

OUR TOWNS

Hartington

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FIELD OFFICE



IMAGE: METRO GRAPHICS

NDA Sets Up Temporary Headquarters In Hartington

Former State Farm Building Utilized As Part Of Bovine TB Inquiry

BY LISA HARE
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HARTINGTON, Neb. — The former State Farm Insurance building across the street from the Cedar County Courthouse is now home the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) — at least for a while.

In the ongoing bovine tuberculosis (TB) investigation in Cedar County, the site has been established as a temporary headquarters for the NDA.

"This is no different than how we handled the Rock County investigation," said NDA public information officer Christin Kamm. "We set up a temporary location there, as well."

In January, the NDA began working with South Dakota officials after they announced finding a TB-positive cow in a Cedar County

beef herd after preliminary investigating traced cattle movements from the affected South Dakota herd to Nebraska.

"Owners of four northeast Nebraska herds had purchased cattle from the South Dakota herd," said NDA director Greg Ibach. "Three of the four herds tested free of the disease, but the results of the last cow in the last herd to be tested returned as positive for TB."

Several farms in Cedar County are currently under quarantine, Kamm said.

The investigation is now tracing the movement of cattle into and out of the herd, as well as locating other herds that may have shared a fence line with the affected herd.

Though it is unknown how many new herds may have to be quarantined through the course of the investigation, Kamm said the NDA hopes to complete the investigation

by summertime.

Until then, the former State Farm building will be used by the NDA.

"We rented the facility primarily for record and tuberculin storage," Kamm said. During the investigation, no animals under quarantine can be moved without NDA permission.

"The only reason (for movement) would be to slaughter the animal," Kamm added. "The Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) would be involved. Anything that would be suspicious would be removed from the human food supply."

Any animals that test positive for TB, will also be destroyed.

Ibach said this latest case is not "indicative of a TB problem in the state," but he stressed that the NDA must exercise due diligence regarding disease surveillance.

American Heritage Event Slated For Northeast Nebraska May 29

MEADOW GROVE, Neb. — The Feather & Dance Celebration, a new event for northeast Nebraska, will be held Saturday, May 29, running from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on the Terry James property, located at 507 U.S. Highway 275 West, near Meadow Grove.

The event will be a collaboration of the history, art, legend and lore of Native American tribes of northeast Nebraska and the surrounding region. Promotional funding for the event is provided in part by a grant from the Nebraska Department of Travel and Tourism.

The morning will feature demonstrations and presentations. Traditional Native American dancing and drumming begins at 1 p.m. Vendors will have booths located throughout the grounds all day

which are available for a fee. To register for a vendor site, contact Northeast Nebraska RC&D at 402-582-4866.

"Songs, Games & Dances of the Lakota" will be presented by Jerome Kills Small at 11 a.m.

James Horn, a tribal member from Plainview, will share his personal stories and heritage as well as the history of the Native American culture. Ponca tribal history will be presented by Gary Robinette, cultural director for the tribe. Paul Hosford, Albion Arts Council, will speak in general terms about who Native Americans are. Tribe of Nebraska and Pawnee tribal members, but also from researching the actual Indian sites located on his Boone County property.

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The Department of Tourism hopes to build on this interest through www.TravelSD.com, which was re-launched in January. One of the additions in this re-launch was an interactive trip planner.

"If (travelers) know they want to go to the southeast region, for example, they can take a look at what attractions are available, and that page will also bring up one of those cross-selling features," Goodman said. "It's one

of those things that (says), 'If you like this, then you'll really like this.' So it really helps people plan their vacations."

The trip planner option also breaks down mileage, and thanks to its addition online, site traffic jumped 7.4 percent between Jan. 1 and April 30, Goodman said.

An additional 9 percent jump of Canadian traffic was also seen, she added.

Goodman said that although tourism spending for 2009 was "slightly down" from 2008's level, it was still high.

"Last year, visitor spending was about \$962 million. That has a \$2.4 billion impact on the state. So we had huge numbers last

year," she said. "Our visitor numbers were up last year, while the rest of the country was seeing a trend down for visitor numbers, so that was very encouraging for us."

Bump added that overall visitation was up 1.2 percent, and that many of these visitors were in-state residents.

Goodman said the department hopes this trend can continue.

"A lot of times, we think we need to travel so far away to have a good time on a vacation, and that's not always the case. South Dakota has a lot to offer, whatever region you're in," she said.



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