



Remove Illegal Hay Bales From Right Of Way

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Transportation reminds land owners, hay remaining in highway ditches after Oct. 1 is deemed illegal.

Any person wishing to claim ownership of illegal bales must obtain a permit from the South Dakota Department of Transportation. Those permits are issued on a first-come first-served basis and allow permit holders to take ownership of any illegal hay bale.

Permits are available at Department of Transportation area offices in the following communities: Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Custer, Huron, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Winner and Yankton. Phone numbers can be found on the website at <http://www.sddot.com/dot/region/Default.aspx>

The Department of Transportation will remove or authorize the removal of any hay bales remaining in the public right-of-way after Oct. 31.

For more information, contact Jason Humphrey at 605-773-3571.

Beef Cattle Conference Early Deadline Nov. 1

BROOKINGS — Nov. 1 is the deadline for early registration for the 2012 Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle Conference held Dec. 3-4 in Sioux Falls.

This is a rare opportunity to learn about the latest technologies in the Beef Industry from the researchers working on the technologies, says George Perry, Associate Professor and SDSU Extension Beef Reproduction Specialist.

"This year's conference will focus on how we utilize advancing technologies to improve reproductive efficiencies, profitability, and the product that we all enjoy so well — BEEF," Perry said. "This is a tremendous opportunity to hear 27 speakers from across the United States and Canada speak on topics including: how to profit from implementing these technologies, and the latest research in the fields of Reproduction, nutrition, and genetics."

Specific topics will include; what we can actually learn from genetic testing, how level of nutrition during gestation can impact future productivity of the fetus, how management can impact reproductive performance, and how bulls can be managed to increase reproductive performance.

This conference is geared to veterinarians and producers, so all the speakers will be addressing how technologies and techniques can be utilized on cattle operations.

Details are available at the conference Web site <http://muconf.missouri.edu/ARSBC-SouthDakota/> or, for more information, contact Perry at (605) 688-5456 or reach him by e-mail at George.Perry@sdstate.edu.

In addition to the outstanding speakers that are on the program, there will also be a tradeshow with booths from all sponsors.

Day one will conclude with hands-on activities where participants can become more familiar with several of the topics discussed.

Register by Nov. 1 and save \$50. Those planning to attend can reserve rooms at the conference rate of \$89.99 plus tax by calling the Best Western Ramkota in Sioux Falls at (605) 336-0650. Be sure to ask for the Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle conference rate. The conference is being coordinated by The Beef Reproduction Leadership Team, South Dakota State University, and iGrow.

Movable High Tunnel Construction Workshop Set

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension will host a two day movable high tunnel construction workshop on Nov. 6-7. The workshop agenda will include hands on step by step construction demonstration from start to finish.

Also included will be presentations on how to choose and build high tunnels for both fixed and movable structures, seasonal crop selection and nutrient and water management in a high tunnel. The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at Hebda family produce located at 30661, 444th Avenue in Mission Hill near Yankton.

Since this is the same day as the election, vote early if you plan to attend.

Registration includes lunch and refreshments. For information about the workshop and how to register please contact Geoffrey Njue, SDSU Extension Specialty Crops Field Specialist at the Sioux Falls Regional Extension Center at 605-782-3290 or email Geoffrey.njue@sdstate.edu.

High tunnels are unheated plastic covered relatively inexpensive structures in which crops are grown directly in the soil. They help producers extend their production season improve yields and extend the marketing window for their crops. High tunnels also help growers produce quality produce earlier than field crops which gives them higher prices at the market.

Continuous production year after year in a fixed high tunnel presents a problem of salt build up in the soil which leads to reduced crop vigor and reduced yield. By utilizing movable high tunnels growers can avoid the problems associated with fixed

high tunnels such salt build up because moving the tunnel exposes the soil to weather elements of rain and snow that help leach the salts.

"With movable tunnels growers are able to take advantage of both a protected production and an open field production," Njue said.

Participants will learn about high tunnel design, construction, and management during the workshop. They will have an opportunity to participate in construction of a movable high tunnel from start to finish. Some of the specific topics to be addressed during the program include how to select and build a high tunnel, fertility and irrigation management, and crop selection.

Commercial fruit or vegetable growers currently in business, as well as those with an interest in expanding into commercial production, will benefit from this workshop.

The SDSU Extension is sponsoring this workshop with partial funding provided by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

Child Safety On The Farm

A Farm Can Be A Dangerous Place For A Child To Live, Work And Play

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

Children are not a common sight at their parents' jobs, whether in an office cubicle, hospital floor, or factory warehouse — except for on the farm, where the home and the business are one in the same, and it's not unusual for kids to be playing hide 'n seek in the tractor shed.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, agricultural production is among the most dangerous occupations. Furthermore, reports Shari Burgess, education director at Farm Safety 4 Just Kids in Urbandale, Iowa, farming and ranching poses a significant risk to the health and safety of children and teens: With more than 1 million youth living on farms, and an additional 250,000 youth hired to work on farms, and even more children who live off the farm and come to visit relatives, "we got a lot of kids out there that are exposed to the hazards on the farm," she said.

There are 21.3 deaths per 100,000 youth workers in production agriculture, compared to just 3.6 per 100,000 in all other industries, according to Farm Safety 4 Just Kids. More than 100 youth under age 20 die on farms each year, most often by farm machinery. Moreover, nearly 80 percent of children injured on farms and ranches are during play, rather than among youth workers, the majority of injuries occurring in children under age 10.

The silver lining is that injuries among both farm kids and youth visiting or working on farms have declined since 1998. Burgess believes this is the result of more farm safety education, more guards and other safety features installed on equipment, and better emergency medical services.

"Although machinery is getting bigger, it's getting safer," Burgess said.

But there's always room for improvement in statistics. Parents want their children to be a part of the farming lifestyle, so they're involved in the work at a younger age than non-farm children are exposed to work environments and, even if not working, the children are living at the work site. Burgess understands this desire to pass on the family legacy, but encourages parents to keep safety in mind first.

"We need to set limitations, because they don't have the recognition that we have as adults," she said. "Whether they stick their finger in an outlet or a fan blade, we are responsible as adults for them."

Young children, those age 10 and younger, are inherently at risk on farms because of their curious nature, low recognition of hazards, trouble remembering rules, boundless energy, and lack of strength and size. But, it's "when they're ready to crash [tired], that's when they do something we consider dumb," Burgess said.

Adolescents and older children, those older than age 10, are still at risk because of their lack of size and strength relative to an adult and trouble remembering rules, as well as risk-taking attitude, independence seeking, desire for autonomy coming out as resisting authority, awkwardness from



PHOTO: RITA BRHEL

Livestock can be unpredictable elements in farm life, and children must be taught how to interact with animals in order to avoid serious injury.

rapid physical changes, and strong peer pressure. Expressly in this age group, "any time two or more kids are together, they show off, especially a child visiting the farm might do something to impress his friend," Burgess said.

There are several ways parents can prevent farm accidents for both children and adolescents:

- Ensure a safe environment for play areas, such as using a fence with a gate latch that young children can't open, fall prevention, and ground cover that minimizes injuries.
- Provide age-appropriate supervision, from toddlers and preschoolers who need constant attention to teens who still need observation by an adult for certain farm tasks.
- Arrange for proper training, which can be done informally at home or through organized tractor-driving certification courses, 4-H and FFA, and high school agricultural education classes.
- Assign age- and ability-appropriate farm tasks, using Extension services and resources such as www.nagcat.org for guidance.
- Require personal protective equipment (PPE) as recommended by www.agrisafe.org and www.gemplers.com, such as clothing, helmets, sunscreen, and earplugs.

The biggest need for improvement for young children is the play area, Burgess said. Less than 20 percent of Midwest farms have a designated play area. Falls are especially dangerous for this age group, as an eight-foot drop onto dirt is equal to smashing into cement at 30 miles per hour. It's important to remember, though, that "a play area is not a substitute for adult supervision. Young chil-

dren should be within sight and sound," Burgess said.

For adolescents, the major concern is adequate personal protection equipment.

"One of the problems with children, a lot of the times, the PPE — whether it's a dust mask or a helmet — they don't come in sizes for children," Burgess said. "And take that into consideration. If the PPE doesn't fit, maybe your child shouldn't be doing the task."

Unfortunately, farm safety seems easily forgotten. Tracey Renelt, South Dakota State University Extension dairy field specialist, based in Watertown, says this is because producers are plain distracted by the unexpected twists of the business, from the drought to volatile market prices to a broken piece of machinery. Plus, it's easy to become complacent when today's farm equipment is the safest it's ever been.

"How many people do you know that are missing a limb or a finger or have had some sort of farm accident? Or, even worse yet, have suffered the loss of a loved one?" Renelt asked. "Often-times, in a rural community, we can name several people."

Being involved in the farm is just part of being a farm kid, says Randy Pryor, who grew up on a family farm near Nemaha, Neb. Farm kids are expected to pitch in, but farm safety should be a priority.

"Sometimes it's difficult to engage parents, grandparents, and employers," Burgess agreed. "It's more likely to happen after an incident has happened in the community."

Extension Estate Planning Sessions Slated For Yankton

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State University Extension will host training sessions focused on estate planning and transitioning the family operation in several South Dakota communities beginning Oct. 22.

Sessions have been planned for JoDean's in Yankton Nov. 6-7 and Nov. 13-14.

Sustaining the Legacy conferences have helped farm and ranch families across the state get started on their plans by providing the tools and resources needed to get started and the know-how to get it completed, says Heather Gessner, SDSU Extension Livestock Business Management Field Specialist.

"Each session is filled with important information that can help farm and ranch families address questions they may face as parents or grandparents get older and consider their legacy," said Gessner, who is organizing the conferences. "Producers have told me that the value of this program was \$1 million, due to the changes they made to their estate plan and the reduction of potential estate taxes."

Extension staff and industry professionals will help participants develop the tools they need in order to face estate-planning challenges with less stress.

Registration is required seven days prior to the first meeting date. To register, call Gessner at 605-782-3290. Return the registration form and funds to Sioux Falls Extension Center, 2001 East 8th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57103.

Each day of the four-session program is full of tools and how-to information families can use to create and implement their individualized plan, no matter how big or small the operation.

Topics for the sessions cover communication styles, business structures, goals, asset distribution, wills and probate, retirement planning and funding, fair versus equal distribution, tax implications for the operation, life insurance, long-term care insurance, trusts, and other topics as determined by the audiences.

"Many of the past participants have utilized the information from the conference to reduce potential estate taxes and ensure that their operation is passed down to the next generation in a smooth, hassle free transition," Gessner said.

All family members are encour-

aged to attend the sessions, and on- and off-farm heirs are also invited to learn about the tools and participate in the discussions.

"Past participants have used this conference to interview attorneys and insurance agents while they are presenting the basics of using the many tools available to them," Gessner said. "If you are making plans to retire or becoming a partner in the operation, or if you own farm or ranch assets, this program is a great start for you. Our goal is to give you the tools to

develop your estate plan and the motivation to get started, combined with some gentle nudging that keeps you moving forward with the process."

Partial funding for this program is provided by the South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council.

Call Gessner at her Sioux Falls Regional Extension office with questions at 605-782-3290, or e-mail her at this address: heather.gessner@sdstate.edu.

Yankton County Commissioner

Mark Johnson

VOTE

Our future depends on it!

Paid for by Mark Johnson, Yankton County Commissioner

Ameriprise Financial invites you to join us for a special event: Plan to Give More

Ameriprise Financial

Location: Riverfront Event Center – Lower Level
121 W. 3rd St.
Yankton, SD 57078
(605) 689-3333

Date & Time: Nov. 1st at 7:00 pm

Speaker: Jonathan Ammermann, Regional Vice President, RiverSource Insurance
We also welcome Sheila S. Woodward, Attorney at Law with Johnson, Miner, Marlow, Woodward & Huff, Prof. LLC who will discuss the significant role certain legal documents play in estate planning.

RSVP: Call (605) 665-8608 or toll-free (888)-665-8608
Email michelle.lammers@ampf.com

Contact Information: Lori K. Leader, Financial Advisor
Leader, Larsen & Associates
A financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
115 Broadway Ave., Suite 2
Yankton, SD 57078



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I refuse to... Let knee pain keep me from spending time with my grandkids

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