

S.D. Community Foundation Awards \$20,000 To Museum



Bob Sutton, president of the South Dakota Community Foundation, awards a check for \$20,000 to Dakota Territorial Museum director Crystal Mensch-Nelson. The grant is to assist the Mead Building project.

COURTESY PHOTO

The South Dakota Community Foundation has awarded the Dakota Territorial Museum a \$20,000 grant to assist the Yankton County Historical Society with the Mead Building project.

This grant was presented through the South Dakota Community Foundation's statewide grant program.

The Dakota Territorial Museum is owned by the Yankton County Historical Society, housing memorabilia of early Dakota Territory days, Native American, and pioneer artifacts. The museum offers visitors a glimpse into Yankton's rich history through exhibits.

The Dakota Territorial Museum is undertaking the general restoration and reuse of the historic Mead Building on the South Dakota Human Services Center campus. This building represents a unique opportunity to combine

outstanding historic architecture with new technologies, adaptive reuse, and "green" energy.

According to Ginger Niemann, program officer of the South Dakota Community Foundation, "Restoration of the Mead Building is more than just a preservation project. It is a way to turn a state liability into an asset. Not only will this building be used by all in the community and surrounding area; researchers, educators, and events will benefit from the building's space. The South Dakota Community Foundation is pleased to be a partner on this important project."

The South Dakota Community Foundation is a public non-profit organization established in 1987. The Foundation commingles money from over 500 funds for investment and administration purposes.



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Multiple Factors Cause Heat Stress In Livestock

BROOKINGS — As the temperature increases ranchers and feedlot operators start to worry about the well-being of their cattle. However, it is not just heat that plays a part in heat stress, says Heather Larson, SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist.

"Producers need to monitor all weather conditions such as temperature, humidity and wind, closely and start interventions early in the day, well before noon," Larson said. "If an extended amount of time elapses before cattle are cooled down it may be too hot and late."

During times of hot days, followed by warm nights Larson says there is also a potential that cattle will not have enough time to cool down completely through the night before the sun starts to heat things up again.

Heat stress is one of those conditions that occur almost every summer. Larson says its impact on livestock varies based on genetic makeup, health status, stage of production and previous exposure to heat.

"Together, these factors can become deadly, when the combination of temperature, humidity, wind speed and cloud cover result in extreme environmental conditions," Larson said.

Being able to detect when cattle are becoming heat stressed is an important factor.

"Watch cattle early for signs such as panting or open-

mouthed breathing. These are indications that heat stress is occurring and interventions should take place," Larson said.

She adds that cattle producers should avoid working, transporting or moving cattle during hot weather.

"If it's necessary to work or move cattle, do so in the early morning hours only. Cattle are still dissipating their body heat during the evening hours," Larson said.

Producers can also change their feeding times from morning to late afternoon. Larson explains that this shifts the heat produced by fermentation to night time, when cattle are better able to dissipate the heat.

"If you are feeding twice a day then feed 60-70 percent of the total ration in the late afternoon and the rest in the morning," she said.

Water intake decreases when water in the tanks exceeds 80°F. As a result, Larson says producers need to ensure that water pipes are not exposed to sun. Pipes should be at least 2-feet underground. Adding a supplemental tank of water to pens of cattle is another step producers can take.

Larson reminds producers to check the refill rate of the stock tanks.

"Remember, in the summer when many animals are drinking many tanks will be trying to fill at

one time in addition to other potential needs for water on the same water supply line," she said. "During the summer water intake may exceed 9 gallons per head per day. It is recommended that cattle have a water space requirement of 1.5 inches per head. For example, 100 head of cattle would need 150 inches of water tank perimeter."

Under hot conditions fly control becomes even more important says Larson.

"Cattle will group together to get away from biting flies. Under hot conditions this will aid in increasing heat stress. Provide fly control through the use of fly tags, sprays, or other control methods," Larson said.

Providing shade will take a substantial amount of stress off cattle. However, Larson says this is typically not an option, but providing shade to vulnerable animals such as the sick pen may prevent deaths. If using sheds make sure there is adequate air flow.

The weight and color of animals are additional considerations.

"Dark-hided and heavier cattle should preferentially be given pens with more airflow. If pens near shelterbelts with poor airflow need to be used, stock them with lighter-weight, lighter-colored calves if possible," Larson said.

Sprinklers can help reduce

heat stress, but if sprinklers are used, Larson says they should provide large water droplets instead of a mist.

"Water should run off the cattle saturating the hair. Running the sprinklers for 5 to 10 minutes at a time, twice an hour, will allow evaporative cooling to take place and is preferred over continuous sprinkling," she said.

Wetting down pen surfaces will provide a cooler surface for animals to stand and also will help alleviate heat stress. If you have no way to sprinkle cattle to cool them and the ground down, then another option that may help somewhat to cool the ground is applying a layer of ground straw. This will help by absorbing less solar radiation and providing a slightly cooler place to stand.

The USDA's Agricultural Research Service offers a cattle heat stress forecast page at this link: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/Doc/cs.htm?docid=21306>. They forecast out a week at a time to help prepare for conditions that may be potentially harmful.

"With this tool and the management steps above, ranchers can prepare for extreme conditions and hopefully triumph over them," Larson said.

To learn more about how to protect your livestock from heat stress, visit iGrow.org/Livestock.

Drought

From Page 1A

He added that people are looking at all of their options and are trying to get what they can from their yields.

In addition to the corn yield being down Rich Schwartz, county executive director for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Yankton, said farmers will likely be around 40 percent of their normal hay yield if the hot and dry conditions persist.

However, despite the dire conditions for most crops, soybeans still have a chance to rebound.

"Rain would definitely still help soybean yields," Schwartz said. "There can still be a fair soybean yield this season."

"Soybeans have been doing quite well recently, despite the drought," Wagner said. "Once they enter the reproduction stage, the heat and drought will begin to effect their yields."

The conditions have become so extreme that Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) wrote a letter to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to encourage more flexibility to help the producers in South Dakota that are battling the drought.

The letter makes the recommendation of flexibility in the opening of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for emergency haying and grazing in the state, among others.

Schwartz thinks the emergency CRP ruling will go through.

"We will know the official word on it by July 26. It's not 100 percent (guaranteed), but I think it will go forward," he said. "It will help stretch feed supplies, and

even though its not the best quality of hay, it will help."

Schwartz added that Yankton County is getting closer to declaring a drought emergency.

Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman expanded early roadside haying in 25 counties across his state due to the extreme drought conditions. In addition, applications to hay all Nebraska roadsides will be open to all citizens of the state.

In addition, Heineman authorized an emergency declaration for the drought that allows personnel and resources in Nebraska to assist with emergency situations and prevention. The declaration also allows for maximum flexibility to deploy National Guard and Emergency Management Agency assets and resources as needed across Nebraska.

"This drought has been devastating," Schwartz said.

Some pastures across the region are doing well, but Wagner notes that pastures in the Yankton area are not so fortunate.

"Pastures in the area are in tough shape right now," he said. "It's going to be very difficult for them to improve if farmers don't get rain soon."

Schwartz added, in addition to the heat and drought, speculators also play a big influence on farmers' profits.

"People that raise corn are at the mercy of speculators," he said. "If prices continue to go up, there will continue to be huge impacts on ethanol."

Schwartz added, "It's not a pretty picture right now. The drought is having a huge negative impact on farmers."

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Noem

From Page 1A

carry labels identifying the country in which it originated.

Noem said the bill includes provisions she has promoted to extend livestock disaster payments, encourage protection of native sod and grassland and streamline the process of fighting the mountain pine beetle infestation that is killing trees in the Black Hills.

The House committee bill differs from the Senate measure passed three weeks ago by preserving a price support program that pays farmers when prices fall below certain levels. That target price system is favored by Southern rice and peanut farmers.

Corn and soybean farmers prefer a program, included in both bills, that would compensate them for modest revenue losses before subsidized crop insurance kicks in.

Noem said she does not support target prices, and in that regard, prefers the Senate version of the farm bill.

"The No. 1 priority for producers in South Dakota that I've been hearing for the last couple of years has been that crop insurance needs to remain strong," Noem said. "That safety net is just critically important when you live in a state like South Dakota where we face a lot of extremes and people take a lot of

risk to put their crops in every year."

Varilek previously said he supported the Senate version of the financial safety net, including a strong crop insurance program. He also has said it should limit payments to large farm operations and instead focus on helping more modest-sized family farmers. Those making more than \$750,000 a year in adjusted gross income should have to pay a bigger share of the cost of crop insurance, he said.

Varilek said a provision requiring the Agriculture Department to file a report to Congress on its compliance with the World Trade Organization could be used later to hamper the labeling of meat to indicate its country of origin.

The Democrat also said he favors the Senate bill's more modest \$400 million a year cut in food stamps, now known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The House version would save \$1.6 billion a year by tightening eligibility rules for food stamps.

Noem said the House committee's bill would cut food stamp spending by eliminating practices in some states that waive income and asset limits for people getting other welfare benefits or that give people minimal heating aid so they are eligible for food stamps.

"We truly believe this program needs to go to the people who really need it," she said. "We want to make sure it's getting into the hands of people who are hungry and need the help."

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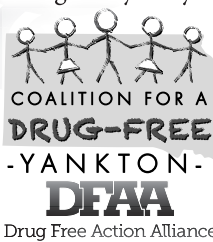
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- Know Your Child's Friends
- Monitor, Supervise & Set Boundaries
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Source: Treatment Research Institute & The Partnership at Drugfree.org. "6 Parenting Practices: Help Reduce the Chances Your Child will Develop a Drug or Alcohol Problem"

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