

Group: S.D. Gun Laws Weak

SIoux FALLS (AP) — An organization that advocates for the prevention of gun violence says gun laws in South Dakota rank among the weakest in the nation. The Washington, D.C.-based, nonpartisan Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence says only seven states have less stringent gun laws than South Dakota. The report rates California and New Jersey laws best. The

seven states listed as worse than South Dakota are Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Utah. South Dakota earned only four out of 100 points on a score-card measuring gun laws.

On the Net: Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence: <http://www.brady-campaign.org>

S.D. Cattle Inventory Up 10,000 Head From Feb. 2009

SIoux FALLS (AP) — South Dakota feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head contained 235,000 cattle on feed as of Feb. 1. The South Dakota Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service says the inventory was up 10,000 head from last year. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 335,000 head, down 8,000 head from 2009. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1,000 head, down 2,000 head from last year.

Couple Accused Of Defrauding Banks

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska couple has been charged with scheming to defraud banks of about \$75,000, according to a 23-page indictment. Edward and Jumana Bakhit, who live in the Omaha area, each face 19 counts that include conspiracy, wire fraud and identity theft. In the indictment filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Omaha, the Bakhits are accused of submitting false information on loan and credit card applications between January 1, 2008 and April 1, 2009. Centris Federal Credit Union in Omaha

granted the couple three of those loans, totaling about \$45,000. They defaulted and were unable to surrender vehicles offered as collateral, according to the court documents. The Bakhits also secured a nearly \$28,000 auto loan from Michigan-based Chrysler Financial that was never repaid, the documents said. They also sought loans or credit cards from three banks in Sioux Falls and one in Las Vegas using false information, the court documents said.

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