



**Dimock Farmer Joins Corn Council Board**

SIoux FALLS — Laron Krause of Clear Lake and Jeremiah Freidel of Dimock will join the board of directors of the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council in March.

Krause, 54, will represent Brookings, Codington, Deuel, Hamlin and Kingsbury counties. He succeeds Andy Dupraz of Aurora, who completed his terms on the board.

Krause raises corn, soybeans and wheat and also is a partner in Supreme Pork, a farrow-to-finish operation, for which he finishes hogs. He is a graduate of Clear Lake High School and studied production agriculture at Canby Vo-Tech in Canby, Minn.

He and his wife, Jolene, have three children: Tiffany, Adam and Brent.

Freidel, 31, will represent Bon Homme, Davison, Douglas, Hanson, Hutchinson and McCook counties. He succeeds Mark Gross of Bridgewater, who completed his terms.

Freidel raises mainly corn and soybeans, and some cattle. He is a graduate of Parkston High School and Lake Area Technical Institute, where he studied diesel technology and business management. In addition to farming, he works as a sales consultant at Noteboom Implement in Parkston.

He and his wife, Rachel, have two daughters, Eva and Emeri. Both directors will serve three-year terms.

**Extension For ARC/PLC Programs Set**

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that a one-time extension will be provided to producers for the new safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC).

The final day to update yield history or reallocate base acres has been extended one additional month, from Feb. 27, 2015 until March 31, 2015. The final day for farm owners and producers to choose ARC or PLC coverage also remains March 31, 2015.

"This is an important decision for producers, because these programs provide financial protection against unexpected changes in the marketplace. Producers are working to make the best decision they can. And we're working to ensure that they've got the time, the information, and the opportunities to have those final conversations, review their data and to visit the Farm Service Agency to make those decisions," said Vilsack.

If no changes are made to yield history or base acres by March 31, 2015, the farm's current yield and base will be used. A program choice of ARC or PLC coverage also must be made by March 31, 2015, or there will be no 2014 payments for the farm and the farm will default to PLC coverage through the 2018 crop year.

"These are complex decisions, which is why we launched a strong education and outreach campaign back in September. Now we're providing a one-time extension of an additional month so that every producer is fully prepared to enroll in this program," said Vilsack.

Nationwide, more than 2.9 million educational postcards, in English and Spanish, have been sent to producers, and over 4,100 training sessions have been conducted on the new safety-net programs. The online tools, available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc), allow producers to explore projections on how ARC or PLC coverage will affect their operation under possible future scenarios.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. To learn more, farmers can contact their local Farm Service Agency county office.

To find your local office visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

**Funds Available For Spec. Crop Projects**

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) announces federal funds are available for specialty crop projects.

Organizations involved in the South Dakota specialty crop industry can now apply for select federal funding of projects that enhance the competitiveness of fruits, dried fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, nursery crops and horticulture.

The funds can be used for marketing, promotion, research, food safety, nutrition, distribution and best management practices to advance the specialty crop industry. Projects must benefit more than one product or organization and must solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in South Dakota. Projects that solely benefit one grower, individual or product will not be funded.

"Production of specialty crops in the state continues to be on the rise," said Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch. "These funds allow us to support this growing market in South Dakota agriculture."

These federal funds are part of the Specialty Crop Block Grant, a program funded through the Farm Bill. SDDA has established the following priority areas:

- Marketing and promotion
- University research
- Industry education
- Local foods initiatives

Applications may be submitted for projects outside of the priority areas. All applications are due to SDDA by April 4.

For program guidelines, application forms or other Specialty Crop Block Grant Program information, call 605.626.3272 or visit <http://sdda.sd.gov/grants/specialty-crop-block-grant/>.

# Ethanol: Full Steam Ahead

## New Ethanol Study Points To Many Benefits But Also Challenges

BY RITA BRHEL  
P&D Correspondent

**T**he ethanol industry has heard more than its fair share of criticism during the past couple of years, from competing interests of fuel versus food production, to the loss of pasture and hay stands due to conversion to row crop land, to engineering conundrums of how to get automobiles' engines up to speed on using fuel with higher amounts of gasoline.

But the ethanol industry continues to steam ahead, producing a record 14.3 billion gallons last year, an increase of 7.4 percent from 2013, proving that biofuels indeed has a place to stay in the American landscape.

"The ethanol industry has certainly fueled demand growth for corn for nearly a decade now, but it has also been an incredible engine for growth throughout the U.S. economy as well," said Jeff Sandborn, ethanol chair for the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and a farmer near Portland, Mich.

A new study released by the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) confirms this, he added. "This study offers the quantifiable data to clearly demonstrate the importance of today's ethanol industry for all Americans."

Included in the study, the ethanol industry was responsible for more than 83,000 direct and 295,000-plus indirect jobs during 2014, adding \$26.7 billion. Ethanol also stimulated state and local economies last year by generating \$10.3 billion in taxes.

All in all, the ethanol industry added

\$52.7 billion to the national Gross Domestic Product.

"Numbers are powerful," said Bob Dineen, president and CEO of RFA in Washington, D.C. "These numbers reflect the vast reach of the U.S. ethanol industry across many sectors of our society. Each of the nearly 380,000 jobs represents a solid, stable income for a parent who can continue to provide for their family, buy groceries and pay the rent on time. Each of the \$10.3 billion spent in local, state and federal taxes mean improved public services, safe drivable roads, more teachers for local school systems or greater access to the latest technology and information for students."

On another level, the study shows that in 2014, 515 million barrels of foreign oil were displaced by the U.S. ethanol produced. The value of this comes to nearly \$49 billion, all of which stayed in our nation's economy instead.

"Each of the barrels of oil we no longer have to import mean less dependence on often volatile countries and a more stable energy future for all Americans," Dineen said.

The study did detail challenges ahead for the U.S. ethanol industry. The most significant is that of competitive pressures from falling world oil and refined product prices, which likely won't be addressed until supply-and-demand for petroleum comes into balance and falling prices stabilize.

There is also a concern arising from an uncertain regulatory environment. The study outlined how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency failed to release both final 2014 and proposed 2015 regulations for renewable fuels. In response, the investment community has pulled back from the ethanol industry, limiting growth

of new ethanol plants.

"The importance of the ethanol industry to agriculture and rural economies is particularly notable," Urbanchuk said.

Another need is for improved infrastructure for higher blends of ethanol fuel, particularly by expanding investment in blender pumps, according to the study. E15 has been approved for motor vehicles manufactured after 2001, and E85 is approved for flex-fuel vehicles. Yet, while the number of E85 stations grew by more than 8 percent in 2014, they fall far short of what is needed to promote E85 use.

"Much broader consumption of E15 and E85 is necessary, not only to meet the statutory requirements of the RFS [Renewable Fuels Standard], but also to meaningfully increase ethanol demand and support profitability," said John Urbanchuk, managing partner of ABF Economics, which prepared the study on RFA's behalf. "We expect the oil industry to continue supporting and encouraging attacks on the RFS and creating hurdles to increased penetration of higher ethanol blends."

Finally, tax policy may constrain the ethanol industry, according to the study. Tax incentives, including the Cellulosic Biofuel Producer Credit, expired at the end of 2014, and failure of the U.S. Congress to extend these incentives discourages increased investment activity.

The NCGA hopes the RFA study will make it into lawmakers' hands and that changes will be made to address the ethanol industry's challenges that will help continue its many benefits.

"It is my hope that Americans and policymakers alike will look at these numbers and fully understand the integral role of biofuels in our society," Dineen said.

## Researchers Identify Cover Crops To Lure Deer Away From Livestock Feed

BROOKINGS — Fall cover crops, such as clover, turnips and peas, can provide nutrient-rich winter forage and help lure hungry deer away from hay and other stored livestock feed, according to Distinguished Professor Jonathan Jenks of the South Dakota State University Department of Natural Resource Management.

The Agricultural Experiment Station researcher and graduate student Troy Wieberg are identifying which cover crops are more likely to attract deer through a three-year grant for nearly \$90,000 from the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration, administered by South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. The project, which is in its final year, focuses on eastern South Dakota. Cover crops, planted in August or September, must have sufficient fall moisture, which made eastern South Dakota an ideal location for the experiment, according to Kevin Robling, big game biologist for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. In addition, "this area has the potential to experience lots of issues with depredation during severe winters."

Though some landowners have experimented with cover crops, such as turnips, on their own, this is the first controlled experiment, according to Jenks.



PHOTO: METRO GRAPHICS

"We're looking at preference and nutritional characteristics," he pointed out.

**SELECTING COVER CROPS**

For the research project, Jenks and Wieberg planted six cover crops — purple top turnips, Daikon radishes, Austrian winter peas, winter rye, chicory and crimson clover — at the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Research Facility. The deer are then allowed to forage on the crops. Preliminary results showed that turnips and radishes are the top two choices followed by peas, according to Jenks.

"These provide high crude protein and moderate to high digestibility."

**PREVENTING DEPREDATION, REDUCING DENSITY**

"The leading covariant that will dictate the amount of deer depredation on an annual basis is the severity of the winter," according Robling.

"We're coming off years of peak harvest and peak population," Robling said, noting high deer numbers from 2007 through 2011.

However, a combination of factors including liberal antlerless harvest, disease and severe winters has reduced the population below management objectives, he explained.

"We're trying to grow our herds in most management areas with very few units across the state at or above management objectives," Robling said.

The majority of the issues occur when large herds, upward of 100 to 200 individuals, go into yards and eat stored livestock feed, especially hay and distiller grains, according to Robling. However, "whether it's 10 or 100, we still can experience depredation."

Cover crops are an indirect way of possibly preventing depredation and redistributing deer densities, he explained. Once researchers identify the most palatable forage types, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks may plant crops to attract deer to state-owned lands that are open to public hunting and potentially lure deer away from areas where they may cause problems. He estimated that no-till drills could handle crops, such as sorghum and rye, and radishes can be sown using a broadcast spreader on the back of a four-wheeler and then worked in with a drag.

"We're not talking about large tracts," Robling said, with most cover plots in the range of three to five acres. "Deer are going to go for the candy bar and we're trying to provide that."