

AGNOTES

Freeman Swine Meeting Set For Apr. 5

The South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service will host a swine production meeting on April 5 in Freeman. The free meeting will be held at Papa's Restaurant, 1121 U.S. Highway 81, Freeman. A producer Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) session for individuals who want to become PQA certified or recertified will start at 12:30 p.m. Lincoln County Extension Livestock Educator Jeff Lounsbury will host the PQA session.

The meeting program begins at 2 p.m. and will include these speakers and topics:

- Extension Swine Specialist Bob Thaler will discuss managing moldy corn and mycotoxins as they relate to swine rations. Thaler also will discuss the new Swine Nutrition Guide.

- Hutchinson County Extension Livestock Educator John Keimig will discuss on-farm swine euthanasia options.
- Extension Veterinarian Russ Daly will explain herd health considerations and management, including a swine-disease update.

- Extension Agricultural Structures and Environment Specialist Steve Pohl will present information on maintaining the bottom line by reducing energy costs.

The meeting will end at approximately 4:30 p.m. Call Lounsbury at 605-764-2756 for more information. WNAZ Radio (AM 570) will announce any bad-weather cancellation news on this event.

You can also get information about this event at your county Extension office.

Farmers' Market Workshop Set For March 26

A Farmer's Market Resources and Assistance Workshop will be held on Friday, March 26 from 5-8 p.m. at the Wagner Armory. Hosted by the RC&D Councils, the goal is to draw prospective farmers' market vendors and growers from the entire area from Yankton to Burke and north to Winner, Mitchell and Chamberlain. "Everyone is a prospective fruit and vegetable grower for themselves, their family and potentially for selling at a local farmers market," said Jeff Stewart with Randall RC&D.

The information presented at this workshop will be particularly helpful to beginning gardeners who are considering gardening for themselves for the first time or becoming a farmers' market vendor during the upcoming season. This "how to" workshop will help new and experienced farmers' market vendors and managers prepare for the upcoming season. It will provide information on what makes a successful farmers' market, how to communicate with customers, funding opportunities for local markets, how to develop a community garden and details about the "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" food campaign.

USDA

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status quo," Crabtree concluded.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust Christine Varney began the proceedings with their comments on behalf of the administration and their respective departments.

"I want to hear more than the usual rhetoric here today, I want to hear what we can do more of, what we can do differently, to reverse the trends in our rural communities where we are losing population, the population is aging and opportunities are declining," Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack urged the panelists.

Representative Leonard Boswell, Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey participated in the opening roundtable discussion and presentation of issues.

Additional updates and information will be posted on the Antitrust Division's agriculture workshop Web site at <http://www.justice.gov/atr/public/workshops/ag2010/index.htm>. While no streaming Web cast is available, transcripts will be available for review on the Antitrust Division's Web site. Individuals seeking more information on the workshops should contact: agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov

www.yankton.net

Preparations Now May Lessen Possible Flooding Impacts Later

BROOKINGS—Many South Dakotans possibly will face flooding and moisture seepage issues this spring, but certain steps can help reduce the potential impact.

Brown County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Educator Marjorie Zastrow said a flood-preparedness plan can help.

"Having a family emergency plan is a precaution that we recommend," Zastrow said. "Each family member should know the plan and the procedure that has been agreed upon. Practice it. Make sure everyone in the family knows it before waters rise."

Zastrow added that the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service has compiled information on flooding preparation at a Web site at this link: <http://sdces.sdstate.edu/flood/>.

Start with the downspouts as you evaluate your home, Zastrow said.

"Be sure your downspouts are appropriately placed, cleaned out, and have extensions if needed," said Zastrow. "If you can move snow piles to

a site where drainage will move away from a house or barn structure, that will help. Now might be the time to evaluate your landscaping as well."

Zastrow said that over several years, landscape settling can occur and create paths for water to flow toward a home's foundation.

Other steps homeowners should take are numerous. Here are some of Zastrow's suggestions:

- Have an evacuation plan and a kit to support the plan ready before water rises.
- Evacuation kits should include food, clothing, medications, and important family papers.
- Make sure your plan includes a process for notifying family members of your location, worksite, and child care center locations as necessary.
- A sump pump is essential to any flood preparedness plan. Plug in your sump pump and test it before the spring flooding season to ensure that it works, and continue checking it throughout the season.

- Check the exterior hose of a sump pump to make sure it's connected and correctly placed outside. Installing battery back-up sump pumps in case of power failure is another good step.

- Review your insurance policy on an annual basis so you are aware of coverage provisions and your level of coverage.

- Dehumidifiers should be used when your basement or living space has humidity levels of 60 percent or more. Mold can form in areas with high humidity.

- Mold and mildew can create hazardous health conditions, particularly for the young, elderly, and people with weakened immune systems.

- Keeping track of your possessions and their locations is one a good precaution. Place valuable and expensive items, especially electronics or irreplaceable items, in places less likely to suffer the impact from rising water.

For more information on preparing your property for a flood, visit your county Extension office.

BY DARYLL RAY
Ag Policy AnalystPOLICY PENNINGS
Soybean Exports Determined By China And Brazil

Telling the story of soybean exports over the last 30 years requires a little more work than for corn and wheat. The primary products of soybeans—soybean meal and soybean oil—play a much larger role in exports than do the corresponding products of corn and wheat. As a result, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) tracks production and utilization data for soybean meal and soybean oil separately from unprocessed beans.

To get a picture of the scope of world trade that results from the raising of soybeans, we have added the meal and oil numbers to those of unprocessed soybeans to create a variable known as soybean complex. This is particularly important because exporters and importers trade in various proportions of the three products. As a result, looking at soybeans alone gives an incomplete picture of the impact of trade on the producers of soybeans.

Exports play a much larger role in soybeans than they do in corn and wheat. The proportion of the world's corn crop that is exported has roughly fallen from 20 to 10 percent over the last 30 years, whereas wheat exports have hovered around the 20 percent level during the same time period. Soybean complex exports as a share of world production.

U.S. soybean growers are slightly more dependent upon domestic markets than the Brazilians and Argentines. During most years since 1980, U.S. soybean complex exports have accounted for less than half of the crop. Most of the domestic consumption is in the form of soybean meal fed to animals and soybean oil used for food.

While U.S. soybean complex exports have increased from 26 million metric tons (MMT) to 48 MMT over the last 30 years, the U.S. share of world exports has fallen from 60 percent to 30 percent. This change has been the result of the dramatic increase in soybean production in Brazil and Argentina. In the future, the biggest increase in non-U.S. exports of soybean complex will undoubtedly come from Brazil due its large land area. Given a relatively fixed crop area, the U.S. will continue to see its share of world soybean complex exports fall.

For the most part, over the last 30 years, the value of soybean complex exports—using season average farmgate prices for soybeans and market season average prices for soybean meal and oil—has varied between \$5 billion and \$8 billion as the volume of exports increased. The major exceptions were the 1995-1996 period and the years since 2007. In both of these periods, prices were well above the other years, with the most dramatic price peak occurring in 2008.

The future profitability of U.S. soybean production depends upon a couple of factors. First, during the 2009 crop year, China imported 42.5 MMT of soybeans, 29 percent of world soybean complex exports. While China has stated its intention to continue to import two-thirds of its soybean needs, a reduction in its imports—or even a slowing of its rate of increase in imports—would have negative price consequences. Second, a combination of yield and Brazilian production-growth-increases at a rate faster than the growth in world demand could also send prices downward. In the absence of the decision of the Chinese to begin to import soybeans, the picture over the last 15 years might have looked very different.

Daryll E. Ray holds the Blasingame Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Policy, Institute of Agriculture, University of Tennessee, and is the Director of UT's Agricultural Policy Analysis Center (APAC).

\$1 Million Ethanol Blender Pump Program Benefits S.D. Fuel Stations

SIoux FALLS—South Dakota lawmakers demonstrated bold vision of an alternative fuel future by passing an act to give fuel stations access to \$1 million in federal funds for ethanol blender pumps, but owners must act quickly before the funds disappear.

The law, H.B. 1192, establishes a \$1 million program with money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. A retail fuel dealer may qualify for one or more grants of up to \$10,000 each to install ethanol blender pumps, associated piping and storage systems and related equipment. The bill passed the House 68-2 and the Senate 30-0 and was signed into law today by Gov. Mike Rounds.

Money will be available for a limited time, from April 1-May 28 this year, so it is important that retail dealers act immediately to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Blender pumps offer a range of ethanol blends to the driver, including no ethanol, the traditional E10 blend, intermediate blends such as E20 or E30, and E85.

The primary sponsors were Sen. Dave Knudson and Rep. Mitch Fargen. Both lauded its potential impact on both the ethanol and agriculture industries in South Dakota.

"We need to do everything we can to provide greater market opportunities for South Dakota's ethanol industry," said Sen. Dave Knudson. "There are few things more important than market access. Policies like E15 approval, dedicated ethanol pipelines and blender pumps will only strengthen South Dakota's economy. I am, and will continue to be, a strong supporter of South Dakota's ethanol and ag industries and appreciate the great working relationship. Now, we need to get this money working in our economy in a very short amount of time."

"Blender pumps give South Dakota consumers more choices at the pump, while increasing the market for corn grown right here in South Dakota," Fargen said. "Our farmers have worked hard to become more efficient, growing more corn than ever before. They deserve this increased market opportunity, and I applaud South Dakota's legislators for making this opportunity available."

Livestock Producers Reminded Of Manure Storage Practices In Times Of High Precip.

BROOKINGS—A wet fall, snowy winter, and rainy spring could lead to problems for livestock producers with manure storage systems.

South Dakota Cooperative Extension Air Quality and Waste Management Specialist Erin Cortus said information is available for producers who feel spring rains and snowmelt might cause run-off issues on their operations.

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) handout on Wet Weather Manure Management System Management Practices from March 2010 is available at the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service Flooding Web page at this link: <http://sdces.sdstate.edu/flood/>.

"Careful planning now will reduce the risk of manure discharges to water systems. All producers should monitor and record the level of their manure storage system on a daily basis," said Cortus.

Cortus reminds producers who hold permits that they must inform DENR of any accidental discharge within 24 hours. To do so, they can call the DENR at 605-773-3351 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays or call 605-773-3231 to report accidental discharge at other times. South Dakota DENR recommends that producers who do not hold permits inform the DENR of accidental discharges as well so the agency is aware of the situation.



OPINION EDITORIAL

Protecting South Dakota's Rural Economy

BY REP. STEPHANIE
HERSETH SANDLIN

As I've traveled the state recently and spoken to farmers and ranchers, utility providers, business owners, and community leaders, many South Dakotans have expressed concerns regarding EPA regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. I believe we need to act to ensure that South Dakota's rural economy is protected from overly-burdensome regulations that harm our agricultural and energy producers, and other industries.

That's why I recently signed on as a co-sponsor to what's known as a "resolution of disapproval" related to EPA's endangerment finding on greenhouse gas emissions. Importantly, the resolution is bipartisan as it was introduced by Representatives Ike Skelton, a Democrat and Jo Ann Emerson, a Republican, both from Missouri, as well as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Collin Peterson.

The passage of this resolution would prevent EPA from enforcing regulations under the Clean Air Act. I believe the Clean Air Act was not designed to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and have concerns that any such regulation could have unintended consequences in South Dakota. Moreover, enforcing this disapproval resolution would allow Congress time to set up a new legislative framework to address climate change in a more responsible manner.

Once again, we are seeing one-size-fits-all policy being crafted by some in Washington who don't understand the unique needs and strengths of our state. In passing the Clean Air Act, Congress did not intend to give the EPA authority to regulate greenhouse gases, and this resolution makes that clear.

In addition to the resolution of disapproval, I am also a cosponsor of separate bipartisan legislation to

explicitly make clear that the Clean Air Act does not allow for regulation of greenhouse gases with respect to climate change. This legislation would also amend the 2007 Energy Bill to stop EPA from including international indirect land use changes in determining American renewable fuels policy, and would broaden the definition of renewable biomass to the Farm Bill definition.

I have also cosponsored bipartisan legislation introduced by Representative Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota entitled the Save our Energy Jobs Act, which would also prohibit the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions without the explicit direction or authority from Congress to do so.

And finally, I have signed on to a bipartisan letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee responsible for determining funding levels for the EPA. This letter expresses opposition to the Administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2011 budget which funds EPA efforts to develop and implement regulations of greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, factories and agricultural operations.

Ultimately, all of these efforts seek to address the growing concerns over the EPA regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. There is consensus that regardless of how we move ahead in regulating greenhouse gases, it's critical that Congress acts first. We can't simply leave it to the long arm of the EPA when it's clear they don't understand some parts of the country. The wide ranging implications of regulating greenhouse gases require consideration of economic issues as well, and EPA is not well suited to handle those issues. I'll continue to work to make sure that the voices of my constituents in South Dakota—those who understand the realities of a rural, agricultural economy—are heard.

Prescribed Burns Scheduled In Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb.—The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will conduct prescribed burns this spring when conditions are favorable.

The primary goal of a burn is to reduce invasive species competing with native species. Burning improves the quality of habitat available to a variety of wildlife.

Areas (wildlife management areas unless otherwise noted) scheduled for burning, by region, are:

- North central — Pressey, Arcadia Diversion Dam, Harold

- Anderson, Leonard Koziol, Davis Creek, Sherman Reservoir, Myrtle Hall, Kent Diversion Dam, Calamus Reservoir;
- Northeast — Red Fox, Summit Lake State Recreation Area (SRA), Fort Atkinson State Historical Park, Grove Lake, Red Wing, Bohemia Prairie, Hackberry Creek.

YANKTON AREA
SPRING BANQUET
Saturday, April 10th

MINERVA GRILL & BAR

Doors Open at 4:45pm!

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All profits are spent locally.

