

Extension To Offer Cover Crop Tours

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension will be hosting several soil health and cover crop field tours this fall. "These tours provide growers with firsthand information on management practices to enhance soil health as well as an opportunity to have their questions answered," explained Anthony Bly, SDSU Extension Soils Field Specialist. During the tours, SDSU Extension staff and other industry experts will evaluate cover crops for beneficial soil health properties and forage/feed value for grazing livestock.

2015 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Sept. 8 — Minnehaha County: Al Miron Farm, tour begins at 11:45 a.m. (25935 469th Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57107) lunch is provided;
- Sept. 10 — Clay/Turner Counties: Southeast Research Farm Fall Tour begins at 8:30 a.m. (29974 University Rd, Beresford, SD 57004) rolls and coffee, and noon lunch provided;
- Sept. 14 — Lake County: Mustang Seeds, tour begins at 1 p.m. (1001 10th St SW, Madison, SD 57042);
- Sept. 15 — Brookings/Hamlin Counties: East Dakota Soil and Water Research Farm tour begins at 1 p.m. (20940 470th Ave, Brookings, SD) supper provided;
- Sept. 17 — Clark/Codington Counties: Kopriva Angus tour begins at 1 p.m. (41577 169th St. Raymond, SD). More details will be released during Dakotafest.

Cosponsors and cooperators include: S.D. No-till Association, S.D. Soybean Research and Promotion Council, Millborn Seeds, Mustang/Coyote Seeds, USDA-NRCS, USDA-ARS, Southeast Research Farm, Northeast Research Farm and S.D. Soil Health Coalition.

To learn more, visit www.iGrow.org/events and search by event date or contact Bly at anthony.bly@sdsdstate.edu or (605) 782-3290.

SE Research Farm Field Day Sept. 10

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State University's Southeast Farm Annual Fall Field Day will be held Sept. 10 near Beresford. The morning program will be a tour of area farms where producers' utilize no-till, cover crops and graze cover crops in their operations. Lunch will be served at Southeast Farm.

Livestock research and production topics will be the focus of the afternoon program.

The program agenda includes:

- 8:15 a.m. — Coffee and Rolls at Southeast Farm (29974 University Road, Beresford, SD 57004)
- 8:30 a.m. to Noon — Tours of area farms including; Gary Andersen, Tim and Scott Wellenstein and Dick Nissen who utilize no-till, cover crops and cover crop grazing in their operations. These tours will be led by Anthony Bly, SDSU Extension, Soils Field Specialist.
- Noon to 1 p.m. — Lunch served at Southeast Farm; during lunch a discussion on Avian Flu will be led by Russ Daly, Avian Flu; Russ Daly, Professor, SDSU Extension Veterinarian, State Public Health Veterinarian.
- 1-3:30 p.m. — Attendees have several, livestock-related topic areas to choose:
 - Soybean Council Swine Trial: Led by Bob Thaler, Professor & SDSU Extension Swine Specialist;
 - Protein Quality and Feedlot Rations: Preliminary results — led by Derek Brake, SDSU Assistant Professor of Ruminant Nutrition;
 - Grazing Management: Led by Warren Rusche, SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist;
 - Grazing Grass: Led by, Pete Bauman, SDSU Extension Range Field Specialist; and
 - Cover Crops: Led by, Elaine Grings, Assistant Professor & SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Management & Production Specialist and Peter Sexton, Southeast Farm Supervisor, Associate Professor & SDSU Extension Sustainable Cropping Systems Specialist.

To learn more, visit www.iGrow.org/events.

Sheep Growers Convention Sept. 25-26

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota Sheep Growers Association 78th annual Convention will be held in Rapid City at the Best Western Ramkota September 25-26, 2015.

The convention begins Friday, Sept. 25 with tours to Center of the Nation Wool, New Generation Supplements, the Newell Sheep Yards, as well as the historic, Orwick Family Sheep Ranch.

The Orwick family will be hosting a lamb supper after a pasture tour of the prairie. Sept. 26 will include seminars and activities at the Best Western Ramkota, featuring speakers from the sheep industry, academia and sheep organizations; including: Lucas Lentsch, S.D. Secretary of Agriculture; Kelly Hepler, Secretary of S.D. Game, Fish & Parks; and USDA Under Secretary of Agriculture, Edward Avalos.

Topics include; new Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD), managing internal parasites, H2A workers and research updates. The Master Lamb Producer awards and highlights will be presented during the Saturday luncheon. Trapper of the Year and Shepherd's Award will also be announced during the evening banquet as well as the Make It With Wool finals.

A bonus tour will be held Sunday, Sept. 27. Transportation will be on your own. The tour will visit a Black Hills logging site and will focus on logging and pine beetle damage and management.

To register for the event visit the South Dakota Sheep Growers Association website (sdsheepgrowers.org) or Facebook page, or email sdsheepgrowers@yahoo.com. Completed forms can be mailed to Tammy Basel, 16079 Minnehaha Place, Union Center, SD 57787, or emailed to tbasel@gwtc.net. Pre-registration is encouraged by Sept. 7, 2015.

USDA: Biofuel Funding Available

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA is accepting applications for funding under a program that supports the production of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals and biobased product manufacturing.

"This critical financing will enhance our efforts to build a robust, rural bioeconomy by helping to expand the availability of biobased products and to increase the number of commercial-scale biorefineries in the country," Vilsack said. "In addition to the available funding, I am proud to announce that USDA has significantly improved the biorefinery program to help create lasting job opportunities in rural America." USDA is making the funding available through the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program. It was formerly known as the Biorefinery Assistance Program.

The new program provides loan guarantees of up to \$250 million to construct and retrofit commercial-scale biorefineries and to develop renewable chemicals and biobased product manufacturing facilities. Vilsack and USDA Rural Business- Cooperative Service Administrator Lillian Salerno today hosted a seminar at USDA headquarters to discuss changes to the program and the opportunities available to produce more biobased products.

Two funding cycles are being held. Applications for round one are due Oct. 1. Applications for the second round are due April 1, 2016. For information on how to apply, see page 38432 of the July 6, 2015 Federal Register.

NOAA

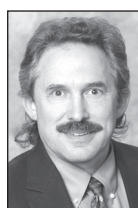
September Outlook Shifts To The Wet Side

BROOKINGS — The month of September is more likely to be wetter than average in South Dakota, according to the updated National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Aug. 31 climate outlook.

"This revision to the forecast for September is a bit of a change from what we saw a couple of weeks ago," explained Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist. The most recent outlook from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center predicts that all of South Dakota will likely be wetter than average for the month. "In the previous outlook for September, most of our state was shown to have equal chances of wetter, drier or near average rainfall," she said.

Edwards added that cooler than average conditions are more possible in the western half of the state, another change from the previous September 2015 climate outlook.

"Cooler and wetter conditions for the fall are somewhat expected because they are often associated with El Nino conditions," said Dennis Today, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist.



Today

The first couple of weeks in September," said Today.

Today added that while there are no imminent concerns with a wetter and cooler month ahead, the outlooks do increase the chance of some potential issues.

"Recent wetter conditions have eliminated most dryness across the state," Today said. In east central South Dakota, moisture levels have reached a point of excess, with soils wet from the recent heavy rains.

Two stations in eastern South Dakota, Clear Lake (8.60-inches) and Bryant (7.24-inches), set all-time August precipitation records. Another 30 stations across the state ranked in the top 10 wettest Augusts.

The previous climate outlook, Today explained, indicated that cooler and wetter was more likely in October and November and less likely in September.

"The updates are a result of new computer model forecasts that are now available for

Edwards said that additional wet conditions this fall could increase soil moisture and wet grain issues during fall harvest, which could slow down harvest progress. "Cooler conditions could compound concerns by slowing in-field drying," she said.

The wet conditions could also lead to mold issues in grain, which livestock producers need to be aware of when feeding the 2015 crop to livestock. "Whenever there is excess moisture during harvest, mold issues can arise in grain which can cause issues if the grain is meant for livestock consumption," Edwards explained.

At this point, Today said most crop development is close to average. "Near average temperatures throughout the summer have kept row crops on a good development pace," he said.

Today added that warm temperatures, as we enter September, will help with crop maturity and make up for the bit of cool weather during the last week of August.

"Delayed crop development is not much of a concern," he said.

To learn more, visit iGrow.org.

SDSU Extension

How To Get Started With Your Estate Planning

BROOKINGS — Daunting is one way to describe estate planning, said Heather Gessner, SDSU Extension Livestock Business Management Field Specialist.

"This is one reason South Dakota farm families have avoided implementing a plan for their farms and families," said Gessner.

However, even though it may seem daunting, estate planning is essential to the future of family farms and ranch operations. Below, Gessner breaks the process down — making this important task easier to tackle.

"The most daunting tasks can be accomplished if they are looked at in smaller components," Gessner said. "Breaking the estate planning process down into these five components will help keep the task manageable and thus lead to the creation of a plan that accomplishes the goals of both the family and farm operation."

BREAK DOWN THE PROCESS

"The big thing to remember about estate planning is that it is a process," Gessner said. "It is more marathon than sprint, and each family needs to work at it and be committed to its creation to ensure a written plan is in place when it is needed."

- The process can be broken into five steps:
1. Initiate the discussion
 2. Develop your objectives
 3. Compile your information
 4. Seek professional advice
 5. Keep things updated

INITIATE THE DISCUSSION

If you are thinking of the next generation returning to the farm or ranch, communication, Gessner said, will be the lead component to successful estate and transition plans.

"Topics about death, transferring assets, economics, balance sheets, income and expenses and other topics are easy to avoid amid day to day discussions about crops and/or cattle," she said, "but they need to be brought up."

Opening the door to these topics can lead to the prevention of future problems and disagreement amongst surviving heirs. "When everyone is aware of the plan and the reasons behind the decisions that were made — a smooth transition to the next generation can occur," Gessner said.

This process may also help solve current problems that had not been discussed among members of the family. These other problems could include discontentment about job duties and responsibility to changes that could be implemented on the farm.

"Holding a meeting to inform all family members about the goals of the plan may be one way to provide a platform to present your ideas for the farm and family," Gessner explained.

This can also be a time for everyone involved to express feelings and expectations about the plan. At this time, Gessner encouraged participants to listen to

any potential concerns or problems the family may have with what will be implemented and when. "Assumptions are the worst enemy of a family estate plan, and can lead to many problems," she said.

While communication is a critical component to establishing a plan, Gessner said it is also important to keep respect in mind. "Parents are opening up about hard decisions and big plans related to the assets they have acquired through their own inheritance and/or hard work," she said. "Coupling the goals they have for the farm and family is not an easy task."

Both on-farm and off-farm children have had many new experiences and responsibilities since high school and/or college graduation, and need to utilize those experiences to ensure the goals of the family and farm are met.

"At the end of the day the farm is still under the ownership of the senior generation and they can do with it what they want," Gessner said. "Allowing the children to express their opinion and ideas should be respected."

LIST YOUR OBJECTIVES

Just like a high school basketball team setting a goal of getting to the state tournament and then creating objectives to get there, Gessner said the family and farm need to have clear goals for the future.

The article "Estate Planning, More than Tax Planning" discusses the creation of goals for the farm and family further in depth and can be found on iGrow.org.

The goals and objectives for the farm and family are the directions the estate professionals will use to ensure the correct tools are

implemented for each family.

COMPLETE YOUR INFORMATION

Information is king, and as it relates to your estate plan, Gessner said having all of your personal and business information compiled and organized will save time and money. "Since all assets need to be included in the written plan, a list of land, machinery, stocks, retirement accounts, bank accounts, etc., as well as a list of liens, mortgages and other liabilities needs to be compiled," she said.

While not an easy task, you can replace missing legal documents. Replacing Legal and Financial Documents in South Dakota can be found by visiting iGrow.org.

CHOOSE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

"Your advisors are a critical component to the creation of a successful estate plan and need to work with your best interests in mind," Gessner said.

She added that they also need to work with each other to ensure the tools implemented work together to accomplish your goals.

An estate planning attorney is essential for your estate plan. Choosing an individual or firm that works predominately with estates and has a working knowledge about agricultural estates is highly recommended.

Other advisors may include a tax consultant/preparer, life and/or long term care insurance agent, financial planners, and funeral home director. The team will be unique to the family and the tools utilized to achieve the goals developed.

Stockgrowers Convention In RC Oct. 1-2

RAPID CITY — South Dakota Stockgrowers Association and SD Cattlemen are set to host the 124th Annual Convention and Tradeshow Oct. 1-2 at the Best Western Ramkota Convention Center in Rapid City. The two-day convention will feature a strong line-up of speakers and events along with policy discussions, and the annual business meetings for both associations.

"We are looking forward to hosting our members and friends at the 124th Annual Convention and to celebrate a great year in the livestock industry," said Bob Fortune, President of Stockgrowers from Belvidere. "I really encourage everyone to join us in Rapid City for a great convention that will be a lot of fun."

The 124th Annual convention will feature a number of speakers on issues impacting the livestock industry and several workshops to help ranchers learn tools to strengthen their businesses. The S.D. Cattlemen's convention will feature planning sessions for future beef promotions, crafts and a workshop on the Masters of Beef Advocacy program and social media training.

For a full agenda and details of the convention, visit www.southdakotastockgrowers.org or call the SD Stockgrowers Office at 605-342-0429. Hotel Reservations can be made by calling the Ramkota at 605-343-8550 and asking for the SD Stockgrowers rate. Registration can be completed online or at the convention.