

## Soybean Crop Expected To Be Record Size

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture expects South Dakota farmers to produce a record soybean crop, but less corn.

USDA's latest production report forecasts the state's soybean crop at 233 million bushels, up 1 percent from last year. Acres for harvest are down slightly, but average yield is forecast at a record 46 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from 2014.

The corn crop is expected to be 755 million bushels, down 4 percent from last year. Sorghum production in South Dakota is forecast at 11.7 million bushels, up 24 percent.

## Good Samaritan Loses Tip Of A Finger

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A good Samaritan has lost the tip of a finger while trying to free motorcyclists who'd been pinned under a car in Omaha.

The accident occurred Sunday afternoon in northeast Omaha. *Omaha World-Herald* reports that Albert Brown and Patricia White were headed south when their motorcycle collided with a west-bound car that police say didn't halt at a stop sign.

Police say Willie Parks used a car jack to rescue Brown and White from under the car. Parks severed the tip of his right index finger while freeing the couple.

They both suffered a broken leg. The car driver wasn't injured.

## Ricketts Seeks Japanese Investment

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts is pitching the state to Japanese companies as part of an annual conference with other Midwestern governors.

Ricketts said in a conference call from Tokyo on Monday that he met with company officials from Toyota and Meikyo Denki, a Japanese power distribution panel manufacturer.

The governor is visiting Japan for the 47th Annual Joint Meeting of the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association. This year's conference includes the governors of Iowa, Indiana and Michigan, the lieutenant governor of Wisconsin and governors from half a dozen Japanese prefectures. More than 300 business and government leaders are attending.

Ricketts says Japanese companies have invested \$4.4 billion in Nebraska since 2010.

## Man Injured In Drive-By Shooting

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities are investigating after a man was shot during a drive-by shooting in Omaha.

According to Omaha Police Department spokesman Officer Michael Pecha, Levender Jenkins told officers he was shot around 3 p.m. Saturday by someone in a passing vehicle while in the driveway of a home.

He was transported to Creighton University Medical Center in critical condition. Pecha said Jenkins' injuries did not appear to be life-threatening.

## S. Dakota Ranks 5th In Deer Crashes

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A new review of accident data says Iowa drivers have a 1 in 68 chance of striking a deer on the road this year.

Insurer State Farm said in a news release Monday that Iowa's is the third-highest rate in the nation. The state had the fourth-highest rate last year.

Neighboring Nebraska's rate for 2015 is 1 in 143, ranking it 25th on the State Farm list. The state ranked 23rd on the 2014 list.

South Dakota is fifth, with the chances put at 1 in 73.

Leading the 2015 list is West Virginia, with a rate of 1 in 44. No. 2 is Montana, where the rate is 1 in 63. The national odds this year are 1 in 169.

## OBITUARIES

### Edwin Schmeichel

Edwin Schmeichel, 88, of Freeman passed away on Saturday at the Oakview Terrace in Freeman.

Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran church in Freeman.

Visitation with the family present will be from 5-8 p.m. on Friday with a time of sharing at 7 p.m. at the Walter Funeral Home in Freeman.

Survivors include his wife Barbara, sons; Don (Kara) of WA, Duane (Sheila) of MN, and Dean (Jessi) of Sioux Falls, daughters; Joan (Tim) Peterson of MN, Janette (Dave) Ryken of Freeman, Jaye (Steve) Waltnr of Freeman; 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials should be directed to the Make-a-wish foundation.

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
**September 15, 2015**

### Beverly Wright

Beverly Wright, 69, of Lake Andes died Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015, at her home in Lake Andes.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Cedar Presbyterian Church, rural Picktown. Burial is in the church cemetery.

Wake services will begin Tuesday at the White Swan Community Center in Lake Andes.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge of arrangements.

### Amelia Klug

Funeral services for Amelia Klug, 101, of Yankton and formerly of Burke, will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 11 a.m. at Clausen Funeral Home in Burke. Burial will be in the Herrick Cemetery, Herrick.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the services on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Amelia was born July 16, 1914, and she died Sept. 13, 2015, at the Avera Care Center in Yankton.

### Lorine Koerner

Lorine Koerner died Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015, at the Pioneer Nursing Home in Viborg.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.

Visitation will be Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. at the Walter Funeral Home in Freeman. Burial will be at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Scotland Cemetery.

### Blanche Bremer

Blanche Bremer, 101, of Vermillion passed away Monday, Sept. 14, 2015, at the Sanford Vermillion Care Center in Vermillion.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at the First United Methodist Church in Vermillion with visitation one hour prior to the service at the church.

Online condolences can be left at [HansenFuneralHome.com](http://HansenFuneralHome.com).

# In Corn-Growing States, Tall Crops Pose Road Hazard

BY SCOTT MCFETRIDGE  
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The broad leaves and thick stalks can stand up to 12 feet high, forming a wall of foliage that turns rural roads into long, narrow corridors of nothing but corn.

For drivers navigating the gravel roads that crisscross Midwestern farm country, the plants go by in a noiseless blur of green, yellow and brown. But the annual crop brings an often-ignored danger: Some roads are so sheltered by the towering corn that motorists can't see each other until just before they collide, with potentially deadly results.

"There are so few people out driving, if you're a gambling person, the odds are it's not going to happen. But it only takes one time," said Dave Struthers, who grows corn and raises hogs near the small central Iowa city of Collins.

The peril is especially pervasive in Iowa, the nation's top corn producer, where crops are grown on more than 90 percent of the land and at least five people have been killed so far this season in crashes blamed on corn. Authorities issue regular warnings to the public, but generally they can do little more than plead with drivers to use caution.

The problem is also widespread across Illinois, Nebraska, Minnesota and Indiana. Each year, the risk climbs with the corn itself, beginning around mid-July, when the plants top 6 feet, and lasting until harvest in early October.

Key contributors are the sparse traffic and the lack of stop signs. For eight months a year, motorists can easily spot other vehicles or at least



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

This intersection in rural Yankton County is bordered by a cornfield that has been partially cleared in order to improve visibility. However, numerous rural intersections in corn-growing states have issues with the tall stands of corn obstructing the view of motorists.

the plume of dust they stir up. Consequently, many drivers barely slow down when approaching intersections. And they often stick to that habit even as the corn grows taller, traveling 50 or 60 mph down the thin ribbons of gravel or pavement.

Two people died last summer in Iowa. In the past decade, there have been 28 to 51 crashes a year in which obstructions — primarily corn — have been a factor, according to the Iowa Transportation Department.

Struthers has been in two crashes in which he was surprised by a vehicle emerging from a dead-end dirt road onto the larger gravel road he was traveling. After the second time, he was thrown from his pickup and spent the night in a hospital.

"I remember seeing him, and the next thing I knew I was coming to in the ditch," Struthers said.

This year's Iowa crashes include the deaths of three brothers. The eldest, 16-year-old Jamie Singletary, was

driving his two younger siblings, Carson and Christian, ages 13 and 10, to a football practice on Aug. 6, when their car collided at an unmarked intersection with a truck carrying rock to a construction site. Authorities said tall corn could have made it difficult for the boys to see the oncoming vehicle.

Another crash killed a woman in northeast Iowa, and an accident in central Iowa killed a father of five children.

"It's a tricky situation and an odd situation," said Steve Gent, who heads traffic and safety for the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Adding to the problem in recent years are improved seeds that let farmers plant their already dense fields even more tightly, resulting in an abundant crop but also creating a more impenetrable green wall, Gent said. The seeds are also drought tolerant, so even during dry summers, the plants flourish.

"It's taller. It's harder. It's more lush," Gent said.

Roger Sy, a district

director of the Illinois Corn Growers Association, recalled crashes happening not far from his farm near Newman, Illinois, including some in which teenagers have died. There will always be some people who travel too fast and don't stop at intersections, Sy said, but crashes tend to remind people to drive cautiously.

"It seems to leave a lasting impression for quite a while," Sy said.

Iowa, Illinois and Indiana occasionally try to focus attention on the problem with public information campaigns and by encouraging farmers not to plant too close to intersections and to trim stalks near roads later in the season.

Farmer Jeff Fisher said he does both at his farm near Tolono, Illinois. That can be costly, especially at a time when corn prices are low, but Fisher said he is vigilant.

"We wouldn't sacrifice safety," he said, "for a few bushels of corn."

## Official: Retirees Might Be Answer To Teacher Shortage

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Officials with School Administrators of South Dakota are considering retired educators as the answer to the statewide teacher shortage, but state's retirement board doesn't support with the prospect.

Earlier this month, School Administrators of South Dakota Executive Director Rob Monson suggested changing a 2010 law that deters retired teachers from re-entering the workforce in a new position or a similar one. He said retired teachers would need a monetary incentive to return to the classroom.

"We're looking for a way to keep them in South Dakota instead of retiring and going over to teach in Minnesota or Iowa or Wyoming," Monson said. "If you could have that incentive to stay on, draw a salary and retirement wage while not having to retire, that might get some people to stay."

But Rob Wylie, executive director of the South Dakota Retirement System, told the *Argus Leader* that it's unlikely the law will be changed because it could cost the state millions of dollars.

Before 2010, when a set of regulations went into place to prevent public employees from retiring early and then re-entering the workforce to obtain additional benefits, the retirement system incurred more than \$5.3 million annually in unanticipated costs. Dozens of state employees retired early and almost immediately returned to work, increasing the total value of their retirement benefit by nearly \$50,000, Wylie said.

"There was a certain amount of people who sometimes took advantage of us," Wylie said. "The Board doesn't want to return to the place where we were pre-2010 where people could retire and return to their job and in essence were being subsidized to do that."

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Sioux Falls might become the second South Dakota community to receive an exemption from South Dakota's cap on nursing-facility beds.

The state Health Department proposes an exemption for the Sioux Falls area. Currently Rapid City has the only one.

The department also wants the rule regarding the two cities to refer to "in or near the communities." Rapid City's exemption currently is limited to "within the city limits."

The Legislature's Rules Review Committee will consider the changes when the lawmakers gather Monday, Sept. 21.

No one testified regarding the proposed changes for

Sioux Falls and Rapid City at an Aug. 26 public hearing.

"Initially the primary focus was on the need for additional nursing center beds in the Rapid City area," said Mark Deak, executive director for the South Dakota Health Care Association.

"However, there was also discussion early on about the potential need for additional nursing center beds in the Sioux Falls area as well," he said.

The department received authority from the Legislature in 2012 to modify the statewide cap. The law change came from Gov. Dennis Daugaard's administration.

Only four lawmakers — Sen. Mark Johnston, R-Sioux Falls; Sen. Jim Hundstad, D-Bath; Rep. Brock Greenfield, R-Clark; and Rep. Larry Lucas, D-Mission — voted against the governor's legislation.



## FOUR-DIMENSIONAL BREAST CARE

You're multidimensional — a wife, boss, soccer coach, grandmother — and so is your body. Avera has added 3D technology to its suite of breast care services because sometimes we need to look at a different angle. **Our fourth dimension of care encompasses a mind, body, spirit approach** to working with you. This is in line with our health ministry and the entire breast care program, which tackles breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and support with the belief that every woman is unique. Avera — breast care that's as multidimensional as you. Talk to your primary care provider to see if a 3D mammogram is right for you.

**Avera**

Schedule your mammogram today.  
**Avera.org/mammo**

*The perfect combination*  
**Funeral Home. Cemetery.**

We offer the convenience of having everything at one location with our family taking care of all the important details. Call us for more information.

**WINTZ & RAY**  
FUNERAL HOME and CREMATION SERVICE  
Yankton

**WINTZ**  
FUNERAL HOME INC.  
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton

605-665-3644    [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)    402-254-6547

*Comfy Footwear*  
from  
**aetrex**

*The Healthiest Shoes You Will Ever Wear!*

**Boston Shoes to Boots**

312 W. 3rd • Yankton • 665-9092

VISA    MASTERCARD