



Sombke Elected SD Farmers Union Head

HURON — Doug Sombke was elected by the members of South Dakota Farmers Union to serve a sixth term during the organization's centennial convention held in Huron Dec. 9-10.

"I feel truly honored to serve the membership of this great organization — these are South Dakota's farmers, ranchers and rural citizens," explained Sombke, a fourth generation Conde crop and cattle farmer who has served as the organization's president since 2005.

As president of one of South Dakota's largest agriculture organizations, Sombke spends his days traveling across the state and nation advocating for family farms, ranches and rural communities, while his three now-grown sons manage the day-to-day farming operations of the family farm. All three sons also operate independent businesses which helps the farm sustain four families.

"It's the next generation of young farmers and ranchers who inspire me — our state's economic future rests in their hands because agriculture is our number one industry. They are the reason I put my all into this role each and every day," Sombke explains. "When I was first asked to serve as President 10 years ago, the timing could not have been better. My sons were ready to become more active on the farm."

Since becoming president 10 years ago, the organization's membership numbers have soared, reaching a 20-year high of 17,000 in 2015.



Sombke

First Dakota Hosts AgriVisions Jan. 6

First Dakota National Bank will host AgriVisions 2016 featuring Dr. David Kohl on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at Best Western Kelly Inn, 1607 East Highway 50, Yankton, with registration beginning at 6:30 p.m. and Dr. Kohl presenting at 7 p.m. Farmers, Agri-Business professionals and business owners are invited to attend.

The great commodity super cycle is in the rear view mirror. The economic transition is in full gear. The duration is unknown and will be very dependent upon global and domestic economic variables. How does one position your business to navigate the economic white waters and capitalize on opportunities that will arise? What are key management and financial practices that will not only keep your business resilient or agile in these times of economic uncertainty with a surprise around every corner?

Nate Franzen, president of First Dakota's Agri-Business Division, states, "Mark Wednesday, Jan. 6, on your calendar and plan to attend AgriVisions 2016. Dr. David Kohl is a highly respected and accomplished Ag Economist. He will offer tips and tidbits for your business, family, and personal lives. His extensive knowledge and understanding of the agriculture industry will enlighten and entertain. Plan to join us at AgriVisions 2016."

For 25 years, Dr. David Kohl was Professor of Agricultural Finance and Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. Kohl retired from teaching in 2003 and is a Professor Emeritus with Virginia Tech. He received his MS and PhD degrees from Cornell University. Dr. Kohl has hosted more than 6,000 workshops and seminars for various agricultural groups. He has published four books and 1,200 articles on financial and business related topics. He has received 11 major teaching awards.

AgriVisions 2016 begins with registration from 6:30-7 p.m. and Dr. Kohl's presentation at 7 p.m. An ice cream social will follow the presentation. Call 605-665-4904 or 800-657-5826, to reserve a seat.

2016 SDSU Beef 20/20 Slated Jan. 6-8

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension staff together with the South Dakota State University Animal Science Department faculty and staff are gearing up to host the 2016 BEEF 20/20 program Jan. 6-8, 2016, on the SDSU campus in Brookings.

"BEEF 20/20 is designed to provide an intensive, hands-on, educational opportunity to enhance the understanding of the production and marketing of high quality, high value beef," said Keith Underwood, SDSU Associate Professor of Meat Science.

Attendees do not need to be cattle producers to attend the program. "Anyone affiliated with the beef industry - producers, allied industry representatives, locker operators, restaurateurs, retailers - is welcome," said Amanda Blair, Associate Professor & SDSU Extension Meat Science Specialist.

The 2016 program will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 6 and will end at noon Jan. 8. Due to the intensive, hands-on nature of the program, registration is limited to the first 30 participants that contact Amanda Blair to register. Registration deadline is Dec. 18, 2015.

Along with informational presentations, the program will include hands-on opportunities with:

- Market Beef Cattle Evaluation: Live animal evaluation is highly subjective, however it is important to know the basic concepts of evaluation from a marketing perspective. Participants in BEEF 20/20 will learn about the aspects of evaluation followed by the opportunity to practice these skills on a group of market cattle.

- Beef Carcass Grading and Pricing: Quality and cut-ability are the primary determinants of beef cattle pricing structures. Understanding how USDA Quality and Yield Grades are determined is critical to understanding how management and genetic decisions affect those grades and how changes could be made to improve product quality and consistency.

- Beef Carcass Fabrication: BEEF 20/20 participants will experience the process of breaking a side of beef into wholesale (loin, rib, round, chuck, etc.) and retail cuts (ribeye steaks, sirloin roasts, etc.) in a hands-on fabrication workshop. Understanding where different cuts of beef come from, best cooking methods for various cuts and value differences between carcasses enable participants to become better educated about beef selection and in turn will allow them to share this information with consumers.

BEEF 20/20 is sponsored in part by the South Dakota Beef Industry Council through the beef checkoff.

For more information or to register, contact Amanda Blair (605) 394-2236 or amanda.blair@sdsu.edu.

NOAA: El Nino Drives Warmer Temps Through Spring 2016

BROOKINGS — A near-record strong El Nino has brought warmer than average temperatures to South Dakota throughout December. According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Dec. 17 Climate Outlook, the trend is forecast to continue until spring 2016, said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

"Several records have already been tied or broken this month, with high minimum temperatures across the region," Edwards said.

Statewide approximately 59 new daily records were set between Dec. 9-13, 2015.

"On Dec. 10 alone, 35 new records were set for high minimum temperatures all across the state, from Pactola Dam to Sisseton," Edwards said.

She added that three stations tied their all-time minimum temperature

for all Decembers on record: Vermilion with 49 degrees on Dec. 8; Roscoe with 35 on Dec. 9; and Selby with 36 on Dec. 9.

"The outlook for January and the next three months shows a continued trend of warmer than average temperatures across the northern states," said Dennis Today, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist. "Despite a cool-down over the next couple of days in South Dakota, the region is forecast to warm up again by the end of the month. Even these cooler days are just a little below average."

For precipitation, there are some increased chances of moisture to pass through our area in the next couple of weeks. "Most of the lower 48 states are favored to be slightly wetter than average, with the eastern states in the Ohio River and Tennessee Valley areas with

the highest likelihood of wetter conditions," Today said.

Looking further ahead, the climate outlook shows drier conditions favored over the northern Rockies and the Great Lakes. "South Dakota again straddles a region to the north that is forecast to be drier than average, and a region to the south that is favored to be wetter than average in Nebraska and across the southern Plains," Today said.

Edwards added that the main agricultural impacts the team is watching currently include winter wheat condition and the muddy conditions for feedlot cattle. "With continued warm temperatures and wetter soils, there are muddy conditions causing some feedlot difficulties. Winter wheat is being monitored because inconsistent snow cover could expose this year's crop to frost damage if snow is not present," Edwards said.

SDSU Extension: Keeping Your Livestock Vaccines Viable

BROOKINGS — Vaccines are a vital part of keeping all livestock healthy, explained Tracey Erickson, SDSU Extension Dairy Field Specialist.

"Vaccines help in the prevention of disease which results in less utilization of antibiotics due to fewer sick animals," she said.

However, Erickson explained there are multiple factors influencing immunity, including but not limited to: medical history, vaccine type, method of administration, age and species being vaccinated.

"Vaccines provide protective immunity approximately 21 days following the initial vaccination in the majority of livestock. Some vaccines may require booster vaccination(s) to ensure immunity for the period designated by the manufacturer. A valid Vet-Client-Patient relationship will help you as you select the vaccine of choice for your livestock health program," Erickson said.

Most livestock owners are utilizing one of two types of vaccines: inactivated ("killed") vaccines, which contain bacteria or viruses inactivated by heat or chemicals, or modified-live virus (MLV) vaccines, which contain whole viruses altered in such a way that, while they are able to multiply within the body, their ability to cause disease has been taken away.

VACCINE VIABILITY

Vaccines are only as effective as their proteins, Erickson explained. "Proteins are the major components of the organisms that make up both killed and MLV vaccines. Proteins are denatured by the interaction of two major factors; time and

temperature," she said.

She added that most common disinfectants will render modified live organisms inactive.

"So the anti-bacterial soap or even city or rural water, which contains chlorine, can have an effect on vaccines, when residues are present in your syringes or transfer needles. Thus, rinse with distilled water which is near the boiling point," she said.

Other considerations for handling, storing and using vaccines are as follows:

- Purchasing and use considerations of vaccines: Check expiration dates and make sure you can use it before it expires. For MLV vaccines purchase a smaller dose instead of larger dose vials, which will enable using the vaccine in a shorter time period. Also, Erickson reminds livestock producers to purchase an adequate number of needles and plan on replacing the needle about every 5-10 head of cattle.

- Do not straighten a bent needle, replace it.

- Transporting and storing vaccines: Check the recommended storage temperature, and use a cooler while transporting and while vaccinating to keep the vaccine at the recommended temperature and also to minimize exposure to sunlight. Check your refrigerator's temperature periodically to assure that it is working properly and is keeping the vaccines at the correct temperature.

- Equipment and work area: Make sure your equipment is clean and rinsed with distilled water to remove any residues. Set up an area for syringes such that they are kept cool, shaded and dust-free while working.

- While working: Keep vaccines in a cooler with ice packs in summer or pos-

sibly hot packs in winter if it is too cold. (Check vaccine labels for proper storage temperature.) If using MLV vaccines, only rehydrate the vials either one at a time or as they are needed. Make sure you are using a clean transfer needle and use only the diluent supplied by the manufacturer to rehydrate the vaccine. Always use a brand-new needle to draw up the vaccine into the syringe. When using needle-free injection systems, or syringes that draw doses from a tube attached to the vaccine bottle, care should be taken to assure the bottle and tubing stay cool and shaded from sunlight.

- No job is done 'til the clean-up: Discard any mixed MLV vaccines that are not used, as they are only viable for about an hour or two after reconstitution. Discard any partial bottles of inactivated vaccine that have been contaminated by dirty needles. Return unmixed MLV and unused inactivated vaccines to proper storage as soon as possible. Clean syringes, transfer needles, and tubing. Make sure to rinse with distilled, boiling water inside and out. Follow the manufacturer's directions on proper cleaning and maintenance of needle-free injection systems. Burn empty vaccine bottles or follow label directions for disposal of containers and needles.

"The success of any livestock vaccination program depends on the effectiveness of the vaccine used," Erickson said. "Vaccines, which in essence are suspensions of biological organisms, will become ineffective if proper storage and handling recommendations are not followed - if they are not followed, livestock producers will have, in essence, wasted a lot of money and time, and have increased the potential for livestock illness and death loss due to disease that might have been avoided."

Soybean Association Unveils Policy, Strategic Plan

ST. LOUIS — The board of directors of the American Soybean Association (ASA) approved a comprehensive strategic plan that will strengthen the organization's efforts on policy and trade. The plan, approved by the ASA board at its annual winter meetings in St. Louis this week, will guide the association's activity to the year 2021.

"We are a proud organization with a long history of driving profitability for our farmer members, and this plan will help ensure that we progress in that role over the next five years," said ASA President Wade Cowan, a farmer from Brownfield, Texas. "In 2020, ASA will celebrate 100 years of championing the issues of soybean farmers, and there is no better way to honor that legacy than by making the strategic changes necessary to ensure our organization is strong and agile for years to come."

The strategic plan will make the following changes with the end goal of focusing the ASA mission more centrally on policy and trade benefiting soybean farmers:

- ASA will add additional policy personnel and resources to the association by shifting resources previously and currently devoted to membership recruitment, partnering with states to invest in ASA's leadership development programs, and restructuring board representation formulas.

- ASA will respond to state affiliate requests to provide total flexibility to states to structure and conduct membership how they believe will be most effective in their states by replacing national membership dues with tiered state affiliate investment levels in the national organization.

- The plan will restructure the ASA Board of Directors and its committees so that the Board spends its time focused on policy and trade issues of importance to soybean farmers.

- ASA will also revise board meeting formats to accomplish the above objectives.

- Finally, ASA will establish, in partnership with states, a Soy Regulatory Issues Coalition to provide analysis and actionable information on the growing list of environmental and regulatory issues we must confront at state and national levels.

"These changes will strengthen ASA's advocacy work, and we'll continue those other focus areas of ASA that allow us to be effective for soybean farmers," said Cowan. "We'll con-

tinue world-class leadership development programs to train leaders and develop spokespersons to engage influencers, state affiliate partnering and collaboration, communications efforts, corporate partnering to leverage the support of industry, Commodity Classic, and ASA leadership in international marketing and trade issues through USSEC and WISHH."

The plan is the product of nearly two years of discussions by an ASA task force comprised of farmer leaders and state and national soybean staff, led by former association president Steve

Wellman, a farmer from Syracuse, Neb.

"This plan was something that we needed to get right. It wasn't quick, and it wasn't easy, but we believe the end product is a roadmap for advancing our success on behalf of the nation's soybean farmers," Wellman said. "We have world-class ideas here at ASA, with farmer-leaders and staff that are motivated and enlightened to bring those ideas to reality. Our strategic plan will help ensure that the nuts and bolts of our association are structured in such a way that enables our strengths to shine."

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