

# Webster Elementary Classes To Celebrate National Ag Week

## Area Farmers To Meet With Fifth-Grade Students Monday

American agriculture provides the necessities of everyday life: food, fiber, clothing, and now fuel. That's the message that farmers will share with South Dakota youth March 5-16 to celebrate National Ag Week, which is the week of March 4th.

At 2:15 p.m. Monday, Freeman dairy farmer Vicki Schultz and Gayville pork producer, Jim Petrik will visit fifth graders at Webster Elementary School in Yankton. Schultz and Petrik hope educate students on how they care for their livestock and help them understand how South Dakota's number one industry affects nutrition and food supply, as well as agriculture's economic, social, and environmental significance to all Americans.

This visit for Petrik is particularly special. Petrik has been "adopted" by these Webster Elementary students and has been sending them monthly videos about the happenings on the farm where he raises crops, cattle and hogs. After months of videos and letters being exchanged, this will be the first time the students will be meeting Petrik in person.

Ag United will do more than talk; they're providing a pizza party too. During the visit, producers will help the students understand that the ingredients in the pizza are produced by farms, and also explain how those products are then processed and made into the pizzas that the students are enjoying. In addition to the Webster Elementary visit, Ag

United, along with its coalition members, Associated Milk Producers and Land O'Lakes, will sponsor Ag Day pizza party events for fifth graders at schools in Milbank, Mitchell, Watertown, Harrisburg, Brandon and Sioux Falls.

Each year, the National Ag Day program helps educate millions of consumers. The Agriculture Council of America, organizers of National Ag Day, believes that every American should understand how food, fiber and renewable resources are produced, and value the essential role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. National Ag Day focuses on educating Americans about the industry, so they can also consider career opportunities in food, fiber, and the renewable resource industry.

Ag United for South Dakota is a coalition of farm organizations with a goal of keeping family farms growing. Coalition members include the South Dakota Cattleman's Association, the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, the South Dakota Dairy Producers, South Dakota Farm Bureau, South Dakota Pork Producers Council, South Dakota Poultry Industries Association and the South Dakota Soybean Association. To learn more, visit [www.agunited.org](http://www.agunited.org).

To learn more about National Ag Day, contact the Agricultural Council of America at (913) 491-1895 or visit [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org).

# 15th Annual Building Bridges Conference Set For USD March 16

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota will host the 15th annual Building Bridges Conference, "Stand Tall, Look Good, Be Proud: Helping Each Other Realize Our Dreams" on Friday, March 16, in the ballroom of the Muenster University Center.

Steve Saffron of Phoenix from Valley of the Sun and former director of American Indian Programs at Scottsdale Community College, is the keynote speaker and will lead the conference activities with a focus on "Positive Attitude, Positive Humor, Positive Friends and Positive Career." Saffron's career in Indian education began as a counselor and assistant principal at Alchey High School in White River, Ariz. He continued to work in Mesa Public Schools as a counselor with students from the Salt River Indian community, and was eventually chosen by the Salt River Indian

Education Department to become the director of American Indian Programs at Scottsdale Community College. Saffron was recently honored with the "Devoted and Distinguished Service Award" for more than 20 years of educational service to the Salt River Pima/Maricopa Indian Community.

The 15th Building Bridges Conference begins at 8:45 a.m. with the opening ceremony by Gene Thin Elk, director of Native American Student Services at USD. The Building Bridges Information Fair will take place concurrently with the conference in the East Lounge of the Muenster University Center where representatives from several USD academic departments and student support services will be available to share information about their programs. More information, including registration information

and a conference agenda, is available by visiting [www.usd.edu/bridges](http://www.usd.edu/bridges).

Building Bridges provides opportunities for students, counselors, and faculty to learn effective ways to make higher education a positive experience for all students, but especially for Native students. A limited number of lodging grants are available for high school groups on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information, contact the Clinical Psychology Program/BRIDGES Conference Committee at (605) 677-5353 or e-mail [bridges@usd.edu](mailto:bridges@usd.edu).

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