

Legislators Delay Expansion Of S.D. Raw-Milk Regulations

BY BOB MERCER
 State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The Legislature's rules review committee refused to give final clearance Tuesday to broader regulations sought by the state Agriculture Department over South Dakota's handful of dairies that generate raw milk for retail sale.

The panel voted 3-2 to send the proposed rules back because the small-business financial impact statement wasn't adequately researched.

The next steps — whether to gather actual data and make another attempt before the panel — are up to the agency.

The rule-making process began in April and has already gone through two public hearings and a significant rewriting of the proposal to scale back the scope to raw milk only when it is offered for sale.

The original proposal would have covered all raw milk including for on-farm consumption.

State regulations already require labeling as raw milk. The key point in the proposed rules calls for additional labeling information such as the date of production by the dairy. Five dairies currently produce raw milk for retail sale.

The two producers who testified Tuesday via videoconference from Spearfish however said they weren't contacted by the department about the



Hunhoff

potential additional expenses for putting more information on the labels.

"I was certainly never asked how much it would cost me," said Lila Streff, who operates the Black Hills Goat Dairy in the rural

Custer area.

Dawn Habeck said the cost to her family's dairy near Belle Fourche would be \$12,000 to \$15,000 to buy new glass jars, and \$1 per label per jug each time one is filled, to fulfill the proposed labeling requirements.

"It will be very difficult to fit that on the jars and bottles we have," Habeck said.

Courtney De La Rosa, a lawyer for the department, said raw-milk products were purchased and labeling methods were tested on that packaging both warm and cold.

She said the experiments were used to conclude there wouldn't be any significant cost.

"The bottles they're using right now would be sufficient," De La Rosa said.

Sen. Jean Hunhoff, R-Yankton, said she wasn't comfortable with the proposals because of the unknown costs and because she couldn't tell from the department's presentation which regulations would be new and which are currently in place.

Hunhoff questioned whether the ad-

ditional rules would be so onerous that they would discourage agriculture and opportunity.

Rep. Peggy Gibson, D-Huron, spoke in favor of the rule changes. "It's inexpensive and it's necessary for South Dakota citizens to maintain good health," Gibson said. "It is my right to be able to know what I'm consuming as well."

The state Health Department prefers that raw milk isn't sold in South Dakota because the non-pasteurized product can more easily spread illness.

"I believe it is our responsibility to put these in place," said Rep. Ann Hajek, R-Sioux Falls.

Rep. Timothy Johns, R-Lead, initially opposed the rules because he didn't believe state laws gave the authority to the secretary of agriculture to regulate raw milk. He later withdrew those comments but voted against letting the rules take effect.

The split votes came down to Sen. Mike Vehle, R-Mitchell, who voted against the regulations. He said costs might increase but more labeling information would be a positive development for raw-milk producers if problems need to be tracked down.

The panel then voted 3-2 to send the proposed rules back to the department for more work on the financial question.

In other action Tuesday, the panel cleared school-sentinel training rules, grain-warehouse rule changes and most of the school-bus inspection changes.

Crop Development Continues To Lag

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The winter wheat harvest and the development of row crops continue to lag behind last year's pace in South Dakota.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop and weather report that the past week was marked by continued below-normal temperatures.

Eighty-seven percent of the state's winter wheat crop is in the bin, compared with 98 percent on average and 100 percent last year.

The report says the late-season corn, soybean and sunflower crops in South Dakota all are behind last year's pace and the average in their development.

Crew Names Released From B-1B Crash

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE (AP) — The Air Force has released the names of the four South Dakota crew members who safely ejected from a B-1B bomber that crashed in Montana.

Maj. Frank Biancardi II and Capt. Curtis Michael were the instructor pilots on board. Capt. Chad Nishizuka and Capt. Brandon Packard were weapons system instructors.

Their hometowns were not released. All four suffered injuries and are being treated or already have been released.

Investigators are trying to determine the cause of Monday's crash near Broadus, Mont., about 170 miles southeast of Billings, Mont.

The bomber and crew were part of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City, which has 28 of the planes, including the one that crashed.

They remained grounded until maintenance and operations commanders ensure they're safe.

Woman Pleads Guilty To Theft From Gov't

PIERRE (AP) — A Pierre woman has pleaded guilty to stealing from the federal government.

Thirty-seven-year-old Brandis Rose was accused of misappropriating more than \$8,700 while working in 2009 for South Dakota CARES, an organization affiliated with the federal Social Security Administration.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says Rose will be sentenced Oct. 28 on the charge of theft of government funds. She could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Woman Sent To Prison For Scam

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Kansas woman who scammed a Sioux Falls man out of \$161,000 has been sentenced to 1 1/2 years in prison.

The *Argus Leader* reports Holly Foster told federal Judge Karen Schreier that her actions took place in a "cloud of addiction," but the judge and Foster's victim rejected that reasoning.

Authorities say the 34-year-old Foster, of Derby, Kan., scammed the father of her then-boyfriend in 2011 and 2012 with a bogus story that she had stomach cancer and could repay his financial help out of a pending \$5.3 million inheritance.

The victim cashed in his retirement account, borrowed money from friends, and took out title loans on two vehicles and a second mortgage on his home to support Foster. Schreier ordered Foster to pay back the money.

SD Billboards Reach Out To Non-Theistic

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A national effort to reach out to atheists and agnostics is showing up on some South Dakota billboards.

The South Dakota Coalition of Reason says it's a group of seven non-theistic groups that used funding from its national organization and an anonymous donor to put up the billboards.

They're located in Brookings, Vermillion, Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Spearfish and will be up until Sept. 15.

The group says the campaign is part of a nationwide program started in 2009 that has spread to 33 other states and the District of Columbia.

The national group's director says the goal is let humanists, atheists and agnostics know they're not alone.

Man Wants To Erect Christ Statue In Spearfish

SPEARFISH (AP) — A real estate entrepreneur in Spearfish wants to erect a large statue of Jesus Christ on city-owned land high upon a hillside.

Randy Williams asked the City Council this week to consider scheduling a public meeting to see what residents think of the idea, the *Black Hills Pioneer* reported.

"We are inviting public involvement, and I just want people to know that I understand this is kind of a controversial subject, but we are open to alternatives if this isn't what people want," Williams said. "We believe this is the ideal location (for the statue), but that doesn't mean that is exactly where it has to be located. The vision could evolve and be modified depending on what comes of these discussions."

If the support is there for the statue, which would be taller than 35 feet, he will create a nonprofit to provide \$100,000 of his own money

to the project, Williams said. "It is our intention to have a worldwide competition to create a grand sculpture form of Christ and choose the best one," he said.

Williams last year bought a nearby 6,000-seat amphitheater that hosted the Black Hills Passion Play for nearly 70 years. The play that attracted millions of visitors for summer productions between 1939 and the last performance in 2008 recreated the last seven days of Christ. Williams bought the amphitheater but not the play production.

Some City Council members have raised concerns about whether a Christ

statue on city land might violate the separation of church and state.

"That doesn't mean my mind is closed on this. I just want you to know that there

is a lot of doubt out there," Councilman Doug Schmit said, referring to comments he has heard from others. The idea to construct a statue of Christ in or near Spearfish is not new, according to Williams. A nonprofit organization in the 1960s sought funding for a statue that was to be created by Lincoln Borglum, son of Mount Rushmore sculptor Gutzon Borglum, with a design that his father created. Josef Meier, founder and producer of the Black Hills Pas-

sion Play, worked to promote the proposed statue. Had it been completed, Spearfish would have joined Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Corpus Christi, Texas, among other cities, as home to a grand sculpture depicting Christ.

Williams said the issue of separation of church and state is a legitimate concern, but he at least wants public discussion about his idea. "Setting aside the divinity question and the religious aspects, this man (Christ) had more impact on this world than any man that has ever lived," he said. City Attorney Dick Pluimer said he will look into the possibility of a public meeting.

"I think having an honest discussion and inviting public feedback is always a good idea and we'll just see where it leads. But it will be interesting," City Council President Paul Young said.

Kid Scoop

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Kid Scoop Puzzler

How Big Was The World's Largest Lobster?

Count the number of times each object below appears on this page. Then write the number above that object to get the answer.

More than pounds.

Between and feet long.

It may have been years old.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Following simple directions.

Weekly Writing Corner

Life With Claws

What would your life be like if you had lobster claws instead of hands.

If I had claws like a lobster I don't think I would be able to eat. How would I hold a fork? I would not be able to pick up my food and I would starve.

Lily, 2nd grade

Life with claws would be hard. I don't think I would be able to put on my clothes. I would trip over my big claws and hurt myself. I would be able to reach things in high places and everyone would be afraid of me. I would be able to cut things in half. But it wouldn't be fun to have claws instead of hands.

Kathryn, 4th grade

I would like to have one claw and one hand. That way I could do everything I need to do with my hand but I would also have a strong claw for fighting and no one would come near me because they would not want to get in the way of my claw.

Rob, 4th grade

It would be interesting to have claws instead of hands. I would be able to grab onto things and bring them in close. But it would be OK for a day or so but then I think I would want my hands back. Hands are much more clever for reaching and picking up stuff.

Colin, 3rd grade

The Claw!

Strong claws and a hard outer shell make the American lobster one tough crustacean. It is aggressive and territorial. Whenever it can, it steals bait from traps and food from the homes of other lobsters. This has earned lobsters a nickname.

Little Lost Lobster

Help Leroy find his way (safely!) to the family reunion.

During its first month of life, a lobster is part of the plankton (clouds of tiny plant particles and sea creatures floating in the water near the surface). Most lobsters are eaten by fish and other animals at this stage of life.

Over Easy

A lobster starts life as an egg, no larger than the head of a pin. Its mother carries it around on the underside of her body.

DANGER! Lobsters are a favorite food of the octopus!

Bone Body

It doesn't take x-ray vision to see a lobster's skeleton. The lobster wears its bones on the outside. That crusty outer shell of bones is what gives lobsters, crabs and shrimp the name crustaceans.

A Really Big Bug?

All crustaceans belong to a bigger group of animals called **Arthropoda**, which include spiders, insects, scorpions and horseshoe crabs!

ARTHROPODA FAMILY REUNION

What's Cooking?

Americans eat over 10,000 tons of lobster every year.

Standards Link: Life Science: Understanding the life cycle of different organisms; living groups of organisms can be classified by shared characteristics; animals eat other animals for food; animals have structures that serve different functions in survival. Reading comprehension: Follow simple directions.

Claw Facts

Lobsters also use their claws to fight with each other. If one fighter gets another into a claw-lock, the loser can "throw" (or release) its claw and walk away. Lobsters are cannibals; the winner will eat the dropped claw. The loser will grow a new claw the next time it molts (sheds its shell and grows a new one).

A fight has left Leroy feeling loopy and lopsided! Help him "grow" a new claw by drawing it.

Word Clipping

Look through the newspaper for five different contractions — two words that are clipped and made into one word. Then look through the newspaper for the two whole words that made up each contraction you selected.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Word Recognition: read and understand contractions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

R	T	C	S	R	E	D	I	P	S
I	P	L	A	N	K	T	O	N	K
P	N	O	Y	B	G	R	O	W	E
P	W	U	G	G	E	E	G	D	L
E	A	D	U	T	K	H	U	M	E
R	L	S	S	M	O	S	B	O	T
N	C	B	A	I	T	U	Q	L	O
R	O	L	S	B	A	R	C	T	N
L	O	O	P	Y	L	C	T	S	P

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

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Write Like a Lobster

Imagine you had claws instead of hands. Instead of writing messages with a pencil or pen, you have to use your claws to cut out letters and words. Use the newspaper to create a friendly lobster message by cutting out letters and words and pasting them onto a piece of paper.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Following directions; creating sentences and phrases; spelling common sight words.

Write On!

Tips For Kids

Can you give other kids some tips on how to save money?

Send your story to:
 Press & Dakotan
 C/o Noelle Schlechter
 319 Walnut Street
 Yankton, SD 57078
 605-665-7811, ext 112

Deadline: September 15 Published: Week of Oct. 13
 Please include your school and grade.