Jobless Rates

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Unemployment fell in fewer states in July than in the previous three months, a sign that the pace of job growth has slowed.

The jobless rate dropped in 18 states and Washington, D.C. last month, the Labor Department said Friday. It rose in 14 states and stayed the same in 18. That's a slowdown from the past three months when unemployment fell in more than 30 states.

The states with the lowest jobless rates last month were North Dakota, at 3.6 percent; South Dakota, at 4.4 percent; and

Nebraska, at 4.7 percent. Nationwide, the unemployment rate remained stuck at 9.5 percent in July.

The report suggests many states are seeing less improvement in the job market than earlier this year. But there were positive signs that indicate the recovery hasn't stalled out.

Thirty-seven states saw job gains in July, an improvement from June but below the 41 states that gained jobs in May. That occurred even as many states lost temporary census jobs. Overall, 143,000 census jobs across the country ended in July. Private employers, meanwhile, added 71,000 jobs last month.

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7:00pm
Clay County Park Rodeo Arena
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Followed by Fireworks from Fireworks Unlimited Inc.
Dance with music provided by Riata Band

Friday, Aug. 27 • 7pm
FREE Admission, unloading of the bulls at Rodeo Grounds. Hog Roast will be served at \$5 per plate.

Saturday, Aug 28 • 11am-1pm
Bull Stops Here! at the Hy-Vee parking lot in Vermillion. There will be bulls, bull fighters, clowns, bull riders, horse rides, giveaways, raffles. Registration for Mutton Busting and Steer Rides.

Saturday, Aug 28 • 7pm
17th Annual **BULL-A-RAMA**

Sunday, Aug. 29 • 9am
Cowboy Church Service

Sunday, Aug. 29 • 11am
Take the trail ride along the Missouri River with lunch to follow. Free-will donation.

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