

## Hay

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you have this diversity within the group."

SDARL member Amy Pravecek of Winner listed the wide variety of her classmates' occupations: farmers, ranchers, ag bankers, animal health company, seed representatives, implement dealer, dairy, soybean association and feedlot and business owners, to name a few.

"It's a very diversified group," she said. In the same manner, the group has learned about the state's very diversified ag economy, including areas not normally considered agriculture by some people. They have toured logging, aquaculture, a hay operation, a winery, meat packing plant, dairy, ethanol plant, wildlife management and ranching.

"It exposes us to all the aspects of agriculture in South Dakota," Pravecek said. "Without this program, I never would have been exposed to or learned about it."

The SDARL program holds 10 seminars at various locations around South Dakota, visiting Yankton this week.

One Yankton session focused on zoning and its role with economic development, said SDARL member Dusty Schley of Stratford.

"We compared our counties to places ... where they may be more progressive (with zoning)," he said. "We need to change and help our businesses here."

The SDARL group doesn't stay within the South Dakota borders. The members traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet lawmakers and learn about the formulation of national ag policy.

Shawn Freeland of Caputa said he enjoyed the opportunity, as a citizen, to see how Washington operates. "It was awesome for us to see what it takes to run the country and to set policy. It was pretty impressive," he said.

The SDARL group will hit the road — or more, accurately, take to the air — one more time when it concludes its program with a trip to Spain and Portugal next February.

### HAY, HAY, HAY!

But this week, they experienced the "hay day" with Amy Freeburg.

At one stop at the Freeburg farm, the class members examined the hay's quality. They marveled at the large operation and the rapid pace of the workers moving through each field.

Freeburg offered them the chance to "ride" along with the workers. A number of class members took advantage, while others relaxed on bales.

In contrast to many of the SDARL members' dry conditions back home, Freeburg said her hay operation worries about too much rain.

In addition, the water table lies close to the surface, she said.

"Here in the (Missouri) river bottom, we have high tide and low tide. The moisture starts to come up out of the bottom as well as in the air. You especially see it this time of year," she said.

"In 2011, when the Missouri River was full bore (with historic flooding), it was a pistol," she said, pushing her foot on the grass as if squishing soaked soil.

Freeburg fielded the SDARL members' questions about harvesting the hay, determining its quality and marketing the product.

The Freeburg operation currently has 2,500 to 3,000 acres in hay, she said. "We start in mid-May and get four cuttings a year. But this year, we're on track to get a fifth cutting," she said.

And contrary to that old adage, the Freeburgs don't always make hay when the sun shines.

"If the weather lets us move, we do. But if it's hay we have to cut, we'll cut it," Amy said. "Hay cut at the right stage is better than hay that waits for the weather."

The Freeburgs aim for quality, not quantity, with their operation. Valley Ag tests and certifies the hay.

"Timing is everything, whether you plant, rake, cut or bale it," Amy said. "Our top priority isn't tonnage. We want to see how much quality hay we can get."

After they finish haying in the fall, the Freeburgs devote their time to marketing their product. Customers include dairies, zoos and Amish men with milk goats, with the primary markets in the eastern part of the nation, Amy said.

The Freeburgs have remained active members of the National Hay Association (NHA). Gary served as president in 1993, and Amy currently serves on the board. The Freeburgs also attend the annual World Dairy Expo, giving them more important connections.

Customers remain loyal, even if they aren't always placing regular orders, Amy said.

"Gary and I have been doing this for over 40 years, and there are customers we haven't heard from for 10 years," she said. "Then, that person will call and say, 'We're having a bad year, we need hay.' Our clientele hangs with us really well."

The Chinese have shown a strong interest in the Freeburg hay, but the Freeburgs don't see it as a viable market because of the high transportation costs.

After this week's tour, a number of SDARL class members described the Freeburg operation as progressive.

Bjorn Nelson of Huron said he was visiting the southeast corner of the state for the first time and found the tour showed a different crop.

"To see the Freeburg operation is so unbelievable," he said. "We talk corn and beans, but they went with alfalfa and made it a niche market."

Jim Kanable of Ipswich agreed. "It was cool to see the Freeburg operation. You don't see that many operations that have alfalfa as the main crop," he said.

The SDARL classmates talked about the hay tour, like other parts of the 18-month program, as offering valuable lessons.

"You've got to think outside the box," Freeland said.

Schley agreed. "A lot of it is changing your mindset. It's also about leadership. You see how other people think so differently and how you can apply that knowledge to your business," he said.

Doyle Renaas of Nunda sees the opportunity to learn from others. "We all know something, but we don't know it all," he said.

Nick Scott of Valley Springs looked at it another way. "As one speaker said, it's all about 'educate, educate, educate.'"

Pravecek has found SDARL to be rewarding. "This is a fantastic program. It's definitely worth the time commitment," she said.

Nelson also sees it as a life-changing experience. "It broadens your horizons, and you meet a lot of people," he said.

Kanable noted he can gain advice on agriculture not only from his SDARL class but from the roughly 210 graduates of the previous seven programs. "The biggest benefit has been the contacts and the people you meet along the way," he said. "It's been quite an experience."

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# Conditions On Pluto: Incredibly Hazy With Flowing Ice

BY MARCIA DUNN  
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Pluto is hazier than scientists expected and appears to be covered with flowing ice.

The team responsible for the New Horizons flyby of Pluto last week released new pictures Friday of the previously unexplored world on the edge of the solar system.

"If you're seeing a cardiologist, you may want to leave the room," principal scientist Alan Stern teased at the opening of the news conference at NASA headquarters. "There are some pretty mind-blowing discoveries."

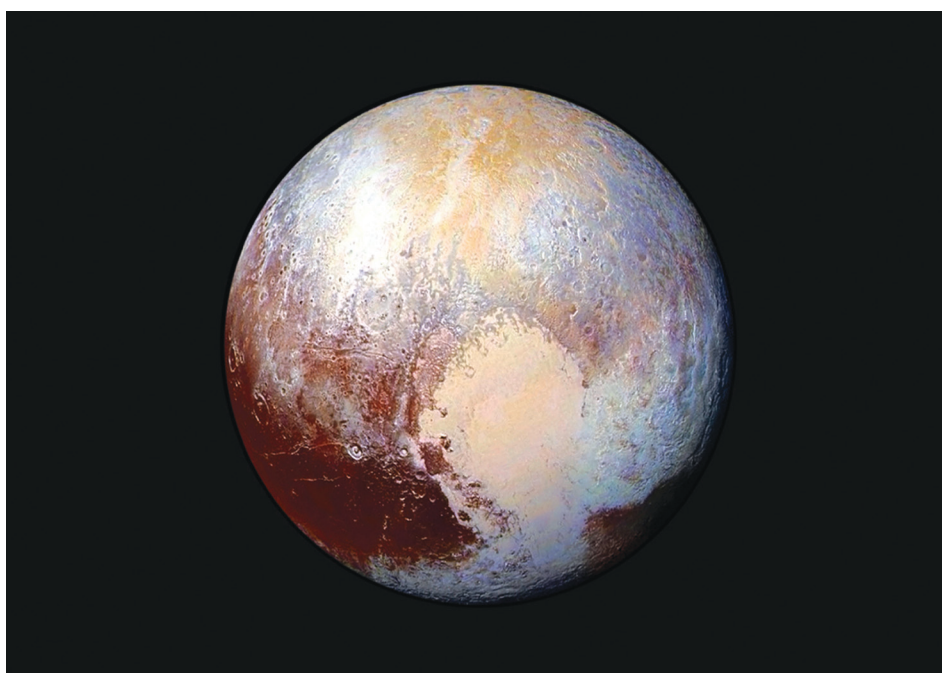
NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, now 7.5 million beyond Pluto, has detected layers of haze stretching 100 miles (160 kilometers) into the atmosphere, much higher than anticipated. All this haze is believed to account for the dwarf planet's reddish color.

If you were standing on Pluto and looking up, you probably wouldn't notice the haze, said George Mason University's Michael Summers. In fact, New Horizons had to wait until after its closest approach on July 14, so the sun would silhouette Pluto and the atmosphere could be measured by means of the scattered sunlight.

As for the ice flows, they appear to be relatively recent: no more than a few tens of millions of years, according to William McKinnon of Washington University in St. Louis.

That compares with the 4.5 billion-year age of Pluto and the rest of the solar system.

To see evidence of such recent activity, he said, is "simply a dream come



NASA/JHU/APL/SWRI  
Four images from New Horizons' Long Range Reconnaissance Imager (LORRI) were combined with color data from the Ralph instrument to create this enhanced color global view of Pluto. The images were taken when the spacecraft was 280,000 miles away and show features as small as 1.4 miles.

true." Temperatures on Pluto are minus 380 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 229 degrees Celsius), and so water ice would not move anywhere in such extreme cold. But McKinnon said the nitrogen and other ices believed to be on Pluto would be geologically soft and therefore able to flow like glaciers on Earth.

Some of that plutonian ice seems to have emptied into impact craters, creating ponds of frozen nitrogen. One of those semi-filled craters is about the size of metropolitan Washington D.C., McKinnon said.

These latest findings support the theory that an underground ocean might exist deep beneath Pluto's icy crust, McKinnon said. These ice flows — which

might still be active — are found on Pluto's vast icy plain, now called Sputnik Planum after Earth's first man-made satellite. The plain is about the size of Texas and occupies the left side of Pluto's bright heart-shaped feature, named Tombaugh Regio after the late astronomer who discovered Pluto in 1930, Clyde Tombaugh.

It's evident now that the two "lobes" of the heart are quite different; Stern speculated that nitrogen snow could possibly be blowing from the brighter left, or western, side to the right.

One of Pluto's newly discovered mountain ranges now bears the name of Sir Edmund Hillary, who along with Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay conquered Mount Everest in 1953. The New

Horizons team already had named another series of mountains after Norgay.

The spacecraft traveled 3 billion miles over 9 1/2 years to get the first close-up look of Pluto. The New Horizons team stressed that most of the collected data are still aboard the spacecraft and will take more than a year to obtain. Over the next several weeks, much of the incoming transmissions will consist of engineering or other technical data — and only a few images.

But starting in mid-September, "the spigot opens again," promised Stern, a scientist at the Southwest Research Institute. From then until fall 2016, "The sky will be raining presents with data from the Pluto system. It's going to be quite a ride."

## Pipeline

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ruling out of bounds by the commission.

• Four — The challenge for the interveners is to prove to the commission that conditions are inadequate as set in the original permit. The challenge for the company is to show the conditions can still be met.

• Five — A possible wild card in this round of permitting is safety, in case of a landslide along at least one segment of the proposed route.

• Six — The mood changes by the day and the week. The commission didn't seem prepared for the intensity of opposition this time. The sides couldn't reach agreement on a procedural schedule. The commission originally set the hearing for May 5, but pushed it back to now.

There has been a months-long stream of motions by various parties. Intervenors have complained repeatedly

they didn't receive adequate time for discovery.

• Seven — Who's winning? Generally TransCanada has fared okay during the preliminary disputes, but the commission has sided with interveners when TransCanada didn't produce information.

In the past week, the commission rejected many rules sought by TransCanada for the hearing, but chairman Nelson also told one of the interveners' lawyers essentially to pipe down when some of the decisions went partially TransCanada's way.

• Eight — The commission's decision likely won't be the final act regarding the South Dakota segment of the proposed route. Court appeals probably will follow regardless of the prevailing side on the PUC permit.

• Nine — This certification process is new ground for the commission.

• Ten — The schedule calls for marking exhibits starting at 8 a.m. CT on Monday, July 27, and the hearing formally starting at 9 a.m. Live audio each day is available through a link at [www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov) via the Internet.

## Patrol Considering New Community Outreach

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Officials say a new outreach policy under consideration by Nebraska State Patrol leaders would encourage on-duty troopers to attend county fairs, public celebrations, school programs, sporting events, recitals and church services.

Patrol spokeswoman Deb Collins told the Lincoln Journal Star on Thursday that the proposal is "designed to inspire our sworn officers to make a difference by interacting with the citizens of Nebraska through the occasional participation in community outreach activities."

The proposal outlines the process a trooper would have to follow to attend an event, and Collins noted that it's still in the early stages of consideration. Col. Brad Rice, who took command of the state patrol in March, declined to comment about the proposed outreach program.

In neighboring Iowa, the State Patrol dedicates around 14 officers to public outreach, said the agency's media specialist, Sgt. Nathan Ludwig.

The officers mainly focus on traffic safety education at schools and public events, but they also provide traffic control for events like the annual bike ride across Iowa and they attend the Iowa State Fair.

"As far as going to church, they don't do anything like that," Ludwig said. "Or attend sporting events."

A message was left with the president of the State Troopers Association of Nebraska was left Wednesday by the *Omaha World-Herald*.

In Omaha, Nebraska, staff of the city's Police Department within the Neighborhood Services Unit make regular public appearances, speak at schools and organize events such as Coffee with a Cop.

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**Thank you**  
Thank you to our son Jeff, and his family, Marti and Billi Jo, for hosting a great party at O'Malleys on Bill's birthday. We appreciate the many friends who came to share in our anniversary and birthday celebration. Cards are still arriving and we enjoy reading all of them. We feel so blessed to have each other and such a loving family and good friends.  
Again THANK YOU to everyone.  
**Lucille and Bill Dayhuff**

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