



SDCGA: EPA must act NOW to adopt higher blends of ethanol

Study confirms E15 and E20 equals performance

Mid-range ethanol blends were given a nod of approval by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) following its year-long study analyzing E15 and E20. The results will fast track the higher blends of ethanol into the marketplace, creating expanded and efficient choices for consumers.

"The DOE findings affirmed what we've known – higher blends of ethanol can be used in our fleet and action must be taken now to allow consumers the fueling choices they've been demanding," said Bill Chase, president of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association. "With the confirmation of the safety and performance of higher blends of ethanol, now it's imperative that the Environmental Protection Agency take action to officially approve E15 and E20 for vehicles and in the marketplace."

Moving beyond E10 will solve critical needs for the ethanol industry which will face 95 percent market saturation for E10 by next year. The 9 billion gallon Renewable Fuels Standard will be exceeded as 13 billion gallons of ethanol come online in 2009, creating what the industry refers to as a "blend wall."

In response to the DOE's study, Jeff Broin of the Sioux Falls-based POET, supported the information.

"This report underscores that increasing our use of ethanol can expand America's energy independence today with no change in car performance or maintenance," said Broin.

"This comes as no surprise, since Brazil has been using higher blends of ethanol in U.S. made autos for years. By increasing the base blend to 20 percent, we could avoid importing an additional 15.5 billion gallons of foreign oil, keeping our dollars here at home. The increase in ethanol production could also create 155,000-310,000 new jobs, according to the Department of Energy's estimates."



The SDCGA will be active in urging the EPA to take whatever action necessary to adopt E15 and E20 as soon as possible.

About the study:

In August 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) initiated a test program to assess the potential impacts of higher intermediate ethanol blends on conventional vehicles and other engines that rely on gasoline. The test program focuses specifically on the effects of intermediate blends of E15 and E20 – gasoline blended with 15 and 20 percent



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bill Chase, SDCGA President

As I write this, our elected officials and financial institutions continue to try to find solid ground amidst financial turmoil. This could affect the agricultural industry and the ethanol industry, as both are heavy users of credit. The SDCGA board and office staff are in constant communication with our elected officials. It is important to keep agricultural concerns at the forefront and let them know how the various issues will affect corn growers in South Dakota.

Many of you share my concerns that we are being squeezed from both sides - inputs are going up while prices are going down. In addition, we wonder how the current nationwide financial crisis will impact our ability to obtain financing to plant in 2009. Be sure to take in Growing Forward meetings in December and February. Steve Johnson, Iowa State University Economist, always has a unique perspective on the economics of agriculture. Details for these important upcoming meetings can be found in this newsletter.

I hope harvest is going well on your farm. We are grateful for the extended growing season this fall. The warm weather was just what we needed in many areas to mature the late-planted or replanted crops. It appears yields are going to be varied across the state, depending on planting dates and timing of the rainfall received.

The South Dakota Corn Growers Annual meeting is scheduled for January 10th in Sioux Falls. Make plans to attend! This gala event provides a forum for education, recognition of corn yield contest winners, and the opportunity to network with fellow producers as we celebrate a successful season and plan for the next one. Make sure you stick around for the banquet that evening. You won't be disappointed!

In this election year, we thought it was important to provide information on issues important to agricultural producers. You'll find a summary of where our candidates stand on issues important to agriculture in this newsletter. It is our privilege and responsibility to vote. Take the time to educate yourself prior to voting.

Harvest is always a busy time. Remember to be safe this harvest season. We push ourselves, sometimes harder than we should. Remember, it's our reward for a year's worth of hard work. Take the time to enjoy what you are doing. Don't be afraid to take a break and have fun with your family, even if it's a picnic in the corn field!

Be sure to call if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to visiting with you at the upcoming events.

Bill Chase



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Higher blends of ethanol Continued from page 1

ethanol, respectively – on emissions, catalyst and engine durability, drivability or operability, and materials associated with these vehicles and engines. This DOE test program includes technical expertise from DOE’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The preliminary report, the first in a series of peer-reviewed reports that will summarize the results of intermediate ethanol blends, provides results from testing E15 and E20 on 13 popular late-model vehicles and 28 small non-road engines, including lawn equipment and generators.

Vehicle results include the following when E15 and E20 were compared with traditional gasoline:

- Tailpipe emissions were similar;
- Under normal operations, catalyst temperatures in the 13 cars were largely unchanged;
- When tested under full-throttle conditions, about half of the cars exhibited slightly increased catalyst temperatures with E15 and E20, compared to traditional gasoline; and,
- Based on informal observations during testing, drivability was unchanged.

Small non-road engine results include the following when E15 and E20 were compared with traditional gasoline:

As ethanol content increased:

- Regulated emissions remained largely unchanged,
- Engine and exhaust temperatures increased;
- Engine performance was inconsistent, even with traditional gasoline;
- Commercial engines, as well as more sophisticated residential engines, exhibited no particular sensitivity to ethanol from a durability perspective; and,
- The effect of E15 and E20 on the durability of smaller, less expensive residential engines (e.g., line trimmers) was not clear given that a number of these engines failed regardless of fuel type.



For the full intermediate blend report visit:
http://feerc.ornl.gov/publications/Int_blends_Rpt_1.pdf

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Getting to know the ACRE Program: Producers' safety net

By Lynn Tjeerdsma

Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, USDA Farm Service Agency

I very much appreciate the invitation to write a column for this newsletter. As I try to collect my thoughts in writing this I reflect back over the past couple of years and cannot recall a single period of time during which more monumental changes have occurred that affect agriculture.

First of all let me introduce myself. Although I've spent most of the past 20 years living in the Washington, D.C. area, I still consider South Dakota home - and always will. I grew up in Charles Mix County about 25 miles northwest of Platte where my great-grandfather homesteaded in 1883. I am fortunate to now own this farm as well as another in Brule County which I operated for nearly 15 years.

Since 1985, the last year I actively operated my farms, I have been privileged to have various career opportunities, all agriculture related. I have served as County Executive Director in Moody County, S.D., and Cass County, Neb. I spent 2 1/2 years as legislative assistant for agriculture and trade for U.S. Senator Larry Pressler, and have been a program specialist and Branch Chief for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Washington, D.C., Policy Initiatives Manager for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Agriculture Policy Advisor for U.S. Senator John Thune, and as of about five weeks ago, now serve as Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs at USDA's Farm Service Agency.

As everyone reading this knows by now, we have a 2008 Farm Bill, which even though it took months longer to pass than it should have, unfortunately, still holds many unknowns for nearly every farmer and rancher.

The Commodity Title's direct and counter-cyclical programs and payment rates remained, for the most part relatively unchanged, as did the marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payment structure.

Let me share with you that three components of the 2008 Farm Bill which affect most agriculture operations, have also created the greatest challenges I've ever experienced in my nearly 20 years of working at USDA.

The Commodity Title's average crop revenue election (ACRE) program, permanent disaster's supplemental revenue enhancement (SURE) program, and payment limitations'

ACRE Calculators available for SDCGA members!

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) has co-sponsored the development of a computer program that will perform detailed benefit analysis of producer operations under traditional farm programs versus the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program.

SDCGA members are eligible to receive a copy of the program and its accompanying informational brochure as a membership benefit! Watch for more details soon.

Because the USDA has not finished its final rule-making procedures, some of the assumptions in the program could change. Updates will be available on the University of Illinois website as changes occur.

requirements for direct attribution individually and collectively make the 2008 Farm Bill the most complex of any I've had the opportunity to deliver.

Production agriculture's disproportionately small share of the 2008 Farm Bill is meant to serve as a safety net, and I personally believe that the ACRE program which the SD Corn Growers tirelessly advocated for in both the U.S. and Senate and House during the farm bill debate is a step in the

right direction to transition federal farm policy from the controversial direct payments and currently ineffective counter-cyclical payments to effective and common-sense revenue protection.

Input costs have soared the past two crop years and for the 2009 crop year are not expected to decrease, and more than likely will increase. Commodity prices have dropped substantially from last spring and early summer's highs to levels for most commodities that are near the costs of production.

What this means is that the ACRE program is becoming more and more important as a potential safety net for production agriculture. As I write this USDA has not made a final determination on which two year average to use to determine the baseline for the 2009 crop year - the first year ACRE will be implemented. The final decision will be made at the highest levels within USDA and in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, simply because the cost difference between using the 2006-2007 crop years or the 2007-2008 crop years, according to economic analysts, is projected at about \$10 billion.

I'm pleased to say that for most Commodity Title programs, the policy development, including regulation drafting for ACRE and other farm bill programs is nearly complete.

In closing I'd like to say that thanks to the efforts and sacrifices of the South Dakota Corn Growers with your visits, phone calls, and oftentimes requested input from directors and professional staff, the 2008 Farm Bill is a better farm bill. Additionally, I'd like to add that it is none too soon to think about proposals for the next farm bill. I'd also like to assure you that as my career path once again is directed to USDA I will continue working for the best interest of agriculture, and as always, with a special place in my heart for South Dakota.

Cash crunch: It's all about ENERGY

As South Dakota corn producers, we are well aware that our corn and ethanol industries have been taking the blame for rising costs of food and fuel in our nation. When the facts are revealed, however, ethanol always wins. To deliver that message the Ethanol Promotion and Information Council (EPIC) has developed a new "Food and Fuel" media kit that is being sent to over 300 mainstream media over the next two weeks.

The kit is shaped like a grocery bag and has die-cut inserts such as a half gallon of milk, an egg carton, and a loaf of bread, each containing the facts about how much corn actually goes into each product. The kits is a unique piece that will no doubt, get the attention of the reporters.

Following are some highlights of the kit and the SDCGA encourages our members to use this information to help combat misinformation about the corn and ethanol industries.

Fact: Studies show that only 4 percent of the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is directly related to corn prices. The balance of the cost of rising food prices is due to marketing, advertising and transportation. *Source: Consumer Federation of America (CFA)*

DOMESTIC PRICE INCREASES

- 80% of the retail grocery cost is added after the food leaves the farm. On average, farmers get only 19 cents of each food dollar.
- Skyrocketing fuel costs are the biggest reason for food price increases, as the cost of transporting the food we eat across the country (approximately 1,500 miles from field to table) is passed on to the consumer. We see the effects at the grocery store and every time we buy gasoline. You

can help reduce your grocery bills by buying local produce and thereby significantly lowering transportation costs. *Source: Consumer Federation of America (CPA)*

- On every acre a farmer plants, escalating oil prices are in turn increasing production costs and lowering return on investment. The price of diesel fuel, for example, has increased by 35 to 40 percent over the last year, and this significantly affected crop input costs. *Source: National Corn Growers Association (NCGA)*

- According to a recent study by Texas A&M University, the true underlying culprit of changes in the agriculture industry, and the economy as a whole, is the sharp rise in the cost of energy. Oil prices of more than \$120 a barrel directly affect food prices. Consumers, however, can play a role in addressing this problem: Using alternative fuels such as ethanol helps to extend our fuel supply. *Source: "The Effects of Ethanol on Texas Food and Feed," Agricultural and Food Policy Center, Texas A&M University*



FUEL PRICES WITHOUT ETHANOL

- Without an alternative fuel source such as ethanol, the price of gasoline would spike at least another 14.6 percent. As an example: If gasoline is \$4 a gallon at the pump with the current availability of ethanol, it would jump to \$4.58 a gallon without the use of ethanol as an alternative fuel. *Source: Merrill Lynch*
- The addition of ethanol to U.S. gasoline supplies helps keep gasoline prices down, and also helps keep the price of crude oil lower than it otherwise would be by reducing overall demand. This prevents the cost of food from increasing even more. *Source: Renewable Fuels Association*

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SDCGA Resolutions Reminder!

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association invites our members to participate in submitting resolutions for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

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

Resolutions must be submitted 30 days prior to the 2009 SDCGA Annual Meeting, which will be held in Sioux Falls on Jan. 10, 2009. Therefore, the deadline for submitting resolutions is Dec. 10, 2008.

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

Calendar of Events

NOV. 3-5, 2008

USMEF Conference
Tucson, AZ

DEC. 1-4, 2008

Growing Forward 2009
Aberdeen, Watertown, Huron, Mitchell,
Yankton, Sioux Falls

DEC. 8-9, 2008

SDCGA Board Meeting
Sioux Falls

DEC. 10-11, 2008

SDCUC Board Meeting
Sioux Falls

JAN. 10, 2009

SDCGA Annual Meeting
Sioux Falls

JAN. 14-15, 2009

Ag Expo
Sioux Falls

JAN. 15-16, 2009

NCGA Priority & Policy Conference
St. Louis, MO

FEB. 2-5, 2009

Growing Forward 2009 Part II
Aberdeen, Watertown, Huron, Yankton,
Sioux Falls

FEB. 7-11, 2009

US Grains Council International Marketing
Conference
Guatemala City, Mexico

FEB. 23-25, 2009

RFA National Ethanol Conference
San Antonio, TX

FEB. 25-28, 2009

Commodity Classic
Grapevine, TX

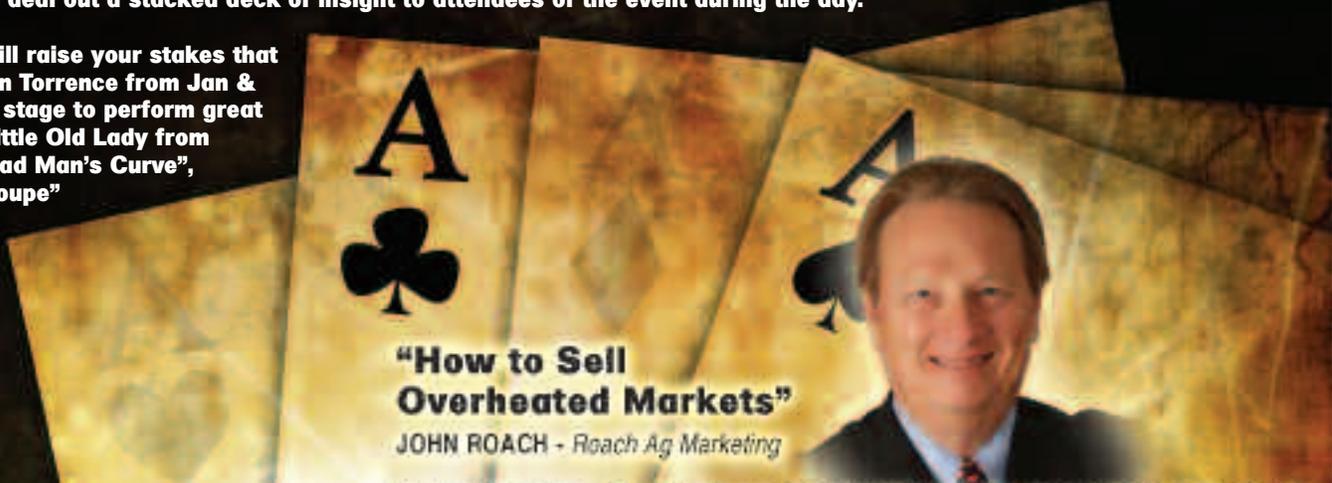


WIN BIG IN 2009!

Hit the jackpot in 2009 by getting your game on the right track at the South Dakota Corn Growers Association's 23rd Annual Meeting January 10 at the Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel.

"CORNCINO – Win Big in 2009" will offer information you can bet on to help your operation cash in on market opportunities in the next year. Leading experts in future trends, marketing and carbon will deal out a stacked deck of insight to attendees of the event during the day.

Then SDCGA will raise your stakes that evening as Dean Torrence from Jan & Dean takes the stage to perform great hits like "The Little Old Lady from Pasadena", "Dead Man's Curve", "Little Deuce Coupe" and more!



"How to Sell Overheated Markets"

JOHN ROACH - *Roach Ag Marketing*

Helping farmers make good marketing decisions is the cornerstone of Roach Ag Marketing, the full-service commodity brokerage company founded by John Roach. Best known as the Senior Market Analyst for the award winning and nationally syndicated Public Broadcasting program Market to Market, Roach brings decades of insight to his ag audiences. Never before has protecting yourself with volatile markets and increasing input costs been more imperative to your business. Roach will deliver marketing strategies and outlooks to SDCGA Annual Meeting attendees.



The South Dakota Corn Growers Association is excited to announce a Jan & Dean night of entertainment featuring Dean Torrence.



"The Future and Success in Agriculture: It's a Journey, Not a Destination."

ED BARLOW - *President of Creating the Future, Inc*

Join futurist Ed Barlow as he takes us on a journey through the uncharted territory of the 21st Century. Explore with him the continuum of structural change that is occurring in the world, the economy, the environment, science and technology, consumer demographics and the workforce. Consider the implications of these changes for agriculture in general, our respective businesses and the communities within which we live. You don't want to miss this most insightful, thought-provoking and entertaining session.

What makes you the best candidate for South Dakota's agricultural industry and producers?

With the election right around the corner, the South Dakota Corn Growers Association wants to make sure our membership has the tools to be informed voters on Nov. 4.

SDCGA asked each of South Dakota Congressional candidates why he or she is the best representation for South Dakota's ag producers and industry. Their responses follow:

U.S. HOUSE CANDIDATES



STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN



Growing up on my family's fourth-generation farm and ranch near Houghton, SD, I know firsthand that agriculture remains the key driver of our economic growth. As South Dakota's lone member of Congress, and through my service on the House Agriculture Committee, I was proud to have played a central role in crafting the Farm Bill that passed in 2008. I was very pleased to take input I received from thousands of South Dakotans to help ensure that the bill reflects the

needs and priorities of our state's producers. The Farm Bill is the single most important piece of legislation for South Dakota producers, families, and businesses, and it's critical to ensuring the viability of farm and ranch operations across the state.

The final version of the bill did not include everything that we would like, but it nonetheless includes critical reforms of key farm programs while maintaining a solid safety net for producers, permanent disaster assistance, a new livestock title, provisions to encourage the development of renewable sources of energy, increased spending for domestic and international food assistance, and increased funding for conservation programs.

I am pleased that several key provisions I authored were included in the final bill that was enacted, including delaying FSA and other USDA office closures for two years; improving access to broadband internet in rural America, and programs providing assistance for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Through my work on the House Agriculture Committee, I will continue to find ways to protect our family farms and ranches that complement and facilitate new economic growth in our communities; to level the playing field at home and abroad for American agriculture; and to keep feeding the world throughout this new century. We all have a stake in creating an environment where young people can thrive on and around our farms and ranches.

We must also remain committed to ensuring that South Dakota continues to lead the way when it comes to developing homegrown renewable fuels like ethanol, biodiesel and wind. The renewable energy industry not only benefits South Dakota's economy through value-added agriculture, but also helps the environment and our health by keeping our air clean, and reduces our dependence on foreign oil. In Congress, I am leading efforts to maintain the Renewable Fuels Standard which was passed into law in December; expand the definition of renewable biomass to include resources from our forests; promote the development of wind energy; and support research into next generation and cellulosic biofuels.



CHRIS LIEN



My name is Chris Lien and I'm running for the United States House of Representatives. I made the transition from a constituent to a candidate because, like many South Dakotans, I believe that Congress is broken.

Rather than take a poll, I hit the road to over 200 communities and all 66 counties to listen to the challenges you face as South Dakotans. Along the way, I have had the opportunity to hear many of the issues that South Dakota families and specifically South Dakota farm families deal each and every day. These families simply want the tools and freedom to move their families, communities and farms forward.

I have built a campaign that focuses on listening to the people of South Dakota because I believe that the solutions to our nation's problems won't come from Washington alone. It takes leadership at all levels – local, state and national – to ensure progress.

There are many issues that are to a point of crisis in our country: the economy, energy, health care and health insurance, and immigration. But I believe these are all symptoms of a much bigger problem: the shortsighted policy approach and lack of leadership we've seen from Washington in the past several years. By focusing Congress on the next generation rather than the next election, we can ensure that these challenges are faced well before they become crises.

This is especially true in agriculture policy. Whether it is the price of fuel, support of ethanol or the implications of trade policy, agriculture and the families who make their living in the industry, are often the last people considered in the decision making process. This year, Congress passed the 2007 Farm Bill. The biggest problem with this legislation was that production agriculture only accounted for 18 percent of the bill's provision. Our farm families carried the bulk of the responsibility for this bill and received the majority of the criticism for it, yet only received 18 percent of the benefit. I believe that Congress can work more efficiently by addressing issues on a one-by-one basis. Because agriculture is so critical to our economy, it doesn't need to be weighed down in the legislative process by less viable and often controversial nutrition and urban funding.

My belief is that the federal government is there to assist, but that individuals should be given the freedom to make decisions. With the advances that we've seen in farming, it's not just about agriculture anymore, but it's about business as well and farmers themselves must have the authority over agribusiness decisions. With margins tightening and input costs increasing, this autonomy is more important than ever. By clearing some of the federal bureaucracy and removing the red tape, our farmers will have the chance to seize their own destinies and define their own future.

Throughout this state, I have spoken with farmers on all sides of these critical issues. I have asked them to commit to keep sharing what it is important to them and their families and, in return, I commit to providing a strong voice for South Dakota's farmers in the U.S. Congress.



TIM JOHNSON



U.S. SENATE CANDIDATES



I have a solid and dependable record supporting renewable fuels, working with my colleagues in the United States Senate to achieve considerable success for South Dakota over the past several years. Since 2005, Congress has passed two comprehensive and groundbreaking laws that place biofuels at the center of the country's long-term energy strategy. As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I have worked in tandem with Democrats and Republicans to forge a bipartisan consensus supporting homegrown renewable fuels. In 2005 I worked extensively with Democratic Senator Byron Dorgan and former Republican Senator Jim Talent to push through the first nationwide Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). We battled the naysayers from California and Texas who said that a national commitment to ethanol and biodiesel would be unworkable for fuel distributors and would burden consumers.

As a Senator representing a rural state without a large population base, it requires a determination to fight for our interests in order to overcome the objections from Republicans and Democrats in Washington, D.C. disconnected from the tenants of rural America. Partnering with the President, the Congress built on the Energy Committee's efforts to pass the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the first nationwide RFS. For a decade the oil lobby and naysayers from the coasts blocked the RFS. It was a tremendous victory for consumers and our nation's energy security when Congress overcame those objections to pass a law that will wean our dependence on foreign oil.

Additionally this past summer, against this Administration's wishes, my colleagues and I worked to move a new Farm Bill. I have consistently worked with my colleagues in the United States Senate to push for an effective farm bill policy, most recently on June 18, 2008 overriding the President's veto of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. I fought, with colleagues from both sides of the aisle, to include a number of priorities that are important to South Dakota in the bill. These priorities include a structured approach to agriculture disaster that will not function as a disincentive for crop insurance, as well as a commodities safety net and a comprehensive crop insurance program. Agriculture in South Dakota contributes \$19.262 billion to the state's total economic output, underscoring the critical importance of a solid Farm Bill that works for our farmers and ranchers.

It's important to note that while reauthorizing our federal farm programs is an important process; these promised programs are only as good as the money put behind them. From my seat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and more specifically, the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I will continue to fight for funding for programs that are important to South Dakota and to ensure that Farm Bill programs are delivered as Congress intended.

Energy and agriculture policy will continue to be linked as the country calls on producers to not only produce food and fiber for a growing economy, but also to produce the energy necessary to decrease dependence on fossil fuels. From the groundbreaking energy title in the recently-passed Farm Bill to a critical effort at growing markets for biobased products at home and abroad, I have the track record, experience and clout to deliver for South Dakota, and to continue to do so in the year ahead.

JOEL DYKSTRA



Agriculture is South Dakota's largest industry, and agricultural issues are among our state's highest federal legislative priorities. My experience in business and in the legislature has provided me with the opportunity to develop close relationships with leaders of our state's agricultural community. That means I will hit the ground running on their priorities.

In Washington, I will promote fiscal responsibility and will oppose tax increases that will hurt South Dakota's farmers and ranchers. I will defend the Renewable Fuels Standard and the extension of essential tax credit incentives for the biofuels industry. I will support agricultural research, especially for development of cellulosic ethanol technology.

I will fight tirelessly for a comprehensive energy policy that incorporates drilling in America for American oil, expansion of renewable fuels, wind power, modern, safe nuclear power and clean coal technology. I will work to expand energy conservation, while encouraging development of new technologies that will power our economy in the next century.

A safe and abundant food supply is a matter of national security. As Senator, I will protect the safety net provisions of the farm program. This includes federal funding of the crop insurance program. I will promote robust conservation programs that reward environmental stewardship.

Exports are critical to long term prosperity for South Dakota agriculture. I will continue to promote fair and open trade through carefully negotiated trade agreements.

The maintenance and enhancement of our transportation infrastructure is vital for agriculture. Railroad and highway infrastructure must receive adequate federal funding so that South Dakota's farmers and ranchers are able to transport their products to market.

Our livestock industry is a major part of South Dakota's agricultural economy, both as an economic engine in its own right, and as the main market for corn and other grains. As Senator, I will promote federal policy that supports the livestock industry and protects it from the attacks of the anti-animal agriculture movement and the burden of excessive regulation.

Producers have a direct stake in the health care policy decisions made by Washington in the coming term. South Dakota has a higher percentage of its population in individual health insurance coverage than most states, due in part to the proportion of our population that is self-employed, particularly farmers and ranchers. We must resist a big government take-over of our health care system. We can find ways to increase competition and consumer knowledge to encourage better health care consumer decisions. I will fight to remove the unfair tax treatment that makes individual policies more expensive than group policies, and expand competition in the insurance market to reduce premiums for farm families.

The economic future of our state is dependent on the strength of our agricultural industry. As South Dakota's next Senator, I will fight for our farmers and ranchers and represent their best interests in Washington.

2008 Presidential Candidates on the Issues

The National Corn Growers Association collected responses from both presidential candidates regarding their platforms on issues important to agriculture and renewable energy. Due to space constraints, their partial responses are below; for full details, go to the SD Corn website at www.sdcorn.org to read more.

The SDCGA urges our members to consider these positions and how each candidate may best support your business when you go to the polls.



BARACK
OBAMA



JOHN
McCAIN



Farm Bill and Safety Net

I support a robust safety net that targets assistance appropriately and provides farmers with risk mitigation tools that protect them from weather and market conditions that are beyond their control. This includes traditional farm programs, crop insurance, and disaster assistance. I supported the 2008 Farm Bill and both the bill's Permanent Disaster Program

and ad hoc disaster assistance when farmers in Illinois and around the country have needed it. I am pleased to see that the final version of the Farm Bill contains a new revenue counter-cyclical program, the Average Crop Revenue Program (ACRE), which was developed with the National Corn Growers. This program should provide farmers with new tools to mitigate risk, and I hope that the U.S. Department of Agriculture implements it in keeping with the intent of Congress, so that it works for farmers.

Ethanol/Renewable Energy

I am a strong supporter of efforts to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by promoting the development of renewable energy, including biofuels, solar, and wind energy. Farmers are on the cutting edge of America's path to energy independence. We are already replacing millions of barrels of imported oil thanks to our successful biofuels program, and I recently established a goal to have 60 billion gallons of our fuel come from biofuels by 2022. I am a proud supporter of the Renewable Fuels Standard and tax incentives for biofuels. I'll invest \$150 billion over the next ten years in our green energy sector, enhancing farmer profitability, injecting capital into rural economies, and creating up to 5 million new jobs in the process – jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced.

Environmental Regulation

As president, I will support balanced policies to encourage responsible stewardship of our natural treasures and reverse the Bush administration's attempts to chip away at our nation's clean air and water standards.

Under an Obama administration, we will make it a priority to bring stakeholders to the table when important public policy decisions impacting agriculture are considered, whether it is at the USDA or EPA. In addition, I will restore the basic principle that government decisions should be based on the best available, scientifically-valid evidence and not on the ideological predispositions of agency officials or political appointees. More broadly, I am committed to providing Americans with the tools to participate in their democracy using cutting-edge technologies to provide a new level of transparency, accountability, and participation for America's citizens. And finally, aside from the best available science, my administration will take into consideration the economic consequences of our decisions.

Farm Bill and Safety Net

America needs a risk management program for agriculture that reflects the realities of the global marketplace for food, fuel and fiber in the 21st century. When farmers suffer from a natural disaster such as droughts or floods, we should assist them – this is a commitment we have made to our farmers and I will honor it. I am firmly committed to bringing the agriculture community together to develop a sustainable market-driven system of risk management. Rapidly rising input costs and fluctuating commodity prices threaten the financial stability of American agriculture. The 21st century global agriculture market is too complex for America's farmers to rely on an out-moded system of pre-determined countercyclical payments that assumes narrow trading bands for these input costs and commodity prices. A market-based system of risk management will furthermore eliminate the influence of special interests on America's agricultural policy. I will focus agriculture policy on meeting the food, fiber, feed and energy needs of America and the world. As President, I will approach America's agriculture policy with the goal of ensuring our farm, ranch, timber and commercial fishing industries are competitive in the global marketplace. Consistent with my longstanding position, I will oppose subsidies, which distort markets, artificially raise prices for consumers, and interfere with America's ability to negotiate with our international trading partners to the detriment of the entire agriculture community.

Ethanol

Our nation's future security and prosperity depends on the next President making the hard choices to break our nation's strategic dependence on foreign sources of energy and cut off the flow of oil wealth to repressive dictatorships. I will push our country to make the necessary choices - producing more power, pushing technology such as flex fuel vehicles (FFVs) to help free our transportation sector from its use of foreign oil, cleaning up our air and addressing climate change, and ensuring that Americans have dependable energy sources. Bio-fuel technologies of all types will play an important role in supporting this goal. I do not support the current system of tariffs, subsidies and mandates. Rather, as a country, we must focus on stimulating end-user demand for renewable energy and creating a consistent regulatory and tax framework that encourages investment in research, domestic refining capacity, and distribution systems to promote energy independence.

Environmental Regulation

As President I will launch an ambitious research agenda—a 21st Century Green Revolution—to enable farmers and ranchers to make better use of natural resources, cutting costs and making farms more productive, while promoting responsible stewardship of our environment. By developing new agricultural techniques and technologies, we can rejuvenate America's agricultural industry while conserving our natural resources and combating climate change. In addition, my comprehensive cap-and-trade plan to halt climate change exempts agriculture and small businesses, while providing the agricultural sector the opportunity to develop carbon credits to trade to other sectors subject to the emissions caps. This practical approach ensures the continuing viability of our agriculture industry while cutting greenhouse gas emissions 60 percent by 2050. I will also promote conservation programs that encourage maximum environmental protec-

2008 Presidential Candidates on the Issues

BARACK OBAMA continued

Infrastructure

One of the hurdles farmers and those in rural America face is the creation of a modern transportation system. As president, I will increase funding so that we can upgrade and maintain our waterways as they are a vital component of our rural infrastructure and enhance the competitiveness of our homegrown products. As your members know, I have long supported infrastructure projects that will support our nation's farmers and strengthen our economy. I joined with you to push for the passage for the Water Resources Development Act, which authorized major upgrades to our waterways infrastructure, including the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System, and I will work to provide the funding necessary to advance these new projects. I will also invest in rural communities by improving rural transportation infrastructure, increasing the availability of high-speed internet access and cell phone service.

As part of my emergency economic plan, I have called for the creation of a \$25 billion Jobs and Growth Fund, which will partially be used to replenish the Highway Trust Fund so that our important infrastructure projects continue to receive adequate funding.

My administration will also create a new independent, expert-run National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank to invest \$60 billion in additional direct federal funding over 10 years into our transportation infrastructure. This Bank will use this \$60 billion to leverage private and public capital to spur even more investments beyond today's funding into our infrastructure. ■

JOHN McCAIN continued

tion of America's farmlands, which will assist farmers and ranchers in the protection of wildlife and rivers.

Infrastructure

I believe that the 65 million Americans who live in America's rural heartland deserve 21st century services, jobs, education and healthcare. Advances in agriculture, information technology, and business opportunities will allow rural Americans to create their own economic opportunities that are the key to expanding economic prosperity throughout rural America.

I support improving the flow of private capital, broadening the availability of technology, supporting the rapid evolution of bio-fuels technology into a sustainable industry and strengthening the infrastructure necessary to deliver the economic output of rural America to the global market. I will work to allow a serious investment in upgrading our national grid to meet the demands of the 21st century. Rural America can play a leading role in generating energy from bio-fuel, bio-mass, geothermal, solar and wind sources, but in order for this energy to reach consumers nationwide, we must improve and advance our grid system. Access to high-speed Internet services facilitates interstate commerce, drives innovation, promotes educational achievements, allows access to health services, and literally has the potential to change lives. As president, I will continue to encourage private investment to facilitate the build-out of infrastructure to provide high-speed Internet connectivity all over America. However, where private industry does not answer the call because of market failures or other obstacles, John McCain believes that people acting through their local governments should be able to invest in their own future by building out infrastructure to provide high-speed Internet services. For this reason, Senator McCain introduced the "Community Broadband Bill," which would allow local governments to offer such services, particularly when private industry fails to do so. ■



The South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) worked to secure funds through the National Corn Growers Association's (NCGA) Political Action Committee on behalf of Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin for her leadership in Congress and to assist her campaign efforts. SDCGA president Bill Chase presented the NCGA CornPAC check to Rep. Herseth Sandlin.



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C O R P O R A T E P A R T N E R

GROWING FORWARD 2009:

Attend one of our upcoming Growing Forward educational opportunities

In this pivotal time in agriculture, farmers are eager to maximize their profits while securing a future for their business. When the stakes are high, so are the opportunities and for that reason the South Dakota

Corn Growers Association, South Dakota Corn Utilization Council and Farm Credit Services of America will offer Growing Forward 2009. This special outlook on crop marketing, estate planning and crop insurance strategies will position producers with growth strategies for 2009.

The future financial success of your operation begins at Growing Forward 2009. Whether you've attended a previous Growing Forward program or not, you won't want to miss the unique expertise offered at these seminars.

Learn how to tailor today's marketplace and technology to your advantage. Your marketing plan will begin to take shape at these meetings as you understand 2009 crop price outlooks while learning how to utilize crop revenue insurance tools.

In short, we'll be talking about how to make your farming operation more profitable in 2009 by providing valuable insights into the key issues producers will be facing in the coming year and beyond.

Growing Forward 2009 Highlights:

"Balancing Food, Fuel & Farm Finances"

Steven D. Johnson – Farm & Ag Business Management Field Specialist

Topics include:

- Crop Supply/Demand & Price Outlook
- Making Grain Storage and Marketing Decisions
- Enhancing Multi-Year Revenue Decisions
- Reducing Crop Input Costs
- 2008 FB Changes
- Understanding Specialty Crop Production Contracts with Growing Demand for Bio-Fuel

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

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

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

ESTATE/SUCCESSION PLANNING

Eide Bailly will offer insights into key estate and tax implications, including:

- Tax Strategies for Farmers and Ranchers
- Financial Planning Strategies
- Estate Planning
- Farm Succession Planning

GROWING FORWARD 2009

DECEMBER 1-4, 2008

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2009

PART I RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:



Dr. Steven D. Johnson, Ph.D.

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 management strategies.

Also on the Growing Forward agenda: Estate Planning

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 programs 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.

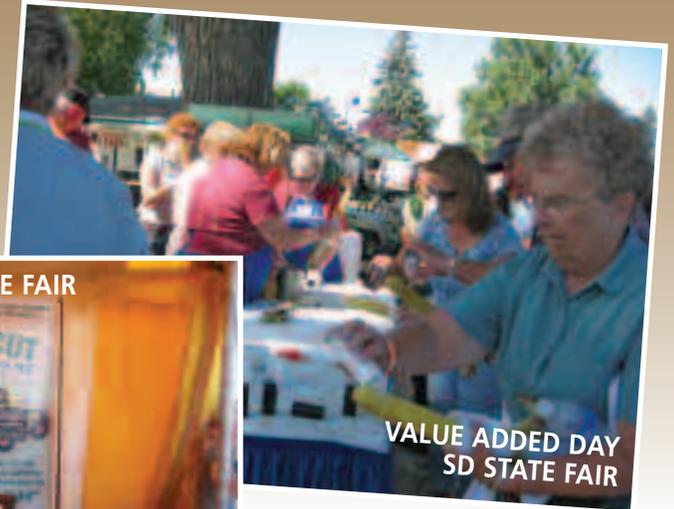


Weather outlook and impacts: Bryce Anderson – DTN

Bryce Anderson has been DTN's chief ag meteorologist since 1991. He writes and broadcasts agricultural 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.

Watch for more details on this program coming soon!

SDCGA AT 2008 SUMMER EVENTS



DAKOTAFEST



DAKOTAFEST



A "Cut Above the Rest"



The South Dakota Corn Growers Association teamed up with Campbell's Supply to offer "A Cut Above the Rest" raffle promotion at summer events. Campbell's sponsored the major prize giveaway of a Cub Cadet Commercial Enforcer 54.

The Cub Cadet was a large draw at all events including the Canaries Baseball Stadium, Dakotafes and Value-Added Agriculture Day at the South Dakota State Fair. After attendees of those events had an opportunity to enter the raffle, the a winner of the mower was drawn at a special customer appreciation event held on Sept. 6 at the Campbell's Supply location on East 10 St. in Sioux Falls.

The winner of the mower was Charles Nachtigal of Platte.

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

MEMBERSHIP 2008

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 Membership Application

- \$800 Lifetime membership (SDCGA & NCGA)
 Includes five \$30 Seed Certificates, \$25 in Ethanol, 12-month subscription to DTN Mobile and \$50 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 _____

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 _____

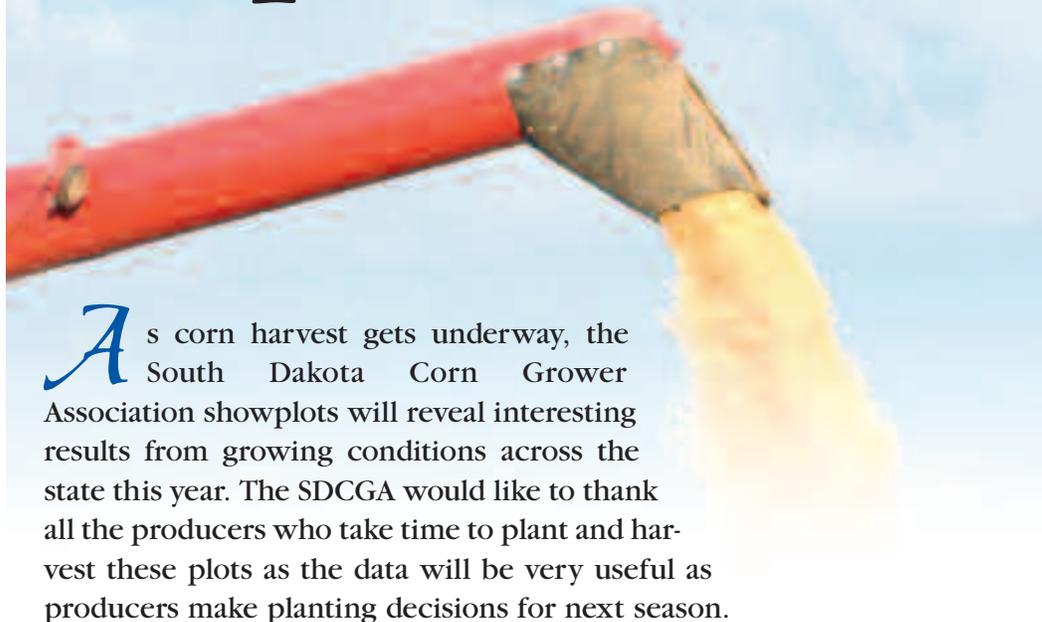
E-mail Address _____

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.

2008 Showplot Cooperators



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

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

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

**CLAY COUNTY
DISTRICT 1**
Reid Jensen

**BEADLE COUNTY
DISTRICT 8**
Bill Chase

**AURORA COUNTY
DISTRICT 11**
David Reinesch

**MOODY COUNTY
DISTRICT 4**
Jason Kontz

**SPINK COUNTY
DISTRICT 13**
Rodney Bade

**HUGHES COUNTY
DISTRICT 12**
Marv Schumacher

**BROOKINGS COUNTY
DISTRICT 5**
Joe & Keith Ebbers

**DAVISON COUNTY
DISTRICT 9**
Chad Blindauer

**BROWN COUNTY
DISTRICT 13**
Allen Walter

**CODINGTON COUNTY
DISTRICT 6**
John Kittelson

**HUTCHINSON COUNTY
DISTRICT 10**
Brent Rames

**TRIPP COUNTY
DISTRICT 14**
Bryan Jorgensen

NCGA-BASF Agriculture Scholarship Program Enters Sophomore Year

The National Corn Growers Association and the BASF Corp. have joined forces for the second year to award five \$1,000 scholarships annually to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related field.

"Education is critical to the future success of agriculture and BASF is very pleased to partner with the NCGA again this year to help deserving students pursue their dreams," said Markus Heldt, group vice president, North America, BASF. "BASF and the NCGA share a common vision of creating opportunities for corn growers and their families. We believe this scholarship program is one way to help make that vision a reality."

NCGA President Bob Dickey thanked BASF for its sponsorship.

"We really appreciate the fact that BASF has shown leadership in supporting this program," Dickey said. "Our agribusiness partners are an important part of our ability to provide high-quality and innovative services to our members and our industry."

Applicants for the NCGA Academic Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship Program must be entering at least their second undergraduate year, and they or a parent or legal guardian must be an NCGA member. Scholarship applications can be submitted as early as Nov. 1, 2008, but must be postmarked on or before Jan. 23, 2009. Complete rules are in the application packet at www.ncga.com/scholarship.

Producers are eligible for Energy Efficiency Grants

Grain dryers, heating systems, irrigation are possible grant projects

America's 21st century energy landscape presents needs that are greater than ever before. We face new challenges to reduce dependence on imported oil, to improve the environment and to make clean, affordable energy alternatives available to consumers. USDA Rural Development is helping to lead the way in the drive to produce more and higher quality domestic renewable energy. To accomplish this, USDA Rural Development has turned to the agriculture sector – finding energy solutions in our fields and helping rural residents and communities access renewable energy systems and to provide the feedstock for renewable energy production.



JAFAR KARIM
USDA Rural
Development Director

"Now, more than ever, it's critical for USDA Rural Development to help drive the development of renewable energy sources and to encourage its use," said USDA Rural Development State Director Jafar Karim. "USDA Secretary Ed Schafer and Under Secretary Tom Dorr recognize this through our mission to help secure the future of rural communities. Our ag sector and rural communities are ideally positioned to be a part of both the production and consumption of renewables. We need to grab a hold of this opportunity, which can lead to jobs, economic opportunity and investment for this and the next generation."

USDA Rural Development provides funding for the development and commercialization of renewable energy resources – including wind, solar, geothermal, hydrogen, biomass (organic materials from plants and animals) and biofuel (ethanol, biodiesel, etc.) – to change the way people power their cars, homes, businesses and industries.

Since the energy programs inception in 2003, USDA Rural Development has been working with many partners to assist farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses in developing

renewable energy systems, and in making energy-efficiency improvements to agricultural producer and rural small business operations. For example the renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement program usage in South Dakota for the time period covering Fiscal Year 2006 – 2008 is below:

"Since the projects are awarded on a national basis, access is very competitive," Karim said. "But over the course of the last three years, South Dakota's share of these loans and grants has grown because of the increased interest of small businesses and producers to use the programs to improve energy efficiency of their operations and to rely on renewable energy sources."

Interest in the energy efficiency and renewable energy program doesn't stop at South Dakota's borders. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, funding for the program, known as the Rural Energy for America Program, is expected to more than double.

"The potential for South Dakota to see even more projects, like wind, solar, and biomass should increase with the growth of this program," Karim said. "In the long run, this will help make renewable energy sources commercially viable, reduce cost and increase economic growth in rural communities."



Another way to encourage development of renewable energy projects and value added processing is USDA Rural Development's Business and Industry (B&I) guaranteed loan program. Using B&I loan guarantees, USDA Rural Development works with private lenders to increase the pool of investment capital available in rural areas.

"The Business and Industry loan guarantee is another great tool for stimulating investment in rural areas," Karim continued.

	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006
Loans	\$156,289	\$127,262	None
Grants	\$296,831	\$316,763	\$15,140
Total Loans/Grants	\$453,120	\$444,025	\$15,140
Example of Funded	1 irrigation system, 6 grain dryers, 1 geothermal heating, installation of domestic water, in-floor solar powered heating system, and energy efficiency improvements to a hobby shop and grocery store lightening, cooling and freezers.	3 irrigation systems, 2 grain dryers, 2 geothermal heating, and one for replacement of windows for energy improvements.	Replace propane heating system with corn fed heating system.

Other USDA Rural Development programs that could assist value-added and energy development are highlighted below. A full description of these programs may be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd/>.

- **Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program** provides financial backing for rural businesses through guarantees up to 80 percent of a loan made by a commercial lender. Loans may be used for working capital, machinery and equipment, buildings and real estate, and certain types of debt refinancing. Biobased, bioenergy and other qualified energy projects may be financed through the program. The maximum B&I Guaranteed Loan that can be offered to any one borrower under this program is \$25 million. A maximum of 10 percent of program funding is available to value-added cooperative organizations for loans above \$25 million up to a maximum aggregate of \$40 million.
- **The 2008 Farm Bill Renewable Energy Provisions** encourage renewable energy development and more information can be found on the following web site: http://www.usda.gov/documents/FB08_Pub_Mtg_Renewable_Energy_Factsheet.pdf.
- **Value-Added Producer Grant Program** provides grants for planning activities and for working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products, and for farm-based renewable energy. Priority is given to applicants who have at least 51 percent of project costs dedicated to activities for a bioenergy project. Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, ag producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. The maximum for a planning grant is \$100,000, or \$300,000 for a working capital grant.
- **Biobased Products and Bioenergy Program** provides Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loans to finance technologies that convert biomass into affordable electricity, fuel chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other materials in cost-competitive ways for large national and international markets.
- **Cooperative Energy Programs** conduct and oversee a range of research related to the economics and business of renewable energy.
- **Biomass Research and Development Program**, jointly operated by the Departments of Agriculture and Energy, provides research and development grants for biobased products, bioenergy, biofuels, biopower and related processes.
- **Direct and Guaranteed Electric Loan Program** provides financing to eligible non-profit utility organizations, such as electric cooperatives and public utility districts, to develop renewable energy, biomass, photovoltaic, and wind-powered renewable energy projects developed by Electric Program loan borrowers.

- **Business-Oriented Programs** can be used to assist qualified energy-efficiency projects. **Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program**, which facilitates development of small and emerging private rural business enterprises; the **Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program**, which sustains economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs; and, the **Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program**, which provides loans and/or grants toward sustainable rural economic development and job creation projects for Rural Development electric and telephone utilities loan borrowers.
- **Residential Energy Programs** USDA Rural Development's **Home Energy Advantage Program** provides certain low- and moderate-income families, who might not otherwise qualify for homeownership, additional incentives to purchase an energy-efficient home. The **Home Repair and Preservation Program** provides assistance to low- and very-low income rural homeowners for critical home improvements, including weatherization, insulation and new heating systems.

How to Reach USDA Rural Development in South Dakota

On the Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd/>
Toll-Free: 1-800-670-6553

USDA Rural Development in South Dakota is headquartered in Huron, and has field offices in seven locations across the state, including Aberdeen, Watertown, Sioux Falls, Yankton, Mitchell, Pierre, and Rapid City.

"South Dakota's USDA Rural Development team is ready, willing and able to work with groups like the South Dakota Corn Growers Association to make sure we're seizing the best opportunities to create opportunities here at home," said Karim. "Our team is successful in bringing millions of dollars of investment in South Dakota by leveraging our funds with those of private, non profit, state, and local resources. We truly value the great working relationships we have across the state to help communities remain viable not just for today, but for the next generation as well."

Highlights of USDA Rural Development in South Dakota

South Dakota Rural Development program highlights for Fiscal Year 2008 include 1,261 jobs created and 493 saved with the utilization of \$21.7 million in the rural business and cooperative program area; serving 2,140 families with the utilization of \$119 million in the rural housing program area; and 2,602 new water users and 31 community facilities have been helped with the investment of \$34.4 million from the community programs area; and Rural Utilities Service Loans to Electric Coops totaling \$74.7 million and Telephone Coops totaling \$121.4 million. In addition, \$2.5 million was invested in the Oglala Oyate Woytan Empowerment Zone located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The projections for Fiscal Year 2009 are expected to meet or exceed these figures.



Straight talk from the Capitol

By Matt McCaulley
SDCGA State Lobbyist

November 4 is almost upon us, and voters in South Dakota will be electing 105 legislators who will set fiscal and social policies for the State of South Dakota. I encourage each of you to meet candidates in your district running for the Legislature and start developing (or renew) your relationship with them.

Supporting and building relationships with candidates is very important as that opens doors to work with our elected officials on issues important to agriculture. That's why the South Dakota Corn Growers Association CornPac is so vital.

The CornPac is a Political Action Committee for the South Dakota Corn Growers Association that supports candidates for statewide elective office. Over the past several weeks, the SDCGA has been distributing CornPac funds to candidates who are strategic partners in policy making positions

to assist their campaign efforts. It is important to elect state-wide leaders who understand agriculture, are willing to listen objectively to our concerns and act accordingly.

The CornPac has grown into one of the most influential political action committees in South Dakota. Because agriculture is South Dakota's number one industry, we must protect our rural voice.

As we prepare to take to the polls in less than a month South Dakotans will be considering a number of important ballot measures this year. One I would like to mention is Initiated Measure 10 - South Dakota Open and Clean Government Act. Initiated Measure 10 sounds good in principle but in reality forces many South Dakotans to sacrifice their most important freedom – the right to free speech. The unintended consequences of this overly broad bill are many, and it will restrict the ability of South

This November 4th you'll see Initiated Measure 10 on your ballot.

What does Measure 10 do?

Almost anyone funded by state or local tax dollars would be prohibited from communicating with any elected official about any issues. "Funded" includes providing services, contracts or the salaries of teachers, police and firefighters. If they do speak out, they could be put in jail.

It applies to family and employees.
If you have an uncle or a step-sister in-law that does business with the government, the above laws would apply to you. If you unknowingly break this law, you could go to jail. Other citizens could take you to court just by accusing you.

Doing business with state or local government means forfeiting the right to support any candidate for any office anywhere in South Dakota.
Again, this includes public servants such as firefighters, police officers, grocers, all teachers and even school or city janitors.

Promoters of Initiated Measure 10 say it will make for more open government. Don't be taken in.
Initiated Measure 10 is NOT about open government. What Initiated Measure 10 will really do is rob tens of thousands of South Dakotans of their right of free speech. *Measure 10 is a gag law, pure and simple.*

Prohibiting Free Speech is *Not* Open Government.

STOP THE GAG LAW

Vote No On Initiative 10

Paid for by the No on 10 Committee • P.O. Box 113, Pierre, SD 57501



Dakotans to support candidates and communicate with their elected public officials. If passed, Initiated Measure 10 will be challenged in court and will most likely be found to be unconstitutional, costing millions of dollars in taxpayer money. Please take the time to educate yourself on this issue before voting. To find our more information on Initiated Measure 10 please visit <http://voteno.org>.

One of the biggest issues we faced during the 2008 legislative session was amending the property tax measure. The issue will be back during the 2009 legislative session. This summer the Ag Land Assessment Advisory Task Force met to bring forward formulas and numbers so we can put this issue to rest. As of the time of publication we are still awaiting the much anticipated numbers from SDSU. This data will be an important part of how (if at all) the productivity model of the taxation of agriculture will be implemented in South Dakota. Making the assessment of agricultural land even more difficult are the unique situations in all 66 counties and the respective grass/cropland contributions to the tax revenue base. The South Dakota Corn Growers Association will continue to watch the property tax measure closely and will be attending the next meeting in Pierre on October 14.

The next few months will move quickly, and we are ready to face the new challenges. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, November, 4!

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South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) president Bill Chase had the opportunity to meet Presidential Candidate Barak Obama during Obama's visit to South Dakota in June. Chase visited with Obama about ethanol and South Dakota agricultural issues.



WENSMAN
The Corn Technology Leader!

Wensman growers know the key to maximizing return on investment is choosing the right corn hybrid. It's the most important input decision they make. Wensman corn hybrids are packaged with the best genetics, the latest traits - including VT3 - and the expert knowledge to boost your returns. Wensman's consistently better quality seed has made it the fastest growing seed company in the Northern Corn Belt. **Better yields mean higher returns. Get there with Wensman corn hybrids.**

18 VT3 Triple Stack Hybrids!
8 BtRR Double Stack Hybrids!

www.wensmanseed.com

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••••• **SAVE THE DATE** •••••

*Mark your
calendars for*

**GROWING FORWARD
2009**

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