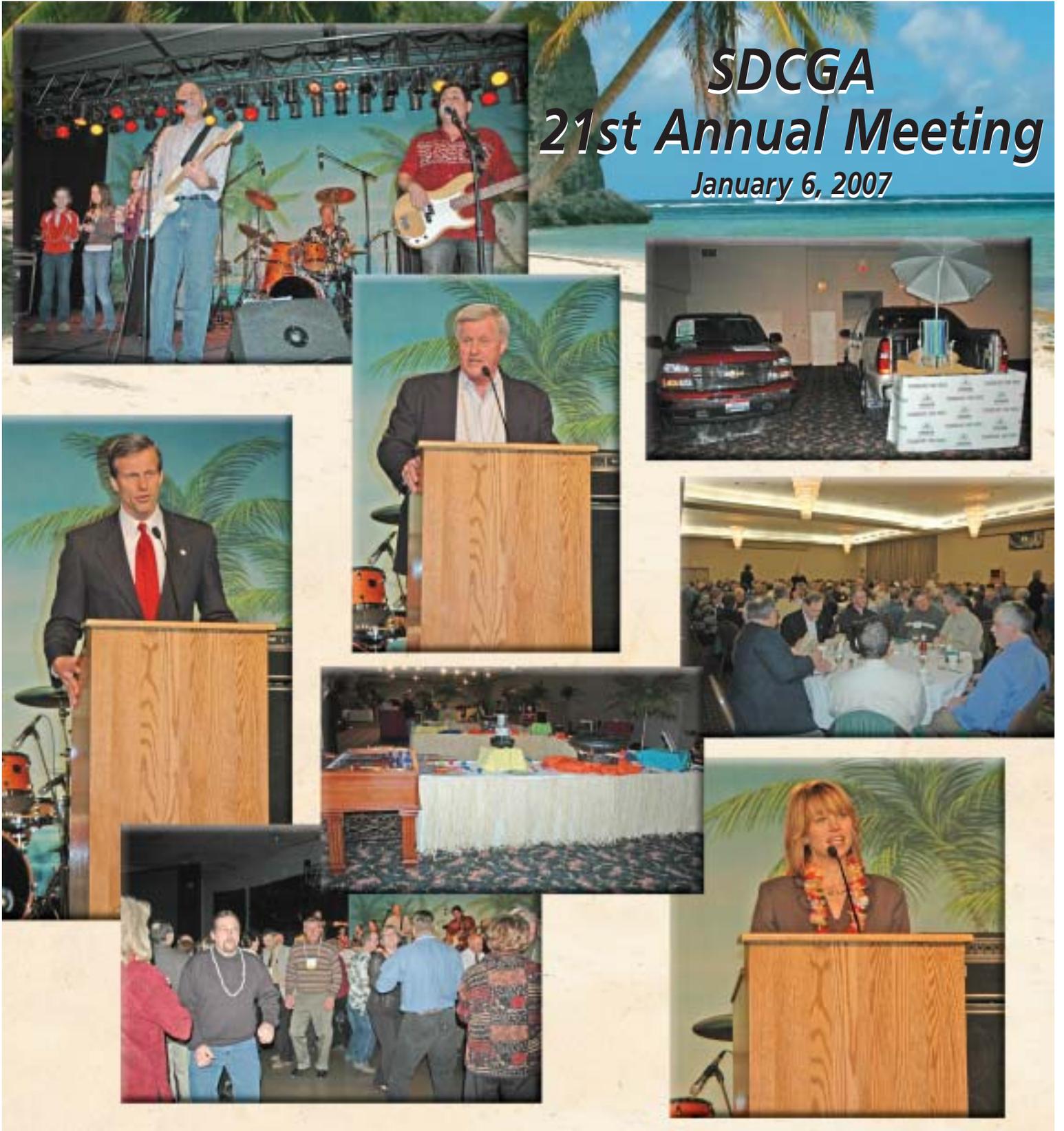


Volume 23 • Number 1

January 2007



**SDCGA**  
**21st Annual Meeting**  
*January 6, 2007*



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Reid Jensen, SDCGA President*



A GROWING INFLUENCE

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Greetings from Burbank! I hope many of you were able to attend the SDCGA Annual Meeting held at the Ramkota in Sioux Falls on Jan.6th. We had excellent attendance at our educational meetings with featured speakers Jolene Brown, Ross Korves, and our panel on Biotech. At our noon lunch we honored our 2006 Corn Yield Contest winners and also introduced the recently appointed SDSU President, David Chicoine. The luncheon was followed by our resolutions meeting where we debated the farm bill, CRP, renewable fuels standard, and livestock issues. The Surf City All-Stars capped off the day with our "2007 Beach Party" which included dinner and entertainment with over 1,000 people in attendance.

Our featured speaker of the evening was newly appointed House Ag Committee Chairman Collin Peterson of Minnesota. Chairman Peterson spoke on the opportunity agriculture has in the area of bio-fuels and especially with cellulose ethanol. Also in attendance were Senator John Thune and Representative Stephanie Herseth. Emcee of the evening event was Jim Woster, who did an excellent job. I would like to thank Teddi Mueller and the staff for all their hard work and making the event a huge success. I think the number of people we have attending can be attributed to the influence SDCGA and SDCUC have in the state and the national level. I would like to thank Lisa Richardson and the boards of both organizations for making this possible. SDCGA and SDCUC are successful because of those who have previously served.

SDCGA has a busy year ahead. We've prioritized our issues for the coming year with the next farm bill being the top issue. We passed a resolution supporting a revenue-based proposal. We'll be debating this proposal at Commodity Classic and we'll be keeping in close contact

with our Congressional delegation. Our top four state priorities are transportation and storage, livestock, biotech and ethanol. All of these issues involve ethanol. With the growing ethanol market there is a greater need for better railroad transportation. That's why we have supported the upgrade of the DM&E Railroad. This would bring more competition to our state and help us to move corn, DDGS, ethanol and other commodities. We need more storage facilities in our state so we can keep the corn in state until it's needed. We want to work with our livestock industry to assure them of an adequate supply of corn and DDGS and on how to manage their costs. In the area of biotech, we'll be looking at and supporting research of drought resistant varieties of corn and cellulosic ethanol.

These are exciting times for corn growers. Prices have rallied over \$1.00 since last year creating great marketing opportunities. The commodity markets are world markets with growing demand causing more volatility. This volatility will create opportunity but will also force us to be better risk managers. This will be true of grain farmers, livestock producers, and ethanol plants. The higher corn prices will bring more acres into production and eventually more supply not only domestically, but also abroad. Remember these are world markets. For those invested in ethanol it's a great hedge against low corn prices and high energy costs. We have 14,000 individual ethanol investors in the state of South Dakota. Of the 14,500 farmers and ranchers in our state, 7,000 are investors creating a billion gallon industry by next year.

I wish you all a prosperous, successful and safe year.

# South Dakota Growers Association Membership Application

**PLEASE HELP US DOUBLE OUR LOBBYING POWER TODAY!**

*"The South Dakota Corn Growers Association has spent the past 20 years making a difference for the state's corn producers. That influence wouldn't be possible without a strong membership base. Join the SDCGA today and add your voice to this unstoppable organization. Let's work together for the next 20 years of achievements." – Reid Jensen, Burbank*

I've enclosed:  \$500 (Lifetime membership) \*includes 5 Seed certificates, \$50 in Ethanol and \$50 QuickRoots coupon  
 \$150 (3-year membership) \*includes 3 Seed certificates, \$15 in Ethanol and \$25 QuickRoots coupon  
 \$75 (1-year)

**Please fill in all fields.**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is to be: (check one)  Name  Farm/Company Name

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am a Farmer  Yes  No Total Farm Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Corn Acres \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Dues To:** South Dakota Corn Growers Association  
 5109 S. Crossing Place, Ste. 1, Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
 605-334-0100 • www.sdcorn.org

### SDCGA Certificate Programs

**SEED:** When you sign up to join the SDCGA for 3 years or a lifetime membership, you will receive hybrid seed corn discounts from the following supporting seed companies, each worth \$30 off a purchase of \$100 or more.

**QUICKROOTS PROGRAM:** Receive a certificate towards a \$100 minimum purchase of QuickRoots – \$25 towards a 3 year membership or \$50 toward a lifetime membership.

**ETHANOL:** 3 year membership receives \$15 in Ethanol, lifetime membership receives \$50 in Ethanol

#### Participating Seed Companies

Black Diamond Seeds	Kaystar Hybrids	REA hybrids
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Fontanelle Hybrids	Mustang Seeds	Seeds 2000
Great Lakes Hybrids	Mycogen Seeds	Stine Seed
Hoegemeyer	Nortec Seeds	Sucroscosco Seeds
Integra Seed	Production Partners	
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----- TEAR HERE -----

This is your receipt for membership in the South Dakota Corn Growers Association. Contributions or gifts to the South Dakota Corn Growers Association are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, dues payments are deductible by members as an ordinary and necessary business expense.



**South Dakota  
Corn Growers Association**  
 5109 S. Crossing Place, Ste. 1  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
 605-334-0100

**Received From:**

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## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



**T**he power of partners: In an industry known for its independence, having partners in the process has never been more important. The South Dakota Corn Growers Association recognizes the value of partners and we continually seek out building partnerships with others who can bring value to and promote growth in agriculture.

A sampling of those partnerships was represented at our recent Annual Meeting held on Jan. 6, 2007 in Sioux Falls. Without the partnering of our allied industry and sponsors, the event wouldn't have been possible. The event was held with our membership's needs and interests in mind and you, our production partners, came out in great force for the day and evening events. And our state and national leaders joined us for the evening banquet, giving credit to the strong working relationships the SDCGA has built politically.

Production partners, industry partners, legislative partners – all working together to advance this great industry we all love and make a living in.

For years, more than 20 seed companies have partnered with the SDCGA to offer coupons towards the purchase of seed for becoming or renewing membership in the SDCGA. This has been a tremendous program and incentive for our members and the SDCGA thanks all those seed companies who participate in this program.

Today I wish to introduce to you our newest partner in our SDCGA membership benefits lineup. TJ Technologies, based in Buffalo, S.D., conducts research designed to maximize the profit from high performance plant genetics through the use of micronutrients and microbiology. TJ Technologies has partnered with the SDCGA to offer new and renewing members who purchase a three-year or lifetime membership, \$25 off a \$100 purchase of their QuickRoots product. QuickRoots has been shown to increase nutrient uptake of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and others, leading to increased yield.

In this newsletter you will find an informational article about TJ Technologies and their QuickRoots System. This new membership benefit will begin Feb. 1, 2007. For more information, contact TJ Technologies toll free at 866-819-8231 or visit their website at [www.tjmcomix.com](http://www.tjmcomix.com).

This new partnership will help the SDCGA's membership efforts to become stronger than ever. With over 1,700 members the SDCGA had the second largest membership increase in the nation in 2006 and we look forward to growing that number in 2007! Join us!

*David Leiseth*

David Leiseth, chairman  
 SDCGA Membership Committee

# Technology brings new fertility options to corn producers

Ethanol production is creating a new and greater demand for corn and along with demand comes higher prices. Corn producers are always looking for ways to make the most out of their corn crop and the increased value of a bushel of corn adds some additional incentive to produce the highest yields possible.

Advances in genetics have significantly increased the yield potential of corn hybrids over the past decade. Now the question is: How can corn growers capture more of that potential yield at harvest?

Genetic advances create a higher demand for nutrient release in a production system and the corn crop has only about 100 days to produce the yield. Therefore to maximize plant nutrient intake and maximize yield, producers need to release more nutrients from soil and fertilizer during that 100 days.

## New fertility technology:

Soil fertility and the ability of the soil to release nutrients to the plant is not a chemistry process only, it is a dynamic of chemistry and biology. The smallest of that biology are bacteria and fungi. The right type and right combination of bacteria and fungi can be very beneficial the root structure and nutrient intake of the plant.

TJ Technologies, Inc. of Brookings, SD has been able to discover a right type and right combination of fungi and bacteria and the result is QuickRoots™. QuickRoots™ was developed by TJ Technologies, Inc through a research process that spans nearly 20 years.



## How is QuickRoots™ applied?:

QuickRoots™ is applied to the seed. QuickRoots™ is formulated as a dry planter box treatment that is packaged in a resealable foil pouch with a scoop for easy application. There is also a wettable powder formulation that can be applied to the seed as a liquid with a commercial seed treatment system.

QuickRoots™ can be applied to the seed up to 18 months in advance of planting adding to its ease of use.

## New SDCGA Membership Benefit!

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.

## QuickRoots™ colonizes the root of a corn plant

QuickRoots™ is composed of live microorganisms which can quickly colonize and grow with the root as the plant develops. 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™ Left – Control Right

The effect of QuickRoots™ on the root of a corn plant is quite visible and replicated plot data indicates an average yield response of 8 bushels per acre. Producers are experiencing the advantage as well, with numerous reports of yield gains of 8 bushel and more.

QuickRoots™ brings new opportunity for corn growers to capture more of the yield potential of today's hybrid corn genetics. For more information about QuickRoots™ you can contact TJ Technologies, Inc. at 1-866-819-8231 or website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.tjmixmap.com"](http://www.tjmixmap.com) [www.tjmixmap.com](http://www.tjmixmap.com).

(QuickRoots is a trademark of TJ Technologies. All claims are based on data collected by independent research and TJ Technologies, Inc. – individual results may vary.)

# Meet your new Board Member

*Representing District 10*



Mark Gross

Mark Gross is a fourth generation producer on his family's diversified crop and livestock farm located in Hutchinson County. The operation consists of corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, grass hay and a cow/calf beef operation.

Growing up on the farm, Gross always knew that farming was his life's ambition. In 1993, his father's health created a need for Gross to step into the primary role by taking the reins of the

family farm, a heritage which started in 1882. Gross brings a new generation of business mindedness to the farm as he also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Augustana College.

Gross joined the South Dakota Corn Growers Association Board of Directors in January of 2007. He is also active on the South Dakota Value-Added Finance Authority Board which administers the Beginning Farmer Bond Program. He is past president of the Bridgewater Farmers Union Coop and serves as the Township Clerk.

In his spare time, Gross enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and playing trombone with the Sioux Empire Brass Society.

Gross and his wife, Stacy, have three children: daughters, Kaylee and Alexis and son, Landon.

## *Growing Forward 2007—Part II*

*Brought to you by:*



**This program, sponsored by the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, Farm Credit Services of America and the USDA Risk Management Agency, is the second part of a series designed to help producers gain valuable insights and opportunities for Growing Forward in 2007.**



### **ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR GROWING FORWARD**

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

- Managing Risks of Higher Crop Prices
- Minimizing Production Cost Increases
- Utilizing Crop Insurance Revenue Products
- Improving Crop Marketing Strategies



### **MANAGING WEATHER RISK IN 2007 AND BEYOND**

*Elwyn Taylor, Ph.D., Agricultural Meteorologist, Iowa State University*

- Changing Climate
- Climate Impact on Production
- Climate Impact on Markets
- What are the Climate Trends?
- Using the Leading Weather Indicators

**To register, please contact the South Dakota Corn Growers Association at 605-334-0100**

**Or online at:**  
[www.growingforward2007.com](http://www.growingforward2007.com)

### **DATES AND LOCATIONS:**

**Monday, Feb. 19, 2007**  
Sioux Falls Ramkota  
Registration: 9:00 a.m.  
Program: 9:30 a.m.

**Monday, Feb. 19, 2007**  
Watertown Events Center  
Registration: 3:00 p.m.  
Program: 3:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007**  
Aberdeen Ramkota  
Registration: 9:00 a.m.  
Program: 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007**  
Huron Crossroads  
Registration: 9:00 a.m.  
Program: 9:30 a.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007**  
Yankton Elks  
Registration: 9:00 a.m.  
Program: 9:30 a.m.

# NEW RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed during the South Dakota Corn Growers Association Annual Meeting held Jan. 6, 2007.

1. The SDCGA urges that CRP rental rates should not be inflated to keep non-environmentally sensitive land in the CRP program.
2. The SDCGA supports a revenue-based program for the 2007 Farm Bill.
3. The SDCGA supports increasing program support for crop insurance enterprise and whole farm coverage, which will be used as permanent disaster assistance. This option should cross county and state lines so there will be one unit per crop per entity.
4. The SDCGA supports extending the 51-cent tax credit for both cellulose and grain based ethanol.
5. The SDCGA supports encouraging South Dakota's ethanol industry to sell their DDGs (wet and dry) locally.
6. The SDCGA supports a legislative study of the long-term social-economic effects of our present system of zoning CAFO's and the legality of these ordinances.
7. The SDCGA urges Congress to increase the RFS to over 10% of the unleaded gasoline market in the U.S.
8. The SDCGA Encourages SDSU to conduct research to develop sound practices and acceptable limits allowing the application of manure to frozen and/or snow covered ground.
9. The SDCGA encourages DENR to make allowances for an "experimental permit" when "General Permit" is reviewed in 2008; and that parameters for an "experimental permit" be limited by allowances of the Clean Water Act rather than the South Dakota "General Permit".
10. The SDCGA opposes efforts by the EPA to impose fugitive dust rules.



**Rep. Stephanie Herseth talked renewable energy at the South Dakota Corn Growers Association office after returning from a tour of Brazil in December. She talked with corn and ethanol stakeholders about the importance of increasing usage of renewable fuels in the United States and South Dakota. Rep. Herseth was recently re-appointed to the House Agriculture Committee.**



# SDCGA hosts Thune & Herseth



**Sen. John Thune joined the South Dakota Corn Growers Association board of directors at their December board meeting, to discuss the upcoming farm bill and other important legislative matters. Sen. Thune was newly appointed to the Senate Agriculture Committee and as such will play a role in drafting the next farm bill.**

A big  
**Thank You**  
 to our sponsors

# Annual Meeting Sponsors

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# SDCGA Annual Meeting Highlights

The 21st Annual Meeting of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association exceeded all previous years' events in elite educational opportunities, esteemed leader presence and outstanding entertainment.

Set in the Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel, 300 producers packed seminar rooms during the day on Jan. 6 to tap the expertise of speakers on the topics of farm family relationships, the new world of ethanol supply and demand, and biotechnology.

National Corn Growers Association Corn Yield Contest winners were recognized at the noon luncheon featuring WNAX personality Judy Statman. The new president of South Dakota State University, Chicoine delivered the keynote message.

No Annual Meeting would be complete without addressing the next year's goals and the SDCGA Resolutions meeting took place in the afternoon where SDCGA members discussed and determined the organization's positions on the farm bill, livestock issues, CRP and more. Ten new resolutions were passed in the meeting.

"The resolutions process really is the core to our Annual Meeting because as a grassroots organization it's important to gather input

from our members as we represent corn producers in legislative activities in Washington and Pierre," said Reid Jensen, president of the SDCGA.

After the day's work was done, the SDCGA kicked off the biggest Beach Party in January the state has ever seen featuring a silent auction, social, elegant dining and a guest list of over 1,000.

The SDCGA was honored to have the new Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Minnesota Congressman Collin Peterson, as the keynote banquet speaker. Peterson illuminated on the next farm bill and renewable energy opportunities. Sen. John Thune and Rep. Stephanie Herseth also addressed the audience.

To top off the event, "The Surf City All Stars" featuring original Beach Boy David Lee Marks, took the stage and soon had the crowd on their feet dancing to the greatest hits from the Beach Boys and more.

"The SDCGA joined together our members, industry partners, producers and top legislative leaders for a great day and evening of celebrating our industry," said Jensen. "We were pleased to have a room full of stakeholders in the industry as a way to kick off our momentum for the next year of achievements in agriculture."

## General Motors gives away 2007 vehicle at SDCGA Annual Meeting



More than 1,200 people participated in the SD Corn Safari 2006 raffle promotion held throughout the summer and fall with the South Dakota Corn Growers Association. Three major prizes were up for grabs when the lucky winners' names were drawn at the SDCGA Annual Meeting on Jan. 6, 2007.

SDCGA board directors and staff offered the prize opportunity at events throughout the state in 2006 including at the Pierre Ethanol promotion; Aberdeen C-Express Ethanol promotion; Farmer Appreciation Day at the Sioux Empire Fair; Dakotafest; Brown County Fair in Aberdeen; Value-Added Day at the South Dakota State Fair; and many more seminars and events the SDCGA hosted.

The Grand Prize winner of a new flex-fuel vehicle from General Motors bought her ticket the night of the Annual Meeting. She claimed her prize from Chevrolet of Sioux Falls. The winner of the trip purchased her ticket during the ethanol promotion in Aberdeen in August. The winner of the Ethanol purchased his ticket at Dakotfest in Mitchell.



Donna Woldt of Wentworth, S.D., (right) stands next to her new Chevrolet HHR 2007 which she won in the SD Corn Safari raffle promotion. Katrina Luke, SDCGA office manager, presents the keys to Woldt. Woldt got her vehicle at Chevrolet of Sioux Falls and the prize was sponsored by Chevrolet.

### Prizes and winners:



**Chevrolet:** 2-year lease on a 2007 GM vehicle

**Winner:** Donna Woldt of Wentworth, S.D. Donna chose a 2007 Chevy HHR as her vehicle of choice.



**All About Travel:** Airfare and lodging for 4 days/3 nights at the winner's choice destination to specified cities in the U.S. or Mexico.

**Winner:** Misty Beck of Aberdeen, S.D.



**South Dakota Corn Utilization Council:**

\$1,200 in ethanol fuel

**Winner:** Brian Howe, Garretson, S.D.

# House Ag Committee Chairman offers keynote address at SDCGA 21st Annual Meeting



The new Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Minnesota Representative Collin Peterson, delivered the keynote address at the South Dakota Corn Growers Association's 21st Annual Meeting. The SDCGA appearance was Rep. Peterson's first official speech in his new role as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

Rep. Peterson was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990, after having served 10 years in the Minnesota State Senate. A native of Glyndon, Minn., Congressman Peterson has been

a strong advocate for farmers and a leader on both federal tax policy and conservation issues. He has worked on the last three Farm Bills passed by Congress. Peterson has taken a leading role in Congress promoting biofuels as a homegrown way for America to meet its growing energy needs, and he has introduced legislation to expand biofuel production and use.

A crowd of 1,200 was present at the SDCGA Annual Meeting when Rep. Peterson discussed goals for the next farm bill.

Extending the ethanol boom South Dakota has enjoyed to other regions of the country where ethanol can be made from other feedstocks in addition to corn is a major goal for new farm legislation, said Peterson.

"We have to develop the biomass feedstocks," said Peterson.

Peterson will lead the direction of the farm bill on the House side and his presence at the SDCGA Annual Meeting was at the invitation of Rep. Stephanie Herseth, who is a member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Peterson discussed possibilities of the next farm bill with the crowd before heading to a media briefing with local reporters, arranged by the SDCGA. He later rejoined the Annual Meeting festivities and surprised the crowd by going on stage with the Surf City All Stars band and played lead guitar with the group for one song. Peterson is a member of the "The Second Amendments" band and plays at various events.



## *More Annual Meeting Highlights*



# Annual Meeting Awards

## Lon Tonneson of Dakota Farmer is named as honoree for Excellence in Public Outreach



Lon Tonneson

Every year the South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) recognizes an outstanding communicator for the Ag industry. Lon Tonneson, of the Dakota Farmer, is the recipient of the SDCGA 2007 Excellence in Public Outreach Award which was presented to him during the SDCGA's 21st Annual Meeting.

The Excellence in Public Outreach Award is given to someone who goes the extra mile in representing the industry to the general public with fairness, accuracy and diligence.

### Excellence in Public Outreach

With over a quarter of a century in ag writing under his belt, Tonneson has earned a name for himself in covering agricultural news. A graduate of SDSU with a degree in journalism, Tonneson was able to combine his interest in farming, business and public affairs when his career in writing for ag publications began in 1981. He first wrote for the Minnesota Farmer and later for the Dakota Farmer, where he is currently editor. He also is a contributor to Farm Progress Companies' 18 other state farm magazines. He has won many awards for his reporting and photography, including being named Writer of the Year by the American Agricultural Editors Association.

A South Dakota native, this journalist's interest in agriculture can be traced back to his family's hobby farm near Baltic, S.D. His family grew pickles for Gedney to earn vacation money and he and his brothers and sisters raised horses and Holstein calves. As a teenager, he worked on a neighbor's grain and cattle farm.

Tonneson and his wife, Kathy, started a commercial pumpkin/entertainment farm, which they ran for nearly 18 years. Parents of three grown sons of their own, the couple have also been active in a high school foreign exchange student program, hosting students from Brazil, Sweden and Denmark. He has served on the local school board for several years and was a founding member of their local Dollars for Scholars program.

Tonneson was chosen for this award based on his outstanding representation of the ag industry through his fair, unbiased and in depth articles published in Farm Progress publications and the SDCGA applauds his efforts on behalf of the industry.

## SDCGA recognizes Joel Dykstra with Legislative Appreciation Award

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) presented Rep. Joel Dykstra of Canton, S.D., a Legislative Appreciation Award. The recognition is given annually to an individual that has gone over and above his call of duty for the agricultural industry.



Rep. Joel Dykstra

Rep. Dykstra is a long-standing friend of the SDCGA who is dedicated to creating value-added opportunities for agriculture. In both his business life and legislatively, Dykstra has been an ally and proponent for value-added agricultural projects, helping with business development and equity formation.

### Legislative Appreciation

He was elected to the South Dakota House of Representatives in 2002 and has recently been elected to a third term. He served on the Governor's Energy Task Force and has promoted renewable energy legislation, including acting as House prime sponsor of the bills creating and funding the South Dakota energy Infrastructure Authority. He also currently serves on the Advisory Council for the Anaerobic Digester Project at South Dakota State University.

Dykstra has carried the ball for many agricultural bills including exemptions from Contractors Excise taxes for construction of new or expanding ag processing facilities. He is a watchdog in addressing inequities in property tax assessments on ag property and is working for improvements to the process for ag property valuations and assessments.

His passion for the agriculture industry is born from his belief that the industry and its producers drive South Dakota's economic growth and development and the future of South Dakota will be tied to the successful development of 21st century agriculture and the continued success of agriculture producers.

This legislator represents District 16, the same district he was born and raised in. A graduate of Canton High School and Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma with a degree in Business Administration and Management, this leader's career has largely centered on business development and consulting.

His community service activities include Economic Development Corporation, past school board member, Rotary Club and Church Council He and his wife, Vicki, three grown daughters: Sarah, Cynthia and Laura.



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# Annual Meeting Awards

## Steve Dick is named Most Valuable Player in Agriculture with SDCGA award



Steve Dick

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) presented Steve Dick of Hartford, S.D., with the Most Valuable Player in Agriculture Award.

The MVP in Agriculture Award recognizes an individual or organization, which has helped achieve common goals and create milestones and advancement in the agricultural industry.

A dedicated friend to the SD Corn organization, Dick has helped create industry successes by leading the charge to transform how agriculture as a whole is perceived. He is breaking barriers to allow family

farms to grow and prosper by sharing his passion and knowledge for agriculture to spur change for the industry and has worked to transfer benefits to agricultural producers.

### *Most Valuable Player in Agriculture*

A true advocate for farm families, in 2004 our Dick accepted the charge of fighting for livestock development in South Dakota and to put a face on South Dakota agriculture.

Most recently in his role, he assisted a family farm in obtaining a general permit to expand their livestock operation so that their son could come back and join the operation. He has tirelessly attended countless zoning meetings on behalf of farming families. He has been a watchdog for unfair attacks or regulations against farm families. He has promoted the industry to new levels of acceptance and success.

His job in representing South Dakota farm families is the creation of a unique coalition of five leading South Dakota farm organizations, including SD Corn. This MVP has exceeded what was thought possible when the concept of Agriculture United for South Dakota was born.

A native of southeastern South Dakota, Dick is a cattle and grain farmer himself in McCook County. Prior to his current position, he served on former Sen. Tom Daschle's staff for 10 years, during which time he was also a big ally to South Dakota agriculture.

He and his wife, Jeanne, reside in Hartford and have two children, Truman and Eleanor.

## Larry Gabriel is named for Excellence in Agriculture Award by SDCGA



Larry Gabriel

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) named South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Larry Gabriel for an Excellence in Agriculture Award during their 21st Annual Meeting. The award honors an outstanding leader in agriculture who exemplifies excellence in agriculture by their significant contributions to the industry as a whole.

Gabriel has demonstrated remarkable passion and leadership in South Dakota agriculture. He is a pacesetter and has achieved great successes for South Dakota agriculture, which have set the stage for others to succeed. He has devoted his life to agriculture and for the past 7 years has been the agricultural icon for the state of South Dakota as the Secretary of Agriculture. He has fought for agriculture in the state, making contributions beyond the scope of his office.

### *Excellence in Agriculture*

Gabriel has devoted many years to public service. He served as a Haakon County Commissioner from 1975 through 1982 and as a State Representative from 1983 until retiring from the legislature in 1998. During his tenure in the House of Representatives, he served six years as House Majority Leader and was known for his expertise in tax issues. He has served as the state's Secretary of Agriculture since 2000.

Gabriel and his wife, Charlotte, along with their son Jeff and daughter-in-law Heather, operate a ranch in Pennington and Haakon Counties. He and Charlotte have two children and five grandchildren.

As he leaves his position in the Governor's Cabinet, the SDCGA thanks him for his dedication to state government and agriculture.

## Outstanding Service Awards honor retiring directors at SDCGA Annual Meeting

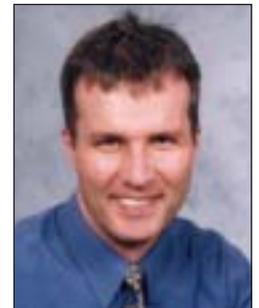
The South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) recently recognized directors who have served their allowed terms with the organization. The directors received awards during the SDCGA's Annual Meeting.



Chad Johnson

**Chad Johnson** of Platte, S.D. has served on the South Dakota Corn Growers Association board of directors since 2000. He represents District 10. Johnson has been a valued director who is always willing to lend a hand. He has represented the SDCGA legislatively several times including in Pierre and Washington, D.C. when lobbying power was needed. He has also represented the SDCGA as a delegate to U.S. Grains Council Conventions and has gone to Commodity Classic as well. He has served the executive team of the SDCGA as treasurer.

**Bjorn Nelson** joined the South Dakota Corn Growers Association board of directors in 2004 as an Industry Representative from Monsanto. He lives in Huron, S.D. and has been with Monsanto for 17 years. His role as Industry Rep has been a tremendous asset to the SDCGA as he brought a voice from the business agronomy side as well as insight into new technology coming down the pike. Nelson has been a big supporter the SDCGA and a key player in advancing the organization to new levels. He's been active in the Showplot program as well as the Corn Cob Open Golf Committee.



Bjorn Nelson

## Taking producers to the next level is goal of SDCGA educational events



*Risk management strategies, farm bill outlook and planter calibration clinics have been among the educational offerings the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, in conjunction with the Risk Management Agency (RMA), have been delivering to producers over the past few months. In all, nearly 1,500 producers were impacted by these incredible learning opportunities.*

### **Growing Forward 2007 – Part I** **Nov. 27-30, 2006**

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The SDCGA teamed up with Farm Credit Services of America and the RMA to bring a special outlook on crop prices, production, storage and marketing to five South Dakota locations in four days. Speakers **Steve Johnson**, Farm & Ag Business Management Field Specialist with Iowa State University and **Dale Hicks**, professor of agronomy and plant genetics with the University of Minnesota, offered risk management tips to nearly 700 producers during the week event.

Growing Forward 2007 – Part II will bring all new information Feb. 19-22. See page 5 for details about this upcoming event!

## Inside the Beltway: Influencing Farm Policy

SDCGA & RMA

Dec. 4, 2006

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More than 50 tuned-in producers took note of **Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh**, agricultural policy expert and professor of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University when he expounded on the future implications of the next farm bill. Also on tap that day were Capitol Hill insiders, **Chip Conley**, economist with the Democratic staff of the House Agriculture Committee, and **Scott Shearer**, SDCGA national lobbyist with the Bockorny Group. Those in attendance also had a first glimpse at proposals being discussed for the next farm bill with a presentation by SDCGA Chairman, **David Gillen**.

## Annual Meeting Seminars

SDCGA & RMA

Jan. 6, 2007

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**Jolene Brown**, professional speaker and humorist, brought audiences great laughter and hit home with understanding during her two presentations at the SDCGA Annual Meeting on Jan. 6, 2007. **Ross Korves** with the ProExporter Network gave producers an glimpse of how the current ethanol demand and corn supply may affect their operations. And a Biotechnology Panel featuring representatives from Monsanto, Pioneer and Syngenta, revealed what's on the horizon for traits. Over 300 producers attended the day time seminars.

## Planter Calibration Clinics

SDCGA & RMA

Jan. 16-19

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Producers packed the room for these hands-on clinics presented by **Kevin Kimberly**, who gave attendees practical tips and tricks to get their planters to perform at the highest level to achieve optimum yields. These clinics had an overwhelming response with more than 500 producers in attendance over four days.



# 2006 NATIONAL CORN YIELD CONTEST WINNERS

<u>RANK/NAME/CITY</u>	<u>BRAND</u>	<u>HYBRID</u>	<u>YIELD</u>
<b>Irrigated</b>			
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>			
1. Pierre Bernard, Jefferson	Golden Harvest	H-9251CB	234.73
2. Riverside Farms, Huron	Pioneer	34A19	234.15
3. Denis Slepikas, Huron	Pioneer	34N44	232.33
<b>No Till/Strip Till Irrigated</b>			
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>			
1. Lower Brule Farm Corp, Pierre	Pioneer	34A16	246.65
2. Randy Svendsen, Volin	Garst	8533YPL	243.88
3. Justin Ogle, Harrold	Pioneer	33M54	223.60
<b>No Till/Strip Till Non-Irrigated</b>			
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>			
1. Dwight Fickbohm, Akron, IA	Pioneer	34A18	244.17
2. Greg Van Zanten, Colton	DEKALB	DKC50-20	210.57
3. Daniel Ash, Butler	DEKALB	DKC46-25	204.36
<b>Non-Irrigated</b>			
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>			
1. Dean Olson, Garretson	DEKALB	DKC51-39	229.94
2. Mike Hemmer, Dell Rapids	DEKALB	DKC51-39	221.34
3. Jeff Hemmer, Dell Rapids	DEKALB	DKC52-40	221.24
<b>Ridge Till Irrigated</b>			
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>			
1. David Ogle, Harrold	DEKALB	DKC60-19	281.35
2. Alec Solberg, Volin	Garst	8533YPL	220.18
3. David Nelson, Yankton	Pioneer	33B51	217.73
<b>Ridge Till Non-Irrigated</b>			
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>			
1. McKee Farms, Hawarden, IA	Pioneer	34N42	209.67
2. Delmar Nelson, Yankton	Pioneer	33B51	173.74
3. Merle Nelson, Centerville	Garst	8548YG1	164.62



Chad Blindauer, (right) chairman of the SDCGA Showplot committee presents Dan Ash of Butler, S.D. with a CYC plaque during the Annual Meeting luncheon.

## SDCGA SHOWPLOT UPDATE

*The planting season is right around the corner and the South Dakota Corn Growers Association invites members to consider becoming a showplot cooperater.*

*To become a showplot cooperater, you must be a member of the SDCGA, you cannot have refunded your corn tax for the past three years and you must be willing to agree to the showplot rules.*

*If you are interested in becoming a showplot cooperater, contact Paul at the SDCGA office at (605) 334-0100.*

# 2007 Farm Bill Outlook

By Scott Shearer, Bockorny Group

One of the most important actions the 109th Congress will take this year affecting the members of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) will be the passage of the 2007 farm bill. Farm bills reflect the times in which they were passed: state of the farm economy, the public's concern for agriculture, and the politics or issues of the day. This farm bill will be written at a time of high corn prices and record budget deficits. This compared to the 2002 farm bill when there was a budget surplus and lower commodity prices.



The budget will be a key factor affecting this farm bill. All indications point to there being less money to spend for the 2007 farm bill compared to the 2002 farm bill. This was emphasized this week when the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its forecast of federal spending and receipts. CBO said farm subsidies would cost \$10 billion this year and the annual cost would "range between \$8 billion and \$10 billion" over the next 10 years. According to CBO the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) outlays for crops are projected to be down \$34 billion over 10 years. CBO will present another base line estimate of the cost of extending current farm policy for 10 years in March. This base line projection will be used by Congress to determine available spending levels for the 2007 farm bill. The SDCGA and the entire agriculture community will be working very closely with the Senate and House Agriculture Committees and the House and Senate Budget Committees to try and obtain a higher allocation for the farm bill. This allocation by the budget committees will determine how much can be spent on the 2007 farm bill.

The current farm bill contains 10 titles that cover numerous areas including commodities, trade, conservation, research, nutrition, rural development, energy, etc. There are a number of key issues and titles in this farm bill that will be important to SDCGA.

**Commodities:** The most important issue will be the commodities section of the farm bill. There are a number of proposals that will be discussed including a revenue based program, renewal of the current program, raising the target price and loan rates, modification of the current program, and shifting dollars from commodity programs to conservation.

**Conservation:** The Conservation Security Program (CSP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will be the main items considered in the conservation title of the farm bill.

**CSP:** Senator Harkin (D-IA), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, is the original author of CSP. He has indicated a desire for increased funding for the program and a concern that many producers are excluded from the benefits of the program. Implementation and participation is a key issue for South Dakota.

**CRP:** The debate around CRP will be how many acres are needed in the program; should producers be able to opt out of the program; and should producers be able to harvest these acres for energy production.

**Disaster Assistance:** Congressman Collin Peterson (D-MN), chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, wants to establish a permanent disaster program. This program would benefit farmers during a time of need and not depend upon the political mood of Congress and the Administration as to whether there will be disaster assistance provided to producers.

**Energy:** This farm bill will contain the strongest energy title of any farm bill. The focus will be on cellulosic ethanol research. There is discussion of a five million acre program to allow farmers to grow various crops (switch grass, blue stem, etc.) to determine which crops are best for

cellulosic ethanol. USDA's farm bill proposal would include a number of energy proposals. One that Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns has already announced is a proposal of \$1.6 billion in new funding for renewable energy, with a focus on cellulosic energy research and production. This funding proposal will support President Bush's goal of reducing gasoline usage by 20 percent in the next ten years.

The House and Senate Agriculture Committees have been named. Congressman Collin Peterson (D-MN) will serve as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) will serve as the ranking member. Seventy percent of this committee has never been through a farm bill debate, and only five of the 46 members have considered a farm bill when cuts were made in farm programs. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) will serve as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) will serve as the ranking member. South Dakota will be well represented on the com-

Farm bills are usually a year long process. The following are projected key timeframes for consideration of the farm bill.

**January:** House and Senate Agriculture Committees organize. Subcommittee chairmen, ranking members, and subcommittee members is finalized.

**February:** Administration releases its proposed budget. USDA releases the Administration's farm bill proposal. Potential subcommittee hearings - House Agriculture Committee. Senate Agriculture Committee hearings.

**March/April:** House and Senate Budget Committees expected to complete action on 2008 budget. This will be a key decision for agriculture. The budget allocation for agriculture will determine the direction of farm policy.

**March/April:** House and Senate Agriculture Committee hearings expected on the farm bill and the Administration's proposal.

**May/June:** House and Senate Agriculture Committee chairman would like to complete the farm bill at the subcommittee (House) and full committee.

**July:** Possible consideration by the House of Representatives and the Senate.

**September:** Floor action and conference committee. The goal of the committee chairmen is to complete the farm bill by September 30 when the current farm bill expires. The conference committee will be critical because of the expected differences between the House and Senate versions.

**October-December:** History indicates the farm bill will be completed during this time frame.

mittees with Senator John Thune on the Senate Agriculture Committee and Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth on the House Agriculture Committee.

This will be a very important farm bill for SDCGA, and it will be a long process. SDCGA will be very involved in this debate. We will work closely with the South Dakota Congressional delegation, the leadership of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees, the Administration, and various agricultural and commodity organizations to make certain that SDCGA's voice is heard during this important time.

*Editor's note: Scott Shearer of the Bockorny Group will be representing SDCGA. This will make Shearer's sixth farm bill. His previous farm bill experience includes both the public and private sectors. He worked for a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee and was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture where he served as USDA's liaison to Congress for the 1996 farm bill.*

# Calendar of Events

## **FEBRUARY 19, 2007**

Growing Forward 2007  
– Part II Seminar  
Sioux Falls Ramkota, 9 a.m.

## **FEBRUARY 19, 2007**

Growing Forward 2007  
– Part II Seminar  
Watertown Events Center, 3 p.m.

## **FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

Growing Forward 2007  
– Part II Seminar  
Aberdeen Ramkota, 9 a.m.

## **FEBRUARY 21, 2007**

Growing Forward 2007  
– Part II Seminar  
Huron Crossroads, 9 a.m.

## **FEBRUARY 22, 2007**

Growing Forward 2007  
– Part II Seminar  
Yankton Elks, 9 a.m.

## **FEBRUARY 19-21**

National Ethanol Conference  
Tucson, AZ

## **MARCH 1-3**

Commodity Classic  
Tampa, FL

**SOUTH DAKOTA CORN TALK** is published by the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, a non-profit South Dakota organization. Any articles pertaining to corn, corn products and the corn industry are encouraged and welcomed.

*Save the date!!*

**Corn Cob Open**  
**Thursday, June 21, 2007**  
**Madison Country Club**



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1209  
Sioux Falls, SD

**South Dakota  
Corn Growers Association**  
5109 S. Crossing Place, Ste. 1, Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
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