



## SD Soil Health Coalition Meeting Nov. 30

PIERRE — The first meeting of the new South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (SDSHC) is set for Monday, Nov. 30, at 4:30 p.m. in Amphitheatre 2 in the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center, Pierre. No pre-registration is required for this public event. Membership forms will be available at the door.

Supported by many organizations and entities, the new farmer/rancher-led coalition is focusing on bettering the health of South Dakota soils. This first meeting will include reports on events and projects of the first few months of the Coalition being organized, as well as, previews of upcoming activities.

"Through improved soil health, benefits can be seen for production agriculture, but more importantly, there are benefits for society as a whole," says Doug Steck, Chair, S.D. Soil Health Coalition, Selby. "Regardless of your occupation, we all have a stake in keeping our resources healthy and productive. We invite everyone to attend, learn and offer their suggestions for the future for improving the health of our precious soils."

By design, the SDSHC event is scheduled in conjunction with the South Dakota Ag Horizons Conference and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts Convention (SDACD), all being held at the Ramkota in Pierre. For Ag Horizons and SDACD event information, visit the "events tab" at [www.sdconservation.org](http://www.sdconservation.org).

For information about the new Soil Health Coalition, visit [www.sdsoilhealth.org](http://www.sdsoilhealth.org) or email: [sdsoilhealth@gmail.com](mailto:sdsoilhealth@gmail.com).

## Farm Estate Planning Workshop Dec. 2

HARTINGTON, Neb. — A free workshop on business succession and estate planning for farm and ranch owners, families, dairy producers and beginners will be held in Hartington, Dec. 2, at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Register prior to attending by calling the Cedar County Extension office 402-254-6821 by Dec. 1.

The workshop is about farm and ranch business succession, family estate planning and beginning farmer programs. It is intended to be useful for established farm and ranch owners, for their successors, and for beginners.

Topics include: the stages of succession planning, contribution & compensation, balancing the interests of on-farm and off-farm heirs; the importance of communication, setting goals, analyzing cash flow, and balancing intergenerational expectations and needs; beginning farmer loan and tax credit programs; the use of trusts, wills, life estate deeds and business entities (such as the limited liability company) in family estate and business succession planning; buy-sell agreements, asset protection, taxation (federal transfer taxes, Nebraska inheritance tax, basis adjustment) and essential estate documents.

This workshop is made possible by the Nebraska Network for Beginning Farmers & Ranchers, the Farm and Ranch Project of Legal Aid of Nebraska, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Next Gen, University of Nebraska Extension Office Cedar County, and a meal will be sponsored by the Nebraska State Dairy Association.

## SDCA Trade Show Slated For Pierre

PIERRE — Plan to attend the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association (SDCA) Trade Show, scheduled for Dec. 8-10 at the Ramkota in Pierre, to network with vendors and learn about the latest products and services for beef producers.

"Our Trade Show features a diverse selection of companies, products, and services for cattlemen and women. It's a great opportunity to meet key company personnel and mingle with industry experts. You may even find a new product or service to make your job easier," said Corey Eberhart, SDCA Secretary/Treasurer.

Eberhart continued, "Our trade show provides a one-stop shopping and educational experience for convention attendees and is an integral part of the event. We appreciate the support of the vendors who commit their time to providing this service to our members."

But the trade show isn't all business, all the time. Trade Show exhibitors also contribute generously to the always-popular President's Auction, held in the Trade Show on Wednesday evening. The live auction is a spirited event that raises funds to reimburse SDCA's volunteer leaders for their expenses incurred while traveling on behalf of the association.

Eberhart noted, "With items ranging from vet supplies to home décor and everything in between, there is something for everyone in the Trade Show and the President's Auction."

Full details, including registration and hotel information, are available on SDCA's website at [www.sdcatmen.org](http://www.sdcatmen.org) or call the office at 605-945-2333.

## Soil Judging Team Qualifies Nationals

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota State University Soil Judging Team placed fourth in the Region 5 Collegiate Soil Judging Contest, qualifying them to compete in the National Soil Judging Contest to be held in Manhattan, Kansas, in April 2016.

The 2015 Region 5 Collegiate Soil Judging Contest was held in Grand Rapids, Minn., and hosted by the University of Minnesota. College students from Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota competed.

Students who compete in soil judging are asked to describe a soil's morphology (horizons, color, texture, structure, consistence and effervescence); a soil's hydrology and profile properties (permeability, root restrictions, water retention and drainage class); site characteristics of where the soil is located (landform, parent material, slope, hillslope position, surface runoff); soil classification (order, suborder, great group, family particle size class); and site interpretations and land use suitability (septic tank suitability, aspen productivity, log landing suitability).

All of this information has to be completed in 60 minutes for each soil type judged in the contest. Students individually judged two sites. Three sites were judged as a group.

The SDSU team placed first in the group judging portion of the competition and fourth overall (combination of individual and group scores).

The SDSU students who qualified for the National Soils Judging Contest include: Rebecca Barlund, Milbank; Jacob Baustian, Garretson; Nathan Bierman, Jeffers, Minn.; Austin Carlson, Alcester; Andrew Carruth, Danvers, Minn.; Jamie Chalcraft, Pierre; Samantha Croat, Rushmore, Minn.; Scott Foxhoven, Wynot Neb.; Whitney Prins, Worthington, Minn, Galen Swanson, Pukwana and Brett Ziemer, Browns Valley, Minn.

The SDSU Soil Judging Team is coached by Doug Malo, Distinguished Professor and Plant Science Assistant Department Head and assisted by Colin Tobin, Graduate Research Assistant.

# SD Farm Stories Tell Of Resilience Succession, Expansion, Relocation

BY ALVARO GARCIA  
SDSU Extension

Expansion of family run livestock operations has been happening for a while in the U.S. The reason is oftentimes attributed to the economies of scale which give farms greater leverage with suppliers and clients and helps them keep up with inflation. One other reason that compels farms to expand or relocate is the desire for the next generation to join the operation and eventually take over.

There is oftentimes a transition period before this next generation becomes the main owner/operator. In addition, there's frequently the need to generate enough net income to supplement the older generation's budget during retirement.

When I discuss family farms, I'm talking about those operations where the majority of the business is owned by the operator and his or her relatives. This is also the USDA's official definition.

In South Dakota, 98 percent of the livestock farms are family owned and managed.

By the numbers: the state of family farms in South Dakota Commercial small farms in the state are disappearing at a constant rate of 3.5 percent per year.

Bear in mind that these figures constituted 24 percent of all 2012 farms (31,989) or a loss of 276 farms per year. According to the U.S. census of agriculture, between 2002 and 2012, small South Dakota commercial farms, with gross sales between \$10,000 and \$99,999, decreased at a constant rate of approximately 3.5 percent per year. On the other hand, those farms with a gross income between \$100,000 and \$499,999 have seen only a 0.35 percent yearly reduction in numbers.

According to the USDA "average small-farm financial performance lags well behind that of large farms, suggesting that production will continue to shift to larger operations." (To read more on this go to <http://igrow.org/agronomy/profit-tips/farms-tipping-point-in-south-dakota/> "Farm's Tipping Point in South Dakota").

According to a 2010 USDA report, farms selling less than \$100,000 will likely continue to disappear and production shift to larger farms.

Small farms have to improve production, increase livestock numbers or relocate to increase their likelihood of remaining in business.

According to the USDA ERS (2010): "Farmers who want to make a living from



farming, and who can operate a larger crop operation, have a strong incentive to expand because larger operations, on average, show better financial performance." Small South Dakota farm operators who want to live exclusively on their farm income need to enhance their gross sales. The second approach is for one or more of the family members to work elsewhere thus contributing to the total family income with off the farm funds.

According to a recent USDA report, "Larger farms have a competitive advantage over smaller farms in most commodities because the average cost of production per unit declines as the size of the operation grows (referred to as economies of size)." There are numerous stories that exemplify how farms have faced these challenges with success. One such story is that of the Krause family who farm near Clear Lake.

The Krause family knew they needed to expand in order to make room for the second generation on their farm. To do this, Laron Krause, while still in high school, partnered with his father, Edwin to raise feeder pigs.

He has been involved in the business ever since.

In 1997 Laron and four neighbors partnered to form "Supreme Pork." The 1,650 sow farrow to finish operation has grown to 3,300 sows.

As Supreme Pork partners, the

Krause's have 4,800 finishing spaces plus another 2,400-head barn owned by one of the other partners. Manure from the finishing barns fertilizes the corn of their operation. The Krauses also raise soybeans and wheat on their 3,300-acre farm.

Laron and his wife, Jolene have two sons, Adam and Brent. The boys attend South Dakota State University and plan to return to the family operation. To accompany now the third generation to return to the farm, the family plans to build a 3,600-head contract nursery for Supreme Pork. Construction will begin spring of 2016 – at the same time that Adam graduates from SDSU. Brent will join one year later.

Whether the farm is large or small, SDSU Extension works to provide research-based information to farm families to help them make decisions that will keep them on the farm and help with the transition from one generation to the next. To learn more, visit [iGrow.org](http://iGrow.org).

To read more examples about how South Dakota farm families are making room for the next generation to join them on their farm, read the rest of this column on [iGrow.org](http://iGrow.org).

Alvaro Garcia is SDSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Director.

## SDSU Extension Addresses Antibiotic Use In Poultry And Meat Products

**"Unfortunately this report contains a mixture of misinformation and facts with regards to the use of antibiotics in livestock and poultry production."**

AMANDA BLAIR

contributes to the issue of antibiotic-resistant bacteria," Blair said.

Blair further explained that the report then maintains that when livestock producers administer antibiotics routinely, it contributes to the "worsening epidemic of resistance" and "that antibiotics may not work when we need them most: when our kids contract a staph infection or our parents get a life-threatening pneumonia."

"In essence, this report blamed the U.S. livestock and meat industries for the global problem of antibiotic resistance, implying that misuse of antibiotics in livestock is necessary due to poor management practices," Blair said. "However, years of research have failed to prove that the use of antibiotics in livestock and poultry has resulted in the evolution of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and

pose a risk to humans."

When discussing the role of the livestock and meat industries in the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, Blair said there are several important points consumers should keep in mind:

\* A strict withdrawal or "waiting" period is required following administration of an antibiotic before that animal can be processed and enter the food chain. The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service conducts a monitoring program to ensure that no unsafe residues are detected in meat and poultry.

\* Only 13 percent of antibiotics in the livestock industry are used for growth promotion and the practice is being phased out. At the request of FDA, companies that produce antibiotics for animal use have committed to withdraw their products for growth promotion use by December 2016.

\* The FDA guidance will also change the classification of "medically important" feed-grade antibiotics from the current over-the-counter designation to the Veterinary Feed Directive designation. Ultimately these medications can still be used for prevention, control and treatment of illness in animals but their use must be approved by a licensed veterinarian; similar to the way human medications are prescribed.

\* Issues surrounding antibiotic use and development of resistant bacteria are extremely complex and involve both human and veterinary use.

While the media focus tends to be on the use of these drugs in animals, a report in the New England Journal of Medicine by officials from the CDC and IMS Health found that U.S. doctors are prescribing enough antibiotics to treat four of every five Americans every year and concludes that antibiotics are being over-used in humans. A 2013 CDC report found that half of the prescriptions given to people are unnecessary.

There is limited overlap between the antibiotics provided to humans and those given to animals.

## Swine Industry Audit Training Session In Freeman

BROOKINGS — United States pork producers are committed to producing the highest quality and safest pork in the world. In 2014, the National Pork board and various industry leaders created the new Common Swine Industry Audit to avoid duplication of packer audits.

"Like PQA PLUS, the Common Swine Industry Audit emphasizes food safety and animal well-being, but it goes much more in-depth on many of the criteria," explained Bob Thaler, Professor & SDSU Extension Swine Specialist.

While the Common Swine Industry Audit is a voluntary program, most packers are requiring producers to take part in the Common Swine Industry Audit program.

A third party trained auditor will come to a producer's farm and evaluate their records, Standard Operating Procedures or SOPs, safety documents, etc. Also, the auditor and producer will walk through the entire operation and assess animal welfare, animal handling, worker training and the environment that the pigs live in.

The entire audit is based

on a point system with a potential for a total of 457 points. Individual packers set the minimum points they want their producers to achieve.

Are you ready for the audit? To help producers prepare for the Common Swine Industry Audit, SDSU Extension created a two hour training program that covers everything a producer will need to successfully complete the audit.

Participants will receive a 3-ring binder with the templates and examples of all the records, SOP's, etc. that they

will have to provide to the auditor. Producers will also learn what things the auditor will be evaluating on the walk-through and what is acceptable and unacceptable.

Two more training sessions are scheduled for this fall, and will run from 2-4 p.m.

\* Huron, Dec. 7 – The training will be held at the Crossroads Convention Center

\* Freeman, Dec. 17 – The training will be held at the Prairie House restaurant.

Registration for the event will cover the cost of the bind-

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