

# Local Growers Are Winners In National Corn Yield Contest

ST. LOUIS — Two area corn growers have been honored as state winners in the 2014 National Corn Yield contest sponsored annually by the National Corn Growers Association.

Missouri River Farms Inc. of Yankton placed third in the state in the Irrigated Class with a yield of 271.9469 bushels per acre. The hybrid used in the winning field was Pioneer P0987AMXT.

Prairie Creek Ranch of Yankton placed third in the state in the No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated Class with a yield of 235.2345 bushels per acre. The hybrid used in the winning field was Pioneer P1151AMT.

These local growers were two of 434 state winners nationwide. The 2014 contest set a participation record with 8,129 entries from 46 states. Of the state winners, 18 growers — three from each of six classes — were named national winners, representing ten states.

The average yield among national winners was 383.56 bushels per acre — greater than the 2014 U.S. average of 171.00 bushels per acre. Six of the national winners recorded yields of 400 bushels or more per acre.

"This harvest, the world witnessed the incredible bounty U.S. corn farmers can provide to meet the growing need for food, fuel and fiber both in our nation and around the world," said NCGA President Chip Bowling, a corn grower from Newberg, Maryland.

"Our contest participants demonstrated that America's



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farmers continue to strive for excellence while adopting state-of-the-art tools which help them meet those goals," Bowling continued. "The top yield in this year's contest — a tremendous 503.719 bushels per acre achieved by Randy Rowdy of Valdosta, Georgia — is a testament to these efforts."

Farmers are encouraged through the contest to utilize new, efficient production techniques. Agronomic data gleaned from the contest reveal the following:

- Average planting population for the national winners was 36,417 seeds per acre, compared to 34,075 for all entrants.
- National winners applied an average of 369.17

pounds of nitrogen, 116.72 pounds of phosphorus and 195.00 pounds of potassium per acre.

- Average commercial nitrogen use per bushel of yield was 1.09 pounds for the national winners and 0.88 pounds for all entrants.
- 33.33 percent of the national winners applied trace minerals, compared to 37.16 percent of all entrants.
- Use of manure as a fertilizer was consistent. 5.56 percent of national winners applied manure, compared to 14.79 percent of all entrants.

The National Corn Yield Contest began in 1956 with 20 entries from 3 states. The highest overall yield was 218.9 bushels per acre, while

the national yield average was in the mid-60 bushel-per-acre range.

The winners were recognized Feb. 27 at the 2015 Commodity Classic, the premier convention and trade show of the U.S. corn, soybean, sorghum and wheat industries, held this year in Phoenix. For a complete list of winners and for more information about NCYC, visit the NCGA website at [www.ncga.com](http://www.ncga.com).

The National Corn Growers Association represents more than 42,000 members, 48 affiliated state corn grower and checkoff organizations, and hundreds of thousands of growers who contribute to state checkoff programs.

## Tips On Planting Oats In South Dakota

BROOKINGS — South Dakota is a leading oat producer in the United States. In 2014, 9.3 million bushels of grain were harvested from 100,000 acres according to the USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service.

"Oat is generally grown for grain and forage, and only spring type oat is adapted in South Dakota," said David Karki, SDSU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist. "Oat is a cool season crop that responds well in cooler climates."

Karki said planting is recommended early in the spring or as soon as the ground can be worked. Minimum germination temperatures are about 35 Fahrenheit. "However, slightly higher soil temperature can speed-up germination and emergence," Karki said. "Planting early provides cooler climate for maximum tiller and panicle production. This practice also helps avoid high temperature stress during seed fill which can lead to smaller seed size."

Optimum seeding dates for oat in South Dakota can range from late March to late April (south to north).

### PRODUCING A SUCCESSFUL CROP STARTS WITH VARIETY SELECTION

Karki said certified seed usually assures a crop with desired yield, quality and other agronomic characteristics. "In addition to yield and quality, improved varieties also possess tolerance to common diseases and pests," he said.

Performance of common varieties and advanced breeding lines can be found by checking out the Oat Variety Trial Results at [iGrow.org](http://iGrow.org).

Seeding rates for grain production can vary from 2 to 2.5 bushels per acre depending upon the seed size. Rate can be marginally increased if seeding deep, late or into a rough seedbed. "On the other hand, seed rate can be slightly

decreased if planting in low moisture ground," Karki said.

Similar seeding rates can be used for forage production (cultivar may differ). Recommended seeding depths are 1.5 to 2.5; seeding deeper than 2.5 inches may lead to significant stand reduction.

When making a fertility management plan, Karki strongly recommends a fall soil test and nitrogen (N) credit from the previous crop.

"This may vary depending on the yield goal," he said. "For instance, to grow 100 bushel per acre oat, recommended N is: 1.3 x 100 (yield goal) — STN (soil test N) — LC (legume credit)," he said.

For fields grown to soybeans in the previous season 40 pound N per acre are credited.

To learn more, visit [iGrow.org](http://iGrow.org) or contact Karki at [david.karki@sdstate.edu](mailto:david.karki@sdstate.edu) or 605-882-5140.

## Drainage Calculators Available From iGrow

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension recently released web-based drainage calculators for tile drainage and subirrigation design. Contractors and farmers can access these calculators at [www.iGrowDrainage.org](http://www.iGrowDrainage.org). The calculators are compatible with a variety of devices allowing for in-field use.

"For years, farmers and contractors have asked our team to develop calculators they could use in the field because several calculations are needed when designing drainage systems on agricultural land," explained Chris Hay, SDSU Extension Water Management Engineer.

To meet this demand, Hay and his team took research-based calculations and designed several easy-to-use calculators which address common drainage design calculations to provide farmers and contractors with in-field data they need. "These are equations that we as engineers like to play around with but aren't always the easiest to use. The calculators are designed to make it easy to get quick answers so they can get the job done right," Hay said.

The calculations Hay references provide research-based guidance to boost productivity and minimize downstream impacts on everything from drain spacing and pipe sizing, to subirrigation and lift station design.

"When tiling, the calculations need to be correct in order for the drainage system to meet the farmer's goals and function properly. Once you put the pipe in the ground, the goal is that it will last 50 to 100 years or more

without issues," Hay said.

Tiling is designed to drain excess moisture off fields that have reached their holding capacity. "Many soils in the Upper Midwest do not drain well because of glacial influence," Hay explained. "Many fields sit on top of layers of glacial till or other restrictive layers that can limit natural drainage."

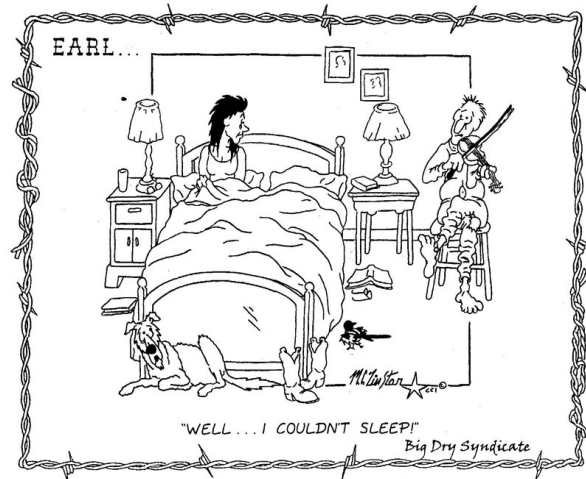
Demand for tile drainage is up in portions of South Dakota where excess field moisture can delay or prevent planting, explained Nathan Utt, Agricultural En-

gineer with Ecosystem Services Exchange. "There is an increase in drainage installation and a growing number of people who are doing the installation. Not only contractors, but farmers and other landowners who are installing their own drain tile," said Utt, who has been working with agricultural drainage since 2007 and as an engineering consultant in the field for three years.

"These calculators are helpful because they provide accurate numbers for factors like optimum drainage spac-

ing, which is critical to system performance as well as minimizing system cost," Utt said.

The calculators were developed in cooperation with University of Minnesota Extension. To learn more and access the calculators, visit [www.iGrowDrainage.org](http://www.iGrowDrainage.org).



### 'Managing the Margin' Workshops Set

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension Staff will be hosting a Managing the Margin Workshop March 27 in Mitchell at the SDSU Extension Regional Extension Center in Mitchell on the Mitchell Technical Institute Campus, in the Nordby Trades Center (1800 E. Spruce Ave). The workshop will begin at 10:30 a.m. with registration and will run from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A working lunch will be provided.

The workshop will be divided into two sessions.

- The first session will cover market outlook for old and new crop commodities, local cash price forecasts and futures marketing strategies along with historical performance of strategies in marketing years with similar supply and demand fundamentals.
- The second session will include a discussion on options marketing strategies that can be used in pre- and post-harvest marketing to add premiums and/or reduce risk; historical performances of option strategies; South Dakota regional production; elevator and processing capacity and spatial basis values.

"The workshop will be an interactive learning experience, where producers can discuss different strategies and express their risk tolerance," said Lisa Elliott, SDSU Extension Commodity Marketing Specialist and SDSU Assistant Professor. Registration for the workshop is \$15 per person and payable by check only the day of the event. Registration begins at 10:30 the day of the workshop and includes lunch.

For more information on the workshop, call 605-688-4855 or e-mail [lisa.elliott@sdstate.edu](mailto:lisa.elliott@sdstate.edu).

### Forage Assessment Workshops Slated

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension will host a Lunch and Learn Forages assessment workshops in Watertown March 31, 2015; in Sioux Falls April 1; and in Brookings April 2. This is a free event which includes lunch and is designed to fit into producers' busy day. All workshops are sponsored by Legend Seeds in De Smet and Millborn Seeds in Brookings.

Sessions are offered in English and Spanish to help you and your employees learn about the most current methods of measuring and assessing forage quality. The main topics for this series of workshops include: forage quality and digestibility; test analysis (wet chemistry); moisture, mold and heat damage.

"It is important that participants bring along their own forage sample," said Karla Hernandez, SDSU Extension Forages Field Specialist. "This will greatly help the hands-on training."

Location details:

- Watertown — March 31 at the SDSU Extension Regional Center in Watertown from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Sioux Falls — April 1 at the SDSU Extension Regional Center in Sioux Falls from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Brookings — April 2 at the SDSU Dairy Research and Training Facility from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

To attend, call or RSVP to Karla Hernandez, SDSU Extension Forages Field Specialist at 605-882-5140 or email [karla.hernandez@sdstate.edu](mailto:karla.hernandez@sdstate.edu) by March 25, 2015.

### Ag Ambassador Nominations Sought

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) is seeking nominations for the 2015 South Dakota Governor's Ag Ambassador Award.

Nominees should be those who have continually worked to promote agriculture in South Dakota.

Key achievements of the Ag Ambassador:

- Provides visionary leadership to South Dakota's agricultural industry.
- Champions growth and prosperity of the state's number one industry.
- Advocates for agriculture and the responsible stewardship of livestock and land.
- Highlights the significance of South Dakota agriculture to our global food system.
- Influences decision makers to develop and implement sound agricultural policies.

Nominations are due to SDDA by Friday, April 17. The form can be found at under the "Happening Now" section by clicking "Governor's Ag Ambassador Award Nomination Form."

The award will be presented during the sixth annual Governor's Agricultural Summit in Deadwood on July 10.

The 2014 Governor's Ag Ambassador was Brad Greenway of Mitchell. Greenway runs a diversified farm with a wean-to-finish swine operation, a beef cow/calf herd and grows corn, soybeans and wheat. Greenway's motto has always been, "I am proud of what I do on my farm and if I can't be transparent about it, I shouldn't be doing it."

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