

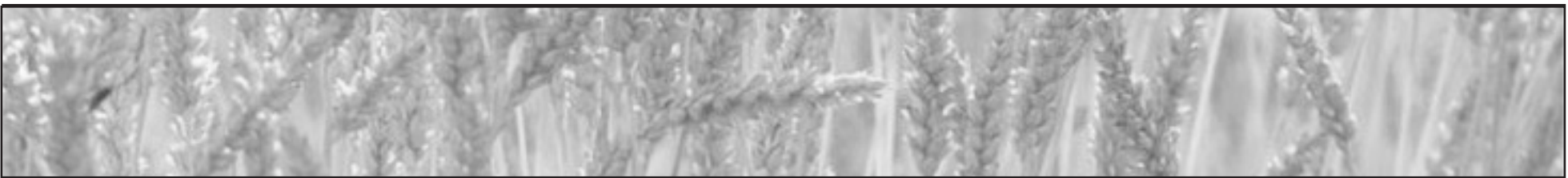
# FARMING AND AGRICULTURE

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# SD wheat crops well ahead of 2019

## South Dakota Ag Connection

For the week ending Sunday, June 7th, there were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 0% very short, 8% short, 77% adequate, and 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 0% very short, 4%

short, 78% adequate, and 18% surplus.

Corn condition rated 0% very poor, 0% poor, 18% fair, 72% good, and 10% excellent. Corn emerged was 90%, well ahead of 28% last year, and ahead of 77% for the five-year average.

Soybean condition rated 0% very poor, 0% poor, 16% fair, 74% good, and

10% excellent. Soybeans planted was 92%, well ahead of 35% last year, and ahead of 79% average. Emerged was 67%, well ahead of 8% last year, and ahead of 57% average.

Winter wheat condition rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 21% fair, 62% good, and 16% excellent. Winter wheat headed was

51%, well ahead of 18% last year, but behind 61% average.

Spring wheat condition rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 35% fair, 60% good, and 4% excellent. Spring wheat emerged was 96%, ahead of 84% last year, and equal to average. Headed was 15%, ahead of 8% average.

Oats condition rated 0%

very poor, 0% poor, 24% fair, 71% good, and 5% excellent. Oats headed was 12%, behind 19% average.

Sorghum condition rated 0% very poor, 0% poor, 20% fair, 77% good, and 3% excellent. Sorghum planted was 66%, well ahead of 34% last year, and ahead of 60% average. Sunflowers planted

was 45%, well ahead of 14% last year, and near 41% average.

Pasture and range conditions rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 32% fair, 50% good, and 15% excellent.

Data for this news release were provided at the county level by USDA Farm Service Agency, SDSU Extension Service, and other reporters across the State.

*Front cover photo taken and submitted by Jennifer Dangel.*

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# SDDA suspends all sales and application of Dicamba

## South Dakota Ag Connection

On June 3, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a decision to vacate the registration of three Dicamba products including Xtendimax, Engenia, and FeXapan for over the top use on soybeans. In lieu of this decision, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) has decided to suspend all

sales and application of these products until further guidance is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Additionally, the SDDA sent a letter to the EPA on June 5 asking for guidance as South Dakota's 24 C label discontinued use on June 30.

Due to the suspension of Dicamba products, South Dakota producers now

have restricted options available until the EPA responds.

"This is having huge effects on South Dakota's producers," said Paul O. Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Science Coordinator.

Tavium, a mixture of Dicamba and S-metolachlor, is still labeled for over the top use, however there are limited supplies

available. Conventional products like Flexstar, Ultra Blazer and Cobra are labeled for post application and are effective on waterhemp at 2-4 inches, but will have limited control on larger weeds. Furthermore, Cobra is effective on Kochia at 1-2 inches. Producers should follow labels closely, as there are limited products available to control other

broadleaf weeds.

"I caution farmers not to look at buying generic Dicamba to spray on their soybeans just because they are still available for purchase. These products are illegal to use over the top on soybeans, and when this has happened in the past, it caused significantly more drift to non-target crops than the former labeled products,"

said Johnson.

For more information about the suspension of Dicamba products, visit the South Dakota Department of Agriculture website. For all other questions regarding weeds and weed control, contact Paul O. Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Science Coordinator.

# Spring wheat emergence mostly on schedule

## South Dakota Ag Connection

Spring wheat planting is close to being wrapped up in North Dakota, with a few producers still working on getting acreage planted. Emergence continues to be behind average with 72% of the state's crop emerged, compared to 91% on average. On a national basis, 81% of the spring wheat has emerged, similar to last year's pace, but behind the average of 91%. Crop condition ratings remain high with 82% of the U.S. crop rated in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week. In Minnesota, Montana and North Dakota, 83-84% of the crop is rated in good to excellent condition, while 64% in South Dakota is rated in those categories.

Precipitation fell over the last few days but amounts varied widely by location. Most areas in the western half of the state received under half an inch with many producers reporting only a trace. In eastern North Dakota, higher amounts fell with isolated areas receiving 2-3 inches or more. High winds and hail accompanied some of the storms. The U.S. drought monitor indicates that the western half of the state is abnormally dry, with about a third of that area now classified as being in a moderate drought. Precipitation will be needed to promote development and yield potential in those areas.

Durum planting in North Dakota is nearly finished, with about 97% planted. Over three-fourths of the planted crop has emerged,

near the five-year average. Crop condition ratings for durum at this time are fairly high with 82% rated in good to excellent condition. Much of the durum region is

classified as being abnormally dry or in a drought situation, so timely rainfall will be needed for crop development and yield potential.

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# USDA reminds producers to complete crop acreage reports

## USDA report

Area Producers are reminded the final acreage reporting deadline is July 15, 2020 for all spring seeded crops and perennial forage.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers must file an accurate crop acreage report by the applicable deadline.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
  - If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant.

Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

If you have applied for organic certification and do not receive it before the acreage reporting deadline, you may provide the necessary documentation to FSA immediately upon receipt from the certifying agent.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

**CFAP:** Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA's Farm

Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications. The agency set up a call center in order to simplify how they serve new customers across the nation.

"We know South Dakota producers are facing a tough time now, and we are making every effort to provide much needed support as quickly as possible," said Jamie White, acting state executive director for FSA in South Dakota. "FSA is available over the phone and virtually to walk you through the application process, whether it's the first time you've worked with FSA, or if you know us quite well."

Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020. Through CFAP, USDA is making available \$16 billion for vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

"We also want to remind producers that the program is structured to ensure the availability of funding for all eligible producers who apply," White said.

In order to do this, producers will

receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments.

Additionally, producers in search of one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a good first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

**County Committee:** USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin accepting nominations for county committee members on Monday, June 15, 2020. Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for these members who make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2020 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2020.



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Harvesting photo by Jennifer Dangel.

# Sign-up available for virtual feedlot short course, July 16

**BROOKINGS** - SDSU Extension will be hosting a seven-week virtual Feedlot Short Course beginning on July 16. The program is scheduled to run each Thursday from July 16 through August 27, at 12:30 p.m. CDT. "Rather than contend with the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 and hosting in-person events, this year we are holding the event as a Zoom webinar. While we do lose the face-to-face interaction,

this format allows for a larger number of participants and gives them the opportunity to participate without taking as much time away from their operations," said Warren Rusche, SDSU Extension Beef Feedlot Management Associate. Each session will run for one hour with an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. Schedule:  
 • July 16: Bunk Management - Warren Rusche,

SDSU Extension Beef Feedlot Management Associate  
 • July 23: Facility Management - Open Yards and Confinement, Erik Loe, Midwest PMS  
 • July 30: Backgrounding Systems to Add Value to Cattle and Crops - Alfredo DiCostanzo, University of Minnesota Professor of Beef Cattle Nutrition and Management  
 • August 6: Cattle Feeding Risk Management

- Matt Diersen, SDSU Extension Risk/Business Management Specialist and Professor  
 • August 13: Growth Enhancing Technologies - Zach Smith, SDSU Assistant Professor  
 • August 20: Feedlot Cattle Health Strategies - Russ Daly, SDSU Extension Veterinarian, State Public Health Veterinarian and Professor  
 • August 27: 2020 Feed and Cattle Outlook/Program Wrap-up - Panel

Registration is \$25 and allows access to all seven sessions. To register, go to <https://extension.sdstate.edu/event/2020-virtual-feedlot-shortcourse>. For more information, please contact Warren Rusche, SDSU Extension Beef Feedlot Management Associate, at [warren.rusche@sdstate.edu](mailto:warren.rusche@sdstate.edu) or 605.688.5452.



Photo by Jennifer Dangel.

# Paycheck Protection Program Q&A...

On March 27th, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This package appropriated \$349 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The PPP is a guaranteed loan program administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The purpose of the program is to support small businesses and help support their payroll during the coronavirus situation.

**Q: Are agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers eligible for the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)?**

**A:** Agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers with 500 or fewer employees whose principal place of residence is in the United States are eligible. Farms are eligible if: (i) the farm has 500 or less employees, OR (ii) it fits within the revenue-based sized standard, which is on average annual receipts of \$1M. Additionally, farms can qualify for PPP if it meets SBA's "alternative size standard." The "alternative size standard" is currently: (1) a maximum net worth of the business not more than \$15 million, AND (2) the average net income Federal income taxes of the business for the two full fiscal years before the date of the application be not more than \$5 million.

**Q: Are agricultural and other forms of cooperatives eligible for PPP?**

**A:** As long as other eligibility requirements are met, small agricultural cooperatives may receive PPP loans. Other forms of cooperatives may be eligible provided they comply with all other Loan Program Requirements (as defined in 13 CFR 120.10).

## PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM/pg.6



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# USDA expands Farmers.gov features to help manage activities

**USAgNet**

New self-service features on farmers.gov will help farmers and ranchers manage their conservation activities online and request assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. "These conservation features join a number of others already available through farmers.gov, including the ability to

view farm loan information," said Bill Northey, USDA's Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. "As more content and capabilities are added, farmers.gov is quickly becoming the online hub for producers to find resources, submit applications and assistance requests and make connections. Now, amid this pandemic, we recognize the importance of online options for produc-

ers to manage their USDA business." Producers can access these conservation features by desktop computer, tablet or phone. They can now: View, download and e-sign documents; Request conservation assistance; Reference technical terms and submit questions; Access information on current and past conservation practices; and View detailed information on

all previous and ongoing contracts, including the amount of planned and received cost-share assistance. The new conservation features enhance the request process with a customer-friendly unified mapping tool that allows farmers to locate areas of interest in minutes, with high-resolution aerial imagery and multi-layered display functionality. The new features include

the most popular functionalities from NRCS's Conservation Client Gateway (CCG) while providing enhanced functionality and an improved user experience. CCG is the NRCS portal for producers, but now these functionalities are being moved to farmers.gov to give producers one place to do business with NRCS, Farm Service Agency and other USDA agencies.

To access their information, producers will need a USDA eAuth account to login into farmers.gov. After obtaining an eAuth account, producers should visit farmers.gov and sign into the site's authenticated portal via the "Sign In / Sign Up" link at the top right of the website.

## CENTER TO ASSIST/ from pg.6

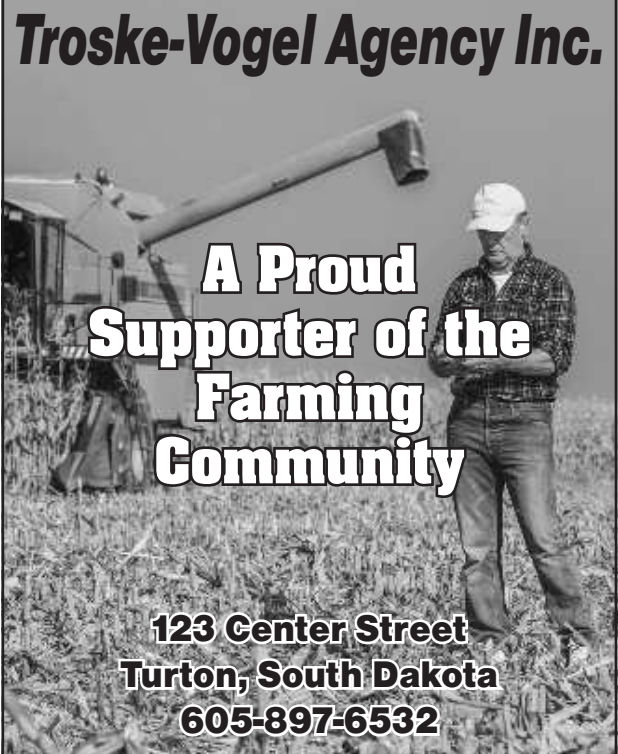
and if necessary, advise and assist on depopulation and disposal methods. Additionally, APHIS will mobilize and deploy assets of the National Veterinary Stockpile as needed and secure the

services of contractors that can supply additional equipment, personnel, and services, much as it did during the large-scale Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza emergency in 2015.

Additionally, the USDA's Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) will be providing state level technical assistance to producers and will provide cost share assistance under the En-

vironmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in line with program guidelines for disposal.

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# I-29 Moo University launches new dairy podcast

BROOKINGS — The I-29 Moo University dairy consortium launched a bi-weekly podcast on May 26, aimed at informing dairy producers in the I-29 corridor and across Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska North Dakota and South Dakota.

“The show’s focus is unique because it aims to discuss current issues faced by dairy producers along the corridor ranging from economics and animal health, to forage, labor and farm programs,” said Kim Clark, Nebraska Extension Dairy Educator.

Podcasts are released every two weeks, and feature commentary by I-29 Moo University Extension dairy specialists

in conversation with other dairy industry experts.

“As one of the four primary collaborating partners of the I-29 Moo University, SDSU Extension will provide expert panelists across a variety of topics for the podcast,” said Tracey Erickson, SDSU Extension Dairy Field Specialist.

“The podcasts offer another way for dairy producers and the dairy industry across the region to receive current and timely information and resources on dairy production practices, financial management and practical strategies in dealing with farm stress,” said Jim Salfer, University of Minnesota Extension Dairy

Educator.

Fred Hall, Northwest Iowa Extension Dairy Specialist adds that the discussions are driven by current topics and questions from producers. “We hope that producers will interact with questions and comments that can help develop more programs,” Hall said.

The first podcast was released on May 26 and featured Kim Clark, Jim Salfer, Minnesota Extension Dairy Educator, and Fred M. Hall, Northwest Iowa Extension Dairy Specialist, discussing information for dairy producers concerning the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). The second podcast is

scheduled for release, June 15th and will feature the topic of “Heat Stress on the Dairy”.

Each episode is 15-20 minutes in length and is available on the I-29 Moo University website, as well as on each state’s dairy Extension website. Listeners can also subscribe to the podcast on iTunes under I29 Moo U Dairy and Spotify. Past episodes are archived, so listeners can tune in whenever they choose. Archived podcasts can be found on the I-29 Moo University webpage at <https://dairy.unl.edu/i-29-moo-university/> or a link can also be obtained through the South Dakota State Dairy and Food

Science webpage under the Extension Tab or the SDSU Extension Webpage under the Dairy Tab For more information, contact Tracey Erickson at [tracey.erickson@sdatate.edu](mailto:tracey.erickson@sdatate.edu) or 605.882.5140; Kim Clark at [kimclark@unl.edu](mailto:kimclark@unl.edu) or 402-472-6065; Jim Salfer at [salfe001@umn.edu](mailto:salfe001@umn.edu) or 612-360-4506; or Fred M. Hall at [fredhall@iastate.edu](mailto:fredhall@iastate.edu) or 712-737-4230.

### About I-29 Moo University:

I-29 Moo University is a consortium of Extension dairy specialists from the land-grant universities in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota. The I-29 Moo

University Collaboration was established as a multi-state learning community, the I-29 Moo University Collaboration connects extension dairy staff and dairy producers from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota to share research, information and management practices through workshops, webinars, monthly e-newsletters and on-farm tours. For more information about the I-29 Moo University Collaboration and programs go to their webpage at <https://dairy.unl.edu/i-29-moo-university>.

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## New Dairy Business Innovation group offering grants

### South Dakota Ag Connection

The newly created Dairy Business Innovation Alliance is offering industry grants to help dairy producers and processors in the region diversify,

modernize or develop new products. Coordinated as a partnership between the Center for Dairy Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Wisconsin Cheese Makers

Association, DBIA is available to help dairy-related businesses in the five states, including Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and South Dakota.

“This initiative will help support farmstead or small dairy businesses as they explore opportunities to create new value-added dairy products like specialty cheeses, in addition, by providing targeted grants to dairy businesses, it will encourage more entrepreneurial efforts,” said CDR Director John Lucey.

DBIA will be distributing direct-to-business grants totaling \$220,000. A grant review committee will review applications and make subsequent awards. Grants will be awarded for projects in increments up to \$20,000.

Applications will be available on June 15 on the DBIA website and due by August 14. Selected applicants will be notified later this fall.

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# Farm programs Q & A...

**Q: Are program signups still occurring, even if Service Centers are not open to the public?**

**A:** USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are continuing to receive and process applications for key programs, including:

- \* Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs (deadline for 2020 is June 30);
- \* Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus and other disaster assistance programs; and
- \* FSA and NRCS conservation programs. Producers can also still receive assistance with conservation planning and acreage reporting. More information is avail-

able on farmers.gov/coronavirus as well as farmers.gov/program-deadlines.

**Q: How do I apply for aid available through the CARES Act?**

**A:** On May 19, 2020, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Beginning May 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will be accepting applications from agricultural producers who have suffered losses. Program details are specific to agricultural commodities

and can be found at www.farmers.gov/CFAP.

**Q: I have a Marketing Assistance Loan through USDA. Do I have more time to repay it?**

**A:** Producers now have more time to repay Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL), as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's implementation of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. The loans now mature at 12 months rather than nine, and this flexibility is available for most commodities.

More information is available on farmers.gov/coronavirus.

**Rainfall in Spink County during the first week of June:**

**June 8th: .08 of an inch**

**June 9th: .93 inch**

**New rainfall amounts expected to be 1/2 -3/4"**

**Flood warning continues along the Jams River at Ashton until further notice.**

**Flood stage is 13 feet.**

**It was 15.2 feet as of Monday, June 8th.**

# Noem recognizes Move Over Awareness Month

June is Move Over Awareness Month in South Dakota, and today Governor Kristi Noem reminded all South Dakotans to drive safely and move over when passing stopped vehicles, especially emergency vehicles.

The South Dakota Legislature designated June as Move Over

Awareness Month in memory of Dale Jones, a South Dakota tow operator who was killed by a passing vehicle this past January.

"Dale Jones' birthday would have been today," said Governor Kristi Noem. "We recognize June as Move Over Awareness Month in the hope that what happened to

Dale will never happen again in our state. I want to thank Senator John Wiik and all the other legislators that brought this important issue to the forefront."

The South Dakota Legislature also passed and Governor Noem signed two laws designed to protect stopped emergency vehi-

cles. Senate Bill 164 revised the penalties and provisions regarding approaching stopped vehicles. House Bill 1170 revised provisions regarding the use of certain lights by tow truck vehicles and Department of Transportation authorized vehicles.



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# Ranch Group welcomes Representative Liz Cheney's Interstate Shipment of State-Inspected Meat Act

Billings, Mont. - Representative Liz Cheney (R-WY) introduced the Expanding Markets for State-Inspected Meat Processors Act of 2020 (H.R. 7162). House co-sponsors include Rep. David McKinley (R-WV) and Rep. Carol Miller

(R-WV). The act would amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act by expressly allowing meat-packing plants inspected by state jurisdictions to sell meat in interstate commerce. The act is similar to a bipartisan Senate version filed earlier by

Senators Mike Rounds (R-SD), Angus King (I-ME), John Thune (R-SD), Michael Enzi (R-WY), Joe Manchin (D-WV) and John Barrasso (R-WY). However, Cheney's act differs by not including poultry as is included in the Senate version.

According to R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard, state inspected meatpackers have long been discriminated against by the

Federal Meat Inspection Act, which he said allows imported meat products produced in foreign plants that only receive periodic inspection by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to nevertheless be shipped to every state in the United States. But, he said state-inspected meat plants that are regularly inspected by their respective state food inspectors

are denied access to all markets outside their state.

"This has effectively prevented robust competition in the U.S. meatpacking industry as market access for state-inspected meat plants is severely constrained, which stymies both new entrants and expansion of existing plants.

"More packing plants competing with existing

packing plants for both their cattle inputs and beef sales means more industry-wide competition, and that is exactly what America's cattlemen need right now"

We greatly appreciate Rep. Cheney's leadership in the House to help our industry rebuild its lost competition," Bullard concluded.

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## Keeping it interesting: SD farmers test interseeding and other soil health practices

*By Lura Roti for South Dakota Soil Health Coalition*

David Kruger and Todd Boesen don't know each other. But these two South Dakota farmers share a desire to test out practices on their farms. "I guess I'm a tinkerer," explains Boesen, a Kimball crop and cattle producer. "It's fun to try things out. If I hear it won't work here, I want to see if I can make it work."

Kruger, who raises crops near Milbank agrees. "If I learn about something that sounds like it might work on my farm, why not give it a try in my fields and see if it will?"

Both farmers have

experimented on small manageable acres with different ways to introduce cover crops into their rotations. Read on to learn what they discovered.

Interseeding cover crops into 60-inch corn

Improving soil health wasn't the reason David Kruger began no-till farming in 1993. His decision had more to do with moisture, labor, economics and rocks.

When his yields remained about the same, but his cost of production went down, Kruger stuck with it. "For me, no-till is not about yields. It is about the bottom line. It's the benefit of having less inputs to increase profits," explains the Milbank, S.D. farmer. He adds

that his yields have not suffered from soil health practices.

Overtime, his fields began to realize additional benefits - increased organic matter led to better water infiltration and holding capacity and less variability. "Our farm has many different soil types. No-till took the ups and downs out of the equation," Kruger explains.

Nearly three decades later, he is playing with reduced nitrogen rates, realizing his acres maybe don't need as much fertilizer. And because no-till, combined with his three-crop rotation of corn, soybeans and wheat has greatly reduced weed pressure, he didn't need to apply as much herbicide either. "I haven't used

pre-emergence herbicide on the ground with the three-crop rotation since Eradicane and Extrazine were on the market. That was 20 years ago."

Year 15 his organic matter quit increasing on fields. By this time, he was hooked on the soil health benefits of no-till. "I was going to meetings and learning more about soil health and finding out how organic matter could increase with cover crops." In an attempt to further improve organic matter, he began experimenting with cover crops, adding the to his crop rotation after wheat...with limited success.

**KEEPING IT INTERESTING/ pg.11**

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# KEEPING IT INTERESTING/ from pg.10

So, when South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (SDSHC) staff members, asked if he would participate in a 60-inch SDSHC corn trial with interseeded cover crops, Kruger was eager to see if he could get better results. "If I could keep yields competitive, then maybe long-term, I could move to a four-year rotation: 60-inch corn, 60-inch corn moving over 30 inches, soybeans and wheat with cover crops growing three out of the four years. I'm eager to see if I do this, what will the organic matter do, and what would be the value of that?"

## Details

Corn planted May 4, 2019: A 10-acre 60-inch test plot was planted to corn at the same seeding rate as 30-inch fields.

June 5, 2019: A diverse cover crop mix was interseeded between the rows using a 10-foot drill.

The mix: cowpeas, sun hemp, hairy vetch, red clover, oats, annual Oregon ryegrass, winter wheat, buckwheat, flax, millet and rapeseed.

5-leaf stage: At 5-leaves, Kruger says even if the drill tires hit a few plants, they rebounded. "Timing was crucial. Early season weed pressure is what hurts corn yields. The corn got a head start on the cover crops, it was 3-4-inches tall before the cover crops were planted."

## Results

Cover crop biomass: September 27 sample

showed 23,000 pounds green weight and 6500 pounds dry weight.

Organic matter: "Organic matter is a slow process. It took me 15 years to see a 1.5 percent increase. But, with interseeding the potential is here," Kruger says. "If I can go to a corn, corn, soybean, wheat rotation and keep the cover crop on the ground three out of four seasons, it just makes sense that it will build organic matter due to the volume of biomass above ground and the roots below."

Weed pressure: Kruger says agronomists would walk into the test plot and just shake their heads. "This should not work. It goes against everything we've ever been taught. Our mindset has always been you have to have perfectly clean field," Kruger says. "It was unbelievable how the cover crop grew and helped hold down the weed pressure. We did not spray

this field after the cover crop was planted."

Plant health: Overall plant health was better in the 60-inch corn, with stronger stalks on greener plants. "It was very interesting to see the plant health. It looked so much better. We don't know why this is. I speculate it was partially due to the fact that the wide rows allowed sunlight to reach the bottom leaves."

Yields: Across the four replicated trials, while the 60-inch plot offered much greater plant biomass, yields were about 12 percent less than corn planted in 30-inch rows.

2020 trial: In 2020, soybeans will be planted in the 2019 plots and a second 60-inch corn trial will begin. In an attempt to improve yields, the cover crop blend will be adjusted for the 60-inch corn trials.

"I definitely feel there is potential to improve yields, while maintaining the benefits of reduced

weed pressure and overall plant health," Kruger says.

Learn more: The 2020 60-inch trials will be located along Highway 12 west of Milbank. If interested in a plot tour call a coalition team member or visit <https://sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/technical-resources/>. Several publications outlining more details of the 2019 trial can be found in the "Additional Resources" section.

Why should I buy fertility when I can grow it?

A fifth-generation farmer, Todd Boesen always wanted to try new and different practices. But it wasn't until he and his wife, Kayla, took over the family farm that he had the freedom to. "It was hard to get my dad and uncle to consider

anything new, like no-till. I always thought, how do we know something else won't work unless we try it?"

Today, with the aid of GPS records, Boesen tries new ideas out all the time. "With GPS, you can turn your whole farm into a test plot and GPS records what you do."

Five years ago, Boesen converted his acres to no-till. He says he didn't need GPS records to tell him the soil health-building practice was working. "We were in a D4 drought and I combined corn, but my neighbor had to cut his for silage."

Moisture retention was a big reason Boesen wanted to implement no-till. It also motivated him to try his hand at interseeding cover crops. "During a drought, we can get a

decent crop as long as we have enough residue to hold moisture."

Fertility is another motivator. "This is a risky enough business already. Just because I put fertility out there for 180-bushel corn, if we don't get the moisture to make up-take work, I won't get 180-bushel corn," Boesen explains.

In a few of his on-farm trials, Boesen did see yield bumps from synthetic fertilizer. But the bump barely covered the cost.

The last three years, he has tried interseeding milo in 30-inch rows. 2019 was the first year the cover crop was able to flourish.

**KEEPING IT INTERESTING/ pg.12**

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## KEEPING IT INTERESTING/ from pg.11

Corn yields were within 3 to 5 bushels of his average and he says his cows appreciated his efforts, so he is going to continue to experiment in 2020, his plan is to interseed in 60-

inch rows. For as long as he can remember, cover crops have been a part of the cropping system. After small grains, his dad and uncle used to broadcast oats.

In recent years he no-till planted marginal crop acres to a diverse mix of cover crops. "We have gotten to the point where we are rarely feed any hay throughout the year.

This has also cut down on equipment costs. In the winter I start the side-by-side and check water." A father of two school-age children, Boesen says there's an added benefit

to testing management practices that cut expenses and build soil health. "There's a lot of talk these days that agriculture is a lot of risk and hard work with less reward.

I'm making things better. And by reducing input costs I hope to leave something that the kids are willing to come back and do."

# Farmfest and Dakotafest canceled for 2020

IDEAg Group LLC., owned by American Farm Bureau Federation, producers of Minnesota Farmfest and Dakotafest, has canceled both farm shows for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We announce this decision with great disappointment but the

well-being of our exhibitors, attendees, staff, volunteers and their families is paramount," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "We understand the impact this has on the ag community, but simply put, it is the right decision to make in these uncertain times."

Farmfest, scheduled for Aug. 4-6 in Redwood County, Minnesota, has served farmers and the agriculture community for 38 years. Dakotafest, scheduled for Aug. 18-20 in Mitchell, South Dakota, was set to celebrate its 25th anniversary. IDEAg management confirms

that aspects of each show will be made available to attendees virtually this year, including the Farmfest Political Forums.

"The Farmfest Political Forums are a highly anticipated part of our annual event, especially for the state's ag industry and in this important elec-

tion year," said Melissa Sanders Carroll, executive director, IDEAg. "Providing people a virtual opportunity to learn about and participate in the issues that directly impact their farms, lives and families is essential to us."

Next year's show dates

have been set. Farmfest will be Aug. 3-5, 2021, and Dakotafest is slated for Aug. 17-19, 2021. Visit Farmfest.com and Dakotafest.com for more information about 2020 virtual event activities as well as information about the 2021 shows.



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