

## MIDWEST DIGEST

### Soggy Fields Forcing Neb. Farmers To Adjust

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska experts say the wet weather is forcing farmers to adjust their weed-control and nitrogen work. Bob Klein is a University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension cropping specialist. He says, for example, that corn that's a foot tall or more needs a different herbicide than the atrazine normally used. And, he says, farmers should consider using drop nozzles so they can avoid damaging plants as they apply herbicides. UNL Extension soils specialist Charles Shapiro says that before farmers apply any nitrogen-based products, they should determine how much water their soil contains.

Shapiro says soil that's been waterlogged for seven or eight days could lose 15 percent of its nitrogen, which is essential for plant growth.

### Groundbreaking Set For New Iowa Casino

LARCHWOOD, Iowa (AP) — Groundbreaking has been scheduled for a \$120 million casino project in northwest Iowa.

The groundbreaking is set for Wednesday afternoon for the Lyon County Resort and Casino. The Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission approved a casino license for the project last month, noting it would draw gamblers from Sioux Falls, S.D., only eight miles from the new development.

The casino is scheduled to open in July 2011 with about 740 full and part-time workers. The Lyon County resort is expected to include an 18-hole golf course and 100-room hotel.

Dan Kehl is chief executive officer of the Lyon County development. Kehl has said he thinks the resort will be good for the region.

### Dylan To Perform At Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

STURGIS (AP) — Folk music icon Bob Dylan will perform at this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota.

Buffalo Chip Campground owner Rod Woodruff says Dylan is scheduled to perform on Aug. 10.

It will be the first concert at Sturgis for the 69-year-old Dylan. Woodruff says Dylan has been a huge influence on modern music and that it's an honor to have him on stage at Sturgis.

Dylan is a Minnesota native who got his start in Twin Cities coffeehouses. He later moved to New York and became part of the burgeoning folk scene. After a *New York Times* music critic praised his act, Columbia Records signed him to a recording contract.

Other acts scheduled at the 70th annual Sturgis rally include Ozzy Osbourne, Kid Rock, Motley Crue, Buckcherry and ZZ Top.

### Last South Dakota WWII Code Talker Buried

STURGIS (AP) — The last of the American Indian code talkers from South Dakota who served during World War II has been laid to rest.

Clarence Wolf Guts of Wanblee was buried Tuesday in Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis. The 86-year-old Wolf Guts died June 16 at the South Dakota Veterans Home in Hot Springs.

Wolf Guts was one of 11 Lakota, Nakota and Dakota code talkers from South Dakota. During the war, they transmitted messages from an Army general to his chief of staff in the field using their native tongue, which the Germans and the Japanese could not translate.

People came from around the country to pay their respects on Tuesday. Gov. Mike Rounds asked that flags be flown at half staff in Wolf Guts' honor.

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## Some Ask If Fremont Has Problems With Immigrants

BY MARGERY A. BECK  
Associated Press Writer

FREMONT, Neb. — In the wake of a newly approved ordinance meant to crack down on illegal immigrants, some question whether Fremont has a problem with people in the country illegally — or immigrants in general.

Supporters of the measure say illegal immigrants have flocked to the eastern Nebraska city of 25,000 to take jobs at two meatpacking plants outside of town.

Others — like Kristin Ostrom, who helped organize opposition to the measure that was approved Monday — said many people are assuming that the influx of Hispanic immigrants over the last 20 years are people here illegally.

"We really don't have an illegal immigrant problem," Ostrom said. "The majority are here legally."

University of Nebraska at Omaha census expert David Drozd said census data from 2006 through 2008 shows there were 1,117 foreign-born residents in Fremont. Of that, 832 were not U.S. citizens. He cautioned that does not mean that they were in the country illegally.

Based on those numbers, Jeff Passel with the Pew Hispanic Center estimates that Fremont's illegal immigrant population might not exceed 500 people — just 2 percent of the city's population. He estimates about 45 percent of the state's immigrants are undocumented, and that the percentage tends to climb a bit in towns with meatpacking plants.

"We're talking hundreds of people, not thousands," Passel said of the number of illegal immigrants in Fremont.

The city's ordinance, passed Monday by 57 percent of voters, bans hiring or renting to illegal immigrants. It applies only to rental properties and businesses within city limits. Those who supported it say they fear local jobs were going to illegal immigrants and they were spurred to action to make up for what they see as lax enforcement by federal officials.

Jerry Hart is one of three Fremont residents who petitioned for the public vote who doesn't buy the argument that the ordinance is borne out of discrimination. He said the federal government isn't controlling immigration, so Fremont and other communities need local ordinances to protect jobs for legal residents and curb spending on education and medical care for illegal immigrants.

In March, federal authorities indicted 17 people from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras on fraud, identity theft and related charges following an immigration probe at the Fremont Beef Co.

But local store owner and naturalized U.S. citizen Alfredo Velez said he believes many white residents simply make assumptions about anyone with brown skin.

"Some people see the color of our skin and right away think we're illegal," said Velez, who has run his general store carrying products from Mexico and Central America since 1998.

Past raids by federal immigration officers on the state's meatpacking plants have not always been met with enthusiasm.

In 1999, immigration agents targeted Nebraska meatpacking plants as part of an operation meant to be an example to other employers. Immigration agents had checked thousands of employment forms and identified hundreds of workers they thought might be in the country illegally.

That operation, however, became more notable for the economic disruption it caused than the arrests, and drew protests from both advocates for immigrant rights and local and business leaders. Nebraska's political leaders demanded that the government back off, complaining that production had fallen sharply as the plants' workers dwindled.

Federal immigration officials don't track operations via industry, size or location, said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Gail Montenegro, so she could not say how many raids or audits of employment rolls had taken place in recent years at Nebraska meatpacking plants — including at Fremont's two plants: Hormel and Fremont Beef.

"ICE has to focus its priorities on dangerous criminals, egregious employers, foreign-born gang members," she said. "First and foremost is public safety."

Both Hormel and Fremont Beef use the federal E-Verify database, which is meant to ensure that employees are allowed to work.

Hormel officials say there have been no federal immigration investigations at the Fremont plant. Fremont Beef officials did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment Wednesday.

## S.D. Residents Testify Against Cutting Saturday Mail

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press Writer

SIoux FALLS — Eliminating Saturday mail delivery would devastate people in rural states such as South Dakota, according to the head of a statewide letter carriers association.

Postal officials have sought congressional approval to drop mail deliveries on Saturdays after the Postal Service lost \$3.8 billion last year. Its losses are expected to increase this year as people do more business on the Internet and the recession discourages business mail.

The Postal Regulatory Commission had a hearing on the matter scheduled Wednesday in Rapid City. Other public hearings have been held in Las Vegas, Sacramento, Calif., Dallas, Memphis and Chicago, and a seventh is planned for Monday in Buffalo, N.Y.

In testimony prepared for

Wednesday's hearing, Brent Fjerestad said carriers provide peace of mind by delivering letters, prescriptions and packages six days a week.

"Seniors, who rely heavily on receiving prescription medications through the mail, would be adversely affected," said Fjerestad, president of the South Dakota State Association of Letter Carriers. "During our harsh winters, the Postal Service is expecting our customers to brave bad conditions to make it to the Post Office to pick up their mail."

Postal officials also are seeking relief from an annual payment of more than \$5 billion to pay in advance for retiree health benefits.

Gary Evensen, a rural carrier in Rapid City, said sparsely populated areas can create challenges, as some rural South Dakota routes are 150 to 170 miles long.

"Without Saturday delivery,

some customers would have to drive 30, 40 or possibly 50 miles or more round trip to go to the post office to get that mail," Evensen said in his written testimony.

Some of smaller post offices get all of their daily mail brought to them by a rural carrier, Evensen added, so eliminating Saturday delivery would also mean mail is not delivered to boxes.

*The Tri-State Livestock News*, which prints livestock sale reports and technical articles for ranchers and farmers in a nine-state region, relies on mailed copies and does not have any other distribution methods, publisher Scott Engel said.

The Livestock News has a Saturday publish and mail date, and pushing it back to Monday will create problems for thousands of ranching operations, Engel said. Many readers rely on


the paper to make their buy and sell decisions, often right on the heels of receiving the newspaper, he said.

"Most of our readers do not seek this information online," Engel said in written testimony. "Often times, the livestock health bulletins are critical to reach our readers as quickly as possible."

Officials from both the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and R-Cal USA, a rancher advocacy group, said they haven't heard any concerns from their members about rural delivery changes.

The Postmaster General reported earlier this year that 10 years ago, the average household received five pieces of mail every day. Today that's down to four, and it is expected to fall to three by 2020.

Overall, the number of items handled by the post office fell from 213 billion in 2006 to 177 billion last year. Volume is expected to shrink to 150 billion by 2020.



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