

Nation's top ag official takes Rural Issues Tour to South Dakota

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE Tom Vilsack and Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin hosted a Rural Issues Forum in Bath, S.D., on Oct. 5, to discuss issues important to farmers, ranchers and rural communities. During the forum, representatives of farming and ranching organizations along with area producers had the opportunity to ask questions of Rep. Herseth Sandlin and Secretary Vilsack.

"The forum provided an important opportunity for South Dakotans to raise their concerns with Secretary Vilsack about issues that affect their everyday lives," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said.

An estimated 300 South Dakotans attended the Rural Issues Forum, including Bill Chase, president of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, who met face to face with Sec. Vilsack and Herseth Sandlin prior to the public event. During the open forum, Chase asked Sec. Vilsack about the EPA's decision on higher blends of ethanol.

"[The EPA] has billed options from anywhere from 11 to 15," said Vilsack. "I am very hopeful that the constant advocacy on behalf of corn growers and on behalf of all of us for an American energy supply will convince the EPA to do what they ought to do which is to increase the blend rate. I know this is a priority to the President."

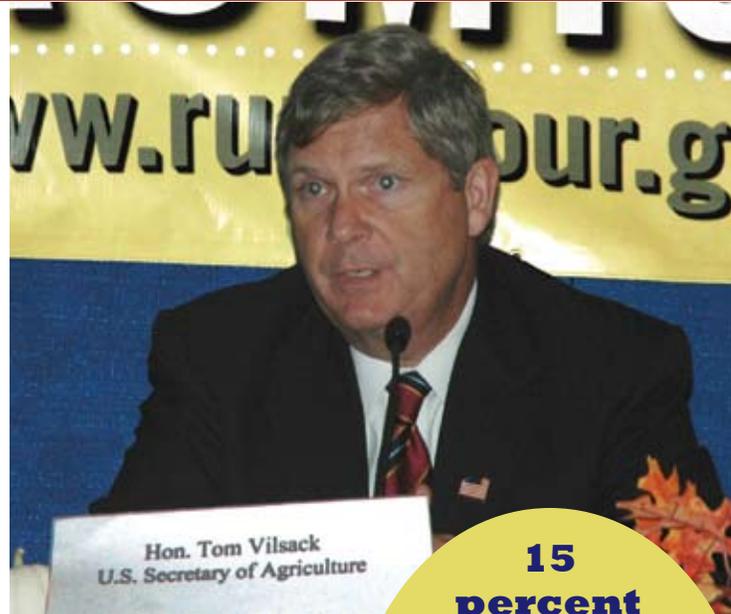
Pres. Obama established a biofuels task force directed by Vilsack and Secretary Chu, to make a set of recommendations to him on how he might be able to do a better job promoting biofuels in the country. Vilsack said those recommendations will include feed stock research, building infrastructure for higher blends and encouraging vehicle manufacturers to build cars capable of using higher blends of ethanol.

Also on the radar screen for the SDCGA is the EPA's proposed rule for the implementation of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) included in the Energy Bill. EPA's speculative proposed rule included findings on indirect land use changes impacting lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with biofuels production, which the SDCGA opposes.

Vilsack also addressed indirect land use.

"The EPA was instructed to do a peer review of this," said Vilsack. "There were enough folks in the EPA peer review who raised some legitimate questions about the appropriateness and the accuracy of the science [of indirect land use] as it exists today, which makes it at least in my mind something that you would tread very carefully trying to make policy on science that is not yet solidified."

"I think it is hopeful or certainly comforting to know that if for whatever reason, the EPA doesn't share that view that there are those in Congress I have talked to who have very serious concerns about whether or not this is the decision that should be made. I am hoping we don't need a legislative fix but it's always nice to be able to have that if the regulatory process doesn't work."



15 percent ethanol:

Vilsack said he expects the EPA to meet its December deadline on a decision on whether to increase the standard ethanol-blend rate for blended gasoline to 15 percent, a move he says "they ought to do."



Photo courtesy of the Office of Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
 Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, SDCGA President Bill Chase, and Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin



Bill Chase
SDCGA President

President's Message

GREETINGS from Wolsey!
The fairs and area farm shows are over and it appears that harvest is coming on fast. The recent warm weather has really changed the crops across South Dakota. I've opened up my fields with a silage cutter and am excited about the corn I see in fields in my area. It's great that the frost has held off this long and it likely won't be long and we'll be hoping for a frost to dry down the corn faster!

USDA has projected a record corn yield for South Dakota and the second largest corn crop for the United States. Harvest results this year should once again put to rest the arguments made by the Grocery Manufacturers Association as producers have proven time and again that we can be counted on to produce the corn needed for the ethanol and livestock industries as well as feed a hungry world.

Making sure our consumers hear that message we have to provide accurate information to the public in places they will find it. For that reason South Dakota Corn recently added a new staff member, Jesse Johnson, as Social Media Director. Welcome, Jesse! In a previous newsletter I poked fun at "twittering," but even I have to admit that social media such as Facebook and Twitter have become the way many people obtain their news and information. We need to ensure what they are reading is accurate and tells the whole story. Check out SDCGA's presence on these sites and become a "fan"!

Your SDCGA board of directors and SD Corn office staff has been busy protecting your interests in many ways. We take every opportunity to spread the good news — and accurate information — about corn and ethanol. Following are some of the things we've participated in recently:

Transportation: Biotechnology and improved farming practices have provided stability in crop production, and yields continue to increase every year. For that reason, we have been involved in discussions with grain transportation suppliers. These discussions will continue to ensure that we have affordable, available transportation.

Mid-level ethanol blends: SDCGA has been working for a long time to increase ethanol blends from 10 percent to 15 percent. It has been a very slow process, requiring both written and oral testimony to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We are nearing the E-10 blend wall, and it is critical to the ethanol industry that we move to higher blends. SD Corn has joined with NCGA and other state organizations as well as the American Coalition for Ethanol and Renewable Fuels Association to promote a national Blender Pump Program. Our goal is to install 5,000 pumps in the next 3 years across the country. This would provide consumers the ability to choose the blend that best suits their vehicle. The pumps would benefit not only consumers and the ethanol industry but the environment as well.

Cap-n-Trade: SDCGA board directors and SD Corn staff have spent many hours researching and debating cap and trade legislation currently working its way through the United States Senate. It is very important that accurate studies be done to measure the effect of this bill on South Dakota corn producers. We will continue to watch this bill closely, as well as other legislative issues such as RFSII, indirect land use language, food safety, and the Clean Water Act.

After you complete your harvest, there are many upcoming events we encourage you to take part in. The "GrowingOn 2010" seminars are scheduled for Dec. 1-4, 2009 across the state. Information on these seminars can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Looking further down the road, mark your calendar for the SDCGA Annual Meeting on January 9, 2010, where you will find educational opportunities as well as entertainment.

Have a safe and productive harvest!

Bill Chase



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For more information contact:
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Membership dues paid to the South Dakota Corn Growers Association are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. The non-deductible portion of your SDCGA membership dues, allocable to lobbying, is 100 percent.

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New Staff Member at SDCGA

Jesse Johnson welcomed as new social media director



JESSE JOHNSON grew up on a farm near Reville, South Dakota where he continues to work with his father, Scott and younger brother, Dustin.

The Johnson's raise corn, soybeans, alfalfa and wheat while maintaining a cow-calf operation.

Jesse graduated from South

Dakota State University in May of 2008 with Bachelor's Degrees in Mass Communications and Sociology. While at SDSU, Jesse served as the Advertising Manager at the Collegian (SDSU's independent student-run newspaper) setting annual sales records. Since his graduation, Jesse has been working as a media consultant in Watertown, South Dakota.

Jesse is an avid blogger, writing about Minnesota Twins Baseball, high school football and politics. He also enjoys hunting, fishing, skiing, softball and spending time with his friends and family.

Jesse joins a team of dedicated staff at the SD Corn office. You are always invited to contact us — we are here for you! Visit us online at our website at www.sdcorn.org, phone us at 605-334-0100, fax us at 605-334-0505 or email us at any time!

- **Lisa Richardson** Executive Director: lisal@sdcorn.org
- **Teddi Mueller** Legislative & Industry Affairs Director: teddim@sdcorn.org
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New Rules of Engagement

Taking Tweeting to the Tractors

FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE, TWITTER, LinkedIn, blogging – what does all this have to do with farming? The rules of engagement have changed and social media is catching on in ag country.

While social networking at one time might have been considered as a way teens talk to each other, it has evolved into a powerful tool for marketing products and ideas and providing a platform to talk to consumers. And in the case of agriculture, public perception is being formed one a tweet at a time.

There is no kit of parts in social media. However, all one has to do is read an article online and following are usually blogs – or comment – areas where anyone can offer their views or opinions about the content of the article. Those who are submitting the opinions are shaping public viewpoints.

Making sure accurate information is waiting for readers as they are searching for more information is why South Dakota Corn recently added a Social Media Director to its staff. Having a social media presence for agriculture connects eaters with their sources of food. As agriculture has taken some hits over the past



“Having a social media presence for agriculture connects eaters with their sources of food.”

couple of years particularly food and fuel debates, much of the war has been waged online.

While South Dakotans by on large support agriculture in the state, as generations become more removed from the farm, general knowledge of how agriculture is done decreases. It is up to agriculture to make sure those connections stay current and social media is a powerful tool to do just that.

Farmers are actually at a unique advantage to engage in social media. Known to embrace technology in their businesses, more and more farmers use Smartphones to check markets and weather and many are beginning to build online social networks at the same time.

New tools such as Twitter can help bridge the urban-rural divide. With Twitter, farmers can become an information source in 140 characters or less, all from the cab of their tractor.

In upcoming months, be watching for ways SD Corn will be engaging growers in the state to learn about and participate in social media, making sure the true story of agriculture is told in cyberspace and beyond.

Meet the New President of the NCGA

Darrin Ihnen of Hurley, SD represents the nation's corn farmers

AT A TIME when the nation's most abundant crop is set to reach near records as corn producers begin harvest, South Dakota's Darrin Ihnen of Hurley, S.D., takes the helm as president of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA). With unique challenges and exciting industry opportunities on the horizon, Ihnen will represent the nation's corn farmers, reflecting his own South Dakota roots.

As NCGA president, Ihnen will be the voice for our nation's corn farmers on countless topics of importance including policy, consumer awareness and production practices.



What are you most excited about as you begin your post as national president of NCGA?

"It is an exciting and challenging time to be a corn farmer. I am excited and honored to be elected to lead this great organization and look forward to working to try to solve some of issues facing us this coming year."

What is your top priority as national NCGA president?

"The top two issues facing us this year are the pending climate legislation and the higher blend issue working its way through EPA."

What are the issues facing corn producers that you will address during your term?

"The first issue is the higher blend issue. We need to continue to find more demand for our corn. By using higher blends we can use more of our growing supply of corn, reduce greenhouse gases and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

"The next issue is the climate legislation. It is important that NCGA be at the table when this legislation is being debated. Agriculture needs to have its voice heard. So we will continue to work to make sure that this doesn't put an undue financial burden on farmers.

"And lastly it is important that we continue to educate our grassroots members about the issues facing us as growers. We need to continue to have our voice heard in our state capitals and in Washington, DC."

What do you believe are the industry's biggest challenges?

"It seems that the biggest issue coming at us is getting the positive message about corn, ethanol and livestock production out to the general public. We are very good stewards of our land. Because of the anti-agriculture movement when it comes to sustainability, animal welfare

and the image of ethanol we need to continue to promote our industry."

If you could solve one industry issue during your term, what would it be?

"Getting higher blends of ethanol and getting past the 'blend wall'."

How can producers get involved in making a difference for the industry?

"Producers need to get their voices heard. They can do this by joining their state corn grower associations. They can also contact their state and national congressional delegations about any upcoming legislation. Just be a positive image in their communities."

From a national perspective, how is the corn industry positioned and perceived?

"The corn industry and NCGA are very well perceived. We have had many successes in the past couple of years including passage of the farm bill, energy bill and WRDA. But we can't let our guard down; we need to keep the corn industry in front of the many issues coming before us."

How will you represent South Dakota values/issues as president of NCGA?

"Many of the issues that affect South Dakota corn growers also affect growers in other states so even though I represent a national organization I will still be looking at issues that affect us here in South Dakota. I am hard working and up front on the issues facing the corn industry and these can be attributed to my experiences as a South Dakota corn grower. I look forward to representing South Dakota as president of NCGA."

Food, Inc.—shocking depiction of agriculture

Sioux Falls showing of film draws 300

FERIE MUSIC ECHOED through a room filled with 300 movie goers whose audible gasps and groans indicated their horror from the scenes they were watching. The film was not a depiction of the latest Stephen King novel as you might assume, but instead a documentary about your business – agriculture.

Food, Inc., was recently shown in Sioux Falls, brought by chiropractor Dr. Rall of Inspired Chiropractic. South Dakota Corn staff and SDCUC board director Walt Bones attended the showing. Although it appeared the audience was mostly patients of Dr. Rall's, the images burned into their minds from the film will likely influence their ideas about agriculture. Most consumers unfamiliar with modern day agricultural practices will find the movie persuasive and believable.

As a cow struggled to stand up at a packing plant, a skid loader operator attempted to load it on its prongs; chickens were shoved unmercifully into cages on semis and the dead carcasses were collected because 'accelerated feeding programs caused their weights to be more than their legs could handle'; feedlots containing masses of cattle were scanned; hidden cameras in hog confinements revealed abuse; water sources were declared contaminated because of pesticide use ... and the list of horrifying outcomes from industry practices continued.

The movie touts the benefits of locally-sourced and organic



foods, but instead of acknowledging the great diversity and achievements of our highly efficient and productive American food system it vilifies modern agriculture. It claims our modern food production system abuses animals, workers and the environment, while producing unsafe and unhealthy food. And, the movie totally ignores the need for abundant and inexpensive food to feed a growing population around the world.

As agriculturalists confident in our production systems, it's easy for us to dismiss a movie like Food, Inc. In doing so, consumers only hear the side of story being told, which does not have the best interests of agriculture in mind.

Are there improvements which could and should be made? We believe so and agriculture has a track record of embracing advances which improve the system. Food Inc. implies the environment is worse off with modern agricultural methods. Much research shows the exact opposite. U.S. farmers have greatly increased output even as land and other inputs have declined. From 1948 to 2004, U.S. agricultural production nearly tripled while land in agriculture fell by 25 percent.

While the film primarily attacks large multinational agricultural and food corporations, the less than accurate information and assumptions upon which the film is based, negatively affect perceptions of the food system including modern day farming practices. However, it's not enough to simply point out the inaccuracies and half-truths of the film. The alarming messages the film misses include a growing population's need for abundant, safe, affordable food.

The utopian society Food, Inc. encourages would leave millions starving and food costs soaring. As the world consumption and demand for food continues to grow at alarming speeds, to be supplied by a local, organic system is simply impossible.

The United Nations has said that by mid-century, food supplies must double to feed the global population. More than 1 billion people are projected to go hungry each day this year the UN said in June. The world's poorest people currently spend half their income on food, according to the World Bank. Studies show one American farmer feeds about 144 people worldwide. Americans spend less of their disposable income (9.8 percent) on food than any other nation in the world.

Food, Inc. was indeed scary. The concept that organic agriculture can substitute for conventional farming systems in ensuring the world's food security is frightening. According to the latest UN projections, world population will rise from 6.8 billion today to 9.1 billion in 2050 - a third more mouths to feed than there are today. The world cannot feed six billion people today and nine billion in 2050 without the technology advancements which also ensure a safe and affordable food production system. From an industry perspective Food, Inc., should scare us enough to make sure our side of the story is the script of choice for consumers in the future.

For resources to address misinformation in Food, Inc., visit www.safefoodinc.org.

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Activist Group Agenda Threatens Modern U.S. Agriculture



By Steve Dick, Executive Director
Agriculture United for South Dakota

LIVESTOCK GROWERS USE A LOT OF CORN. In South Dakota alone, roughly 80-million bushels annually is used by beef, pork and poultry producers. Depending on the year, that could be as much as 20 percent of the

total crop. Approximately half the corn produced in South Dakota is fed to livestock in the upper Midwest every year.

Animal protection groups have had the U.S. livestock and poultry industries square in their sites in recent years. Grain producers and food animal producers have every reason to work together to address this growing threat.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is arguably the most powerful animal welfare organization in the country. A combination of political savvy and monetary muscle has allowed HSUS to build a recognizable brand by capitalizing on the confusion its very name invokes. While there's no direct connection, people associate them with pet shelters located in hundreds of communities across the country.

In 1970, HSUS had 30,000 members and a budget of about \$500,000. By 2009, HSUS claimed more than 10-million members

with a budget exceeding \$130 million.

Much of the credit for the organization's growth is commonly attributed to Wayne Pacelle, who joined HSUS in 1994 and is now its president and CEO. Under Pacelle, HSUS has moved away from the uncompromising, vegetarian, "animals-are-our-equals" philosophy embraced by many animal rights groups. His mainstream style and Congressional lobbying experience have increased the organization's appeal in the general public.

HSUS generated huge publicity in 2008 with its investigation at a California beef processing plant. The treatment of downer cows shown in undercover video footage was widely condemned by the animal agriculture community. The situation escalated to a nationwide food safety issue. The plant was a supplier to the School Lunch Program and the resulting ground beef recall was the largest in U.S. history.

HSUS has poured huge sums of money into ballot initiative campaigns, rendering results normal public relations and

lobbying work could never achieve. In 2002, the organization took its first swipe at animal agriculture, scoring a victory in Florida with a ballot initiative placing a ban on sow gestation stalls into the state constitution. Since then, initiative petition drives to ban certain animal housing systems have succeeded in Arizona (2006) and California (2008).

HSUS was instrumental in gaining legislative bans in Oregon (2007), Colorado (2008), and Maine (2009). It appears Michigan is on the verge of joining the list as the state House of Representatives recently passed such a measure with the Senate expected to follow suit.

Ohio could be next as HSUS has indicated interest in a 2010 initiative petition drive.

South Dakota is an initiative state and HSUS sponsored a Humane Lobbying Day event this year in Pierre. There's no guarantee we won't someday find HSUS circulating petitions here.

Modern American agriculture is coming under attack on a variety of fronts. Livestock producers need the support of South Dakota's corn growers. After all, they are one of corn growers' biggest customers.

"HSUS has poured huge sums of money into ballot initiative campaigns, rendering results normal public relations and lobbying work could never achieve."

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Changes Come to South Dakota's FSA

New leadership and program offerings bring opportunities

SOUTH DAKOTA'S FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) has several new changes in 2009, bringing new leadership and program offerings to South Dakotans.

Craig Schaunaman was appointed by the Obama Administration to serve as South Dakota State Executive Director for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) on August 3, 2009.

"I am honored to be appointed as the State Executive Director for the South Dakota Farm Service Agency and look forward to the opportunity to serve the farmers and ranchers of South Dakota. It is my commitment to administer the programs created by Congress equitably and competently to strengthen and support American agriculture," said Schaunaman.

Schaunaman has been actively involved in agriculture for over 30 years. Beginning in 1977, Schaunaman farmed with both his father and brother. For the last 16 years Schaunaman and his brother have operated a farming partnership near the Aberdeen area. From 1988-1998

he was elected to five consecutive terms in the South Dakota House of Representatives where he served as the House Minority Leader and House Whip. Schaunaman has served on numerous state and local boards including Heartland Grain Fuels, Dakota Fuels, Aberdeen Development Corporation, South Dakota State FSA Committee, South Dakota Wheat Incorporated Board, and the Brown County Drainage Board.

On October 5, 2009, South Dakota was fortunate to have United States Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack and Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin host a "Rural Tour" community forum at the Jim Hundstad Farm near Bath, S.D. Also attending the forum were FSA Administrator Jonathan Coppess, Risk Management Agency Administrator William Murphy, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture William Even, Schaunaman, and various other dignitaries. The forum allowed South Dakotans to discuss issues pertinent to rural America with the Secretary and the Congresswoman.

Since assuming the role as State Executive Director, Schaunaman has been actively involved in delivering the 2008 Farm Bill. FSA offices have been busy facilitating signup for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) throughout summer and into the month of September. FSA Offices made special efforts to educate producers about the ACRE Program. Final statistics show that approximately 15 percent of South Dakota farms enrolled in DCP elected ACRE.

The next several months will continue to be a challenge as FSA rolls out several new programs authorized by the Farm Bill. The push for FSA to kick off disaster programs authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill is currently in full force. Producers who have suffered eligible livestock losses as well as eligible forage losses may be eligible for benefits under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP), and/or the Livestock Forage Program (LFP). The manual signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program



Vilsack details USDA's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act efforts

SECRETARY VILSACK also highlighted the USDA's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act efforts that are underway in South Dakota and across the country, including the following:

- USDA Rural Development is providing over \$26.7 million to help make improvements at eight water and waste treatment projects.
- USDA's Farm Service Agency is providing \$10.2 million through 176 Direct Operating Farm Loans. These loans help farms purchase items such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses.
- USDA's Forest Service is providing \$5.27 million for 5 projects. This work will reduce sedimentation in streams, restore water quality and fish habitat and provide safe public transportation.
- Through USDA Rural Development, \$5.47 million will be made available for 15 community facilities projects. Community Facility Grants will allow towns across South Dakota to purchase critical emergency service vehicles and equipment, build Emergency Operations Centers and community centers.
- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service announced \$1.9 million for three watershed operations projects.
- USDA Rural Development has helped guarantee 13 loans worth more than \$1.7 million in the state of South Dakota through the Single Family Housing Loan program. These loans help residents and producers to have access to the capital they need to keep rural communities strong.
- USDA Rural Development has issued eight Rural Business and Enterprise Grants for a total of \$871,382.



Secretary Thomas Vilsack, FSA State Executive Director Craig Schaunaman, SD Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

(SURE) is scheduled to begin on November 2, 2009.

The 2008 Farm Bill also brought changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL). The \$100,000 limit on farm storage facility loans has been increased to \$500,000, and there is no longer a limit on the number of loans a borrower or entity can obtain. Producers now have the option to choose between a 7, 10 or 12 year repayment schedule based on the loan amount. Eligible commodities were expanded to include hay and renewable biomass.

It is also important that producers are reminded of the opportunities available to family sized farms through FSA's Farm Loan Programs (FLP). Producers interested in obtaining direct and guaranteed loans are encouraged to contact their local FSA office.

FSA continues to carry out its mission of service to the farmers and ranchers that rely on the programs FSA administers to support agriculture. Information about FSA programs may be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

SDCGA Resolutions Reminder!

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association invites our members to participate in submitting resolutions for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

The resolution process helps guide the SDCGA on legislative priorities from the grassroots level. Member involvement is imperative for the SDCGA to represent South Dakota producers effectively.

Resolutions must be submitted 30 days prior to the 2010 SDCGA Annual Meeting, which will be held in Sioux Falls on Jan. 9, 2010. **Therefore, the deadline for submitting resolutions is Dec. 10, 2009.**

Resolutions may be submitted by accessing the Resolutions Form on our website at www.sdcorn.org. Or you may contact the SDCGA office at 605-334-0100 to request a form.

Showplot results will soon be available!

As corn harvest gets underway, the South Dakota Corn Grower Association showplots will reveal interesting results from growing conditions across the state this year. The SDCGA would like to thank all the producers who take time to plant and harvest these plots as the data will be very useful as producers make planting decisions for next season.

The SDCGA is committed to providing a non-biased program with accurate and timely results. We would also like to thank the seed companies who participate in the showplot program; without the help of our seed dealers the showplot program would not be a success!

As the SDCGA showplots are harvested, the results will be immediately posted in our website at www.sdcorn.org. We will also email the final showplot results directly to you by request. If you would like to be on the email distribution list, email your request to katrina@sdcorn.org.



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Slow Harvest Ahead for South Dakota

Record or near-record cool temperatures holds back progress



By Bryce Anderson, Ag Meteorologist
DTN/Progressive Farmer, a Telvent Brand

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, it looks like South Dakota corn growers can expect to have part of their attention on Thanksgiving Day focused on the field in addition to the family gathering.

That's no surprise considering how slow the crop has been to develop and ripen. As of late September, only eleven percent of the state's corn crop had reached maturity. That figure was only half the 22 percent maturity figure in 2008—and we were not happy with that figure, either.

What went on this growing season to cause such a slowdown? Well, in contrast to a year ago, the issue was not a difficult planting season. Rather, the crop went through one of the absolute coolest growing seasons anyone can remember. Solar radiation levels ran some 30 percent below normal in July and August—definitely holding back progress. Many stations in the state reported record or near-record cool temperature patterns.

As an example of the dramatic cool trend we've had in the past couple years, the National Weather Service notes that Pierre failed to reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit in consecutive years (2008 and 2009) for the first time since 1933.

For weather conditions, we look for seasonal tendencies across the state, which will add to the difficulty in harvest. During October, as the days get steadily shorter and shorter, our weather pattern will turn from the mild late summer features to colder

and more unsettled conditions. Because of how slow to mature this crop is, that will bring on a greater possibility for fall wind and rain storms to disrupt harvest.

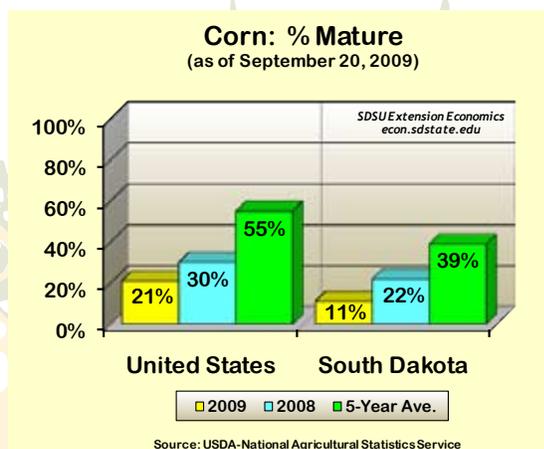
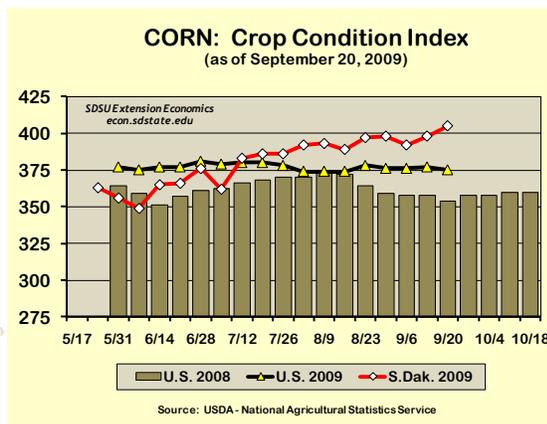
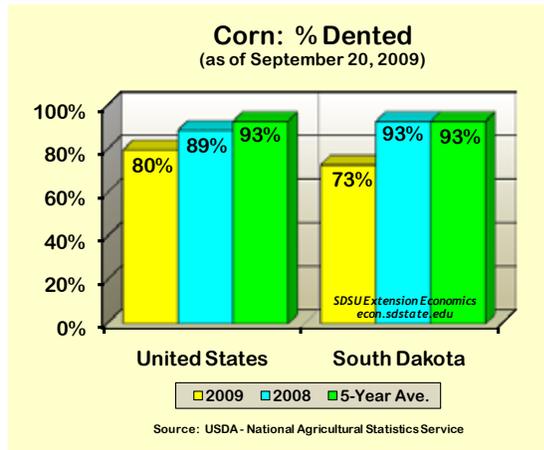
There is another possible effect from the sheer lateness of harvest this season—and that is, snow. We cannot rule out the possibility of some crops being left out in the field just because producers run out of time to harvest before the snow comes in. This prospect has a lower probability than last year, but it can't be ignored.

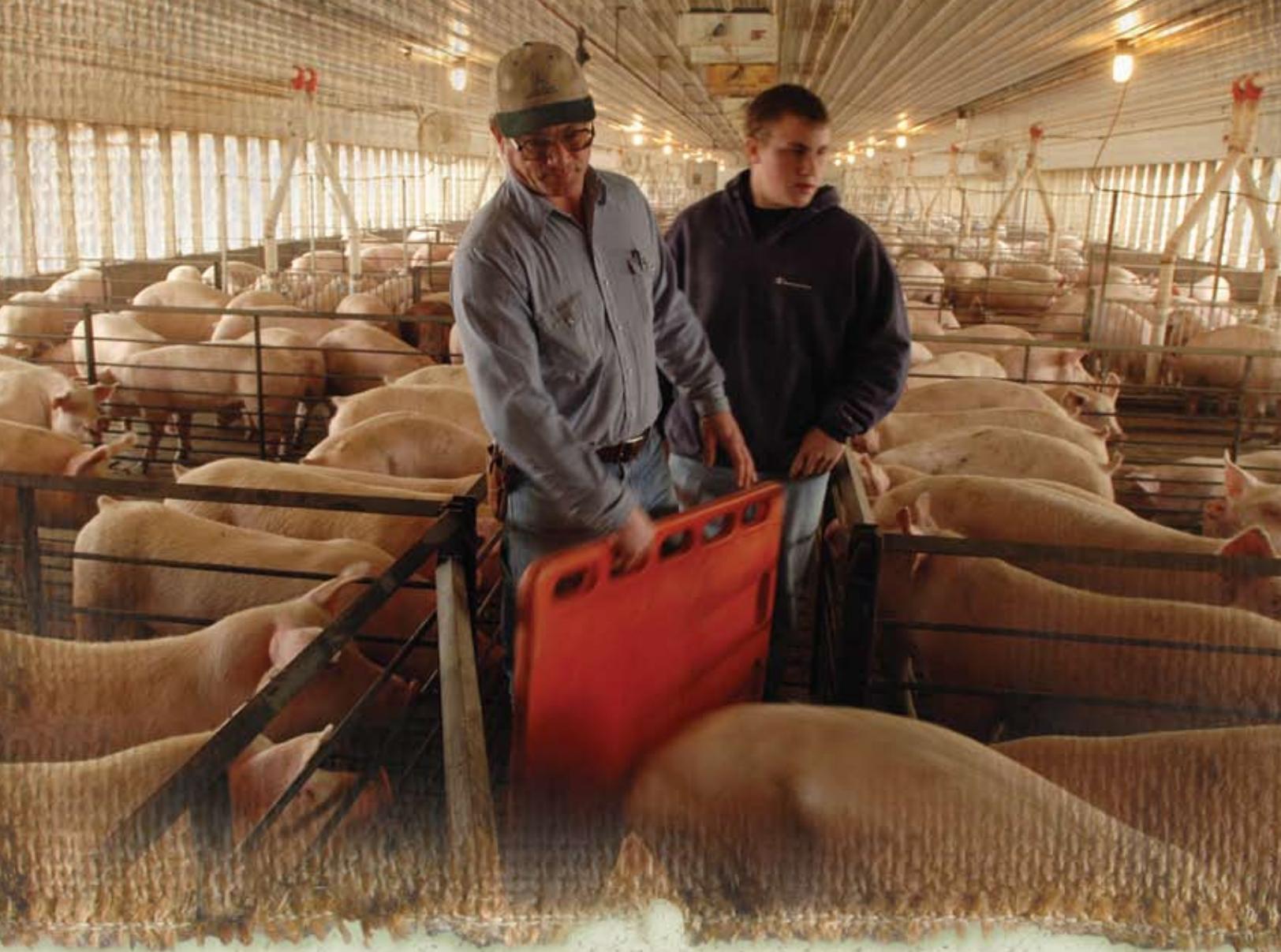
Another likely prospect for harvest 2009 is higher drying charges. Even though most areas of the state were able to avoid an early frost in terms of calendar dates, the opportunity for extensive in-field drydown is limited this season because of the delayed crop development. The result is that we will see a higher moisture content in the grain due to the

delayed season. There is also the prospect that corn will have lighter test weights coming out of the field. This could result in a loss of yield. This prospect, again, traces back to the cool summer, lack of solar radiation, and subpar crop development.

We have also had some questions on whether grain markets will show an immediate robust response to harvest issues that develop. And, while we could see some support because of the delayed

season, it's a feature that would occur over a longer period of time. That support would occur as the market realizes over the last part of the fall season and into the winter that there is lower production than earlier estimated. Such market realization would show up in changes in the futures spreads as well as in revisions on the USDA monthly supply-demand reports.





It's pretty simple. South Dakota pigs eat South Dakota corn.

Hogs are a big part of our state's economy. Did you know South Dakota hogs consume more than 25 million bushels of corn each year? It's true. In fact, the economic impact of pork production in our state is well over \$451 million.

That creates a huge demand for locally grown corn and distillers grains.

Who knew economics could be so simple?



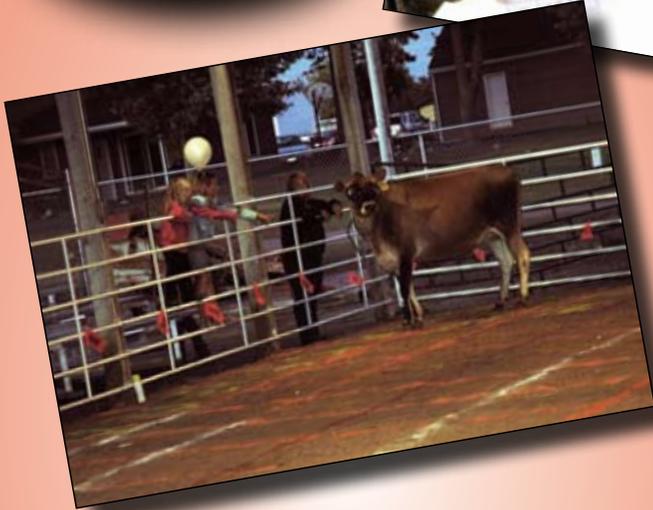
Agriculture United for South Dakota • P.O. Box 507 • Sioux Falls, SD 57101 • 605-336-3622 • www.AgUnited.org
Become a fan of *South Dakota Farm Families* on Facebook • Follow Ag United on Twitter @AgUnited4SD

Summer Show Overview

THE SOUTH DAKOTA CORN represented corn producers at several events this summer while also promoting the organization and offering opportunities to win great prizes for attendees of events. Below is a photo recap of the summer events attended by SD Corn, which included Sioux Empire Fair, Sioux Falls Canaries games, Dakotafest, Turner County Fair and Value-Added Agriculture Day at the South Dakota State Fair.



Over 80 dozen ears of sweet corn were served during Value Added Day at the SD State Fair.



COW PIE BINGO caught the excitement of Turner County Fairgoers in Parker this summer as SD Corn offered the chance to win ethanol fuel if their bingo square was hit when a cow entered the livestock ring. More than 350 bingo squares were purchased and the lucky winner was Charlotte Lounsbury of Centerville, S.D., receiving \$250 in ethanol fuel.



South Dakota Corn Growers Association
& Pedersen Machine, Inc

“GOING GREEN” Raffle



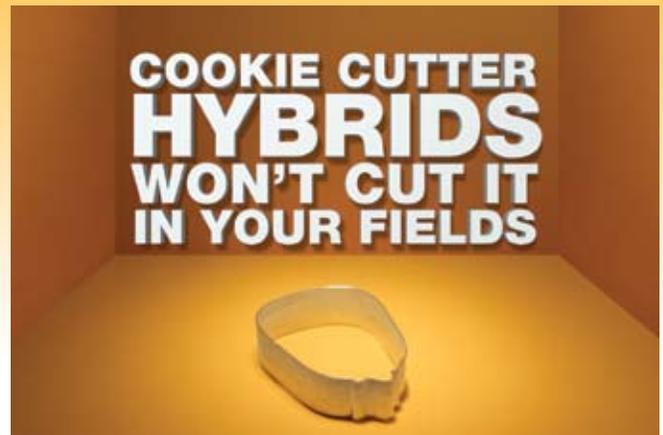
The South Dakota Corn Growers Association teamed up with Pedersen Machine of Beresford, S.D. to offer the “Going Green” raffle promotion at all of SDCGA’s summer events. Pedersen Machine sponsored the major prize giveaway of a John Deere Z225 riding lawn mower.

The John Deere zero turn radius mower was a large draw at all events including Dakotafest and Value-Added Agriculture Day at the South Dakota State Fair. After attendees of those events had an opportunity to enter the raffle, the winner of the mower was drawn at a special event held on Sept. 10 at Pedersen’s location in Beresford.



The winner of the mower was Jerry Lenocker of Mitchell, S.D. Lenocker purchased his ticket at Value-Added Day at the State Fair.

Proceeds from the raffle went to support the SDCGA CornPac. The SDCGA would like to thank Pedersen Machine for their generous support and contribution to our summer promotions!



Some hybrids are genetically alike, even though they come in different bags. That’s because they come from the same genetic base. But not Pioneer® brand hybrids, which are bred from one of the world’s largest, most diverse sources of corn genetics. Pioneer hybrids are developed to deliver maximum performance in a wide range of locations and conditions. You can only get a Pioneer brand hybrid in a Pioneer bag. Your Pioneer sales professional offers something special in every bag of Pioneer hybrids: unique genetics for your unique fields.

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CORPORATE PARTNER

Mark your calendar for
Saturday, November 14!



Reserve your spot today on the SDCGA Bus trip!

SDSU Jackrabbits vs. U of M Gophers

Football Game • Minneapolis, MN • Nov. 14

Plans are to leave in the early AM and return in the late PM on Saturday, November 14. Cost: \$175 per person. Package includes: Bus travel, meals, and game ticket.

Limited space available!
RSVP today at

605-334-0100!

Proceeds go to the SD CornPAC



CORNPAC
A GROWING INFLUENCE

Competitive Rail Bill Update

No industry in SD is more dependent on the rail system



By Lisa Richardson, Executive Director
South Dakota Corn Growers Association

SOUTH DAKOTA IS PREPARING to harvest its largest corn crop in the state's history. With the tremendous value of commodities in South Dakota, we need a strong, viable transportation system in the United States for us to

compete in the world market.

Agriculture is our state's biggest industry creating a \$21 billion impact to our economy. Already today, our agricultural resources and production ability are outpacing our transportation capacity, causing delays and efficiency challenges.

For agriculture to remain competitive, balance must be brought into the game. Here's the deal with rail: we need it to be consistent. We deserve to know what it's going to cost and we need competition.

Let me put into perspective the importance of transportation in agriculture. This year South Dakota will produce 129 million bushels of wheat, 676 million bushels of corn, and 167 million bushels of soybeans, a billion tons of sunflowers and a billion gallons of ethanol. We simply can't call the U.S. Postal Service or UPS and ask them to pick up 100 million bushels of corn that we need to get to Taiwan for a sales delivery.

South Dakota has created over 330 million bushels of corn demand in the past seven years through our state's ethanol industry. Initially our basis narrowed and in the past two years our basis have widened to pre-ethanol numbers across South Dakota. The cost of shipping a bushel of corn to the Pacific Northwest is \$1.15 a bushel including fuel surcharges. Six years ago that number was 65 cents. The upward pressure on rates

Average Cost of Captivity by Commodity per ton				
	NS	CSX	BN	UP
Farm Products Captive Rate	\$25.67	\$40.46	\$46.28	\$44.50
Farm Products Non-Captive Rate	\$14.15	\$22.31	\$25.52	\$24.53
Coal Captive Rate	\$22.92	\$22.63	\$21.11	\$21.34
Coal Non-Captive Rate	\$9.84	\$9.72	\$9.07	\$9.17
Chemicals Captive Rate	\$44.20	\$40.99	\$43.23	\$43.78
Chemicals Non-Captive Rate	\$22.08	\$20.48	\$21.60	\$21.87

The big question is: if railroads can achieve these types of results during a recessionary economy, what will happen in an expanding economy? Source: Railroad's SEC filings contained in Rail Rate Checker.

and costs will impact commodities like agriculture products the most as railroads have greater market dominance over movement of these commodities.

South Dakota producers will benefit greatly with the Dakota Minnesota and Eastern Railroad's expansion project. The idea of two upgraded Class I railroads competing for our business would add about 25 to 30 cents per bushel for our crop.

No industry in South Dakota is more dependent on a viable rail system. The Senate Commerce Committee is currently considering legislation to make the rail industry more competitive and to provide an even playing field for shippers. The goal of rail competition legislation should be to provide more balance at the Surface Transportation Board (STB) between the interests of shippers and carriers. Small and medium size shippers that are commonly found within the agricultural distribution chain have been shut out of the rate challenge process because it is prohibitively expensive and the chance of success is relatively low.

Since 1980, the STB has allowed the railroad industry to consolidate to four major railroads that carry more than 90 percent of all freight shipped by rail in the United States. A recent study by the STB revealed that over 44 percent of all rail freight by tonnage is captive to a single railroad. Yet the STB has provided meaningful relief for these rail customers in less than 20 percent of the rate challenges brought before the Board since 2000.

We are in a global economy and our competitiveness and access to those markets are becoming increasingly important. Efficient and competitive transportation has never been more important to the future of our state's economic health and our nation's energy security.

Annual change in Ave. Rate per car for Big 4 U.S. Railroads over last 6 years



A compelling case can be made from data filed with the STB that captive rates are much higher than competitive rates. Source: this information was calculated by Escalation Consultants, Inc., and provided by Consumers United for Rail Equity (CURE).

Time to be Direct About “Indirect Land Use”

Are we trying to measure the unmeasurable?



By Rick Tolman, CEO
National Corn Growers Association

RECENTLY, THE NATIONAL Corn Growers Association held a conference on land use and other impacts of corn ethanol. About 175 people came together to listen to more than two dozen of the sharpest

minds talk about this. This is an important topic for growers, because our success and growth depend on finding, protecting and expanding end-use markets such as ethanol.

The St. Louis event was an exhausting day-and-a-half conference for all involved, and a few themes seemed to be recurring.

First, we are often trying to measure the unmeasurable, as Dr. Bruce Babcock of Iowa State University put it in his presentation. This is especially true when indirect land use is considered internationally, where modeling and tracking is so difficult. The fact is, we can see changes, but it is hard to measure and it is hard to determine specific causes, given how large and elastic global agricultural land is. Babcock said that annual agricultural land use flux is large and variable, and that a multitude

of factors affect whether a plot of land is in crops, pasture, or forest. He went on to say that at best the amount that could possibly be attributed to biofuels would be little more than rounding error on the scale of what goes on annually independent of biofuels in the United States.

Second, as I put it in my closing comments, the regulations are moving more quickly than the science. In his presentation, Tom Darlington of Air Improvement Resource, said that the regulations are “driving for quick numbers.” And these “quick numbers” are elusive. The fact is, presentation after presentation after presentation at the conference stressed how much we don’t know ... and how quickly things are changing. Important issues like yield trends and the impact of distillers grains are often ignored by ethanol critics.

So, let’s look at a few simple facts that are making this whole debate a moot point. Concerns about indirect land use have to do with how much acreage we need to grow enough corn to meet all needs. The assumption is that more corn requires proportionately more acres.

Some people have put it as simply as more corn acres here mean fewer soybean acres, which would require more soybean acres in South America. And these acres would come at the expense of the Amazon rainforest. Time magazine had a big article about this last year, and it was roundly criticized.

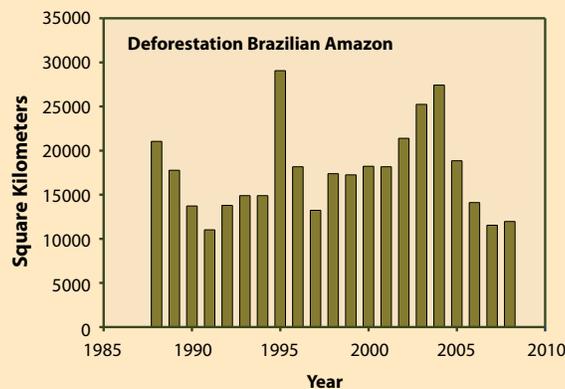
Right now, as farmers harvest their crops, the projected corn harvest is just about in line with 2007’s record bounty, even though that year saw 6.5 million more acres harvested. The fact is, technology has been helping us drive the average yield up, doubling bushels per acre over just a few decades. By this measure alone, between 2007 and 2009, yield increase has allowed us to use that many fewer acres and allow them to go to something else — soybeans perhaps? The stark reality is that our yield growth in corn is allowing us to free up acres both in the United States and worldwide, not take them away. What the critics don’t seem to be able to comprehend is that U.S.

agriculture is not a zero sum game, we actually are making the pie bigger and hence making land use more efficient and more available.

And the real wildcard is where this technology will take us in the years to come, whether it is as small as a seed’s DNA or as large as a satellite-steered combine. The enormous potential of this technology is expected by some to double yields any further. Our strategic plan forecasts a 17 billion bushel corn harvest by 2020, on 83 million harvested acres — 3.5 million fewer acres than 2007 — and enough to make this whole land-use argument a moot debate.

We’re committed to feeding and fueling the world. Knowing our country’s farmers, I’m confident they’re not only up to the challenge, but excited about it.

Concern that using corn to produce ethanol increases deforestation can be easily dispelled



Butler (2008) reported that in Brazil, 60-70 percent of Amazon deforestation results from cattle ranches while the rest is attributed to subsistence agriculture. Large-scale farming (i.e. soybeans) currently contributes relatively little to total deforestation in the Amazon.

Ethanol Action: Paving the Way for the Future



By Brian Jennings, Executive Vice President, American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE)

MANY POLICY ISSUES are facing America's ethanol industry today, but perhaps the two most significant — higher ethanol blends and international land use change — are under consideration right now in our nation's capital. How will the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule on these issues? The answer to that question will certainly have an impact on ethanol's future.

The EPA is currently reviewing the E15 waiver application filed on March 6, which asks for an allowance to use up to 15

percent ethanol per gallon of gasoline. By law, the Agency has until December 1 to make its decision, though there is much speculation about how political and legal pressures may affect that deadline. Regardless of how the waiver process plays out, we believe it's a matter of time before the EPA approves some blend beyond E10 because the science is firmly on our side.

In addition to the reams of data that support the safe, successful use of midlevel ethanol blends in standard vehicles, research at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is corroborating what many drivers have said for years — that cars don't seem to mind what ethanol blend level they're given. A senior project leader at NREL says that "So far nothing has jumped out at us, and vehicles don't show a significant impact with ethanol blends of 15 and 20 percent." As ethanol

content increases, tailpipe emissions stayed largely the same in these tests, and carbon monoxide emissions decreased.

Approving blends beyond E10 is critically important to help the ethanol industry over the Blend Wall, but also necessary to help achieve the targets set forth in the Renewable Fuels Standard, which call for well beyond 10 percent of the nation's fuel to contain ethanol.

The second Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS2) is another point of concern, specifically the EPA's inclusion of the controversial "international land use change" (ILUC) theory in the proposed rule. It's also concerning that EPA appointed Tim Searchinger, the very architect of the ILUC theory, a seat on the peer-review panel. These so-called "indirect effects" are new, untested, unreliable, and controversial computer-generated predictions that are, at this time, being selectively applied only to corn ethanol. We took up these issues recently with the EPA in our official comments on the RFS2 proposed rule.

In our comments, ACE asked that EPA insist on greater scientific consensus and real-world data before moving forward to apply these penalties to biofuels in the final rule. And if EPA insists on applying indirect effects, these effects should be applied to all fuels — not just ethanol. This includes undertaking a complete lifecycle assessment of the indirect emissions association with petroleum. Solid science and fair playing field is all we're asking.

As you know, the productivity of the American farmer is providing ample supplies for food, feed, and fuel. With fair treatment by Congress and by regulators, ethanol — both corn-based and cellulosic — will grow into an even more substantial portion of our nation's energy supply.

We wish you a safe harvest season and cooperative weather. Thank you for what you do.

SD Corn speaks out against LUC in RFSII

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address erroneous and alarming land use change (LUC) provisions in the RFSII. An excerpt of the comments submitted from SDCGA is below:

By Bill Chase, president of the SDCGA:

As a diversified agricultural producer in central South Dakota and representing 12,000 fellow corn producers in the state, I am writing with serious concern about potential provisions under consideration for the RFS II.

The September USDA crop report brought the controversy over land use change impacts from biofuels to its knees with a staggering projection of U.S. farmers setting a new record for the amount of corn produced per acre of land.

According to the Renewable Fuels Association, just 15 years ago 35 million more acres of corn would have been needed to produce the equivalent of this year's crop. Such facts run counter to the unfounded claims that increased U.S. biofuel production is leading to increased conversion of non-agricultural land in the United States and abroad.

Implementing regulations that are outpacing the science to support it in the RFS II is irresponsible. The notion threatens to unravel the tremendous advances this country has made toward energy independence. I urge you to remove unsubstantiated land use change provisions in the RFS II as there is no scientific data supporting indirect land use change and there is no consensus for the models to determine those impacts.

Furthermore, the use of current feeding rates of co-products and their adjusted credits is grossly overlooked when considering land use changes. Distillers grains is a life cycle carbon credit for corn ethanol. When added to livestock and poultry feeds it displaces traditional feed ingredients such as corn and also significantly contributes to reduced green house gas emissions.

Our industry has been, and is currently, a major force in and is uniquely positioned to help achieve energy independence for our nation, create green jobs and stimulate economic activity in rural communities. At a time when our country needs it most, we cannot take actions that would jeopardize the ability of the agricultural and biofuel industries to continue those advances.

GrowingOn 2010

THE SOUTH DAKOTA CORN Growers Association (SDCGA) is partnering with Farm Credit Services of America and South Dakota Corn Utilization Council to deliver "GrowingOn 2010," a two step risk management series that will be offered in December and February.



GrowingOn 2010 – Part I: December 1-4, 2009



"2010 Crop Vision"
Steven D. Johnson, Iowa State University
Farm & Ag Business Management Field Specialist

Topics Include:

- Understanding Crop Supply/Demand & Price Outlook
- Making Grain Storage and Marketing Decisions
- Reducing Crop Input Costs
- Managing 2010 Crop Risks & Revenue

Risk Management Strategies

Farm Credit Services of America will present insurance policy features and benefits including information such as:

- Review of policy changes and options
- Utilizing insurance coverage to support grain marketing decisions
- Compare and contrast coverages utilizing different yield and price scenarios
- Crop insurance buying decision strategies

- Dec. 1:** Aberdeen Ramkota Hotel
Dec. 1: Watertown Event Center
Dec. 2: Huron Crossroads Hotel
Dec. 2: Mitchell MTI Technology Center
Dec. 3: Yankton Riverfront Event Center
Dec. 4: Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel



Watch your mail for a special invite with specific times for these upcoming events!

GrowingOn 2010 – Part II: February 1-3, 2010



Robert Craven
Center for Farm Financial Management

Robert Craven is an Extension Economist, Farm Management and Director of the Center for Farm Financial Management. Areas of specialty include business management for farmers and credit analysis for agricultural lenders with emphasis on financial planning and analysis. His work for the Center has focused on development of FINPACK. He also has worked to develop the crop marketing programs at the Center, i.e. "Winning the Game" series of workshops. He also played a key role in the development of the National Risk Management Education Library.



Edward Usset
Center for Farm Financial Management

Edward Usset is a Grain Marketing Specialist for the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota. Working with his colleagues at CFFM and in Extension, Ed developed the nationally recognized and award winning "Winning the Game" series of workshops. His first book, "Grain Marketing is Simple (it's just not easy)" was released in September of 2007.

- Feb. 1:** Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel
Feb. 2: Watertown Event Center
Feb. 3: Mitchell Highland Conference Center



To inquire about these upcoming meetings, please contact the SDCGA office at 605-334-0100.





CORN MANIA!



Saturday, January 9, 2009
at the Ramkota Hotel, Sioux Falls, SD



**"Mega Forces of Agriculture
in the New Economic Realities"
David Kohl, Virginia Tech**

Dr. Kohl will focus on the mega trends in agriculture during these challenging economic times. He will talk about how technology, energy resources, global markets, land values, and interest rates affect the agricultural industry. Bankers, producers, and young people interested in the field of agriculture or agrilending will gain valuable knowledge from Dr. David Kohl's presentation. He will give you a better understanding of how the domestic and global marketplace will impact risk in your operation and what you can do to build your financial fortress. Dr. Kohl will also share financial metrics for the New Economic Realities. Agrilenders will gain knowledge on how the economy affects agrilending and ultimately their portfolios.





**You are invited
to an evening of
entertainment
featuring the
Beatles tribute
band, AMERICAN
ENGLISH at the
SDCGA 24th Annual
Meeting Saturday,
January 9, 2010**



AMERICAN ENGLISH is simply the best Beatles tribute story of our time. At the inception of the band, they were voted "number one" by thousands of Beatles fans as winners of sound a like

contests at Beatlefest® for three consecutive years.

The show begins with the early years of Ed Sullivan and includes classic Beatles favorites such as *She Loves You*, *Twist and Shout*, *I Want To Hold Your Hand*, and many others. American English captures the very essence of John, Paul, George and Ringo!

And in the end, you'll be transformed to a spectacular musical excursion of the final years of The Beatles partnership. Relive the years of The White Album, Let It Be, and Abbey Road. Moving renditions of songs such as *Hey Jude*, *Something*, and *Let It Be*, are sure to complete the tribute to The Beatles!



"The Changing World Economic Environment....Impact on Commodity Prices and Farmers"

Richard Brock, Brock Associates

Understanding how forces around the world impact individual farming operations is

becoming more and more important for producers to make planting and marketing decisions. Richard Brock, owner and president of Brock Associates, an agricultural marketing advisory service, will walk producers through the global marketplace at the South Dakota Corn Growers Association Annual Meeting on Jan. 9, 2010.

In his presentation Brock will bring into perspective the global economic collapse, the impact of Index Funds, ethanol and other fundamentals impacting commodity prices. More importantly he will discuss decision making and marketing plans in this ever changing environment.



"Energy Victory: Winning the War on Terror by Breaking Free of Oil"

Robert Zubrin

Robert Zubrin's *Energy Victory* presentation offers an exciting vision for a dynamic, new energy policy, which will go a long way toward safeguarding homeland security in the future.

In his compelling argument for a new direction in US energy policy, world-renowned engineer and best-selling author Zubrin lays out a bold plan for how the U.S. could be using money that is currently being sent to countries with ties to terrorism and how we can break the oil cartel's vertical monopoly on the globe's transportation fuel supply. Learn about Zubrin's plan for achieving energy victory in straightforward, practical terms.





South Dakota Corn Growers Association

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605-334-0100 • Fax 605-334-0505

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Calendar of Events

Nov. 11-13, 2009

USMEF Conference
Denver, CO

Nov. 14, 2009

CornPac Bus Trip
Minneapolis, MN

Dec. 1-4, 2009

GrowingOn 2010 - Part 1
Dec. 1: Aberdeen Ramkota Hotel
Dec. 1: Watertown Event Center
Dec. 2: Huron Crossroads Hotel
Dec. 2: Mitchell MTI Technology
Center
Dec. 3: Yankton Riverfront Event
Center
Dec. 4: Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel

Dec. 7, 2009

SDCGA & SDCUC Board Meeting
Sioux Falls, SD

Dec. 8, 2009

Ag United Annual Meeting
Sioux Falls, SD

Dec. 10-11, 2009

NCGA Action Team Meetings
St Louis, MO

Jan. 9, 2010

SDCGA Annual Meeting
Ramkota Inn, Sioux Falls, SD
8:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM Education seminars
4:00 PM SDCGA Resolutions
Meeting
6:00 PM AMERICAN ENGLISH
in concert

Jan. 13-14, 2010

NCGA Priority & Policy Meetings
St. Louis, MO

Feb. 1-3, 2010

GrowingOn 2010 - Part II
Feb. 1: Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel
Feb. 2: Watertown Event Center
Feb. 3: Mitchell Highland
Conference Center

Feb. 13-17, 2010

USGC Conference
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico