

S.D. Corn Growers Receive USDA Grant

SIOUX FALLS — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded a \$99,920 grant to the South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) to provide risk-management education through a series of seminars that focus on advanced information and training.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the SDCGA is one of 47 associations, schools, agencies and projects to receive funding from the USDA's Risk Management Agency. The grants will support crop insurance education and outreach.

"We're extremely thankful that we were selected to receive this grant. The money will help our association continue to provide South Dakota farmers with the most comprehensive, up-to-date information and training available," said Teddi Mueller, the SDCGA's legislative and industry affairs director. "It's more important than ever for farmers to keep up with changing agricultural technology and policies."

The SDCGA will partner with Farm Credit Services of America and the South Dakota Livestock Foundation to use the money to develop six risk management seminars and three planter calibration clinics in various communities, as well as a risk management session at the association's annual meeting.

"USDA is committed to diversity, inclusion and performance in everything we do, and we need to continue to ensure opportunities in agriculture for all Americans," Vilsack said. "Through these partnerships, traditionally underserved agricultural producers and those in targeted states will receive assistance in understanding and using risk management tools."

The partnerships will provide farmers and ranchers access to a complete set of conferences, targeted instruction, strategies, and networking opportunities at a local level. The programs are designed to help ensure that farmers and ranchers effectively manage their risk, helping to maintain the nation's food supply and the survival of small farmers with limited resources.

Tile Drainage, Water Research Done At SDSU

BROOKINGS — Researchers from South Dakota State University (SDSU) are setting up demonstration sites to address water quality problems associated with tile drainage.

"The use of subsurface, or tile, drainage on agricultural land with poor natural drainage allows more timely access for field operations and leads to improved crop yields. While tile drainage, if installed correctly, typically reduces the phosphorus and sediment loading to waterways by reducing surface runoff, studies have found elevated nitrate concentrations in tile drainage water compared to surface runoff," said Jeppe Kjaersgaard, assistant professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and a project investigator with the SDSU Water Resources Institute.

Kjaersgaard says elevated nitrate concentrations in streams, rivers and lakes may lead to uncontrolled algae growth and anoxic condition in aquatic ecosystems.

"There are several methods for reducing the amount of nitrate in drainage water, including good management of nitrogen fertilizer. But, good nitrogen management is often not enough and it may be necessary to have an edge-of-field treatment system to reach the goals for decreasing the amount of nitrogen that is discharged from fields into waterways," Kjaersgaard said.

"One such treatment system is to duct the tile drain water through a trench filled with woodchips before the water is discharged from the field. Bacteria feeding off of the woodchips will in turn remove a portion of the nitrate from the water," said Christopher Hay, assistant professor, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at SDSU.

"Once installed, the life expectancy of these systems is estimated to be 20 years or more," Hay said. "We will install four of these systems in eastern South Dakota and monitor their efficiency in removing nitrate from the water. This project is part of our ongoing drainage research program."

The project is funded for three years. The four demonstration sites will be open for inspections at field days and the monitoring results will be made available through the SDSU Water Resources Institute's website.

The work involves researchers from the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and Water Resources Institute at SDSU and is supported by a grant from the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service. Additional support comes from SDSU, East Dakota Water Development District, the South Dakota Farm Bureau, the South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council and the Vermillion Basin Water Development District.

SDSU Collegiate Dairy Judging Teams Honored

BROOKINGS — On Nov. 5 the SDSU Collegiate Dairy Products Judging Team placed first in All Products during the 90th Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest, held at the Kraft Technology Center in Glenview, Ill.

This was the fourth year in a row that the Dairy Products Judging Team won the National Championship. The team placed first in milk, butter, yogurt and Cheddar cheese. A total of 40 undergraduate and graduate contestants from 11 universities in the U.S. and Canada participated in the contest.

SDSU team members were Luke Rensink, Freeman; Justin Ochsner, New London, Minn.; Angie Klaers, Wabasso, Minn.; and Som Khanal, Putalisadak Kathmandu, Nepal.

Rensink placed first overall and first in ice cream, second in butter and third in yogurt and Cheddar cheese.

As top judge in the nation, Rensink received the Robert Rosenbaum Award. Ochsner placed fourth overall, and second in Cheddar cheese and fourth in yogurt and butter. Klaers was fifth overall and placed first in butter and second in milk. As the top butter judge, Klaers received the Bert Aldrich Award.

In the graduate student contest, Khanal placed first overall and was first in yogurt, Cheddar cheese, ice cream, and cottage cheese. As top judge in the graduate contest, Khanal received the Genevieve Christen Award. For placing first overall, the SDSU team won the Shirley Seas Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is in memory of Shirley Seas, who coached the SDSU team for 21 years. Metzger also received the Aurelia and George Weigold Coach of the Year Award.

The contest was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food Processing Suppliers Association, Chr. Hansen, Inc., and the American Dairy Science Association.

The team was coached by Lloyd Metzger, Associate Professor of Dairy Science and Alfred Chair in Dairy Education, and Eric McNeel, SDSU student.



PHOTO: METRO GRAPHICS

Global Horizons

U.S. Farm Exports Boom As Rest Of Economy Struggles

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — As U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack visits Vietnam and China to talk trade this week, he's hoping to build on one of the few bright spots in the struggling American economy: agricultural exports.

U.S. agricultural exports are projected to reach a record \$137 billion this year and hit that same mark next year. The U.S. agricultural trade surplus is expected to top \$42 billion. And new free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama are expected to boost farm exports by another \$2.3 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The gains aren't limited to products like corn, soybeans, rice, beef and pork. U.S. exports of dairy products, including powdered milk, cheese and butter, and nuts such as pecans, pistachios and almonds also have climbed in recent years.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Vilsack rattled off several reasons why agricultural exports are doing so well when much of the economy is stagnant: demand in China and other developing nations, the growing productivity of American farmers and ranchers, a positive perception of American agricultural products overseas, and aggressive marketing efforts by farm groups and the USDA.

"As long as we continue to focus on those countries with these emerging middle classes, and focus on countries that are open to trade agreements, that open their markets as much as our markets are open, we're always going to do well," Vilsack said.

He pointed to the new trade deal with South Korea, which he expects will boost U.S. farm exports by about \$1.9 billion annually. It also may reopen the door for discussions with China and Japan about reducing their restrictions on American beef imports, he said.

Exports in general have been a bright spot in the struggling U.S. economy, which is why the

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Obama administration has set a goal of doubling them in five years. Agriculture makes up about 9 percent of U.S. exports, compared with about 80 percent for manufacturing. But Commerce Department data show farm exports grew much faster than manufacturing exports during the past decade — by 123 percent compared to 68 percent.

High prices for farm products explains much of the increase in value for agriculture exports — the same products shipped overseas are worth much more today than they were 10 years ago. But the USDA also has done a "great job" of promoting agricultural exports, said Frank Vargo, vice president for international economic affairs at the National Association of Manufacturers.

Vargo, who spent three decades in trade policy positions at the Commerce Department, said he was always "admiring and jealous" of the USDA's export programs. The agency spends about double what the Commerce Department spends on export promotion, which is a big reason why one-third of U.S. farm products get shipped overseas, compared with only one-fifth of manufactured goods, he said.

"Our ag exports are a strong point for the United States and we'd like them to stay that way," Vargo said, "but we'd like manufacturing,

even though manufacturing exports are 80 percent of our exports, we want steps taken to make them grow faster."

Vilsack, who left for Vietnam on Monday, will be the first agriculture secretary to visit the country, which has jumped from the No. 50 to the No. 15 market for U.S. farm exports in the past decade. He said he hopes the Vietnamese see his visit as a sign of the importance the U.S. places on their relationship.

He'll then go to China, which has been the leading U.S. agricultural trade partner most of this year, supplanting Canada. He'll be part of the American delegation to an annual meeting on a broad range of trade issues, heading back to the U.S. next Tuesday.

The USDA credits agricultural exports with nibbling away at the U.S. trade deficit. The agency projects an agricultural trade surplus of a record \$42.5 billion in 2011. By comparison, Commerce Department figures show the U.S. ran an overall trade deficit of about \$500 billion last year.

Overall export totals don't tell the entire story of how farmers are benefiting, however.

Take corn, for example. A recent report by University of Illinois agricultural economists Scott Irwin and Darrel Good pointed out that while fewer tons of corn are being shipped overseas, exports of products made from corn, such as ethanol, distillers dried grains and pork from corn-fed pigs have skyrocketed. So corn farmers are coming out way ahead overall and that's what matters, Good said.

The growth in exports hasn't cost consumers much because farmers also have increased productivity, Vilsack said. Higher fuel costs have been a more significant factor in food price increases, he said.

"I think it is important for the American consumer to understand they've got a pretty good deal right now," Vilsack said. "Roughly 6 to 7 percent of our paychecks are spent on food. When you compare that to most developed nations, we fare very, very well."

Free Bus Ride To Range Beef Cow Symposium in Nebraska

BROOKINGS — A bus has been chartered to take South Dakotans interested in attending the Range Beef Cow Symposium in Mitchell, Neb.

The chartered bus leaves Brookings on Monday Nov. 28, and will pick up individuals at designated locations across the state.

Individuals will need to make their own

reservation for the symposium and hotel. Sponsored by a grant, the bus ride is free.

Seats will be on a first come, first serve basis. To reserve a free seat, call or e-mail Julie Walker, at 605-688-5458; julie.walker@sd-state.edu.

The bus will return on Thursday, Dec. 1 following the close of the symposium.

The Range Beef Cow Symposium XXII will start at 8:45 a.m. Nov. 29 and conclude at noon on Dec. 1.

For more information about the Range Beef Cow Symposium, visit www.rangebeef-cow.com. Specific questions can be directed to Julie Walker or Ken Olson 605-394-2236.



Soup Kitchen & Bake Sale

ST. BENEDICT'S PARISH
1500 St. Benedict Dr., Yankton, SD
Sunday, Nov. 20th • 11:00-2:00
Featuring: Chicken Noodle Soup, Chili, Vegetable Beef Soup, Pies & Desserts



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Sunday, Nov. 20th
1:00–5:00pm
Playing for Turkeys, Hams & Pork Loins



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Sunday, Dec. 4th • 1–5:00 p.m.
Yankton Summit Activity Center

Here's How It Works:

- Parents ~ Pick up your ticket at any branch of your Services Center Federal Credit Union between **9am and 5pm** or **Saturday from 9-noon**.
- Present ticket on Sunday Dec. 4th at the Summit Activities Center.

Pool, Slide & Gym Use is Free! 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Snacks for the kids served throughout the day. Rules of Summit Center Apply:
6 yrs. & younger MUST BE SUPERVISED BY SOMEONE 14 YRS. & OLDER

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