

Nebraska Hay Harvesting Permits Available

LINCOLN, Neb. — The program that enables Nebraska landowners to obtain hay harvesting permits is now in effect. This is the fourth year that permits are being issued for harvesting hay from state highway rights-of-way. Interstate highways and freeways are excluded from the program.

Landowners whose land abuts the state right-of-way have until July 30 to apply for and receive a \$40 hay permit. After July 30, anyone may apply. Proof of one-million dollar liability insurance must accompany every application.

Applicants wishing to obtain a permit are reminded that if a permit for mowing and harvesting was issued last year, a permit for mowing and harvesting hay from that same area is not allowed this year. Abutting landowners who have obtained permits may begin harvesting on July 15, but others are restricted to harvesting between Aug. 1 and Sept. 15.

The \$40 permits will be available at NDOR area maintenance offices located across Nebraska. Complete rules and regulations for hay harvesting can be found at <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/hay/> or by calling your local state highway maintenance or District office. Hay harvesting permits are governed in accordance with Chapter 39, Article 13 of the Neb. Rev. Stat. 39-1359.01.

S.D. Marketplace Conference Slated For Huron

HURON — The Center for Rural Affairs and the South Dakota Farmers Union present the first ever South Dakota Marketplace Conference: "Opening Doors to Success" for entrepreneurs, business owners, farmers and ranchers from across the state, July 26-27 at the Crossroads Event Center in Huron.

The conference will offer rewarding networking opportunities, breakout sessions, South Dakota-made products, four expert keynote presentations, and much more.

One of the four keynote speakers, Malcolm Chapman, will provide a program over lunch on Wednesday, July 27. He will offer valuable insight for attendees to stay on the cutting edge of technology as current leaders of the Information Age.

After serving as a US Marine Corps Captain, Chapman started his professional career in 1996 starting up the Chapman Group, and in 1999 co-founded the Black Hills Society for Training and Development. Chapman teaches how to lead, sell, and deliver extraordinary service through seminars and speeches nationwide and offers consulting and coursework. Through this he has motivated thousands toward peak performance and the MarketPlace attendees are next in line.

The conference kicks off on Tuesday, July 26, with extended breakout sessions followed by Learning Roundtable Discussion and wrapping up with the South Dakota reception featuring foods from around the state.

Following on Wednesday is a day stacked with additional sessions focused on small businesses topics ranging from marketing to rural development, including Chapman's outlook on leadership and technology. Resources and networking opportunities will exceed your expectations.

Register today at www.cfra.org/marketplace/home. Early bird registration ends on July 19.

South Dakota Summer Spotlight July 22-24

BROOKINGS — The 2011 South Dakota Summer Spotlight and State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest will be held July 22-24 in Huron.

According to South Dakota Cooperative Extension 4-H Livestock Project Leader and event coordinator, Rod Geppert, the South Dakota Summer Spotlight is designed to highlight South Dakota's youth involved in livestock and provide them with opportunities to showcase their talent.

The event encompasses Beef Cattle, Sheep, Swine and Market/Meat Goat show.

Along with hosting these events, it will also be the site of the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, South Dakota Youth Beef Ambassador Contest and the South Dakota Born and Bred Lamb Show. In addition, a 4-H Livestock STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Speech Contest will be included. It focuses on new developments of science, technology, engineering and math within the livestock industry.

For more information contact, Rod Geppert at (605) 234-4442 or rodney.geppert@sdstate.edu.

Breed representatives for the All-Breeds Beef Summer Spotlight include:

- Angus: Shally Rogen, (605) 321-3806, drogen3061@aol.com; Charles Mogck, (605) 583-4385, mogckc1@gwtc.net; or Chris Styles, (605) 887-3657.
- Charolais: Renee Mack, (605) 886-2738; renee.mack@sd.usda.gov
- Chi-Angus: Jordan Holt, (605) 380-1209.
- Gelbvieh: Jackie Leonhardt, (605) 458-2595, leonhardt_cattle@yahoo.com
- Hereford: Lori Repenning, (605) 996-0196, blacktop@santel.net, or Darla Becking, dbecking@wat.midco.net
- Limousin: Kyle Stern, (605) 532-4222, kdstern@itctel.com or Adam Nielson, (605) 203-0733, romnlimo@msn.com.
- Maine-Anjou: Kim DeJong, (605) 869-2329; mkdjejong@kennebectelephone.com.
- Red Angus: Barb Weidenbach, (605) 852-2264; redangus@venturecomm.net.
- Shorthorn: Kevin VanderWal, (605) 627-9409; Kevin.vanderwal@sdstate.edu.
- Simmental: Cathy Eichacker, (605) 425-2391; es@triotel.net.
- Commercial Heifer, Market Heifer, and crossbred steer: Rod Geppert, (605) 234-4442, rodney.geppert@sdstate.edu

The South Dakota Corn Utilization Council is the primary sponsor for the event. For information on sponsorships, contact Geppert at (605) 234-4442.

Camping is available for the event. No need to pre-register. For more information call the South Dakota State Fair office, (800) 529-0900.

Additional rules and entry information are available from several of the specific show coordinators. For an information brochure, please contact your local County Extension Office.

Field School for Agronomy Professionals Set

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State University IPM Program and Plant Science Department along with South Dakota Agri-Business Association will host a hands-on in-field training for agronomy professionals August 2 and 3 at the Northeast Research Farm, South Shore. The Field School is being rescheduled from the July 7 date because of heavy rains and flooding at the research farm.

The two-day training provides agronomy professionals with Certified Crop Advisor credits in soil fertility, integrated pest management, crop production, and soil and water. Registration is \$175, the late registration fee is being waived because of the rescheduling. The training runs 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Aug. 2 and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 3.

To register, visit the South Dakota Agri-Business Association Web site, www.sdaba.org or call 1-800-994-2445 or 605-224-2445.

Demand Still Galloping

Number Of Slaughtered U.S. Horses Nearly The Same As Before Ban

BY BARRY SHLACHTER
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FORT WORTH, Texas — More than 100,000 U.S. horses a year are still being turned into chops and steaks for Europeans and Asians since three slaughter plants in Texas and Illinois were closed in 2007.

Only the work is now done by Mexicans and Canadians, a government study has found.

"From 2006 through 2010, U.S. horse exports for slaughter increased by 148 percent to Canada and 660 percent to Mexico," the U.S. Government Accountability Office said.

"Nearly the same number of U.S. horses was transported to Canada and Mexico for slaughter in 2010 — nearly 138,000 — as was slaughtered before domestic slaughter ceased," said the GAO's study on the "unintended consequences" of stopping domestic horse slaughter, released in June.

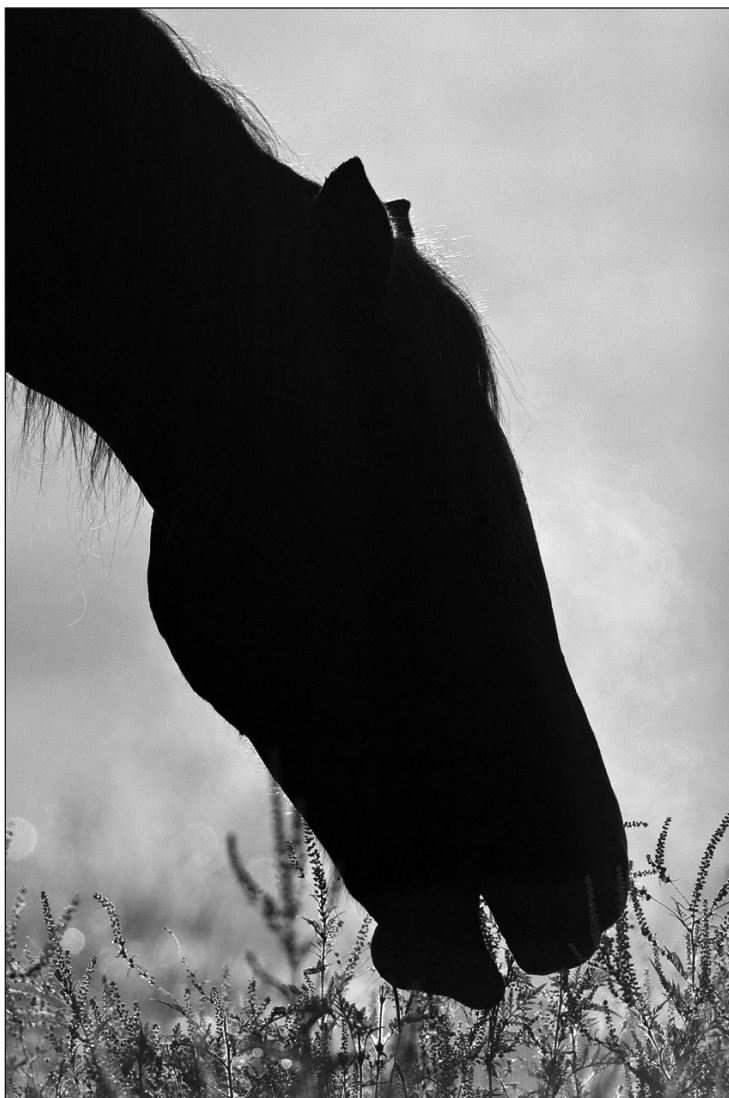
Lost are direct exports to Europe totaling 17,000 metric tons of horse meat valued at \$65 million in 2006, when the three U.S. plants operated, including Beltex/Frontier Meats in Fort Worth and Dallas Crown in Kaufman, Texas, both owned by Belgian investors. Much of the Fort Worth horse meat was transported overseas by American Airlines.

U.S. zoos and circuses, which earlier could obtain horse meat domestically, now buy imported horse meat to feed their valuable collections of big cats, the GAO said. Pet food manufacturers are permitted to process meat from domestic horse corpses, it said.

Dallas Crown and Cavel International in DeKalb, Ill., have both closed, but Beltex continued to operate after 2007, processing wild boar and ostrich, as well as ritually slaughtering beef cattle for the kosher market. Its manager, Allen Gilbert, did not respond to requests for comment on the GAO report.

After congressional opponents stopped funding the federal inspection of horse meat in 2006, the plants paid for their own inspections until Texas and Illinois stopped the slaughter of horses for human consumption in 2007.

The welfare of many horses has suffered, the study said. Horses must now travel far-



METRO GRAPHICS

ther, sometimes in trailers built for smaller animals and "without adequate rest, food and water."

Other unintended consequences include an 8 percent to 21 percent drop in the market for lower- to medium-priced horses, while reports of horse neglect and abandonment have risen since 2007. Colorado reported that neglect investigations climbed 60 percent from 2005 to 2009. Texas, California and Florida said more horses have been abandoned on private and state land since 2007, the GAO said.

Among the recommendations, the GAO study said Congress could reconsider restrictions on the use of federal funds to inspect horses for slaughter or permanently ban it.

The USDA has already agreed to a GAO suggestion that it ensure the humane treatment of horses throughout the transportation chain.

Horse meat is considered an appropriate part of human diets in many countries and was consumed in the United States as recently as the mid-1940s, the GAO said.

But the 68-page study noted how the now-contentious equine slaughter issue has divided Americans.

Many animal-rights groups and horse enthusiasts cite the horse's iconic role in helping settle the West, its use as a rural work animal and its continued importance as a show, racing and recreation animal, the GAO said. As a result,

some view horses as a companion animal or pet.

Other Americans, it said, view the horse as livestock, citing economic benefits to commercial slaughter — jobs, export revenue and a floor price for the horse market — while serving as an alternative for unwanted horses.

Many of the unintended consequences had been predicted by opponents of the slaughter ban, including Charlie Stenholm, a former West Texas congressman who actively lobbied against the restrictions.

But Wayne Pacelle, CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, said the undesirable situation is a self-fulfilling prophecy of farm lobbyists who worked to successfully block legislation that would have stopped the transport of horses to Canada and Mexico for slaughter.

"We never viewed the shutdown of the U.S. plants as the end of the process," Pacelle said in a telephone interview. "We've known we must stop the export of live horses to our neighboring nations if we are going to shut down slaughter."

But there might be momentum now to close the borders, he said, referring to a bipartisan bill proposed by Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and Lindsay Graham, R-S.C. "We think the GAO report gives us powerful new ammunition to pass the federal legislation," he said, noting that both sponsors are Southerners from farm states.

At the same time, there are moves afoot in several states to permit slaughter.

"Wyoming and North Dakota are ready to go," Stenholm said. Both are waiting on regulations on interstate shipment of meat to be approved "and for Congress to clear up the issue, which we hope the Senate will do with House concurrence." Nebraska and Montana are also interested, he said.

Wyoming has amended an existing law that would allow feral livestock, including horses, to be slaughtered instead of being auctioned or destroyed.

The meat would be sold to state institutions or nonprofit groups at cost or to for-profit companies at the market rate, the GAO report said.

Ethanol Professionals See Equipment In Action At SDSU

BROOKINGS — Increasing the efficiency of ethanol processing plants is Beau Schmalz fulltime job.

As an operations engineering manager for POET, Schmalz spends his days visiting POET ethanol plants, collecting and analyzing operational data and practices to determine process adjustments plants can make to optimize efficiencies and profits.

"We take the best practices from the most efficient plants and share them with all POET plants," Schmalz said.

South Dakota State University Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department just made his job easier. The department recently invested in small scale, corn milling and ethanol processing equipment so Schmalz and his peers can use the equipment to test process adjustments and train ethanol professionals. The more than \$30,000 equipment was purchased through a grant funded by the S.D. Department of Labor, State Energy Sector Partnership.

Schmalz and 19 POET engineers and managers got to try out the new equipment during a two-day training, hosted by the SDSU Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering Department.

"This small equipment allows them to test small adjustments and see how they work without the expense or risk associated with testing adjustments in a large ethanol plant," said Van Kelley, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering department head. "If adjustments aren't made correctly at a plant processing 100,000 bushels of corn per day — it ends up being an extremely expensive mistake."

POET worked with SDSU Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering faculty, Jimmy Gu and Kasi Muthukumarappan, to design the workshop curriculum. During the hands-on training, POET engineers and process managers used the processing equipment to test many different operating parameters — moisture content, temperature and time. A new, near-infrared spectroscopy system was used to measure the moisture, fiber, protein and fat in the samples.

"This training is designed to go beyond 'here's how you operate the equipment,' and introduce the science behind the milling," said Schmalz, of the workshop tested by POET, but designed for the entire ethanol industry. Explaining the science behind the process is a valuable step Kasi

Muthukumarappan, professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering says is key to implementing efficiencies.

"Understanding the science behind dry milling and fractionation is the only way professionals in the ethanol industry can make adjustments to the process," Muthukumarappan said.

Dry milling and fractionation is the process that breaks up a kernel of corn and separates it into fiber, endosperm and germ. This allows ethanol plants to isolate the endosperm prior to the fermentation process.

"Fractionation allows an ethanol plant to improve its efficiency and profitability," Kelley

said. "The fiber, corn oil and germ are then processed separately for livestock feed and corn oil."

The department plans to host two training workshops each year for ethanol professionals. During the school year, Kelley says the equipment will be utilized by SDSU faculty to provide ag engineering students with hands-on training.

"The equipment will help us do a better job of preparing undergraduate students. Before we had this equipment students learned about ethanol processing through blackboard lectures," said Kelley of the equipment that will also be used to demonstrate milling processes for other grains as well.

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