

# Petriks Sharing Values On The Family Farm

## Jim And Sharon Petrik Named Farm Family Of The Year

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE  
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Jim and Sharon Petrik received a call earlier this spring that really surprised them — but according to Jim, it came at a time when he most needed it.

Larry Ness called to notify him that he and his family were being honored as the Yankton area farm family of the year.

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**"After this last year, where I wasn't feeling particularly successful, it came a very big surprise. It has been a frustrating year to be farming — a challenge — so this was a real fun surprise."**

### JIM PETRIK

Living in the house where Jim grew up, on the farm that was his fathers, the Petriks — with the help of their four children, ages 9 to 20 — run a corn, soybean and hog operation.

Jim has been involved in a number of things including South Dakota Pork Producers, he's been on the National Pork Board, he's a graduate of the South Dakota Ag and Rural Leadership, which is a prestigious group for agriculture for the state of South Dakota.

Sharon is a speech therapist that works for both the Gayville-Volin and Elk Point-Jefferson school districts.

All four of their children participated in 4-H and helped with the family business.

"We have tried to bring our kids up to appreciate the farm and what goes on here," Sharon said. "It is pretty obvious the older two are not going to come back and work on the farm, and who knows what the younger two will decide to do."

Jim quickly added that he did not want them to feel obligated to farm.

"We make a lot of sacrifices working on a farm," he said. "They don't have the play time that kids being raised in town do. They have obligations on the farm."

"But there are advantages to raising kids on a farm, too. It gives them an appreciation for the whole cycle of life, and they definitely get a sense of responsibility. They understand what goes into a harvest and what is needed to put food on the table."



SHAUNA MARLETTE/PS&D  
Jim and Sharon Petrik are pictured with their two youngest children. The Petriks were recently named the farm family of the year.

With the extremely wet year that some farmers in the area have seen, the Petriks said it has been stressful farming.

"It all started last summer in July, and it was an extremely challenging fall to get the crops out the field," he said. "We finally got all the crops out of the field and thought, 'It can't get any tougher than that.' But, after the cool, wet spring it has been even more challenging."

Because getting in the field is some of the more enjoyable aspects for the Petriks, it has been a long spring, as they have not been able to plant many of their fields this year.

"Another challenge has been the high grain prices," Jim said. "So with our corn not looking as good as we would like, that is another thing that runs through the back of my mind and could

make 2012 challenging, as well."

They said that they have been trying to protect themselves as much as they can, with crop insurance and other options.

It is a different life, Jim added.

"In my parents' generation, you lived and you worked and if there was a little money left over, you might put something into the house," he said. "Now there are more expectations. ... Everything costs more, the kids want more and pull in more directions than even when I was a kid. It is a lot higher stakes game now."

No matter what happens going forward, they say that living on the farm and being a farm family is a choice they will never regret making.

## Nitrogen Loss Expected With Heavy Rainfall

BROOKINGS — After 2 to 6 inches of rain fell on most of central South Dakota — and more in isolated areas — in the last couple weeks; South Dakota State University Extension Soil Specialist Ron Gelderman says some fields may experience nitrogen loss.

Whether nitrogen leaching has occurred depends on many factors says Gelderman.

"There are many considerations including: soil type, amount of rainfall, rainfall intensity, when nitrogen was applied, nitrification inhibitors used, organic matter levels and many more," Gelderman said.

### TWO MODES OF NITROGEN LOSS

With heavy rains Gelderman says the two primary modes for nitrogen loss include leaching — where nitrate-N can be moved down in the soil profile and sometimes out of the root zone (4 to 5 feet). Denitrification is the other mode of nitrogen loss. Denitrification is where nitrate can be biologically converted to gaseous nitrogen forms and lost to the atmosphere.

"With present soil temperatures in the low, to mid 60's, nitrogen fertilizer should mostly have converted to nitrate by now," Gelderman said. "It usually takes urea two to four weeks to convert to nitrate depending on temperatures. So we can assume normal spring nitrogen applications were susceptible to both leaching and denitrification."

### SOIL TYPE RAINFALL

Gelderman says medium to fine textured soils can hold 2 to 3 inches of moisture per foot; while coarse soils (sand, sandy loams and loamy

sands) are in the range of retaining 1 to 1.5 inches per foot.

"Previous to the rainfall, most soils were probably already close saturation. Therefore less water would be needed to move nitrate deeper," he said. "The other factor is intensity of rainfall. If it comes hard — a large part of the rainfall can runoff into lower areas or waterways etcetera. Runoff will be higher with tilled, fine textured soils."

According to past data and observations with rainfalls of this type, Gelderman does not believe recent rainfalls resulted in large nitrate losses on medium and fine textured soils. However, in fields with coarse textured soils, 4 to 6 inches of rainfall would be enough to move nitrogen 2 to 3 feet.

"We usually have bigger leaching loss issues when rainfalls of this amount occur slowly — perhaps over a two-week period," Gelderman said. "Significant denitrification losses occur the longer saturated soil conditions exist and the warmer the soil temperature."

He points to Illinois and Nebraska data as an indicator of denitrification rates at about 3 percent per day for soil temps in the 60's.

Gelderman says saturation for long periods usually occurs in the lower areas of the landscape. However, he adds that significant denitrification in these areas is not the only problem.

"Limited oxygen to plant roots — up to seven to 10 days or more — can kill the plant or cause root changes that will severely limit yield potential," he said. "Therefore if these areas dry out, and the plants

are living, it is probably not profitable to apply nitrogen to these areas."

He says denitrification is usually only a problem with surface soils because that is where most of the bacteria that break down organic matter are located.

"These are the same bacteria that use nitrate under low oxygen conditions," Gelderman said. "In low organic matter soils, or subsoils, there are fewer of these microbes."

### ADVICE TO GROWERS

Gelderman says if growers suspect significant nitrogen loss they should soil sample at least a few fields to determine loss trends.

He directs growers to probe down 3 feet, taking samples in 1-foot increments to be analyzed for nitrate-N.

"This will give some indication of total available nitrate-N in this depth and also an idea about N movement. This information can then be extrapolated to other fields with similar conditions," Gelderman said.

He warns growers to avoid applying nitrogen after heavy rains based on plant color.

"Plant roots growing in a saturated soil under low oxygen condi-

tions cannot effectively take up nutrients. Therefore, a plant can exhibit nitrogen deficiency symptoms, even though the soil can have adequate nitrate-N," he said. "Once root zone aeration is established, these plants will often green up — although yield potential may have been reduced."

Many growers ask Gelderman if applying foliar N will help green up the plants? If leaching is the problem, and soils are not saturated, a foliar application will not help.

"It's too small an amount to meet the plant's needs — even assuming that the plant takes up this N foliarly — which is unlikely," he said. "In this case the producer would be better advised to apply more N as a broadcast or injected application"

Gelderman adds that if the plant is a yellow color, and it is due to possible denitrification losses a grower would need to wait until the soil is firm enough to hold a sprayer.

"By that time, the plant will probably be green up on its own, or roots will be so damaged that the N will make little difference in yield potential," Gelderman said.

To learn more, contact Gelderman at Ronald.gelderman@sdstate.edu.

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July

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## Antique Tractor Rides Scheduled For July 7-9

The annual WNAX/Tri-State Old Iron Antique Tractor Ride will be held July 7-9 in Yankton. The rallying point is Paddlewheel Point south of the Chamber of Commerce building.

More than 180 tractors, with some drivers coming from as far away as New York, are expected to be on hand. Tractors will drive a South Dakota route on July 8 and a Nebraska route on July 10.

Also, the annual tractor parade will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, July 8, in downtown Yankton.

## EcoSun Prairie Farms Tour Set For July 15

BROOKINGS — A walk-and-talk field day for the public is set for Friday, July 15, at EcoSun Prairie Farms near Colman.

EcoSun Prairie Farms, the North Central Sun Grant Center and South Dakota State University will host the event from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at EcoSun's 650-acre Prairie Farm, now in its fourth year of operation.

The farm was established to study ways to make a living by managing restored native prairie on former cropland for specific uses. Visitors will see diverse mixtures of grassland species that can be marketed as forage, seed, grass-finished beef and potentially as cellulosic biofuels. The tour will also showcase environmental improvements in soil and water quality, wildlife populations and overall ecosystem health.

Members of EcoSun Prairie Farms and their partners will share their experiences in establishing, managing and marketing grassland on the Prairie Farm. A part of the working farm is part of the day's events. For more information about EcoSun Prairie Farms, or more details about the field day, visit the EcoSun Web site at www.ecosun-prairiefarms.org.

The outdoor event takes place rain or shine, so those attending are advised to dress accordingly. Carpooling is recommended, as parking may be limited.

To find the farm from Interstate 29, take Exit 114, the Flandreau exit. Travel west on 230th Street for about 3.5 miles (2 miles past the junction with Highway 77) to 469th Avenue. Turn south, or left, onto 469th Avenue and proceed two miles. Turn west, or right, onto 232nd Street and proceed about 0.75 mile. The meeting site is on the north, or right, side of the road. Do not park at the farmstead (46786 232nd St.); parking areas will be marked.

## SDSA Holds Annual Soybean Yield Contest

SIoux FALLS — The South Dakota Soybean Association (SDSA) launched the second annual South Dakota Soybean Yield Contest for the 2011 growing season.

All South Dakota soybean farmers who produce ten or more acres of soybeans are eligible to enter. Farmers can enter the yield contest based on soybean maturity groups 0, 1, 2 and 3, with three categories in each group: irrigated, non-irrigated and no-till.

South Dakota Soybean will award prizes to the top entrants in each category:

1. First place winners in each category receive \$1,000 cash and up to \$1,500 for a non-transferable trip for two to Commodity Classic in Nashville, Tennessee.
2. Second place winners in each category receive \$500 cash.
3. Third place winners in each category receive \$300 cash.

The Soybean Quality Contest is an additional component of this year's yield contest, and is optional to enter. The soybean quality contest analyzes protein and oil content, and the two highest quality beans in each maturity group will receive a \$200 cash prize. Farmers must enter the South Dakota Soybean Yield Contest in order to enter the Soybean Quality Contest.

Growers can enter online and find additional information at www.sdssoybean.org/yieldcontest. Entries are due on or before Aug. 20, 2011.

The second annual South Dakota Soybean Yield Contest is sponsored by the South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council and managed by the South Dakota Soybean Association.

## Yankton Girl Among Scholarship Winners

HURON — The South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU) Foundation, in cooperation with Farmers Union Insurance, have announced the recipients of the fourth annual "Insuring a Brighter Tomorrow" scholarships. Twenty-six high school seniors from across South Dakota will share \$26,000 in scholarships to be used to further their education at a South Dakota post-secondary school.

Among the winners is Allison Kathol of Yankton.

"We had an incredible crop of young people apply for this year's scholarships, and we're so excited that these young people will be staying in South Dakota to receive their post-secondary education," said Foundation Executive Director Leslie Rupiper Morrow. "We're investing in these young people, and investing in the future of our state."

Each of the 26 recipients will receive \$1,000 toward their post-secondary education in South Dakota. They were chosen from a large pool of applicants based on a combination of academic record, activities and awards, financial need, and an essay relating to how they will, "Insure a Brighter Tomorrow," in South Dakota.

Farmers Union Insurance agents throughout the state fund this scholarship program administered by the Farmers Union Foundation.

"So many deserving young people applied, and it was difficult to choose the final recipients because there were a lot of outstanding young people in the field of applicants," said Wayne Bartscher, Regional Manager of Farmers Union Insurance. "We're confident that this investment in our young people will pay dividends long into the future. We're excited to see what these young people become, and we're confident in the future of South Dakota."

In the past four years, the South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation has awarded \$100,000 in scholarships to South Dakota high school graduating seniors.

## Farmers - Ranchers - Homeowners 2011 Pesticide Container Collections

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service have set the following dates and locations for the 2011 Pesticide container collections. All plastic containers up to and including 30-55 gallon drums, plastic minibulk/shuttles, and 30-55 gallon steel drums will all be accepted. All containers must be triple rinsed or pressure rinsed. Make plans to attend the collection nearest you and thank you for your turnout in the past.

### Collection Schedule

Date	Time	Location	City
July 18	9:00-2:00	Nelson's Seed Service	Miller
July 19	9:00-2:00	County Weed & Pest Shop	Watertown
July 20	9:00-12:00	Clark File Hall	Clark
July 20	1:00-4:00	Spink Co. Fairgrounds	Redfield
July 21	9:00-1:00	SD Wheat Growers	Huron
July 25	9:00-1:00	SD Wheat Growers	Chamberlain
July 26	9:00-12:00	Mettler's	Memphis
July 26	1:00-4:00	Bon Homme Co. Hwy. Dept.	Tyndall
July 27	9:00-12:00	Country Pride Coop Fert Plant	Wagner
July 27	1:00-4:00	Farmer's Alliance	Corsica
July 28	9:00-1:00	Turnis Farm Service	Platte
Aug. 1	9:00-2:00	Agriance Warehouse	Aberdeen
Aug. 2	9:00-2:00	Border States Coop	Sisseton
Aug. 3	9:00-12:00	Farmer's Elevator	Rosholt
Aug. 4	8:00-1:00	Brookings Regional Landfill	Brookings
Aug. 8	9:00-12:00	SD Wheat Growers	Wessington Springs
Aug. 9	9:00-1:00	Davison Co. Extension	Mitchell
Aug. 10	9:00-12:00	Lacey's	Salem
Aug. 11	9:00-2:00	SDDA Bait Station	Pierre
Aug. 15	9:00-12:00	Perkins Co. Fairgrounds	Bison
Aug. 15	1:30-4:30	Southwest Grain	Lemmon
Aug. 16	9:00-11:00	SD Wheat Growers	McLaughlin
Aug. 16	1:00-4:00	Airport	Timber Lake
Aug. 17	9:00-12:00	North Central Farmers Elevator	Herreid
Aug. 17	2:00-4:00	Walworth Co. Hwy. Dept.	Selby
Aug. 22	9:00-12:00	Lake Preston Soil Service	Lake Preston
Aug. 22	1:30-4:00	Cenex Agronomy Center	Howard
Aug. 23	9:00-12:00	Lake Co. 4-H Grounds	Madison
Aug. 23	1:30-4:00	Moody Co. Hwy Dept	Flandreau
Aug. 24	9:00-2:00	Renner Fire Hall	Renner
Sept. 6	9:00-12:00	SD DOT Yard	Murdo
Sept. 7	9:00-2:00	Tripp Co. Recycling Center	Winnier
Sept. 12	8:00-11:00	Midwest Coop/Cenex	Philip
Sept. 12	1:00-4:00	Bennett Co. Fairgrounds	Martin
Sept. 13	9:00-12:00	Finkbeiner Feed	Belle Fourche
Sept. 14	9:00-2:00	Central States Fairgrounds	Rapid City

All times are local

For more information, contact your County Extension Office, or the South Dakota Department of Agriculture at 1-800-228-5254 or visit website at www.state.sd.us/daa/das/