

Meeting Global Demand



PHOTO: RITA BRHEL

Keeping Pace

Are Genetically Engineered Farm Animals Needed To Feed A Growing World?

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

As the world's population continues to grow exponentially, so is food demand expected to increase.

According to the United Nations, the world is currently home to more than 7 billion people, the majority of which live in developing countries. By 2020, the world's population is expected to be near 8 billion, and by 2050, the projections are more than 9 billion people, with the vast majority living in developing countries.

Considering that the world's population had only reached 1 billion by 1804, before hitting 2 billion in 1927 and 3 billion in 1960, it's evident that not only is the population exploding but also food demand. Food production must increase by 70 percent by 2050 to meet world food needs, according to the United Nations.

Technologies, particularly genetically engineered grains and substances used to extend shelf life of fresh produce, have greatly narrowed the gap between food demand and supply. Yet, according to the United Nations, there continues to be 25,000 people who die each day due to hunger in the world, again mostly in developing countries.

Alison Van Eenennaam, animal scientist and biotechnology specialist at the University of California in Davis, Califor-

nia, who spoke at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Jan. 13, is concerned that this gap will widen — and soon — and proposes greater use of genetic engineering, specifically with food animals.

"The world's food demands in the rather near future won't allow us to waste time," she said.

But genetic engineering of animals is controversial.

Van Eenennaam admits this, but says that genetic engineering is safe and simply a more efficient and targeted step up from the breeding strategies livestock producers have used for centuries to raise animals, by selecting and breeding animals more likely to produce offspring with the desired traits like fertility and growth.

Animal scientists have been using genetic engineering techniques for years, Van Eenennaam explains, though only four pharmaceutical or industrial applications have been approved by federal authorities and no multi-national corporations are currently working to produce genetically engineered animals due to the difficulty and cost of navigating the regulations.

Van Eenennaam says that it costs \$130 million to bring a genetically engineered crop to market. Meanwhile, a Canadian company has spent more than \$60 million since 1989 to obtain regulatory approval to grow

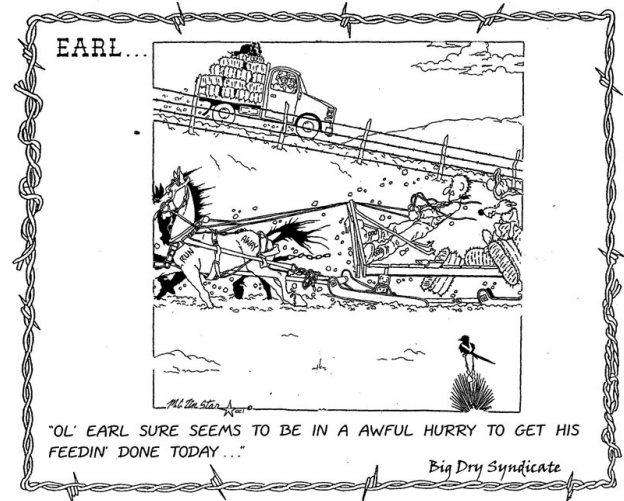
salmon that are genetically engineered to grow larger. Van Eenennaam says she would like to see consistent regulation across products based on safety, not based on whether they are genetically engineered or not.

Yet, other countries around the world are now developing genetically engineered cattle for food purposes. And Van Eenennaam is concerned that the United States will be left behind, wrapped up in food politics.

"In a world facing burgeoning demands on agriculture from population growth, economic growth and climate change, overregulation is an indulgence that global food security can ill afford," she said.

But genetic engineering has multiple layers of controversy, only one of which is safety for consumers. Another one that is increasingly coming to the forefront is humane treatment of animals.

"We recognize that families have choices in what they wish to eat, but we also believe that all animals deserve to be humanely treated," said Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of the American Humane Association in Washington, D.C. "We call on Americans to set a humane table this year with humanely raised foods and support producers committed to farm animal welfare."



Experimental Farm Event In Parker

PARKER — There will be a Southeast South Dakota Experiment Farm annual meeting with guest speakers on Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 1-4 p.m. at the Parker Community Building, 299 N. Main St., Parker. It is open to the public.

Topics for discussion include:

- "Multi Hybrid Planter and Other Crop Research at the Southeast Research Farm," with Peter Sexton, the research farm supervisor and South Dakota State University professor;
- "2015 Weather Outlook" with Dennis Today, South Dakota state climatologist/SDSU Extension;
- "Technology in Precision Agriculture," with Shane Swedlund, facility and engineering manager at Raven Industries, Brookings;
- "Beef Extension Update," with Reid McDaniel, SDSU Extension beef feedlot specialist;
- and "Use Cold Pressed Soybean Meal in Swine Rations," with Bob Thaler, SDSU swine specialist.

For more information, call 605-563-2989 or visit <http://iGrow.org>.

Young Producers Event In Deadwood

HURON — There is no end to the busy season for Jeff and Rachel Kippley. The couple farms near Aberdeen, managing a cow/calf herd and raising corn and soybeans with Jeff's dad, John; they also own and operate an H Block franchise. In addition, the couple has four young children. "Things never really slow down for us," Rachel says.

However, January 30-31, they will leave their kids and farm in the capable hands of grandparents and spend two days focusing on personal growth, ways to improve their farm management and networking with other young, South Dakota agriculture producers during the Farmers Union Young Producers Event held at The Lodge in Deadwood. The event is free to members of South Dakota Farmers Union. Non-members who join Farmers Union before the event are eligible.

"There aren't many venues where you have the opportunity to talk with other young producers and experts in personal development and today's agriculture. We attended the event last year and were very impressed," says Rachel of the two-day event.

A few of the speakers invited to attend the event include: South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture, Lucas Lentsch; a discussion on drone technology in agriculture by South Dakota State University; South Dakota State Veterinarian, Dustin Oedekoven; Motivational Speaker, Malcolm Chapman; State Farmers Union President, Doug Sombke; and DuWayne Bosse, co-owner of Bolt Marketing, LLC.

"Providing information and educational opportunities for today's generation of agriculture producers is a focus of Farmers Union," explains Karla Hofhenke, Executive Director of S.D. Farmers Union. "Young producers are the future of South Dakota's agriculture industry. Young Producer Events are one way South Dakota Farmers Union works to support them."

Even though it's not easy to take time away from the farm, Rachel says the information and networking she and Jeff gained was worth it. "A lot of being successful in today's market is being educated on what is going on in the marketplace. It's not easy to keep up with all aspects of the ag sector, so it's nice to come to one event and feel like you've caught up."

For more information on this event, contact Hofhenke at khofhenke@sdfu.org or 605-352-6761 ext: 114.

2015 SD Pest Guides Released

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota 2015 Pest Management Guides are available on line at www.iGrow.org or they will be available at SDSU Extension Regional Centers in the next couple of weeks.

The guides, produced by SDSU Extension and South Dakota State University staff, cover soybeans, corn, wheat, oats, sunflowers, alfalfa, barley, triticale, durum, millet, rye, safflower, canola and flax.

"The guides have been completely updated for 2015. There are several new product names for chemicals and also several changes made to label rates for chemicals, rotation restrictions, additive rates and products," said Paul O. Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Science Coordinator.

Johnson added that prices were the only area staff did not see a large change. "Prices are about the same as last year," he said.

The guides are free of charge this year thanks to several generous sponsors. Sponsors include: South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion council, the SDSU Extension IPM Program, South Dakota Department of Agriculture, and the SDSU Extension WEED Project.

"We owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to these sponsors. Without them, our team would not be able to continue to update them each year," said Alvaro Garcia, SDSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Director.

AgriVisions 2015 Set For Yankton Jan. 26

First Dakota National Bank will host AgriVisions 2015 featuring Dr. Brent Gloy on Monday, Jan. 26, at Best Western Kelly Inn, 1607 East Highway 50, Yankton, at 7 p.m. Farmers, Agri-Business professionals and business owners are invited to attend.

Dr. Brent Gloy is the founding Director of Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture and co-founder of Ag Economic Insights — www.ageconomists.com. After many years of high commodity prices with strong profitability, the landscape in the row-crop sector has shifted dramatically. Dr. Gloy will provide a short and long-term economic perspective and strategies to position for long-term success. Dr. Gloy is an agricultural economist specializing in agricultural finance and agribusiness management. The majority of his research has focused on issues related to the supply and demand for credit and farmland values. Dr. Gloy has held tenured faculty positions in agricultural economics at Purdue University and Cornell University. He is currently operating his family farming operation in southwest Nebraska. Dr. Gloy received his masters and doctorate degrees in agricultural economics from Purdue University and his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Nate Franzen, First Dakota's Agri-Business Division President, states, "Mark Monday, Jan. 26, on your calendar and plan to attend AgriVisions 2015. Dr. Brent Gloy is a highly respected and accomplished Ag Economist who is now an Ag producer like many of you. Come find out why he left a tenured P.H.D. position to take over the family farm at a time when grain prices were plummeting. His extensive knowledge and understanding of the agriculture industry will enlighten and entertain. Plan to join us at AgriVisions 2015."

AgriVisions 2015 begins with registration from 6:30-7 p.m. and Dr. Gloy'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.

Educational Sessions To Be Held During Sioux Falls Farm Show

SIoux FALLS — Are you tired of the cold? Are you looking to get out of the house and daydream about the latest and greatest in farm equipment? Are you wondering why you didn't get the yields you were hoping for? Have questions about the Farm Bill and what your choices are? Have you been wondering about how to manage plant diseases?

Well, if you are like me and are ready for a boredom buster, than make plans to attend the Sioux Falls Farm Show on Jan. 28-30 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center in Sioux Falls.

SDSU Extension will be offering some educational programs with a different topic and presenter each day. All presentations will take place at the Sioux Falls Convention Center in Room 11.

On Jan. 28 from 1:30-2:30 p.m., come and hear Graig Reicks, SDSU Plant Science Re-

search Associate discuss "On-Farm Research Results and Opportunities."

On Jan. 29 from 1:30-3:30 p.m., listen to Jack Davis, SDSU Extension Agronomy Business Management Field Specialist, and Paul Hanson, FSA Program Director, cover "SDSU Extension/Farm Service Agency 2014 Farm Bill Choices and Decision Tools."

On Jan. 30 from 1:30-2:30 p.m., come and learn from Emmanuel Byamukama, SDSU Extension Plant Pathology Specialist, who will discuss, "Effective Plant Disease Management: Diagnosis and timely deployment of tactics and strategies."

SDSU Extension will also be represented at the Farm Show with a booth. Stop by and pick up a copy of the 2015 Crop Protection Guides (each guide includes recommendations for herbicide, fungicide and insecticide).

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