

S.D. Farmers - Take a Stand

Studies show record-setting oil prices, worldwide droughts, a weakening dollar and emerging economies are the leading causes of increasing food costs

Feeding the world isn't what it used to be. Farmers seem to be under attack for the prices they are receiving for their grain, being blamed that corn demand for ethanol is causing food prices to skyrocket. It's time to counter those untruths with countless independent studies which conclude the biggest cause of higher food costs is oil prices which increase both food transportation and food production costs.

If you hear or see news reports with untruths about our industry, we urge our membership to use these resources to respond directly to the negative messages about corn and ethanol.

Record-setting oil prices are the biggest reason for food price increases, but that's not the only reason. Other factors include:

- A growing global population and growing affluence of Asian countries requiring a higher protein diet;
- Crop failures due to drought in countries like Australia;
- Substantial increase in grower production costs due to increased fuel and fertilizer prices; and
- Adding additional stress are a weakening dollar and billions of dollars that speculators have been pouring into commodity markets.

The price of corn has very little to do with high food costs. Studies show that for every dollar increase in a bushel of corn, the consumer price index for food only goes up a third of a percent. Much more to blame is the rest of the food tab including higher labor costs and the so-called "marketing bill," which includes packaging, transportation, energy and other cost factors.

Record demand for corn is being met with record supplies. Even with the increased demand for corn for ethanol production, U.S. farmers have produced the fourth largest corn crops in history over the past four years, on about the same amount of land, while using less fertilizer and chemicals! Simply put - corn farmers are supplying more than enough corn to feed livestock, produce ethanol and fill the food supply needs of the nation and beyond.

Ethanol: Helping Limit Fuel Prices. While critics accuse ethanol of driving up food prices, what many do not realize is that without ethanol, energy prices would be even higher. A Merrill Lynch report estimates the bio-fuels industry is reducing gasoline prices by 15 percent per gallon. In truth, South Dakota farmers are actually helping to offset increases in food prices with lower fuel costs from renewable ethanol.

The simple fact is, ethanol has very little to do with higher foods costs. In fact, ethanol is actually helping reduce our dependence on high-priced oil while helping feed our state's economy.



Consider this:

- In 1949, the price of corn averaged \$1.24 per bushel. Now, corn futures are going for more than \$6 per bushel. That's an increase of 394 percent in 59 years. Compare that to oil. In 1949, it averaged \$2.54 per barrel. It's more than \$110 per barrel today. That's an increase of 4,376 percent in the same 59 years.
- Higher corn prices pass through to retail prices at a rate less than 10 percent of the corn price change. (USDA)
- Transportation costs. A \$1 per gallon increase in the price of gas has three times the impact on food prices as does a \$1 per bushel increase in the price of corn (LECG, LLC)
- Hedge fund investors have jumped head first into commodity markets like corn, oil and gold to avoid the volatility in stocks. (Texas A&M)
- Food items like bread, eggs and milk are largely unrelated to ethanol or corn prices, but more to supply and demand (Texas A&M)

Websites and Resources continued on page 3



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bill Chase, SDCGA President

Greetings from the 2008 President of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association. My family makes it possible for me to serve. Together, my wife, Kathy, and my children Benjamin, Joseph, Nathan and Spencer, Joseph's wife Erica and my granddaughters Avery and Courtney, operate a cash grain and livestock operation in Beadle County.

It is a privilege to serve as your President. This is my seventh year on the SDCGA board. I have also served as treasurer and vice president of the Board, and have been one of South Dakota's delegates to NCGA's Corn Congress, where NCGA policies are developed.

In addition to my state responsibilities, I represented South Dakota for five years on the NCGA Production Stewardship Action Team, including two years as Chairman. The Action Teams are committees that assist the NCGA Board by doing the groundwork and research on specific topics. The Production Stewardship Team is assigned the areas of transportation (including rail and barge), conservation, corn yield contest, livestock and environmental issues. This gave me the chance to provide input into the farm bill, give voice to South Dakota's concerns over use of the Missouri River water and work with producers from many states on the various issues.

As you know, we now operate in a world market. I have had the opportunity to travel to many parts of the United States and Brazil to view production agriculture, transportation and grain handling facilities, livestock development and research operations. It is important to understand how all the various sectors of agriculture are interrelated and reliant upon each other.

SDCGA has grown significantly in recent years. Thanks to the work of my predecessors and our outstanding staff, SDCGA has supported the research and development of ethanol and other value added industries in South Dakota. Your dues and check off dollars are helping to make agriculture a profitable and sustainable industry. SDCGA closely monitors legislative issues on both the state and national front and is in constant communication with lobbyists in Washington, DC and Pierre.

During the 2008 South Dakota legislative session, SDCGA worked with other agricultural groups on HB's 1005 and 1006 to revise the real estate assessment process. The two bills lead to a more consistent assessment of real estate based on pro-

ductivity instead of sales history. There will be a committee formed to prepare for the 2009 implementation of these bills. SB 174 dealt with eminent domain procedures related to railroads. Because of the importance of rail transportation to S.D. agricultural producers, and the potential economic benefits of the DM&E expansion project, SDCGA supported this bill. It is possible this bill will be referred to a public vote.

As of press time, the status of the new farm bill is still in progress. SDCGA staff, board and lobbyists in DC have worked tirelessly to represent SD corn producers.

SDCGA and SDCUC are also involved in producer education. I received many positive comments about the Annual Meeting and Growing Forward seminars. Beginning in May, we will roll out a Blender Pump education program. Our goal is to increase the percentage of ethanol used at the pump.

We are closely monitoring and messaging the food and fuel issue statewide and nationally. The Kernels of Truth campaign provided information via television and newspaper advertising to consumers in this state about the role of ethanol in increased food costs. As producers, you know how little of our food dollar is returned to production agriculture. We must take every opportunity to provide the facts on food vs. fuel. If you would like more information on the Kernels of Truth, please contact the SDCGA office.

SDCGA show plots are located across the state of South Dakota. These provide valuable information about varieties and practices in our state. Thank you to all the plot participants and the seed corn companies that provided seed.

You will not want to miss the opportunity to attend SDCGA recreational activities, such as the Corn Cob Open golf outing at the Brookings Country Club on June 23rd and the SDSU/Iowa State football game bus trip August 28-29, 2008. They will be a great way to have some fun while networking with other corn producers and industry representatives.

I look forward to working with you and meeting many of you this year. Have a safe and productive growing season.

SDCGA President
Wolsey, SD



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Below are recent studies which support the positive impacts corn and ethanol are making in our economy. You can find the full studies at the websites listed or all can be found on the SD Corn website at www.sdcorn.org

In Your Defense:

“The Impact of Ethanol Production on U.S. ...,” Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, Iowa State University

- Growth in ethanol production has allowed for retail gas prices to be \$0.29 to \$0.40 per gallon lower than it would have been without ethanol.

www.card.iastate.edu/publications/DBS/PDFFiles/08wp467.pdf

“The Effects of Ethanol on Texas Food and Feed,” Texas A&M University

- Relaxing the renewable fuels standard does not result in significantly lower corn prices. This is due to the ethanol infrastructure already in place and the generally positive economics for the industry.

www.afpc.tamu.edu/pubs/2/515/RR-08-01.pdf

Merrill Lynch, March 24, 2008

- “Merrill Lynch commodity strategist Francisco Blanch says that oil and gasoline prices would be about 15% higher if biofuel producers weren’t increasing their output.”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120631198956758087.html>

American Farm Bureau Federation, March 12, 2008

- “Americans are feeling the pinch of high gasoline prices, but the fuel could cost as much as 5 cents to 10 cents more a gallon if it was not

routinely blended with ethanol. Overall, U.S. consumers and taxpayers benefit from saving \$7 billion to \$14 billion in lower gasoline costs as a result of increased ethanol use.”

www.fb.org/index.php?fuseaction=newsroom.newsfocus&year=2008&file=nr0312b.html

“What is Driving Food Price Inflation?” Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

- Supplies of agricultural commodities are expected to tighten further as worldwide populations grow and incomes rise, boosting demand.
- Marketing costs have risen sharply over the last 50 years, consuming a greater share of the retail food dollar. Energy prices are also a large component of the retail food dollar, boosting prices by raising the cost of processing, manufacturing and transporting food.

http://www.kc.frb.org/RegionalAffairs/MainStreet/MSE_0108.pdf

“The Impact of Ethanol Production on Food, Feed and Fuel,” Ethanol Across America

- By adding to the nation's fuel supply, increased ethanol minimizes the impact of gas price increases.

The amount of raw grain materials in many food products is not enough to significantly impact the cost paid by the consumer.

www.cleanfuelsdc.org/pubs/documents/FoodFeedandFuel.pdf

Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, Iowa State University, April 24, 2008

- “The growth in ethanol production has caused retail gasoline prices to be \$0.29 to \$0.40 per gallon lower than would otherwise have been the case. The analysis shows that the negative impact of ethanol on gasoline prices varies considerably across regions. The Midwest region has the biggest impact, at \$0.39/gallon, while the Rocky Mountain region had the smallest impact, at \$0.17/gallon.”

<http://www.card.iastate.edu/publications/DBS/PDFFiles/08wp467.pdf>

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 SUN 9:30am on KDLT (NBC), Sioux Falls
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 Dish Network Ch. 231, RFD-TV
 DIRECTV Ch. 379, RFD-TV

Do the math

Thanks to biofuels:

- ✓ A gallon of gasoline costs 15% less,* reducing the per-gallon price by 50 cents.**
- ✓ Americans use 390.2 million gallons a day, or 142.4 billion gallons a year. **
- ✓ Americans are therefore saving \$71.1 billion each year at the gas pump.

Sources: * Merrill Lynch head of commodities research Francisco Blanch, Wall Street Journal, March 24, 2008; ** Assuming \$3.36 average U.S. pump price per U.S. Department of Energy (April 2008) and DOE's estimated 2007 U.S. gasoline consumption.



“Don’t listen to the people who are already telling you it’s too late to plant corn. That’s ridiculous.”

Brian Hefty



IS IT TOO LATE TO PLANT CORN?

By Brian Hefty – Hefty Seed Company

The U.S. desperately needs more corn acres. I’ll give you 4 reasons why we’re still planting corn on our farm, and why we increased our corn acreage from our original plan last fall.

In the last year on the farm, we’ve seen some strange stuff. Diesel fuel ran out last fall for some farmers for a few days. Anhydrous was not available. Many fungicides are sold out right now. You can’t find generic glyphosate at most dealers. Soybean seed is pretty well gone. Did you ever think that in our area we’d have shortages like this?

Despite what my brother Darren will tell you, I’m not that old, but in all the years I’ve been around farming, one word has always stuck out...GLUT. Ever since I was a kid, there’s always been enough crop raised in the U.S. to more than meet our needs. You know the old joke...the American farmer has never found a market he can’t over-produce for. That’s why it’s so hard to believe that we’ve got REAL supply concerns, but with corn, we do.

This winter, we did a series of meetings with one of the nation’s leading grain marketing experts, Jim Bower. At each meeting, Jim put up 1 slide that REALLY caught my attention...CORN SUPPLY and DEMAND.

If we don’t get a significant amount of corn in the ground and U.S. corn acreage is down, as was predicted in the March crop report, there’s a very real possibility we could RUN OUT OF CORN.

I’m no grain marketing guru, and I hate to alarm you, but it’s a crazy time in agriculture right now. It’s fun. It’s excit-

ing, but it’s also worrisome. Right now, one of your biggest worries is...IS IT TOO LATE TO STILL PLANT CORN? Here are the 4 reasons we’re still planting corn on our farm:

Don’t listen to the people who are already telling you it’s too late to plant corn. That’s ridiculous. We’ve had great corn planted the end of May before. Now, I’m not saying it will always turn out that way, but as a farmer, I’ve learned to have some faith in God. There’s a lot that’s simply out of my control. This spring on our farm, we’ve had late snow, lots of little rains, and to top it off, it’s been abnormally cold. There’s nothing we can do about that. Whenever this has happened in the past and there was no possible way we could plant our corn early, we’ve gone ahead and planted it late and had a great crop. 1994 is a good example. We never turned a wheel on our farm until May 7. My Dad, like most other farmers, was panicking. Guess what? We had the best corn crop we ever raised up until the last few years. Have some faith!

You have subsoil moisture. You’re only a couple of timely rains away from an above average crop.

Don’t let expensive nitrogen go to waste. You spent money for nitrogen...use it. Many farmers are concerned that because it’s been wet, their fall nitrogen may not be there. Some years, I would agree with that, but not this year. Here’s why I doubt you’ve lost much since last fall. We haven’t had big rains. We’ve had lots of little rains that should not have moved your N down very far. Plus, the frost went out much later than normal. In other

words, where was your N going to go if it was frozen in the soil? Finally, through much of South Dakota we have medium to heavy soils that can hold a significant amount of nitrogen. If you don't believe me, and you think you've lost your fall-applied nitrogen, test your soil; you should find most of your nitrogen still within the top 24 inches.

Supply and Demand. The world needs corn. The U.S. needs corn. South Dakota needs corn (think of all the

new and expanded ethanol plants in our state). Even if you do think we'll have enough corn, and I'm all wrong on this supply and demand thing, just pencil things out on your farm right now. Even if you think your corn yield will be hurt 10% by planting the end of May instead of the beginning of May, corn still dollars out better than any other crop right now on our farm, and it probably does on your farm, too.

One last thing, off the subject. I was

on a plane the other day sitting next to a young man in the Air Force. I told him thanks for what he does. You've probably done the same recently when you've talked to someone in our military. Those people are doing a very honorable thing serving our country. Now think about yourself and the service YOU are providing to our country. The U.S. and several other countries around the world wouldn't be able to eat without the job you do every day. THANK YOU!

Coming Attraction...

JAN & DEAN

SDCGA Annual Meeting 2009!

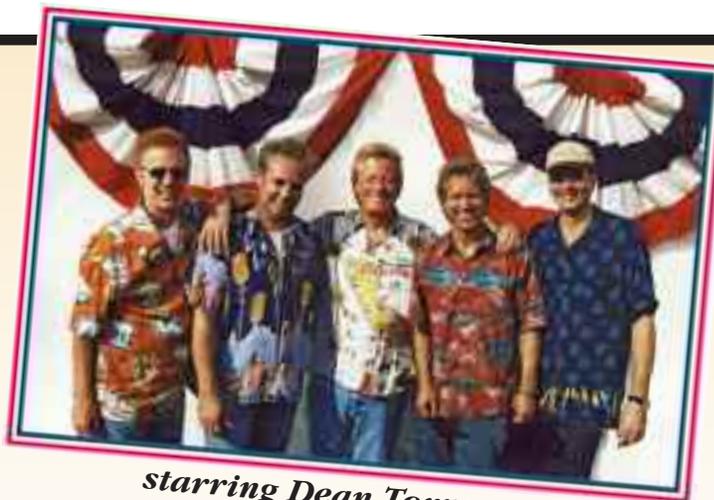
The South Dakota Corn Growers Association is excited to announce a Jan & Dean night of entertainment featuring Dean Torrence with the Surf City AllStars band at the SDCGA Annual Meeting on Jan. 10, 2009.

Jan Berry and Dean Torrence met in high school in west Los Angeles. By the time they graduated, they had appeared on American Bandstand twice and had been awarded their first Gold Record.

They played with the Beach Boys and shared songs with them. Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys co-wrote "Surf City" with Jan & Dean, which became the first surf song to reach number one on the national charts.

Jan & Dean produced 26 chart singles between 1958 and 1966 – 16 of which were national Top 40 hits on Billboard and Cash Box. Five of their albums during that period also made the Top 40.

From 1966 onward, Jan & Dean made new music separately, and occasionally together. Dean Torrence produced "Save for a Rainy Day" in 1966-67; and Jan Berry produced "Carnival of Sound" in 1967-68.



*starring Dean Torrence
with the Surf City AllStars band*

Jan & Dean hit the road again in the late '70s, during Jan's high-profile fight to overcome the effects of traumatic brain injury suffered following his 1966 automobile accident. They toured consistently throughout the '80s and '90s and into the new millennium. Following Jan Berry's untimely death in March of 2004, Dean continues to honor the music with live concert appearances featuring the Surf City AllStars as band members.

Jan & Dean Hits:

Surf City
The Little Old Lady
Drag City
Dead Man's Curve
I Get Around
Fun, Fun, Fun
Sidewalk Surfin'
Little Deuce Coupe
Ride the Wild Surf
Help Me, Rhonda





Straight talk from the Capitol

By Matt McCaulley
SDCGA State Lobbyist

The 2008 Legislative Session is behind us, and we are already looking forward to 2009.

We expect another extended discussion regarding the productivity method of assessing agricultural land. As I write this, the Senate has appointed its members to the advisory tax force, but the Speaker of the House has yet to announce his appointments. The task force will meet over the next few months and report its finding to the 2009 Legislature for their consideration. The implementation of the productivity method of taxing agricultural land is not a certainty, and the 2009 Legislature will need to act on the recommendations of the task force.

The bottom line is this: The action (or inaction?) by the 2009 Legislature will have a direct impact on producers for decades to come. This is a critical issue and we need your help ... which brings me to November, 2008.

In just over six months, the voters of South Dakota will decide who makes decisions regarding property taxes for the next two years. One hundred five legislators are up for re-election, and we are preparing for the upcoming Legislative session. In many cases, important Legislative issues are decided on election day by who the voters choose to send to Pierre - as such, it is important that you stay engaged throughout the next few months of the campaign.

A few specific ways that you can help change the future of South Dakota today:

Contribute to the Corn PAC to help elect legislators who will fight for and protect the hard working producers in South Dakota.

Get to know the candidates running in your Legislature district. You can find out who is running by going to www.sdsos.gov.

Support pro-producer candidates by donating your time, talent, or funds.

We know that South Dakota is changing and becoming more of an urban state, and we will face many challenges and opportunities in the coming months and years. In addition to property taxes, we know that we will see continued discussion on ethanol, taxes, and private property rights - all important issues that face producers. We need decision makers in Pierre who appreciate the positive economic and social impact that all of the hard working producers have on the State of South Dakota.

Together, we can continue to be an effective voice for producers across the State of South Dakota as we work together to influence public policy in a manner that promotes and protects South Dakota corn producers.

Make a difference — contribute today

Support the SDCGA CORN PAC

By completing this form you will be promoting the interests of South Dakota producers through the election process.

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Remember that campaign finance regulations do not allow corporate contributions to political action committees. There is no limit on the amount an individual can contribute to a political action committee.

SDCGA Industry Representatives



STEVE DOMM
Central Farmers Coop/Fremar

Steve Domm is the CEO of Central Farmers Cooperative and Fremar, LLC of Marion, S.D. Domm joined the South Dakota Corn Growers Association as an industry rep in 2008.

Domm holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from North Dakota State University. Prior to coming to Fremar in 2000, Domm worked for Cargill from 1987 – 1988 as a manager trainee and from 1988 to 1989 as the manager. He then went to Colfax Farmers Elevator as their general manager from 1989 to 2000.

Domm says he chose the profession because of his desire to stay close to agriculture without having the opportunity to be engaged in farming.

He believes the biggest challenge facing agriculture today is staying cutting edge agronomically and controlling escalating input costs.

In addition to his leadership on the SDCGA board, Domm is vice president of the South Dakota Grain and Feed Association.

Domm and his wife, Jackie, have two daughters: Madison and Samantha and in his spare time he enjoys spending time at the lake with his family.



KYLE BROUGHTON
Monsanto

Kyle Broughton of Canton, S.D., is a local agronomist for Monsanto, covering the southeast South Dakota region. Broughton joined the South Dakota Corn Growers Association as an industry rep in 2008.

With a degree in Ag Extension/Agronomy, Broughton began his professional career as a crop consultant in Stromsburg, Neb., for Servi-Tech. After spending six years in that role, the opportunity to move back to South Dakota presented with a job as an area agronomist for Syngenta's NK and Garst Seed Companies. Broughton spent nine years with Syngenta before taking his present position with Monsanto. Broughton is also a Certified Crop Advisor.

Two farming grandfathers instilled the desire to make agriculture his profession and becoming an agronomist allows Broughton to be involved in an industry he enjoys. With his leading role in the industry, he believes one of the most important issues facing today's corn producer is input costs and land values and Broughton has the opportunity to help producers make informed management decisions.

Broughton and his wife, Sheila, have two sons, Tanner, 12, and Jaydn, 10; and one daughter, Zada, 5. In his spare time, Broughton enjoys spending time with his family, coaching youth football and baseball and hunting.



DENNY EVERSON
First Dakota National Bank

Denny Everson is the president of the Agri-Business Division at First Dakota National Bank in Yankton, S.D. Everson joined the South Dakota Corn Growers Association as an industry rep in 2008.

Everson holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Animal Science and Plant Science. Over the years he has served the ag industry in many capacities, including as an assistant county supervisor for Farmers Home Administration in Pierre; vice president of the ag loan department for Mitchell National Bank, Mitchell; and credit operations specialist in the agriculture credit company department at the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Omaha, Omaha, Neb. Everson has dedicated his career to ag industry service.

"I chose this profession because I have a passion for agriculture," said Everson, "and I was anxious to become a service provider to the industry." Finding ways to get more youth involved in the business is a challenge Everson sees for the industry.

Everson has countless affiliations as a member on various industry boards, including the South Dakota Bankers Association, South Dakota Ag and Rural Leadership, South Dakota Livestock Foundation, Sacred Heart Development Foundation, and more. In his spare time he enjoys attending livestock shows and sales, photography and hunting.

Everson and his wife, Jan, have three grown children.



ROBERT NELSON
VeraSun

Robert Nelson of Sioux Falls, S.D. is an industry representative on the South Dakota Corn Growers Association board of directors, appointed in 2008. Nelson represents VeraSun Energy on the SDCGA board. His position in Technology Development for VeraSun involves investigating opportunities in advanced ethanol and biofuels production for the company.

An Analytical Chemist by training, Nelson recently worked on the technologies that were responsible for sequencing the corn genome. He has spent most of his career in the processes of commercializing new technologies. He chose his profession because it was new and cutting edge, and, he says, "the most interesting thing to do with a chemistry degree."

Nelson says the most important issue facing today's corn producer is achieving environmental sustainability with increasing production.

In addition to his involvement with the SDCGA, Nelson is also a Sun Grant Initiative advisory board member, SDSU 2010 Center Advisory board member, Northern Plains Bioproducts Institute Founding director, and a Sloan Center for Bioproducts at Iowa State advisory board member.

Nelson and his wife, Timea, have four children, Aron, Reka, Rebeka and David. In his spare time he enjoys his kids' activities, golfing, skiing and sailing.

17th Annual CORN COB OPEN

June 23, 2008

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association's 17th annual Corn Cob Open, slated for June 23, 2008 at the scenic Brookings Country Club, is projected to be the premier golf event of the season.

Over 200 members, producers, agribusiness people and political leaders are expected to converge on the greens throughout the day. Two shot gun starts for the 4-man Best Ball Tournament will be held; the first at 8 a.m. and the afternoon flight begins at 2 p.m.

Participants will have the opportunity to swing for prizes at every hole and the top three teams in the Morning and Afternoon flights will be awarded prizes.

There will be a Hole In One Opportunity offered again this year. Pick your best club for your chance to win a 2008 Flex Fuel Vehicle*.

"The SDCGA Corn Cob Open continues to draw record numbers year after year, becoming the 'can't miss' event of the summer for our agricultural community," said Bill Chase, president of the SDCGA. "Each year the Corn Cob Open exceeds the expectations of its participants and adds a new level of prestige in taking part. It's a perfect opportunity for industry and producers to come together for this fantastic networking event."

A registration fee of \$50 per golfer in advance for SDCGA members and \$100 for non-members includes green fees, cart rental, lunch for the morning tournament or dinner for the afternoon tournament. Space is very limited and golfers must be registered by June 15. To register, call the SDCGA office at (605) 334-0100.



*2008 Flex Fuel Vehicle of your choice valued up to \$30,000.

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By U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson



Production agriculture has been taken off the back burner and is now at the forefront for public discussion with the increasing price of food on grocery store shelves in America and internationally. The federal farm program and ethanol have come under fire for cost-related complaints with our food supply as farmers finally reap a profit as they reap their harvests. There are several factors that impact prices on the grocery store shelves, however, which have little to do with the price of the raw commodity.

According to the Congressional Research Service, on average the farmer sees about 20 cents of every dollar spent on food. In 2006, for example, an 18-oz. box of corn flakes contained less than a nickel's worth of corn at 3.3 cents. In 2007, even with rising commodity prices, a farmer's share of that same box amounted to only 4.9 cents. That hardly compares with that product's grocery store shelf price of around \$3.40. The farmer's profit from that box is a drop in the bucket at 1.4 percent of the store price.

What has significantly influenced the cost of food is the increasing cost of fuel. Processing and transporting a final product to the grocery store shelf requires energy, and as a farmer's production costs continue to grow, so too have the energy costs required for the value-added part of processed products. The difference being, however, that a farmer has no opportunity to pass along his or her increasing cost of production. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, fertilizer prices are up a record 168 percent since 2000. The American Trucking Association has discussed that record diesel prices have multiplied the costs to plant and harvest crops, and ship food products to the retail level.

Ethanol is simply not the cause of escalating food prices. The Environmental Protection Agency should stick to the 2007 Energy Bill's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) requirements, and I oppose calls to waive any portion of the 2008 mandate. At a time when a barrel of crude oil costs over \$120 and gasoline prices are approaching \$4 a gallon, the fuel produced by the U.S. ethanol industry is helping to extend our fuel supply and keep prices lower. A Merrill Lynch analyst recently estimated that oil and gas prices would be 15 percent higher without biofuels. According to Iowa State University's Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, ethanol use has lowered gas prices by 30 to 40 cents a gallon, while relaxing the mandate would reduce corn prices by only 5 percent. The fact is, reducing the amount of ethanol in our nation's fuel mix will have little if any impact on food prices and will actually increase prices at the pump for American's consumers.

As I write this column, the United States Congress is finalizing a Farm Bill. Given the extreme volatility in the commodities market and skyrocketing input costs, it is critically important to ensure that our farmers don't need to play guessing games with a strong safety net, crop insurance program and a structured response to agriculture disaster. I'm hopeful that Congress can roll out an effective Farm Bill that will bolster our national food security, and as a member of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I'll continue to fight for adequate dollars to deliver our farm programs as promised.

S.D. CONGRESS

By U.S. Sen. John Thune



As I write this, we are in what I am hoping is the final short-term extension of the 2002 Farm Bill. By the time you read this we will all know whether or not the President's promised veto of the 2008 Farm Bill Conference Report was overridden by both the U.S. Senate and House and the 2008 Farm Bill finally passed into law.

Defending agriculture has become increasingly more challenging every year I've represented South Dakota in Congress. Agriculture contributes more than 18 percent of South Dakota's gross domestic product (GDP); however, in only three state s does agriculture contribute more than 4 percent of the state's GDP. It is easy to understand why we ended up with a farm bill of which more than two-thirds is dedicated to food and nutrition programs that largely benefit urban and metropolitan areas.

Anyone who plants an acre of corn in South Dakota knows the Farm Bill is nearly overshadowed by the Energy Bill, as far as impacting corn producers and the ethanol industry. The Renewable Fuels Standard passed in the Energy Bill is now under tremendous criticism by an ill-informed national media and editorialists who fail to address the complex, yet definable underlying causes of food price inflation. After we've "put the 2008 Farm Bill to bed" it now appears that I'll be devoting much of my time educating my colleagues on both sides of the aisle about the critical corn ethanol continues to play in moving the United States towards energy independence.

Any piece of legislation as complex and diverse as the 2008 Farm Bill ends up being a product of compromise. The 2008 Farm Bill is certainly no exception. However, I believe this farm bill will greatly benefit the entire state, and I am pleased that nearly all of the provisions I included as a Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee appear to be intact in the final Farm Bill.



IONAL UPDATES

I believe the average crop revenue proposal when implemented at the county level rather than the state or national level held considerable promise for South Dakota producers. However, as a result of budget implications, the final farm bill provides an average crop revenue option that will be implemented at the state level beginning with the 2009 crop year. I look forward the hearing from South Dakota producers on how this new optional program impacts our farmers, particularly those in areas of the state that are more prone to crop losses due to drought and other natural disasters.

I would like to express my appreciation for the counsel and input the South Dakota Corn Growers provided to me as I served on the Senate Agriculture Committee throughout this farm bill. Over the past 18 months of farm bill work many one-on-one and group visits were made to me and my staff by South Dakota Corn Growers members. Thanks to your efforts and those of many other South Dakotans I believe this farm bill, though not perfect, will benefit South Dakota farmers and ranchers.

By U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

Over the past several weeks, there has been intense discussion about the so called "food versus fuel" debate. Unfortunately, some have seized on the debate to try to make corn ethanol a scapegoat for high food prices worldwide. Some are even attempting to roll back the historic Renewable Fuel Standard that we included in last year's energy bill. I think that would be a very serious policy mistake that would ignore the realities of the issue, and dismiss the significant achievements and contributions of the renewable fuels industry to our national economy, to our energy security and as a moderating factor in the price of gasoline.

I've been working with my colleagues in Congress to set the record straight, because the fact of the matter is that the cost of food worldwide cannot simply be traced to corn ethanol. It's a much



more complicated picture that depends on a vast range of worldwide factors. Moreover, the renewable biofuels industry is having a significant, positive impact on fuel costs here at home, keeping input prices for our producers from skyrocketing even further out of control.

It's important to consider the facts when it comes to the effect of corn ethanol on the worldwide food market. On May 1st, the Dr. Ed Lazear who chairs the President's Council of Economic Advisers stated that "production of corn-based biofuels is estimated to account for only three percent of the 43 percent increase in global food prices" and "U.S. food prices have increased far less than global food prices and a similarly small percent of the increase is attributed to biofuels production."

Additionally, it's critical that we consider all of the factors contributing to high food prices. Chairman Lazear in his testimony attributed higher costs of food to the increased demand in emerging markets, weather conditions in Australia, China and Eastern Europe, and export restrictions. This finding is backed up by recent studies from researchers at the University of Nebraska and at USDA's Economic Research Service, which conclude that rising corn prices have contributed only a one to three percent to the rise in domestic food prices. Moreover, The USDA's Chief Economist Dr. Joseph Glauber testified before Congress' Joint Economic Committee on May 1st that "the recent increase in corn and soybean prices appears to have little to do with the run-up in prices of wheat and rice," and "it is unlikely that retail prices for milk, meat, poultry, and eggs were greatly affected by higher corn and soybean prices in 2007."

At the same time, the impact that the high cost of energy has on food prices and food production here at home should be acknowledged. This is a point I raised specifically with the heads of the big five oil companies, who, by and large, refused to take responsibility for what the rising cost of energy is doing to our economy – and the price of food – nationwide.

And finally, we should not ignore the great news that ethanol is actually helping to bring the price of gasoline down for American consumers. Currently, the United States blends 50 percent of its gasoline with the 8.5 billion gallons of ethanol. Francisco Blanch, an analyst at Merrill Lynch, has estimated that by using renewable biofuels, gasoline prices are 15% less than what they might be. A study conducted by Iowa State further confirms Mr. Blanch's conclusion by finding that ethanol has reduced gasoline prices anywhere from 29 to 40 cents a gallon. The use of ethanol not only extends our gasoline supply but it also brings costs down, a significant benefit to consumers and our country that warrants mention as this debate continues.

As prices of oil continue to rise, consumers are looking for the availability of cheaper, domestically-produced ethanol as a way to save money, bolster our country's economic prospects and strengthen our national security. With an increase in the demand for ethanol, industry leaders and innovative entrepreneurs seek ways to meet the demand by developing the essential infrastructure. More and more consumers are buying flex-fuel vehicles that can run on blended fuels to save them money at the pump and gas station owners are installing pumps needed to distribute the fuel to these consumers. As we move towards more efficient, advanced biofuels, it's clear that we have so much more room to grow. Now is not the time to doubt or decrease our commitment to clean, renewable homegrown biofuels.



The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

A New Direction for Food and Farm Policy

The conference report on the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 makes historic investments in our food and farm economy. The bill will expand food security programs, protect our vital natural resources, promote healthier foods and local food networks, and reform commodity and biofuel programs to reflect the priorities of the nation. To view the full Farm Bill conference report, find it online at <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html>

Promoting Homegrown Renewable Energy

- Provides \$1.1 billion to fund programs that will help the renewable energy industry invest in new technologies that use a variety of sources beyond feed grains.
- Corn ethanol tax credit reduced and redirected to incentives for cellulosic ethanol
- Creates a loan guarantee program and a program to encourage and develop production of dedicated energy crops
- Bioenergy research increased and renewable energy programs expanded

Protecting the Environment

- Conservation program spending increased by \$7.9 billion
- Increases funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program to enhance and protect our natural resources
- Continues funding for Grassland Reserve and Wetlands Reserve programs

2008 Farm Bill Commodity Title

Extends the strong safety net for farmers

- Maintains programs authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill with minor changes
- Preserves the non-recourse marketing loan program, a fundamental piece of the farm safety net
- Continues the price-based counter-cyclical program, which provides assistance when prices decline

~ IMPORTANT FOR CORN GROWERS ~

Offers producers the option of enrolling in a new revenue-based counter-cyclical program

- Creates the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program beginning in crop year 2009
- ACRE is a state-based revenue guarantee for participants based on the 5-year state average yield and the 2-year national average price
- ACRE provides producers with payments for a commodity when the actual state revenue for the commodity is less than the revenue guarantee

Farm Bill Commodity Program Facts:

- 25 different commodities, representing one-third of gross farm sales, qualify for Farm Bill program support.
- Commodities that qualify for Farm Bill support under the Commodity Title include corn, wheat, soybeans, other oilseeds (including sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, sesame seed and others), rice, cotton, sugar, peanuts, grain sorghum, barley, oats, wool, mohair, honey, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, dairy products.
- Spending on Commodity Title programs accounts for only about 13% of the Farm Bill's budget.

Reforms program eligibility criteria and strengthens payment limitations

- Imposes a cap on average adjusted gross income (AGI) for eligibility to receive farm program payments
 - Puts a hard cap on non-farm income at \$500,000
 - Applies a cap on farm income at \$750,000, after which a producer will no longer be eligible for direct payments
- Establishes the total payment cap for direct and counter-cyclical payments for a single farmer to \$40,000 and \$65,000 respectively
- Creates a total payment cap for ACRE participants of \$32,000 for direct payments and \$73,000 for counter-cyclical payments

Rebalances farm programs to improve equity among commodities and reflect changes in the marketplace

- Increases target prices for wheat, sorghum, barley, oats, and soybeans which increases producers' opportunity to receive counter-cyclical payments when prices are low, but makes no payments when prices are high
- Rebalances loan rates on wheat, barley, oats, oilseeds, graded wool and honey, enhancing the basic safety net for these commodities

Source: House Agriculture Committee (May 8, 2008).

*Up to date at press time; subject to legislative process change.

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PREVIEW:

Growing Forward 2009



Growing Forward 2009 – Part I
December 1-4, 2008

Risk Management Strategies:

Steven D. Johnson, Ph.D., Farm & Ag
Business Management Field Specialist, Iowa State
University

Dr. Johnson is a highly-valued speaker for his
insight related to grain marketing, government
farm programs, crop insurance and other risk man-
agement strategies.

Also on the Growing Forward agenda:
Estate Planning

Growing Forward 2009 – Part II
Preview to February 2009
meeting:



Risk Management topics:

Art Barnaby – Extension Ag Economist
at Kansas State University

Art is a frequent speaker at professional,
farmer-producer, ag lender, and insurance
industry meetings. Raised on a diversified
farm, located in Elk County, Kansas, Art
received his B.S. degree from Fort Hays State
University, M.S. from New Mexico State
University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural
Economics from Texas A&M University. Art
conducts statewide extension education pro-
grams on financial planning, risk, government
commodity programs, and crop insurance. He
is an author on several research projects that
cover alternative crop insurance designs and
their impacts on farmers.

Weather outlook and impacts:
Bryce Anderson – DTN



Bryce Anderson has been DTN's
chief ag meteorologist since 1991.
He writes and broadcasts agricul-
tural weather commentary each day
to DTN subscribers across the major
crop and livestock production areas of the U.S.
and Canada. He is a graduate of agricultural
weather and journalism programs from the
University of Nebraska and Mississippi State
University.

More details on these programs coming soon!

Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC
*is proud to support the local agriculture
through the production of ethanol from corn.*

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Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC-Mina, SD
Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC-Madison, MN

Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC
301 20th Avenue SE • PO Box 839 • Watertown, SD 57201
605-662-6480 • www.glaciallakesenergy.com

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Membership Incentives for 2008

Seed Certificate Program

Seed certificates can be used for \$30 off a hybrid seed purchase of \$100 or more from any of these supporting companies:

- Black Diamond Seeds**
- Crows**
- Fontanelle Hybrids**
- Great Lakes Hybrids**
- Hoegemeyer Hybrids**
- Integra Seeds**
- Kaltenberg Seeds**
- Legend Seeds**
- Mustang Seeds**
- Mycogen Seeds**
- Nortec Seeds**
- Pannar Seeds**
- Proseed**
- REA Hybrids**
- Renze Hybrids**
- Seeds 2000**
- Stine Seeds**
- Sucroscoc Seeds**
- Wensman Seed**

QuickRoots™ Certificate Program

Join SDCGA at the 3-year or lifetime level and receive a certificate towards a \$100 minimum purchase of QuickRoots™ - \$25 certificate for a 3-year membership or \$50 for a lifetime membership.

About QuickRoots™ –

The microorganisms in QuickRoots™ have been shown to increase availability of certain plant nutrients and can increase plant nutrient uptake. QuickRoots™ releases plant available phosphorous which has been shown to increase root mass allowing the plant to explore a greater volume of soil. Increased plant nutrient availability will often lead to increased plant health and vigor which can translate into a yield response.

QuickRoots™ is applied to the seed. QuickRoots™ can be used in a wet or dry form and may event be applied to the seed up to 18 months in advance of planting. For more information, contact TJ Technologies, Inc. at 1-866-819-8231 or visit the website at www.tjmicromix.com.

DTN Mobile Program

Offering producers opportunities to become increasingly techno-savvy is a goal of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and as such the SDCGA has just added a new membership benefit to achieve that mission.

The SDCGA is pleased to announce DTN Mobile Markets as a membership perk for producers who renew their membership or become a new member at the 3 year or Lifetime level in the SDCGA.

SDCGA and DTN have partnered to provide a 12-month complimentary subscription to DTN Mobile for new and renewing members of the SDCGA. This \$190 value allows producers to receive real-time markets, weather and news information delivered directly to their personal cell phones. DTN Mobile gives

producers the ability to acquire the time-critical information they need while on the move.

Never miss a market change while out in the field. DTN Mobile uses multiple watch lists so producers can track real-time commodity and option prices directly from their wireless device. Producers can make selling decisions while on the move!

Know how much time you'll have before rain arrives in your area or check wind speeds from the field. DTN's exclusive PrecipTimer technology tells producers precipitation start, stop and duration times for a specific location – so producers can know when it's a good time to spray, plant or get out of a field before a storm hits.

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www.wensmanseed.com



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CORPORATE PARTNER



Dakota ETHANOL

Ethanol production at Dakota Ethanol consumes about 17 million bushels of corn from the region and provides not only an environmentally friendly fuel, but also a valuable high quality livestock feed for local, regional and national markets.

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NATIONAL BANK



DM&E
Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation

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Bringing the Midwest Together

Membership Incentives for 2008



With a 3-year or Lifetime membership you will receive a 12-month subscription to DTN Mobile. Value: \$190

Get real-time localized market, weather and news information delivered directly to your personal cell phone for 12 months.

- React to breaking news
- Monitor market changes from the cab
- Get pinpointed weather and plan your field work while in the field

Packaged with long-standing incentives for joining the SDCGA, there is no better opportunity for producers to profit by their membership in the SDCGA.

Check out the membership packages:

3-year SDCGA Membership: \$200

- Incentives:**
- \$90 toward seed purchases
 - 12-month subscription to DTN Mobile
 - \$25 QuickRoots Credit

Lifetime SDCGA Membership: \$800

- Incentives:**
- \$150 toward seed purchases
 - 12-month subscription to DTN Mobile
 - \$25 in ethanol certificates
 - \$50 in QuickRoots Credit

SDCGA CORPORATE PARTNERS

Farm Credit Services of America
Everything you need to grow.
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Facilities in
Aberdeen, SD & Huron, SD



SDCGA Membership Application

- \$800 Lifetime membership (SDCGA & NCGA) includes five \$30 Seed Certificates, \$25 in Ethanol, 12-month subscription to DTN Mobile and \$25 certificate for QuickRoots™
- \$200 Three-year membership (SDCGA & NCGA) includes three \$30 Seed Certificates, 12-month subscription to DTN Mobile and \$25 certificate for QuickRoots™
- \$150 One-year membership (SDCGA & NCGA)

Payment Method: (check one)
Check Visa Mastercard

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

Name _____

Title _____

Farm/Company Name _____

Membership is to be in: (check one)
Name Farm/Co. Name

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

County _____

Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Spouse's Name _____

For more information contact:
SDCGA at 5109 S. Crossing Place, Ste. 1,
Sioux Falls, SD 57108 or call 605-334-0100.

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.

Know Before You Grow

BIOTECHNOLOGY HYBRID APPROVAL STATUS AS OF 1/1/08

Product Registrant Trade Name	Characteristic	Event	Japan Approved	EU Food Approval	EU Processed Feed Approval
Syngenta Agrisure CB/LL	Cry1Ab Corn borer protection Glufosinate herbicide tolerance	Bt11	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dow Agrosciences Pioneer Hi-Bred Herculex I	Cry1F Western Bean Cutworm, Corn Borer, Black Cutworm and Fall Armyworm resistance Glufosinate herbicide tolerance	TC1507	Yes	Yes	Yes
MonsantoYieldGard	Cry1Ab Corn borer protection	MON 810	Yes	Yes	Yes
MonsantoYieldGard	Cry1Ab Corn borer protection Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance	MON 810+Nk603	Yes	Yes	Yes
YieldGard Corn Rootworm Protection Roundup Ready 2	Corn Rootworm Protection Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance	MON 863+Nk603	Yes	Yes	Yes
YieldGard Corn Rootworm Protection	Corn Rootworm Protection	MON 863	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monsanto Roundup Ready 2	Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance	Nk603	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bayer CropScience Libery Link®	Glufosinate herbicide tolerance	T25	Yes	Yes	Yes
MonsantoYieldGard Plus	Cry1Ab Corn borer protection Corn Rootworm Protection	MON 810+MON 863	Yes	No	Yes
MonsantoYieldGard Plus with Roundup Ready 2	Cry1Ab Corn borer protection Corn Rootworm Protection Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance	MON 810+MON 863+NK603	Yes	No	No
Herculex I Roundup Ready 2	Cry1F Western Bean Cutworm, Corn Borer, Black Cutworm and Fall Armyworm resistance Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance Glufosinate herbicide tolerance	TC1507+NK603	Yes	Yes	Yes
Syngenta Agrisure GT	Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance	SYTGA21**	Yes	Yes	Yes
Syngenta Agrisure GT/CB/LL	Cry1Ab Corn borer protection Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance Glufosinate herbicide tolerance	SYTGA21 +Bt11	Yes	No	No
MonsantoYieldGard Roundup Ready	Cry1Ab corn borer resistance Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance	MON 810+SYTGA21	Yes	No	Yes
Dow AgroSciences Pioneer Hi-Bred Herculex RW	Cry34/35Ab1 Western Corn Rootworm Northern Corn Rootworm Mexican Corn Glufosinate herbicide tolerance	DAS-59122-7	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dow AgroSciences Pioneer Hi-Bred Herculex Xtra	Cry1F Western Bean Cutworm, Corn Borer, Black Cutworm and Fall Armyworm resistance Northern Corn Rootworm Western Corn Rootworm Mexican Corn Rootworm Resistance Glufosinate Herbicide Tolerance	TC1507 +DAS 59122-7	Yes	No	No
DowAgroSciences Pioneer Hi-Bred Herculex Rootworm Monsanto Roundup Ready 2	Cry34/35Ab1 Western Corn Rootworm Northern Corn Rootworm Mexican Corn Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance	DAS-59122-7 + NK603	Yes	No	No
Dow AgroSciences Pioneer Hi-Bred Herculex Xtra Monsanto Roundup Ready 2	Cry1F Western Bean Cutworm, Corn Borer, Black Cutworm and Fall Armyworm resistance Glufosinate herbicide tolerance Cry34/35Ab1 Western Corn Rootworm Northern Corn Rootworm Mexican Corn Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance	TC1507 +DAS 59122-7 +NK603	Yes	No	No
YieldGard VT™ Rootworm/RR2	Corn Rootworm Protection Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance	MON 88017	Yes	No	No
YieldGard VT™ Triple	Cry1Ab Corn borer protection Corn Rootworm Protection Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance	MON 810 +MON 88017	Yes	No	No
Syngenta Agrisure RW	Modified Cry3A, Protection of Western, Northern and Mexican corn rootworm	MIR604	Yes	No	No
Syngenta Agrisure GT/RW	Modified Cry3A, Protection of Western, Northern and Mexican corn rootworm and Glyphosate herbicide tolerance	MIR604+SYTGA21	Yes	No	No
Syngenta Agrisure CB/LL/RW	Cry1Ab Corn borer protection Modified Cry3A, Protection of Western, Northern and Mexican corn rootworm and Glufosinate herbicide tolerance	Bt11+MIR604	No	No	No
Syngenta Agrisure GT/CB/LL/RW	Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerance Cry1Ab Corn borer protection Modified Cry3A, Protection of Western, Northern and Mexican corn rootworm and Glufosinate herbicide tolerance	3000GT	No	No	No



DAKOTAFEST 2008

August 19-21 • Mitchell, SD

The South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC) and South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) will host special events each day of Dakotafest at our tent, #118! Mark your calendars to attend any of the following SD Corn Dakotafest features!



TUESDAY, AUG. 19

Sweet Corn Feed

Don't miss a complimentary Sweet Corn Feed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SD Corn tent, #118

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20

Membership Appreciation Day

SDCGA members are invited to stop by the tent and sign up for a major Members only prize giveaway! Our way of saying 'thanks' for your support!

THURSDAY, AUG. 21

Flex Your Fuel - Ethanol Day

Learn about opportunities with higher blends of ethanol.

Register to Win Giveaway at Dakotafest

SD Corn will sponsor the Register to Win Prize at Dakotafest, giving prizes totaling \$1,000 daily!

SD Corn will draw two winners from registrations each day to offer \$500 in corn seed and \$500 in ethanol. Pick up your registration at the gate and drop it off at the SD Corn tent #118.

2008 Calendar of Events

May 21-23

U.S. Meat Export Federation Conference
Las Vegas, NV

June 2-4

NCGA Corn Utilization & Technology Conference
Kansas City, MO

June 4

SDCUC Board Meeting
Sioux Falls, SD

June 5

SDCGA Board Meeting
Sioux Falls, SD

June 17-20

BIO Conference
San Diego, CA

June 23

Corn Cob Open
Brookings Country Club

July 15-17

Corn Congress
Washington, DC

July 20-24

U.S. Grains Council Conference
Anchorage, Alaska

Aug. 5

SDCGA Board Meeting
Sioux Falls, SD

Aug. 5-10

Sioux Empire Fair
Sioux Falls, SD

Aug. 11-17

Brown County Fair
Aberdeen, SD

Aug. 12

SDCUC Board Meeting
Sioux Falls, SD

Aug. 19-21

Dakotafest
Mitchell, SD

Aug. 28 – Sept. 1

S.D. State Fair
Huron, SD

Aug. 28 – 29

SD CornPAC Bus Trip
SDSU Jackrabbits vs. ISU Cyclones
Ames, IA

Dec. 1-4

Growing Forward 2009

2008 SDCGA Showplots

The 2008 South Dakota Corn Growers Association showplots are being planted as the Spring planting conditions allow. The SDCGA would like to thank all the producers who take time to plant these plots.



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!

2008 SDCGA Showplot Cooperators

Clay County – District 1
Reid Jensen

Moody County – District 4
Jason Kontz

Brookings County – District 5
Joe & Keith Ebbers

Codington County – District 6
John Kittelson

Beadle County – District 8
Bill Chase

Spink County – District 13
Rodney Bade

Davison County – District 9
Chad Blindauer

Hutchinson County – District 10
Brent Rames

Aurora County – District 11
David Reinesch

Hughes County – District 12
Marv Schumacher

Brown County – District 13
Allen Walter

Tripp County – District 14
Bryan Jorgensen

Have you ever thought how to feed 8 billion people?



We have.

As the world's leading agribusiness, Syngenta confronts this challenge every day. We know that a growing population, less arable land and increasing demand for biofuels all point to one truth: we must use our farmland more efficiently. Yields must continually improve. And this can only be achieved through plant technology and innovation.

Through an investment of more than \$2 billion a day in research and development, Syngenta continues to bring novel crop protection, seed and trait products to market and improve the quality of life—with an eye on long-term productivity of the land and protection of the environment.

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Available at seven Get N-Go locations in Sioux Falls

Keep Our Transportation on Track



(L-R): David Owen, President, South Dakota Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Mike Held, CEO, South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation; Bill Chase, President, South Dakota Corn Growers Association; Leonard Benson, landowner, B&V Thompson Ranch, Inc., Oral, S.D.; Lisa Richardson, Executive Director, South Dakota Corn Growers Association.

South Dakota depends on reliable and efficient transportation options to ensure economic vitality in every community in the state. Two of South Dakota's largest economic drivers – agriculture and business – are joining together to underscore the importance of keeping the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad project moving forward.

Recently, two leading agricultural groups combined voices with the state's Chamber of Commerce and affected landowners to send a clear message to the outsider opposition using stall tactics to delay the DM&E rail expansion project.

"Anti-DM&E groups, including the Rochester Coalition, are using underhanded and deliberate attempts to persuade landowners not to negotiate with the DM&E," said Lisa Richardson, executive director of the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC). "We're not saying those outside interests don't have the right to try to stand in the way of South Dakota's ability to compete by having access to reliable transportation. The Rochester Coalition and other opponents need to be honest about their involvement. Deceit and deception shouldn't be a part of their strategy."

The DM&E expansion is one of the biggest opportunities for economic growth that will positively impact the state. At a time when fuel costs have hit all time highs, South Dakota is sitting on top of a great resource – the DM&E rail expansion – which will provide more affordable transportation options to all South Dakota businesses.

"I know firsthand as a producer involved in corn, ethanol and livestock, that the access to competitive transportation is a critical part of our ability to be successful and keep our com-

munities thriving," said Bill Chase, SDCGA president.

According to emails recently made public, the Mid-States Coalition and Rochester Coalition, through a paid consultant, advised landowners how to string-out the process by appearing as though they were willing to negotiate in response to DM&E's offers even if the landowner had no intention to work out a deal.

"DM&E has worked hard over the years to negotiate with property owners in the alignment," said Mike Held, CEO of the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation. "However, groups such as the Mid-States Coalition, working with the Rochester Coalition, have interfered with and undermined these negotiations. For the DM&E, eminent domain is a last resort. Rochester Coalition's consultants understood this, criticized DM&E for negotiating in good faith instead of relying on eminent domain to acquire right of way, and have used the process to delay the project."

The deceptive tactics revealed opponents' efforts to deny South Dakota's agriculture, retail and manufacturing companies from reaching growth markets and to better compete nationwide.

South Dakota has a very diverse economy that includes manufacturing, cement, bentonite clay and forest products. Each of these sectors, which offer some of the best paying jobs in the state, need reliable and modern rail transportation," said David Owen, president, S.D. Chamber of Commerce. "Rail today serves many of those businesses. And that's just what's there today. The addition of more efficient and reliable service will open up greater possibilities in the future. But all this is being held up because of the actions of a few."



*Reserve your spot today
for the SDCGA Bus trip!*

**SDSU Jackrabbits
vs.
ISU Cyclones**
Football Game
Ames, IA • Aug. 28-29

Plans are to leave at 11 a.m. on Aug. 28
and return before noon on Aug. 29.
Cost: \$225 per person; \$350 for couples
Package includes: Bus travel, meals,
game ticket and hotel lodging.



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