

AgriVisions 2012 Set For Yankton Jan. 24

First Dakota National Bank will host AgriVisions 2012 featuring Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Best Western Kelly Inn, 1607 East Highway 50, Yankton. Farmers, Agri-Business professionals and business owners are invited to attend.

Flinchbaugh represents the agricultural

community through his active participation in the development of U.S. agricultural policy. He has served on numerous national task forces, boards of directors, and advisory groups allowing him to provide input on domestic food and agriculture policy. Flinchbaugh chaired the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture author-

ized in the 1996 farm bill. Flinchbaugh is a professor of agricultural economics and policy at Kansas State University.

AgriVisions 2012 begins with registration from 6:30-7 p.m. and Dr. Flinchbaugh's presentation following.

Call 605-665-4904 or 800-657-5826 to reserve a seat.

Tribe Looks To Teenagers To Revive Bison Demand

BY KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

FLANDREAU — It seems an unlikely concept: teenagers forgoing the immediacy of a McDonald's Big Mac to don an apron, grab a meat patty and learn how to cook their own lower-fat version in the kitchen.

But for a group of students at the Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota, they're doing just that while learning about bison, an animal considered sacred in their Native American culture.

The students are part of a pilot project started by the Flandreau Santee Sioux tribe and South Dakota State University researchers to restore the cultural significance of the animal, also called buffalo, and consumption of its meat among community members, particularly young people. Through cooking demonstrations and educational outreach opportunities, the students are learning that there are healthier, tasty options that also connect them to their ancestors more than any prepackaged meat or drive-thru order could.

"You can't go to Hy-Vee and just pick up ground buffalo to actually get the spiritual connection. I think that's kind of been lost," said Geriann Headrick, acting food service manager at the Flandreau Indian School, referring to a regional supermarket chain.

The school began preparing school meals with fresh bison meat last year as part of the pilot project.

Nearly 20 professors across five departments at SDSU are involved in the project, which they hope will be used as a model among other tribes trying to revive the demand for bison.

Although bison tastes a bit different — some think it has a sweeter, richer flavor than beef — Flandreau Indian School senior Dillon Blackbird said he prefers school meals served with bison because it's "real meat."

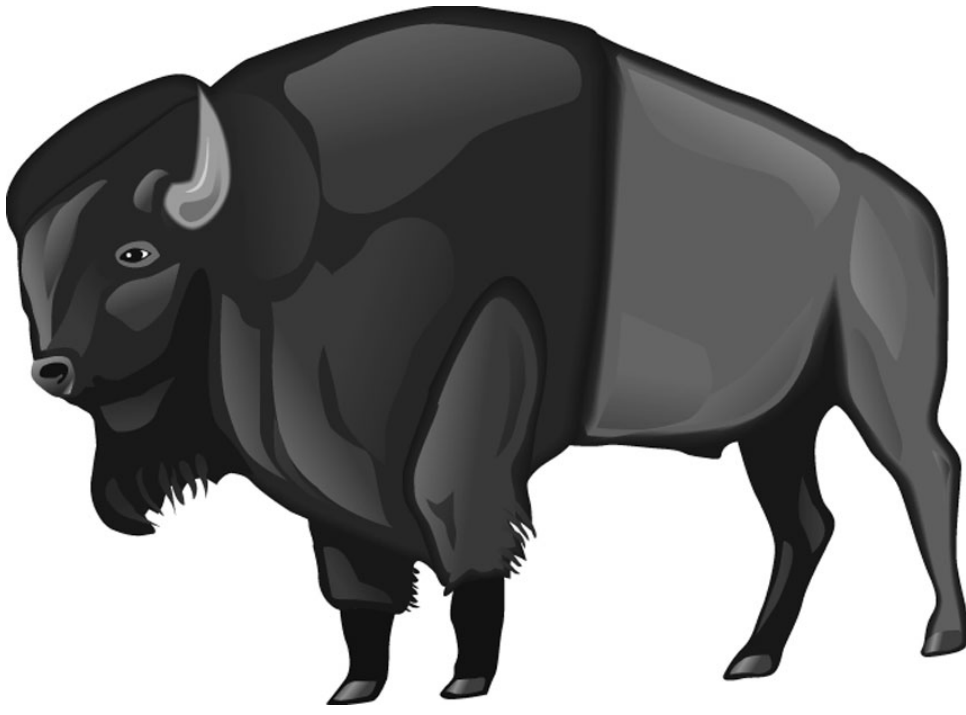
One of more than 30 students from the Flandreau Indian School to take part in cooking workshops with bison as the main ingredient, Blackbird said he now knows how to whip up his own dishes with bison, which has less fat and fewer calories than beef.

"I make basic stuff: tacos, enchiladas, spaghetti, lasagna," Blackbird said.

SDSU researchers want other teenagers to follow Blackbird's lead, creating a market within the tribe for the next 40 to 50 years and changing the way members think about the animal.

Like many American Indian tribes, the Flandreau Santee Sioux maintains its own herd as a tie to its ancestors who relied on bison for survival. Established in 1990 with 12 heifer calves and one bull calf acquired from Custer State Park in western South Dakota, the herd swelled to about 250 animals by the spring of 2009.

But the herd has become more ceremonial than necessity, and when it began costing too much money, tribal officials considered selling the animals until SDSU researchers pitched the



idea for a new market via the hearty appetites of teenagers.

"Like all Americans, Native Americans are used to eating traditional American foods. Even though the bison means something to them culturally more than the average American, they are used to eating chicken legs and cooking hamburgers," said SDSU economics professor Scott Fausti. "What we're trying to do, of course, is to lessen the financial burden upon the tribe by further integrating bison into the community, (allowing) the bison to provide greater resources to the community by using it as a substitute protein source."

The Flandreau Santee Sioux tribe has since culled the herd to fewer than 50 animals as it works to regrow them organically — without hormones or pesticides — which Fausti said is more attuned to traditional American Indian beliefs. Ideally, the herd will return to 160 to 180 organically grown bison, supplying 30 to 40 animals each year for the community.

Until the Flandreau program is self-sustaining, the InterTribal Buffalo Council, a cooperative of more than 50 tribes created in the early 1990s to re-establish bison herds, is donating the animal meat to the Flandreau School. Officials also are hoping to get more money for the project through grants.

Once the herd is re-established, the hope is that other tribal entities, including the diabetic program, will choose to use the meat over buying from commercial pork, beef and chicken vendors, Fausti said. The tribe also may sell to outside sources as well.

It's been a battle to create a continuous

stream of demand for the meat as a protein source due to fluctuating prices, Fausti said, noting that one non-American Indian cooperative in North Dakota went bankrupt several years ago, leaving thousands of dollars' worth of the meat in storage. Prices for bison meat, regardless of cut, were stable in December, the most recent month available, after recent spikes, according to the USDA.

Other tribes have tried similar methods to revitalize their herds: Students at the Southern Ute tribal school rely on bison for their meat, and Ponca tribal members with diabetes can get a prescription for the animal meat. But the Flandreau tribe is believed to be the first creating a self-sustaining commercial market from production to consumption, said Jim Stone, executive director of the InterTribal Buffalo Council.

Fausti said other tribes can look to the Flandreau model of incorporating organically grown bison into popular dishes as a way to create their own markets and cultural-restoration programs.

Della Flute, for one, agrees. The Flandreau Indian School kitchen aide chose to cook Christmas dinner for her mother and 20-year-old son with bison meat over other protein sources. Flute believes consuming more bison will help young people reconnect with their roots.

"I think a lot of us strayed far from (the culture)," said Flute, 41. "I think reservations would improve."

Follow Kristi Eaton on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/kristieaton>

READY TO ROLL



PHOTO: SOUTH DAKOTA CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION
Mark Hubert of Vermillion is driving a new John Deere Gator utility vehicle as winner of a South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) raffle. The Corn Growers teamed up with Noteboom Implement of Corsica, Parkston and Chamberlain on the Power-It-Up promotion at the SDCGA's summer and winter events. Noteboom donated the Gator XUV 825i. The Gator was displayed and tickets were sold at the Sioux Empire Fair, South Dakota State Fair, Dakotafest and the recent Corn Growers annual meeting, where the drawing was held. Proceeds from the raffle support the SDCGA CornPAC, a political action committee that promotes the interests of corn producers and agriculture. The SDCGA thanks Noteboom Implement for its generous support.

Row Crop Clinic PAT In Brookings Jan. 20

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State University hosts a Row Crop Clinic in Brookings on Jan. 20. The speakers will cover a variety of issues that farmers will be dealing with in the 2012 crop season. This is the only Row Crop meeting in eastern South Dakota this year.

The Row Crop Clinic will also have Private Applicator Training (PAT) for farmers that need to be certified or recertified.

The Row Crop Clinic will start at 8 a.m. with opening of booths with rolls and coffee. At 9 a.m. Ron Gelderman will discuss Fertilizer Issues. At 9:30 a.m. Don Guthmiller, SDSU Agronomy Business Management Field Specialist, will cover Crop Cost of Production. After break at 10:30 a.m., Paul O. Johnson, Agronomy Field Specialist, will Review 2011 Crop and What's Up for 2012; at 11:10 a.m. Greg Carlson, Precision Ag Specialist, will discuss What's Happening and New in Precision Ag; at noon lunch will be served and time will be allowed to view booths; after lunch Mike Moechnig, SDSU Extension Weed Specialist, will cover Resistant and Tough Weeds. At 1:45 p.m., Tracey Renelt, SDSU Dairy Field Specialist, will cover Livestock Pesticides. Paul Johnson will wrap up the workshop by providing the group with information they need for Pesticide Applicator Training. The program will conclude at 4 p.m. with the paperwork needed to get recertified for PAT.

The Row Crop Clinic will be at the Brookings County Resource Center in the Swiftel Center in Brookings.

For more information, contact Paul O. Johnson, SDSU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist at (605) 882-5140 or paulo.johnson@sd-state.edu.

Stewardship Program Sign-Up Extended

WASHINGTON — The cutoff date for farmers and ranchers to apply to participate in the 2012 sign-up for the Conservation Stewardship Program has been extended by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) until Jan. 27. By this date, farmers and ranchers interesting in participating in the program need to submit a short two-page application form to their local NRCS office.

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, which helped develop the program and has followed its progress closely, has issued a five-page Information Alert on the 2012 sign-up. The document is available free online at www.sustainableagriculture.net. In addition to basic sign-up information and pointers, the Alert also describes changes made to the program for this sign-up, including new conservation practices and enhancements being offered.

The CSP is a working lands conservation program available on a nationwide basis. CSP offers technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers for adopting and maintaining high standards of resource conservation and environmental stewardship. Assistance is geared to both the active management of existing conservation systems and for implementing new conservation activities on land in agricultural production.

The enrollment process is competitive, based on environmental benefits, and will be even more competitive than usual in 2012 as the total acres to be enrolled will be as much as a third less than the 12.8 million acre per year level provided by the 2008 Farm Bill. The 2012 iteration of CSP will have an enrollment cap between 9 and 10 million acres due to a budget cut to the program made by Congress in the FY 2012 Agricultural Appropriations Act.

Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forest lands, and agricultural land under tribal jurisdiction. Applicants must demonstrate they have effective control over these lands to be eligible, either through ownership or reasonably secure leases.

Producers wanting more detailed information may want to review NSAC's Farmers' Guide to the Conservation Stewardship Program available for free download at <http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/>.

Broadband Initiative Seeks Input From Ag Producers

PIERRE — The state's Broadband Initiative, led by the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT), recently partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Field Office in South Dakota to survey ag producers across the state, continuing the goal of increasing high-speed broadband Internet in rural areas.

"High-speed broadband Internet can expand educational opportunities, improve public safety, enhance health care activities and bring economic growth to the region," said Dom Bianco, BIT Commissioner. "By providing this highly effective, low cost tool, we are more efficiently allowing our state's farmers and ranchers to better market their livestock, reach new customers, and gain competitive advantages to grow our rural economy in the 21st century."

Earlier this month, 6,500 surveys were mailed to South Dakota ag producers encouraging participation in an Internet usage survey. The survey requests information from ag producers on whether or not they have Internet, how they are utiliz-

ing it, and would they use it more if it was available, faster, and more affordable. The results of the survey will assist in the identification of where the state needs to build or improve broadband services and speeds in South Dakota.

The main purpose of the Broadband Initiative is to increase high-speed broadband Internet to all of South Dakota with an emphasis on rural areas to increase economic opportunities. Agriculture is the number one economic driver across the state and is extremely important to this project.

"South Dakota has a wide vari-

ety of tech savvy ag producers who are managing small to multi-million dollar operations over their slow data-capable cell phones and it is our goal to fix that and to give them the competitive advantages to grow and continue their operations in the most rural areas of the state," said Walt Bones, Secretary for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. "We highly encourage farmers and ranchers to complete the survey; we want to hear from them."

If ag producers did not receive the survey or misplaced it, they can request a copy be mailed to them by calling 1-800-

338-2557 or they can simply take the survey online by visiting <http://broadband.sd.gov/AgricultureSurvey.aspx>. Survey results will be available later this spring.

Special Opt-Out Meeting

JoDean's Steakhouse
Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012
6:00 Meal
7:00 Meeting

This meeting will be for the opponents of YSD 63-3 Opt-Out
All members of the Yankton School Board have been invited.

Thank you in advance,
We The People
Yankton
Paid for by Wayne Wurth



AM 1450
MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS
7:40 AM
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
Yankton's Home Team!

January Clearance Sale Storewide

ALL restonic Mattress Sets Sale Priced Starting at:

Twin Sets.....	\$299
Full Sets.....	\$379
Queen Sets.....	\$399
King Sets.....	\$549

All In-Stock Flexsteel Sofas and Chairs 20-25% OFF regular price

Clearance Mattress Sets from:

Twin Sets.....	\$188
Full Sets.....	\$237

Select Groups of End Tables & Cocktail Tables

50% OFF reg. price

Special Selection of In-Stock Hard Surface Flooring Sale Priced

Brunick Furniture & Flooring

Monday 9-8 • Tuesday-Friday 9-5:30 • Saturday 9-5

207 W. 3rd St. • Yankton, SD 665-5625
1100 W. Cherry St. • Vermillion, SD 624-8688