

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Summer 2013
Newsletter



Starry Nights & Midway Lights

More than a fair. That phrase is never more true than this time of year. While the South Dakota State Fair staff is always working on the fair, much of their attention is given to other non-fair events.

For 10 years, cars, motorcycles and semis have been coming to the fairgrounds at the beginning of June for Wheel Jam. The motto for Wheel Jam is "Three big days, three big shows and thousands of wheels." Whatever your wheels of choice are, bring them to Wheel Jam, May 31-June 2. Admission to the event is free, so come out to enjoy sweet rides, good music and tasty food. For a complete schedule of events at Wheel Jam, visit www.wheeljam.com



The Original SD BBQ Championships joined Wheel Jam weekend seven years ago and brings top notch BBQ enthusiasts and their pits to the fairgrounds. The BBQ is a Kansas City BBQ Society (KCBS) sanctioned contest, but also offers other non-sanctioned, less strict if you will, competitions, including the FAT Friday Chili Challenge and Backyard BBQ People's Choice Competition. Over \$12,000 is awarded in cash prizes, and the Grand Champion of the KCBS contest receives invites to national contests. For more information on this event, check out www.sdbbqchampionships.com

The weekend after Wheel Jam, we shift gears from wheels to the outdoors. The SD Outdoor Expo, June 8-9, aims to drive people to be more active in the outdoors by offering hands-on activities for all ages. The event and camping is free. Kayaking, archery, ultimate frisbee, horseshoe pitching and air rifle shooting are just a few of the activities offered.

A Dutch oven cook off is also held on Saturday, followed by the South Dakota Dutch Oven Gathering on Sunday. Have some outdoor equipment to get rid of? Bring it to the newly added Sportsmen's Swap Meet that is held on Saturday and sell it for free! For more event information or to sign up for a special event, log onto www.sdoutdoorexpo.com

The fairgrounds also welcome the Wally Bayum Caravan Club International Rally at the end of June. Hundreds of airstreams will be in Huron June 27-July 4. Prior to that rally, the fairgrounds will also host a horse, goat and antique tractor show.

A few others hosted are the South Dakota Equestrian Special Olympics, State 4-H Horse Show, Beadle County Achievement Days and the State 4-H Dog Show.

All of those events lead up to the 'great reunion', the South Dakota State Fair, scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 29-Monday, Sept. 1. Our grandstand line-up includes Red Wilk Construction CBR Bull Bash, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers with Marty Stuart, Legend Seeds welcomes Eli Young Band and Casey Donahew Band, Three Doors Down and monster truck races.

Check it all out at www.sdstatefair.com

2013 Ag & Natural Resources Legislative Tour

The Departments of Agriculture; Environment and Natural Resources; and Game, Fish and Parks put together a tour of western South Dakota for legislators of the Agriculture and Natural Resources committees on May 14th and 15th.

The tour was sponsored by various private organizations, with sites including a bison ranch, Prairie Berry Winery, Rushmore Forest Products, Wharf gold mine, a treated Mountain Pine Beetle site and a Wildland Fire demonstration.

The purpose of the tour was to allow legislators to have hands-on experiences with various agriculture and natural resources issues that impact South Dakota.

Check out photos of the event at our Flickr page, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdagdept>

SDDA Summer Happenings

May 31-June 2- Wheel Jam, SD State Fairgrounds (SDSF), Huron

June 1- Trampus Haskvitz Golf Tournament, Southern Hills Golf Course, Hot Springs
www.swing4firefighters.com

June 1, noon-2 p.m. MDT- Wildland Fire Lead Office Open House, 622 Heart Ave. STE B, Lead

June 8-9- SD Outdoor Expo, SDSF, Huron

June 26- Governor's Ag Development Summit, Pierre

July 23-25- State 4-H Horse Show, SDSF, Huron

August 29-Sept. 2- South Dakota State Fair, SDSF, Huron





Meet the New Secretary of Ag

South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch's

upbringing rooted him to a state and industry he is committed to serving.

At the time of his appointment by Governor Daugaard, he was

a financial advisor for Reinke Gray Wealth Management. Prior to that, he served as Director of Agriculture Development for the State of South Dakota from 2011-2012.

Lentsch spent over 10 years in business and community development in northeastern South Dakota. During that time, he created, built and sold his own company. He was a founding member and chairperson of Glacial Lakes Area Development (GLAD), a community non-profit organization.

Lentsch graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

He credits his work ethic and financial responsibility to his father and mother who saved to buy a family farm and build a dairy in South Dakota.

Lentsch believes the growing global economy and the world's need for food drives the conversation for agriculture in South Dakota. He aims to represent all of agriculture by encouraging farmers and ranchers to think of the state office as "their" South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

Secretary Lentsch and his wife, Laura, reside in Pierre, S.D., with their four children, Austin, Claire, Shane and Kate.

National Ag Policy Update

The Farm Bill is broad legislation passed every five years to set national agricultural policy. The last Farm Bill expired in 2012, but Congress passed an eight-month extension until fall of 2013 in order to pass a new one.

This bill includes commodity, conservation and crop insurance programs for agricultural producers. Both the Senate and the House introduced their version of the Farm Bill and both are in the process of being debated.

The Senate Farm Bill has been amended in committee and is scheduled to be debated on the Senate Floor in late-May. The House Farm Bill has been approved by the House Agriculture Committee and is expected to be debated on the House floor in June.

An immigration reform package and a new Farm Bill are being worked on in Congress. The Senate Judiciary Committee is editing their version of the immigration bill, while the House Immigration Subcommittee had hearings to decide what will be included in the House version of the bill.

If both bills pass, then a conference committee will meet to decide what will be in the final bill. Major topics in both immigration bills talk about the use of E-Verify to check worker status, applications and numbers of worker visas, and enforcement of the program.

For more information on legislation SDDA is tracking, contact Katie Konda at 605.773.5425.

Division Spotlight: Ag Services Illegal Pesticide Use Investigations

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) is the state agency responsible for investigating complaints of illegal pesticide use. Pesticides include herbicides (weed control), insecticides (insect control), fungicides (fungus control), rodenticides (prairie dog, rats, mice, rodent control), avicides (birds) and predicides (coyotes, predators).

Examples of instances when you may want to file a pesticide complaint are when:

- Your crop or rangeland is damaged by an adjacent pesticide application.
- Plants in your yard are damaged by someone else's pesticide application.
- Your animals are injured by a pesticide application.
- Your stock pond or other water source is contaminated by a pesticide application.
- You or another person in your household is injured by a pesticide application.

Once a complaint is filed, a State Investigator will gather information on site by collecting statements, application records, pesticide labels, photographs, and collecting samples. The information gathered will help document whether a violation of state or federal pesticide laws has occurred.

The goal of SDDA is to respond to pesticide complaints within 3 days and, if an investigation is initiated, submit an initial investigation report within 18 days. The review of investigation reports can take an additional 118 days more. The actual time taken to respond to a complaint and complete an investigation report can vary by workload, sampling needed, and laboratory analysis requested. Conclusions and enforcement actions will not be made available until the completed investigation report has been reviewed and associated enforcement actions have been issued.

SDDA does not have the authority to seek compensation on the behalf of any complainant, but does provide pesticide sampling and a detailed investigation report to assist the complainant if damage compensation/reimbursement is pursued through the court system. SDDA cannot act as your legal counsel.

Complaints can be filed by calling 605.773.4432 or online at the link below: <http://sdda.sd.gov/farming-ranching-agribusiness/regulatory-compliance-enforcement/pesticide-complaint-investigation-and-enforcement/>