



Volume 22 • Number 1

January 2006

*Oh, what a night!*





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Gillen, SDCGA President

I am sure you will agree, the Annual Meeting was a huge success. The attendance was excellent. Many of the movers and shakers in South Dakota agriculture were there. The political presence was very impressive.

I want to thank everyone who shared in celebrating 20 years of growth and success of SDCGA. It would not happen if it wasn't for our sponsors. Our sponsors' contributions is the fuel that allows us to continue to make a growing influence in South Dakota agriculture.

The SDCGA staff does a super job and they make this position fun and enjoyable. Their commitment to South Dakota Corn is overwhelming.

This will be the last newsletter that I will be president of SDCGA. It has been a very exciting and rewarding experience for me. It was a busy and productive two years. Five years from now, we will know if the deci-

sions we made and the hard work will pay off. I am confident it will.

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association is like a moving train that is gaining speed. Activity in front of a moving train tends to clear itself. Minor obstacles does not slow or stop a moving train.

Moving trains attract attention and admiration. Moving trains cause people to forget about their troubles, to get on board, and move forward in life. Moving trains have a purpose, a future destination, and a determination to get there. The benefit to society of a moving train multiplies many, many times.

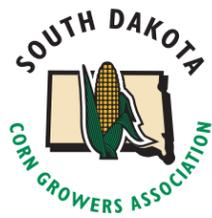
The South Dakota Corn Growers has a successful past, a dominate present, and even more powerful future.

Thank you for supporting us.

## South Dakota has highest membership increase in 2005

South Dakota Corn Growers Association was the top state association in membership increases in 2005 over all other states. SDCGA added 170 new members between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 and was the top state winner by percentage with an increase of more than 12 percent.

Congratulations goes to Darrin Ihnen, SDCGA board chairman from Hurley, S.D., as he placed third in the nation for membership recruitment. Darrin will receive money toward trip expenses for the 2006 Commodity Classic and a \$250 gift card. Thanks for your hard work!



A GROWING INFLUENCE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### PRESIDENT

David Gillen  
White Lake-District 11

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Reid Jensen  
Burbank-District 1

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Brookings-District 4

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#### Chad Johnson

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Larry Wagner  
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Lisa Richardson, Executive Director  
Teddi Mueller, Legislative & Industry Affairs Director  
Krystil Smit, Communications Director  
Katrina Luke, Office Manager  
Paul Skiles, Market Development Director

## South Dakota Growers Association Membership Application

PLEASE HELP US DOUBLE OUR LOBBYING POWER TODAY!

"You're just one corn producer. And so am I. But when we band together we can change things. We've proven it over and over. So take a step for the future of your family. Join today!" -David Gillen, White Lake

I've enclosed:  \$500 (Lifetime membership) \*includes choice of 5 Seed certificates and \$50 in Ethanol Certificates  
 \$150 (3-year membership) \*includes choice of 3 Seed certificates and \$15 in Ethanol Certificates  
 \$75 (1-year)  \$75 (1-year state only membership)

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  
3801 S. Western Ave., Suite 100, Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-334-0100 • www.sdcorn.org

### SDCGA Seed Certificate Program

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

Your membership is important. Please take the time to join the SDCGA today. We're working hard to add value to the product you grow, and we need your support.

#### 3 year Membership. Please select 3 seed certificates.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Diamond Seeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Kaltenberg Seeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Production Partners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crows               | <input type="checkbox"/> Kaystar Hybrids  | <input type="checkbox"/> Proseed             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fontanelle Hybrids  | <input type="checkbox"/> Legend Seeds     | <input type="checkbox"/> REA hybrids         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garst               | <input type="checkbox"/> Mustang Seeds    | <input type="checkbox"/> Renze Hybrids       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes Hybrids | <input type="checkbox"/> Mycogen Seeds    | <input type="checkbox"/> Seeds 2000          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hoegemeyer          | <input type="checkbox"/> Nortec           | <input type="checkbox"/> Stine Seed          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Integra Seed        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Seeds    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sucroscos Seeds     |

PLUS! 3 year Receives \$15 in Ethanol Enriched Fuel.

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.



A GROWING INFLUENCE  
South Dakota  
Corn Growers Association  
3801 S. Western Ave., Suite 100  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-334-0100

Received From:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Members Name)

Dues paid in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Represented by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



The South Dakota Corn Growers Association is excited to announce outstanding membership growth in the organization in 2005! The National Corn Growers Association recently recognized the SDCGA for the greatest increase in membership nationwide in 2005 by adding 170 new members between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31. The SDCGA increased its membership by more than 12 percent during that time.

We are extremely proud of our membership accomplishments over the past year. The strength and success of our organization is directly tied to our membership and the quality of our members is second-to-none.

We want to thank all of you who joined our organization over the past year and also thanks to those of you who have held long-term memberships in the SDCGA. It's that support and commitment to the organization that has allowed us to celebrate 20 years of accomplishments in the industry.

But the work has just begun. With a new farm bill on the horizon, having a strong grassroots voice in our membership base will help us fight for important provisions for South Dakota in the next farm bill.

That's just one example why it's so important to keep your membership current. It may seem like a small thing but your membership really does make a difference. We will be conducting letter writing and telemarketing campaigns in February to make sure our membership numbers stay strong. We need your voice as we work to affect policy for South Dakota farmers.

We just celebrated 20 years of the SDCGA at the Annual Meeting. Twenty years ago at the very first Annual Meeting, about 150 producers attended. This year at the evening event alone, some 1,200 people were in attendance. We marked your membership that night and you can be proud of the strength this organization has built over the past 20 years. We look forward to discovering with our members what the next 20 years has in store.

David Leiseth, chairman  
SDCGA Membership Committee



**VeraSun Energy** built its first ethanol plant in 2003 but in that short amount of time earned the status of being one of the five largest ethanol plants in the nation.

The company founders have worked together for more than a decade, successfully starting and running technology companies in Brookings, S.D. After

exiting the last technology venture, the founders decided to embark on a venture that would provide benefits to the local, regional, and national communities. Founders include, Don Endres, Rick Eggebrecht, Bill Honnef, Ginger Scalet and Keith Bruinsma.

Having grown up on a farm in eastern South Dakota, Don Endres, CEO, became acquainted with ethanol production through his investments in Glacial Lakes Energy of Watertown, S.D., and Badger State Ethanol of Monroe, Wis. In 2001, after evaluating several business opportunities, Endres and the other founders chose to pursue ethanol production. VeraSun went in search of like-minded investors. They found a partner in Bluestem Capital, a Midwest-focused venture-capital firm based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The company mission is to be a leading producer of renewable energy for the benefit of shareholders, community, and country. VeraSun currently has two operating ethanol plants, Aurora, S.D. and Fort Dodge, Iowa; and additional sites are pending.

**AURORA PLANT**

In November 2003, VeraSun completed construction of its dry-grind ethanol plant in Aurora, S.D. At 120 million gallons per year, it is one of the largest in the nation. The scale of the plant has enabled VeraSun to reach markets from coast to coast.

The VeraSun Aurora Plant was designed to create efficiencies in the ethanol production process. The technology, size, layout and location were all determined based on lowering overall production costs while at the same time, maximizing production capabilities.

**Key VeraSun Aurora Facts:**

- VeraSun Aurora is one of the five largest ethanol producers in the United States.
- The plant processes more than 35 million bushels of corn per year ... equivalent to 22 square miles of corn.
- The plant produces 100 million gallons of ethanol annually ... enough to drive 2.5 billion miles per year.
- The plant produces 320,000 tons of distillers grains ... enough to feed 600,000 dairy cattle each day.

**FORT DODGE PLANT**

VeraSun Fort Dodge began ethanol production in October of 2005, three months ahead of schedule. Within a production capacity of 110 million gallons per year, this state-of-the art facility is one of the largest, most efficient dry-grind ethanol plants in the nation.

VeraSun Fort Dodge is located on Highway 7 four miles west of US Hwy 169. The plant will benefit from a plentiful corn supply—located in one of the most productive corn growing regions in the country. It also has direct connections to both the Canadian National and Union Pacific railroads enabling access to both east and west coast markets.

**Key VeraSun Fort Dodge Facts:**

- The VeraSun Fort Dodge Plant is one of the largest ethanol plants in the United States and will produce more than 110 million gallons of ethanol per year.
- VeraSun Fort Dodge will process more than 39 million bushels of corn per year – equivalent to about 220,000 acres of corn.
- There is no liquid or solid waste from the plant – the entire kernel of corn is converted to ethanol or DDGS.
- VeraSun Fort Dodge will produce 353,000 tons of Dried Distillers Grains per year, enough to feed 240,000 dairy cattle each day.

**VE85:**

In 2005, VeraSun embarked on a branding effort creating VE85 which is E85 fuel from VeraSun Energy. VE85 is an alcohol based renewable biofuel containing 85% ethanol and 15% unleaded gasoline. In May of 2005, VeraSun partnered with Sioux Falls Get-N-Go stores to offer VE85 fuel at 35 pumps around the metro area.

As the nation's second largest ethanol producer VeraSun is proud to be a leader in the renewable fuels industry – adding value to agriculture, improving the economics of rural communities, and most importantly building a cleaner environment for future generations.



# FARM BUSINESS PLANNING WORKSHOPS

*Space is limited but openings are still available!*

**AS 103** **Taking Action to Improve Performance**  
 February 14-15, 2006  
 The Watertown Event Center  
 Ramkota Hotel, Watertown, SD

**DAY ONE**

8:30 a.m. **Introduction**

**Basic Accounting**  
*Participants of this training session should learn to:*

- Understand and know the four parts of every business
- Understand important accounting terminology
- Understand the difference between Cash and Accrual Accounting
- Understand the flow of money in accounting terms
- Understand inflation's impact on accounting
- Understand the impact of profits and inflation on financial results

**Agriculture Producer Study**

**Financial Performance Analysis**  
*Participants of this training session will be able to:*

- Analyze the financial performance of an operation
- Identify historical opportunity/problem areas
- Determine the historical capacity of the operation
- Measure the historical operating efficiency of the operation
- Analyze their business financial performance
- Determine financial strengths and weaknesses of their business financial performance



5:00 **Adjourn**

**DAY TWO**

8:00 a.m. **Financial Performance Analysis (continued)**

**Taking Control**  
*Using case studies, worksheets and examples, participants will be able to:*

- Project desired financial performance for the next two years
- Build high level action plans to support projected financial performance
- Learn how to begin controlling their business
- Learn the change issues associated with controlling their business
- Understand the trade-off between "I want" and what I must give up or the price I must pay to achieve what "I want"
- Evaluate and project opportunities
- Correct problems through high level projections

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

**AS 104** **Growth and Debt Funding**  
 February 16-17, 2006  
 Holiday Inn, Mitchell, SD

**DAY ONE**

8:30 a.m. **Introduction**

- Asset Management**
- Debt Control & Lender Communications**
- Concepts & Overview**
- Total Debt Analysis**

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

**DAY TWO**

8:00 a.m. **Review of Day One**

- Total Debt Analysis (continued)**
- Analyzing Liquidity**
- Total Debt & Liquidity Combined**
- Equity Management**

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**



**CALL 605-334-0100 TO REGISTER FOR THESE SEMINARS**

**For another great educational opportunity, see page 13!**

# 2005 STATE CORN YIELD CONTEST WINNERS

## RANK/NAME/CITY

## BRAND   HYBRID   YIELD

### Irrigated

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

1. Bob Hattum, Harrold	Pioneer	33B51	251.38
2. Kory Standy, Platte	DEKALB	DKC64-81	245.54
3. Slepikas Farms, Huron	Pioneer	34N44	238.49

### No Till/Strip Till Irrigated

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

1. Lower Brule Farm Coop, Fort Pierre	Pioneer	34N42	249.44
2. Riverside Farms, Huron	Pioneer	34H32	231.69
3. Tammy Slepikas, Huron	DEKALB	DKC53-32	216.29

### No Till/Strip Till Non-Irrigated

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

1. McKee Farms, Hawarden*	Pioneer	34N42	243.44
2. Loomis Farms, Bruce	DEKALB	DKC51-39	224.15
3. Greg Van Zanten, Colton	DEKALB	DKC47-10	222.31

### Non-Irrigated

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

1. Scott Knochenmus, Sioux Falls	NC+	4502B	230.75
2. Jeff Hemmer, Dell Rapids	DEKALB	DKC51-39	230.46
3. Robert Rogen, Jasper*	Pioneer	35Y62	230.41

### Ridge Till Irrigated

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

1. Justin Ogle, Harrold	Pioneer	33B54	290.53
2. David Ogle, Harrold	DEKALB	DKC60-13	278.21

### Ridge Till Non-Irrigated

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

1. Darrell Nelson, Yankton	Pioneer	33B51	207.53
2. Delmar Nelson, Yankton	Pioneer	33B51	165.29
3. Alec Solberg, Volin	Garst	8535YG1	138.38

\*Denotes change from CYC book; these are the correct names.



David Ogle, left, of Harrold, S.D. achieved second place statewide in the Corn Yield Contest Ridge Till Irrigated category. He is presented with a plaque by Bill Chase, chairman of the SDCGA Showplot Committee, during the Annual Meeting luncheon on Jan. 7.



[www.sdcorn.org](http://www.sdcorn.org)  
for complete  
showplot results

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

# Renewable Energy Forum



Rep. Stephanie Herseth, D-S.D. (left) and Rep. Gil Gutknecht, R-Minn., (center) hold Renewable Energy Forum at the S.D. Corn office. Brian Woldt, S.D. Corn Utilization Council president is seated at right.

Renewable fuels and wind power were the top issues for a renewable energy forum hosted by Rep. Stephanie Herseth, D-S.D., with Rep. Gil Gutknecht, R-Minn., at the South Dakota Corn Growers Association office on Jan. 6.

Industry, academics and congressional delegates were present for the forum and discussed factors affecting production, distribution and marketing of ethanol, biodiesel and electricity generated from wind.

Gutknecht highlighted at the forum his proposal to use Minnesota as a model for national policy, suggesting that by

2010 all gasoline in the United States be blended with at least 10 percent ethanol.

Other topics of discussion included transportation and competition in rail. South Dakota's reliance on one Class I rail carrier, the BNSF Railway, also sparked concern among forum participants. Lisa Richardson, executive director of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and Corn Utilization Council, said farmers who want to move grain out of state have no opportunity to seek competitive shipping rates. They must use the BNSF, she said. The Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad's proposed expansion to Wyoming's Powder River Basin to haul coal east would make it the nation's newest Class I railroad. The expansion could offer meaningful competition to the BNSF for all kinds of shipping, Richardson said.



## Hunting for fun



Sen. John Thune joined South Dakota Corn Growers Association board directors for a day of recreational hunting and relaxation hosted by SDCGA president David Gillen at his hunting reserve by White Lake, S.D. The event was a unique opportunity for SDCGA directors to get to know Sen. Thune in a casual atmosphere while all enjoyed a day of camaraderie. At left, Sen. Thune takes aim at flying birds. The entire hunting crew that day is pictured above.

# Annual Meeting Highlights

The 20th Anniversary celebration of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association took the Annual Meeting event to new levels when 1,200 members and industry leaders converged for the evening banquet and entertainment at the Sioux Falls Sheraton Convention Center on Jan. 7. It was a night of South Dakota stars joining national stars to celebrate the successes of an industry over the past 20 years.



Keynote speaker for the evening was the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., and Rep. Stephanie Herseth, D-S.D., were in attendance during the banquet and were given the opportunity to address the crowd. Sen. John Thune prepared a video message which was played during the meeting as he was on an official congressional trip to South America during the Annual Meeting. Several state legislators were also recognized. And country music group BlackHawk topped off the evening with a true Nashville concert.

"The SDCGA brought in the biggest names in our industry from the founders of this organization to current leaders, politicians and the EPA Administrator who will help implement the renewable fuels standard which was one of the biggest wins for our industry," said David Gillen, president of the SDCGA. "We were honored to have a room full of stakeholders in the industry and the political influ-

ence validated the impact of agriculture."

More than 300 producers attended the informational seminars held throughout the day featuring a premier line up of speakers. The presenters included Jay Lehr discussing the megatrends in agriculture; Arlan Suderman with a marketing outlook; Nicholas Duck talking about the future of biotechnology; and Val Farmer discussed family farm relationships.

At noon, the luncheon was dedicated to recognizing the winners of the state corn yield contest in 2005. South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Larry Gabriel delivered the keynote address.

The SDCGA also met to set priorities for the upcoming year. New resolutions were proposed and passed and bylaw language was clarified. The SDCGA will use the meeting as a platform to take action in the upcoming year.

"The 20th Annual Meeting activities provide educational and entertainment opportunities but it's also a time of setting policy and direction for the upcoming year for the South Dakota Corn Growers Association," said David Gillen, president of the SDCGA. "As a grassroots organization, gathering input and insight from producers is invaluable as we represent the corn producers of South Dakota in legislative activities at Washington and Pierre."

## EPA Administrator offers keynote address at SDCGA 20th Annual Meeting



Stephen L. Johnson

The top administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency delivered the keynote address at the South Dakota Corn Growers Association's 20th Annual Meeting. Stephen L. Johnson marked the first visit by an EPA director to the state. Johnson was in the state to help the SDCGA celebrate its 20th anniversary milestone. A crowd of 1,200 was present when he praised corn growers for their accomplishments.

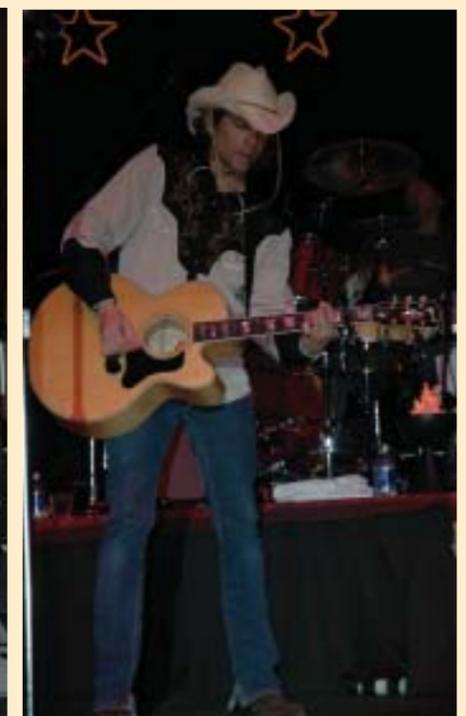
"I really do want to congratulate the South Dakota Corn Growers for 20 years - 20 years of successfully powering our bodies, powering our economy and now powering our cars," he said.

The EPA agency plays a key role in the implementation of the Renewable Fuels Standard and Johnson outlined his approach of promoting and maintaining the utilization of sound science while using collaborative, innovative approaches to solving environmental problems.

The SDCGA offers a special thanks to Sen. John Thune for being instrumental in Administrator Johnson's attendance at the Annual Meeting.



Additional memorable moments from our 20th Anniversary.



## GM brings Truckin' Through 2005 to SDCGA Annual Meeting

More than 1,200 people participated in the Truckin' Through 2005 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.

SDCGA board directors and staff offered the prize opportunity at events throughout the state in 2005 including at the Aberdeen C-Express Ethanol promotion; Farmer Appreciation Day at the Sioux Empire Fair; Ethanol Day at Thunder Road; Dakotafest; Brown County Fair in Aberdeen; Value-Added Day at the South Dakota State Fair; and many more seminars and events the SDCGA attended.

The Grand Prize winner of a new flex-fuel truck from General Motors bought her ticket at Dakotafest. She claimed her prize from Chevrolet of Sioux Falls.

### Prizes and winners:

 **General Motors:** 2-year lease on a 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 Extended Cab  
**Winner:** Meta Halverson of Kennebec, S.D.

 **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 Cancun  
**Winner:** Mark Rames of Olivet, S.D.

 **South Dakota Corn Utilization Council:** \$1,200 in ethanol fuel  
**Winner:** Larry Skelton, Hazel, S.D.



The Truckin' Through 2005 promotion would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship by General Motors. The SDCGA thanks GM for their tremendous support and for being leaders in delivering E85 vehicles to the marketplace. Their foresight in providing flex fuel vehicles to consumers is leading industry trends. The SDCGA also would like to thank All About Travel for the trip donation. All About Travel is the SDCGA and SDCUC's official travel agency and we thank them for their excellent service. Congratulations to all winners!



From left: Teddi Mueller, SD Corn, and Darren Smyl with Chevrolet of Sioux Falls present Meta Halverson of Kennebec, S.D. and her family with the keys to the 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 extended cab she won in the SDCGA's Truckin' Through 2005 raffle promotion. The truck giveaway was sponsored by General Motors.



David Gillen

### Presidential Recognition Award

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association offered accolades at the 20th Annual Meeting to David Gillen of White Lake, S.D. for serving the organization as its president the past two years.

Gillen has served on the SDCGA board since August 1999. Gillen's director peers elected him to the helm of the SDCGA in 2004 and he has been an instrumental force in affecting legislation, building alliances with legislators and leading the SDCGA board over the past two years. He can be credited for strengthening relationships with national leaders and industry partners by hosting U.S. Senators in his home and inviting numerous industry pheasant hunts to his family's hunting enterprise. He has been very active on the national level as a member of the National Corn Growers Association Public Policy Action Team. He has also participated in the SDCGA Showplot program for a number of years.

The caliber of David's leadership can be measured by the respect he receives from his fellow board members. He has been the rock of the organization over the past two years and he isn't afraid to tackle tough issues, leading solutions with diplomacy and vision.

Gillen and his wife, Carol, have five children: Ryan, Bryce, Stephanie, Kristy and Megan.



David Gillen and Jim Peterson

### Legislative Appreciation Award

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) presented Jim Peterson of Revillo, S.D. a Legislative Appreciation Award at their 20th Annual Meeting. The recognition is given annually to an individual that has gone over and above his call of duty for the agricultural industry.

Every year that Peterson has been an elected official, he has been the original sponsor of legislation in support of renewable fuels. He has carried the ball for requiring the use of ethanol in state fleet vehicles and has lead the charge to ensure that certain state vehicles be equipped as flexible fuel vehicles. He has also been a watchdog for fairness on ag tax issues.

Peterson, Democratic representative of District 4, was elected to the Legislature first in the House in 2001 where he served until 2004. He served his first term in the Senate in 2005.

Born and raised on a family farm near Revillo, he attended school and graduated in Revillo before going on to obtain a degree from Augustana College. He taught school after graduation but eventually returned to the family farm.

Locally he has served on the Grant-Deuel School board and Revillo Farmers Elevator Board. He and his wife, Jane, are very active in their church. They have four grown sons: Scott, Tim, Heath and Erick.



Peter Harriman and David Gillen

### Excellence in Public Outreach Award

(Sioux Falls, SD) – Every year the South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) and South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC) recognize an outstanding communicator for the Ag industry. Peter Harriman of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader is the recipient of the SDCGA/SDCUC 2006 Excellence in Public Outreach Award.

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 due diligence. Harriman is a well-known and highly regarded journalist who has been writing for the Argus Leader since 1999. Since he's been with the Argus Leader, Harriman has had the opportunity to write about crossing the state north to south on horseback during the annual Bigfoot Ride in 2000. He also participated in a year-long project, "Progress of a People" that examined conditions in Indian Country 30 years after the Wounded Knee occupation. The Argus Leader won a 2004 National Headliner Award for that work.

Harriman has also earned a name for himself in covering agricultural news. Harriman was chosen for the Public Outreach Award based on his outstanding representation of the agricultural industry through fair, unbiased and in-depth articles published in the Argus Leader. The SDCGA and SDCUC applaud Harriman for his reporting excellence in the field of agriculture.



Ron Alverson and David Gillen

### Excellence in Agriculture Award

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) and South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC) presented Ron Alverson of Chester, S.D. with an Excellence in Agriculture Award during their 20th Annual Meeting. The award honors a leader in agriculture who exemplifies excellence in agriculture by their significant contributions to the industry.

Alverson had a dream that he didn't give up on for South Dakota producers that they could not only produce food but energy and his persistence helped create a playing field for producers in South Dakota. He is a founding father of agricultural pursuits including the SDCGA but he also helped create South Dakota's first producer-owned ethanol production coop, Dakota Ethanol, for which he served as their first president and continues to be on the board of directors. In 2002, Dakota Ethanol was chosen to host President George W. Bush and Alverson had the distinct honor of introducing the President to the crowd.

Alverson and his fellow ethanol cooperative founders served as mentors to ethanol plant boards that followed. His willingness to transfer knowledge to others launched a producer-led effort to make sure farmers were able to be shareholders in South Dakota's ethanol industry.

Not only has this individual been an outstanding leader in the ethanol industry, but his pioneering spirit in the SDCGA contributed to the SDCGA's success. He served as the SDCGA's first secretary and later as president and vice president. He also served on the National Corn Growers Association board of directors.



## Founders & Past Presidents

**Founders of the SDCGA organization and past presidents of the SDCGA and SDCUC were recognized at the 20th Annual Meeting. Those in attendance that evening were awarded with a Black Hills Gold watch inscribed with: "Thanks for your dedicated leadership – SDCGA & SDCUC."**

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Monty Cronin</b> – Gettysburg, SD<br>Founder                                     | <b>Orrie Swayze</b> – Wilmot, SD<br>Founder and Past President of the Corn Growers and Corn Council | <b>Wally Koester</b> – Flandreau, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Growers            | <b>John Olbertson</b> – Beresford, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Council |
| <b>Donald Johnson</b> – Brookings, SD<br>Founder                                    | <b>Lee Qualm</b> – Platte, SD<br>Founder and Past President of the Corn Growers                     | <b>Rick Kasperson</b> – Arlington, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Growers           | <b>Dennis Mitchell</b> – Houghton, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Council |
| <b>Richard Lloyd</b> – Chamberlain, SD<br>Founder                                   | <b>Ron Alverson</b> – Chester, SD<br>Founder and Past President of the Corn Growers                 | <b>Ron Olson</b> – Waubay, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Growers                   | <b>Delton Strasser</b> - Wilmot, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Council   |
| <b>Mike O'Connor</b> – Alcester, SD<br>Founder                                      | <b>Roland Pester</b> – Watertown, SD<br>Founder   | <b>Lewis Bainbridge</b> - Ethan, SD<br>Founder and Past President of the Corn Council | <b>Gary Duffy</b> – Oldham, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Council        |
| <b>Corey Schnabel</b> – Freeman, SD<br>Founder                                      | <b>Pat Tracey</b> – Pierre, SD<br>Founder   | <b>Lynn Jensen</b> – Lake Preston, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Growers           | <b>Ludwig Hohm</b> – Yale, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Council         |
| <b>Mark Rogen</b> – Garretson, SD<br>Founder and Past President of the Corn Growers | <b>Mike Randall</b> – Dell Rapids, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Growers                         | <b>DeLynn Stene</b> – Alcester, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Council              | <b>Brad Bonhorst</b> – Pierre, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Council     |
|   |   | <b>Kevin Crisp</b> – Dell Rapids, SD<br>Past President of the Corn Council            |   |

# Evening Sponsors



## Gold

American Coalition For Ethanol	Hefty Seed Company
Dakota Ethanol	Integra Seeds
DM&E Railroad Corporation	James Valley Ethanol
East River Electric Coop	Legend Seeds
Eastern Farmers Coop	NC+
Farm Credit Services of America	Northern Lights Ethanol
First Dakota National Bank	Sioux River Ethanol
Fremar Farmers Coop	Tri-State Neighbor
GF Advertising	Val-Add Service Corporation
Great Plains Ethanol	

## Silver

Agrisolutions	Golden Harvest Seeds	KXRB
American Ag Network	Home Federal	Paulsen Marketing
Business Printing & Graphics		

## Bronze

Aberdeen Radio Ranch	Dakota Heritage Bank	KOKK	Security Bank
Cammack Ranch Supply	Dakotaland Feeds	KSFY	Seeds 2000
CoBank	EideBailly	KWAT	South Dakota Farm Bureau
CorTrust Bank	F&M Ag Center	Land O Lakes' Feed	South Dakota Wheat
Growers			
Commodity Specialist Corporation	Farm Forum	Madison Farmers Elevator	Stine Seeds
Croplan Genetics	Harms Oil Company	Mustang Seeds	Valley Bank
Smith PC	KMIT	Nortec Seeds	Woods, Fuller, Shultz &
Dacotah Bank			



# Appreciation Award



Teddi Mueller, Legislative and Industry Affairs Director for the S.D. Corn Growers and Corn Utilization Council, was recognized at the 2006 Annual Meeting for her outstanding dedication and contributions to the organizations.

Mueller started with the SDCGA staff in the summer of 1999 as office manager, keeping the books for the organization. Since that time her strong marketing skills launched her forward to hold the communications director position and then to her current position in 2004. Not only does she plan the events of the organizations, including the Annual Meeting, but she handles the legislative, fund raising and sponsorship activities for the SDCGA and SDCUC. Mueller's energy and talent has grown the Annual Meeting into the largest one-day ag event in South Dakota. In 1999, 150 people attended the event and in 2006 more than 1,200 attended.

Mueller develops and executes numerous educational programs throughout the year, bringing in top speakers for producers to learn from. These seminars were made possible through federal grants secured by Mueller; she has successfully landed three federal education grants in as many years.

Mueller and her husband, Jay, live in Sioux Falls and have three children: Logan, Halie and Millie.

Mueller received a pink sapphire bracelet as appreciation from the SDCGA and SDCUC for her hard work and dedication to the corn industry.

# Make Plans to Attend ...

## "Using Technology to Maximize Your Inputs"

**FEBRUARY 27 –  
Sioux Falls, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

**FEBRUARY 28 –  
Watertown, 8 a.m. to noon**

### "Winning the Game" -

Learn to market crops in the fun, realistic market-simulation workshop, "Winning the Game". The workshop will be led by the one of the original developers of the game, Edward Usset, who is a grain marketing specialist for the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota. During the half-day session, producers will examine the key elements of a solid marketing plan and learn how crop insurance, target prices and decision dates can work together to help secure a good average price for your crop. The game is designed to be a fun way to help producers make common sense decisions.

### Guest speaker –

#### Harlan Paulson, Eastern Farmers Coop

Get the inside scoop about how precision farming technology can maximize your bottom line. Harlan Paulson with Eastern Farmers Coop will reveal how farmers can apply precision farming technology on their farms. Paulson will detail how they combine soil samples with technology in ag chem equipment to help farmers achieve results by customizing field applications to specific needs of the soil.

Watch for more details about this workshop "Using technology to maximize your inputs."

## WTO

National Corn Growers Association President Gerald Tumbleson, Chairman Leon Corzine, Corn Board member Ron Litterer and Director of Public Policy June Silverberg attended the World Trade Organization Hong Kong Ministerial in December at the important round of talks. All four NCGA representatives had a front-row seat to the talks. Corzine is a member of the Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee, which received direct reports from and had opportunity for input with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) officials. Litterer and Silverberg also received reports as members of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee on Grains, Feeds and Oilseeds. Tumbleson represented NCGA and its members and raised NCGA's visibility among attendees.

NCGA believes obtaining access to worldwide markets is critical to the health and future of U.S. agriculture. Though an agreement was not reached on market access, NCGA is

hopeful that one can be reached in 2006.

The WTO reached two important resolutions in Hong Kong. Negotiators set a 2013 end date for agricultural export subsidies, and extended duty- and quote-free access to 97 percent of imports from the least developed countries. Negotiators also made April 30, 2006, as the date modalities must be in place to ensure the negotiations will progress.

## BUDGET RECONCILIATION

NCGA stayed on top of the budget reconciliation process throughout last fall. Both the House and Senate approved the budget reconciliation report, however, the Senate made changes to the report which now requires the House to review the changes and vote once again on the conference report. A vote is scheduled for Feb. 1.

NCGA, along with other agriculture industry organizations, gave recommendations on several issues regarding portions of the budget as they pertain to agriculture spending programs. The

budget reconciliation issue takes on even more importance for the funding of farm programs, other mandatory spending and future tax cuts. NCGA opposes efforts to reopen the farm bill, including changes to payment limitations. NCGA also recommended the total spending reductions should not exceed the \$3 billion mark over the fiscal years 2006-2010.

## FARM BILL UPDATE

NCGA continued to encourage its members to attend farm bill listening sessions held by USDA. The sessions have been well-attended throughout the nation, giving USDA a good idea of what farmers and ranchers would like to see in the next farm bill.

In addition, NCGA leadership maintained its close connections with top government officials. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns and USTR Rob Portman met with Gerald Tumbleson and Leon Corzine in November to discuss potential aspects of the 2007 farm bill. Corzine also met with Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

## SETTING PRIORITIES FOR 2006:

Members of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association board of directors traveled to the National Corn Growers Association in St. Louis, Mo., recently to offer input in setting policy and priorities for the upcoming year in the NCGA. Every corn growing state was given the opportunity to offer input and South Dakota representatives brought to the table their state's priorities to be considered on a national level. The meeting directly followed the SDCGA Annual Meeting where directors and SDCGA members reviewed the bylaws of the organization and passed new resolutions for the upcoming year.



SDCGA vice president Reid Jensen, of Burbank, S.D., (seated left at the front table), and Bill Chase, (right) SDCGA treasurer from Wolsey, S.D., participate in the policy and priority meeting at NCGA in St. Louis recently.

# SDCGA RESOLUTIONS

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association voted on proposed resolutions during its Annual Meeting. The resolution meeting was well attended and a number of bylaw clean-up resolutions were passed quickly and unanimously. The following are the new resolutions that were proposed by SDCGA members and passed during the process.

- The SDCGA supports state programs to provide for long-term South Dakota agricultural processing investments; South Dakota's 20-cent producer incentive to ethanol production facilities will sunset Dec. 13, 2006. The need for the reinstatement of this successful program should be evaluated annually.

- The SDCGA supports and encourages a change in the ASTM Bio-Diesel Fuel Standard to include methal and ethal ester.

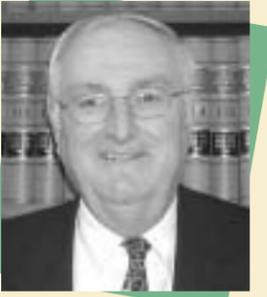
- The SDCGA supports the standardization of animal units across the state (standardization based upon federal regulations).

- The SDCGA urges Congress to maintain the payment limits set forth in the 2002 Farm Bill.

- The SDCGA urges Congress to maintain the implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill.

# THE Olinger REPORT

by Ron Olinger



SDCGA Lobbyist-Pierre

Congratulations to the staff at the South Dakota Corn Growers Association for putting on the finest Annual Meeting of any trade association I have ever attended. If you didn't go, it was a full day of meetings and entertainment that were a true credit to the Corn Growers Association staff. The attendance was overwhelming and the entertainment superb. Make sure you go next year but bring a new member along. Your future opportunities are awesome.

On Jan. 10, 2006, Governor Michael Rounds presented his State of the State Address. As part of the State of the State Address he recognized the importance of ethanol in South Dakota and applauded the three new plants that will open this year and the two more that are on the drawing board.

Gov. Rounds indicated that South Dakota is fourth in the nation in production of ethanol, with 600 million gallons being produced every year. He spoke of the tremendous positive influence on the farming industry and the state in general that has resulted in South Dakota's strong ethanol industry.

He indicated that VeraSun of Brookings was contemplating either doubling the size of their plant in Brookings that produces 120 million gallons, or doing the expansion of that plant in Ft. Dodge, Iowa. This would result in a \$100 million expenditure for capital assets. The Governor indicated that he is proposing to expand the tax refund to expansions of plants. When other contractual matters are resolved construction on the addition to the plant will begin this year. He indicated that it is not a done deal but it is very close.

The recognition of value added agriculture and the support of the ethanol industry to an expanding dairy industry in South Dakota were additional things discussed in his State of the State Address. Corn farmers in South Dakota should feel very good about the fact that we have a Governor and Legislature that recognizes that the survival of South Dakota is in value added agriculture and that corn production and the use of by-products in the form of ethanol and feed by-products are a key to new jobs, the survival of cities, and an expanding economy in South Dakota.

One corn grower who raises and feeds cattle summed it up the best I've ever heard when he said, "When all my corn is consumed or made into ethanol and all the by-products sold in South Dakota and fed to livestock we will have accomplished our goal."

# Calendar of Events

## JANUARY 30, 2005

Ag Fest  
Pierre, SD

## JANUARY 30-31, 2006

National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition Convention  
Coronado, Calif.

## JANUARY 31, 2006

Livestock Day at the Capitol  
Pierre, SD

## FEBRUARY 1, 2006

Ethanol Day at the Capitol  
Pierre, SD

## FEBRUARY 12-15, 2006

U.S. Grains Council Annual Meeting  
Tuscon, Arizona

## FEBRUARY 14-15, 2006

SDCGA Farm Business Planning Workshop  
Watertown Ramkota

## FEBRUARY 16-17, 2006

SDCGA Farm Business Planning Workshop  
Mitchell Holiday Inn

## FEBRUARY 27, 2006

"Using Technology to Maximize Inputs" Workshop  
Sioux Falls, S.D.

## FEBRUARY 28, 2006

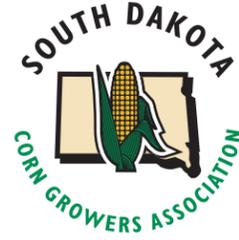
"Using Technology to Maximize Inputs" Workshop  
Watertown, S.D.

## MARCH 2-4, 2006

Commodity Classic  
Anaheim, CA

## MAY 24-26

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



A G R O W I N G I N F L U E N C E

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