



## Hay Removal Deadline Is Oct. 1

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Transportation requests the cooperation of all farmers and ranchers in removing processed hay from the highway right of way.

State regulations require that hay be removed from the right of way within 30 days of being processed, but no later than Oct. 1.

Removing hay bales from the highway right of way is an important safety consideration for motorists. The bales or stacks can be a safety hazard for vehicles forced to leave the road and, in some cases, can restrict a driver's sight distance. Hay left in the road ditches late in the year can also cause snowdrifts across the highway.

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

## Export Seminar Slated For Watertown

PIERRE — The public is invited to join the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) at 8 a.m. CDT on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at the Ramkota Hotel/Watertown Events Center in Watertown for a "Prepare for Export Success Seminar."

At the seminar, SDDA will provide an overview of the exporting process and the opportunities available around the globe.

"The seminar will discuss why food suppliers might want to export their products and what it takes for a food supplier to become export ready," said Alison Kiesz, SDDA northeast ag development representative.

According to Kiesz, exports of consumer food products are growing three times faster than domestic sales thanks to consumers' growing purchasing power and lower trade barriers.

The keynote speaker for the event is Lucas Lentsch, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture.

"The world is truly becoming a global marketplace at an extremely rapid pace," said Secretary Lentsch. "With 95 percent of the world's population located outside of the United States, many companies are looking at putting their products on the international stage. Many business owners mistakenly believe that they are 'too small' of an operation to export; that is usually not the case. Eighty percent of South Dakota's exporters are small- and medium-sized businesses."

Speaker Dennis Lynch, Food Export Helpline™ counselor, will provide a glimpse into why food exporting remains a bright spot in today's economy by:

- Answering the question Why Export?
- Identifying specific export opportunities
- Looking at future prospects for food exports

Attendees will hear first-hand experiences from suppliers in the tri-state area that are currently exporting. Industry leaders will speak about how they started exporting and what they have learned in the process.

Registration is free and participants can register online at [www.foodexport.org/](http://www.foodexport.org/).

The one-day seminar is co-hosted with Food Export-Midwest, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture.

# Going To War

## The Best Course Of Poultry Predator Management

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a two-part series.

BY RITA BRHEL  
P&D Correspondent

Poultry is on the menu for as much of the animal world as chicken is for humans, and trying to figure out just what has been visiting the barnyard lately can be as complex as any detective work.

Once the problem critter has been identified, it's time to find a way to protect the poultry, but this isn't easy, either.

Thomas Barnes, state wildlife specialist for the University of Kentucky Extension service in Lexington, Ky., explains that producers need to be aware of their local and state regulations regarding whatever animals their targeting.

Some predators are considered furbearers and there are certain seasons. Some states allow producers to kill wildlife if they are posing a problem to their livestock, but it must be in the act. For some animals, wildlife specialists must be involved in removing the pest. Contact the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission at 402-471-0641 or the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks at 605-223-7660 for predator-specific information.

Birds of prey, including hawks and owls, are protected under federal law and removal of the problem animal requires a permit with a two-month process of acquiring, Barnes explains. It would be faster, and more effective, to find other ways of protecting poultry.

That said, "a lot of home remedies, like antifreeze, are very illegal and in fact are potentially harmful to not only wildlife but to you, and these laws are there to protect you, too," Barnes said, adding that there is a high risk of secondary poisoning to not only to the poultry that producers are trying to protect but also to their pets and children and that any use of poisons should be done by hiring a commercial exterminator.

Rather than go through that expense, Barnes recommends improving poultry housing.

While many people think that predator control is disposing of the animal, this is actually the last resort, he said: "The goal of any wildlife damage management program is to solve the problem, not kill animals, and exclusion — building something to keep them out — is usually the best thing to do. So the first step is being a good poultry manager."

Here are some general guidelines to keep predators out of the poultry flock:

- Practice good animal husbandry — encourage birds to roost inside at night, lock up the coop door at night, remove sick or dying or dead birds from the coop, cover flight pens, provide artificial cover for free-ranging birds and consider



PHOTO: RITA BRHEL

using a guardian animal like a guard dog or llama.

- Ditch the chicken wire — replace any chicken wire covering flight pens or windows with a hardware cloth of no more than one-quarter-inch openings to deter both snakes and weasels.
- Guard against digging predators — dig a trench down around the flight pen or dirt-floor enclosures and bury the hardware cloth down 12 inches into the ground.
- Guard against avian predators — if

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THOMAS BARNES

birds are only out in their flight pen during the day and it doesn't have a wire cover, string red fishing line over the top in a crosshatch pattern or use plastic bird netting as a cover.

- Don't rely on deterrents only — the best way to protect a poultry flock is to make sure the birds are in or have access to a safe enclosure. Deterrents like motion-detector lights, hawk or owl decoys and noise cannons are effective in the short-term, but only until something can be figured out for the long-term, because predators learn quickly.

There may come a time when a predator needs to be disposed of. Perhaps they're hunting by day or the poultry owner needs more time to secure the coop and the predator has wised up to short-term deterrents.

Traps are very effective. Barnes finds that producers are more inclined to live traps. He says that single-door, live traps covered with canvas work better than two-door traps, from which some ani-

mals, especially raccoons, are often able to bait out of without tripping the doors.

Once the animal is captured, then the poultry owner needs to do something with it. A poultry owner is not going to want to release a just-captured, known poultry predator back on his land. But in most areas, captured animals cannot be released on state lands and any release onto the private lands is only legal with the landowner's permission. There is also the concern of spreading disease, because some predators prey on domes-

tic livestock because they aren't healthy enough to hunt in their native environment.

But releasing the animal is not the most humane option, anyway.

"Most people want to know if these animals will live happily ever after," Barnes said. "Most of these animals will die very quickly and they die a very violent death. If they're released somewhere where there isn't suitable habitat, they have

to find it and, during that time, they become prey animals. If they do find suitable habitat, that habitat will already have the right balance of predators and competitors will kill it over territory."

Other traps include snares, leg-hold traps and instant-kill traps. Killing an animal by shooting it can be tricky because of laws that regulate not discharging a firearm within city limits or within a certain distance of a structure. Instant-kill traps are viewed as the most effective — and the most humane — way of dealing with a problem animal, Barnes says.

Whichever trap is used, the producers should be familiar with how the trap works and how best to attract the targeted animal. Animals learn quickly from botched trapping experiences.

"If you catch a toenal of a dog or coyote, you'll never catch that animal again," Barnes said. "They will have learned and will continue causing problems."

# SDSU Evaluates Corn Silage Hybrids for Feed Quality

BROOKINGS — Soon South Dakota dairy and livestock producers will have data to help them select corn silage hybrids that will yield the nutritional benefits their herds need to produce quality milk and meat.

South Dakota State University's Dairy and Plant Science Departments teamed up with Crop Performance Testing program to evaluate corn hybrids for silage production.

"The goal of this project is to provide recommendations on what hybrids South Dakota corn growers should grow to produce high quality corn silage for livestock production," said David Casper, Assistant Professor of Dairy Science. "Just try staying profitable in the dairy or beef business without high quality corn silage."

South Dakota ranks eighth in the United States in the production of corn silage — producing 4.8 million tons on 600,000 acres.

The initiation of this new project involved the 2013 spring planting of 45 hybrids at the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station in Volga. These hybrids were provided by eleven companies that agreed to have their hybrids evaluated for the production of corn silage. Hybrids were planted in small replicated experimental plots. These hybrids were recently harvested as corn silage (target 35% dry matter) by cutting a specific number of plants out of each replicated plot with a power cutter, bundled, and transported to the main facilities for weighing and ensiling.

### SILAGE YIELDS NEED TO BE MEASURED

Until this project, Casper explained that one reason silage data has not been collected is because it was overshadowed by grain corn.

"Silage doesn't get the attention that grain corn does because it's not marketed directly as grain or through ethanol," he said.

South Dakota Crop Performance Testing program has a long history of evaluating and testing the yields of corn grain hybrids. This program has documented the tremendous improvement in grain yields for South Dakota corn growers. However, Casper said, until now, no research work and evaluation has been conducted on which hybrids may be better suited for corn growers for the production of high quality corn silage in South Dakota.

"The production of high quality corn silage involves

not only the yield or tonnage per acre, but needs to include its digestibility. The greater the dry matter, fiber and starch digestibilities of a specific corn silage, the more milk and meat that can be produced at a lower feed cost," he said. "Digestible fiber (digestible NDF) is one of the more expensive nutrients needed in dairy rations. Thus, producing corn silage with greater digestibility improves milk and meat production, while reducing the cost of production."

### TESTING PROCEDURE

To collect data, the plants were processed through a chipper/shredder inoculated with a silage fermentation additive, mixed and packed

in 5-gallon mini-silo buckets. The buckets were then sealed with an air tight lid, weighed, and placed in storage.

Casper explained that these mini-silos will be weighed after 90 days of storage to calculate dry matter losses during ensiling

and then opened with samples taken for nutrient composition and measurements of dry matter, fiber, and starch digestibilities.

The data will be made available to both seed corn companies and corn growers to improve their hybrid selection to produce high ton-

nage and high quality corn silage and reduce the cost of producing milk and meat in South Dakota. Corn silage is a very valuable end-use for corn grown in the state.

To learn more visit [iGrow.org](http://iGrow.org).

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Introducing

Dr. Pietz

Family Medicine Physician

Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. is pleased to announce the association of Carrissa Pietz, MD, Board Certified Family Medicine Physician.

Dr. Pietz is originally from Lesterville, SD and completed her undergraduate degree at Mount Marty College. She is a graduate of Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD. Dr. Pietz completed her family medicine residency at Sioux Falls Family Medicine Residency, Sioux Falls, SD.

Dr. Pietz joins Drs. David Barnes, McKenzie Hanson, Scott Weber, and Certified Nurse Practitioner, Jennifer McGinnis, in providing family care.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Pietz, her husband, Aaron, and their children, Noah and Carson, to Yankton.

Dr. Pietz began seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. September 9, 2013.

**Appointments can be made by calling 605-665-8910.**

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