



Preserving A Way Of Life Through Ag Development

by Governor Dennis Daugaard



In South Dakota, agriculture is more than just a sector of our economy. It's a way of life. Whether it's a small family farm, a sizeable cattle ranch or a dairy operation, all forms of agricultural businesses are important to that way of life.

In 2013, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) began offering counties a service called the County Site Analysis Program. This service helps counties use data to identify sites suitable for agriculture-related development, and to avoid sites which are not suitable.

Ag investments are vital, especially in rural South Dakota, but development must be done responsibly. Because not every new

project is a good fit in every location, the program helps county commissioners and landowners determine where projects best fit.

Through the County Site Analysis Program, SDDA looks at local zoning ordinances, locations of roads, utilities and other infrastructure, as well as other local permitting requirements. This information is used to rate property locations on their suitability for things such as manufacturing, commodity processing or livestock-related enterprises.

This program respects local control, because local officials must initiate the process by a formal resolution, requesting SDDA assistance. County commissions, planning and zoning boards, and landowners can use the produced data to make well-informed decisions. Local leaders use the data in their comprehensive planning efforts; landowners have concrete information outlining options for their

land; and agribusinesses learn where their investments will be welcomed.

Even though the County Site Analysis Program is fairly new, a majority of counties have already expressed interest in participating. Since the programs launch, 49 counties have requested a site analysis, and SDDA has completed analyses in 15 counties.

In addition to this program, local governments may soon have another way to pave the road for economic development. There's a proposal in the Legislature right now that would revise state law on conditional use permits. Conditional use permits are local zoning exceptions which allow property to be used for specific purposes. Cemeteries, churches, golf courses, gravel pits and livestock barns are some examples of projects that might require this kind of permit.

Under current state law, local governments must have a two-thirds majority to approve conditional use

permits. House Bill 1201 would allow local governments to change that requirement to a majority vote, if they so choose. Like the County Site Analysis Program, this proposal respects local control. It does not mandate that local governments change the current supermajority requirement. It gives the option. This bill could make it easier to start an agribusiness in South Dakota within our counties and municipalities who invite those opportunities.

Agriculture preeminence in our state economy is not something that is inevitable. Local leaders understand this and they know they must be intentional about allowing for opportunities. The County Site Analysis Program and House Bill 1201 seek to broaden those opportunities.

By furthering ag development in our state, we'll not only be maintaining our number one industry, but we'll be preserving a way of life.

■ SOUTH DAKOTA STATE NEWS

Children's Mini-Grant

BROOKINGS, S.D. - SDSU Extension and the Community and Family Extension Leaders (CFEL) are pleased to announce opportunities for helping educational garden projects fund seeds, plants, small garden equipment or other programming materials through Children's Gardening Mini-grant.

The mini-grant opens March 9, 2015.

The grant is offered to any school-age group, K-12, with preference given to after-school and out-of-

school time programs.

Participants must partner with SDSU Extension through a Master Gardener, a county 4-H Youth Program Advisor, FNP/EFNEP assistant or other connection. The program must incorporate hands-on learning experiences for children over a period of 6-12 weeks and include programming related to plant science and nutrition. A brief summary report of the project is also required.

Applications and a complete list of grant

requirements are available at the iGrow Community Development Local Foods page under the publications tab in the resource library on March 9, 2015. Applications are due April 1, 2015.

Deliver or mail the application to the SDSU Extension Regional Center in Sioux Falls, at 2001 E. 8th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57103. Or email the applications to Christina Zdorovtsov. - See more at: <http://tinyurl.com/koc4h9x>

■ SDSU GROW

'Excellence in Ag' Scholarship

Feed Energy announced that for the fourth consecutive year it is offering two \$2,500 "Excellence in Ag" scholarships to students studying agriculture at a college or university in the Midwest. Interested students can find more information and apply for the scholarship online. The application deadline is April 30.

To be eligible students must meet specific requirements, including attending a college or university in one of the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota or South Dakota. They must have an agriculture-related major, be a sophomore, junior, senior

or graduate student, and have a 3.0 to 4.0 GPA. The two scholarship recipients will be chosen based on their references, resume and a two-page essay.

"We are proud to offer the Scholarship because we believe funding ag education is critical for the future of so many areas of our society," said Joseph P. Riley, executive vice president. "By supporting our students as they develop knowledge in the many different aspects of agriculture, we can indirectly contribute to the larger bio-economy, particularly in the Midwest."

■ SD Ag Connection

A graphic for MV Shopper. It features a cartoon character of a person in a hard hat and safety vest, holding a paintbrush and standing next to a large 'M' and 'V' logo. The text reads: "Want your business to be seen? Get your display ad here! Call 605-665-5884 Or Drop By At 319 Walnut St."

An advertisement for HVAC & Electrical Contractors. It features two logos: "KAISER HEATING & COOLING" and "Power Source Electric". The text includes: "Your Heating & Cooling Specialists 665.2895", "Residential & Commercial Electrical Contractors 260.8683", and "Divisions of Electair, Inc." with names "Chris Frick" and "Doug Dykstra".

An advertisement for Sturdevant's AUTO PARTS. It features the text: "We Have a Full Line of Filters, Belts & Hydraulic Hoses for all Your Farming Needs". It also includes the "pronto AUTO PARTS" logo and contact information: "1509 E. Hwy. 50 Yankton, SD 605-665-3693 sturdevants.com". A starburst graphic says "Serving the area for over 80 years!".

A large advertisement for John Deere. It features a green John Deere tractor in a field. The text reads: "Because the job is tough enough... Getting the equipment you need shouldn't be." It lists contact information for three locations: Yankton, SD (Hwy. 50, 665-3762, (800) 952-2424, jpravecek@fredhaar.com); Freeman, SD (Hwy. 81, 925-4241, (800) 251-6912, admin@fredhar.com); and Wagner, SD (Hwy. 46, 384-4580, (888) 384-4580, alhaar@fredhaar.com). It also includes the website "www.deerequipment.com" and the "C & B Operations, LLC" logo.

An advertisement for Mead Lumber. It features two images of large metal storage sheds. The text reads: "From Pole Buildings to Storage Sheds, See us for all your Farm Needs." It includes the company name "Mead Lumber" and the tagline "Your Hometown Lumber Yard Since 1910". Contact information is: "2409 Broadway, Yankton · 605-665-9651".



Our local farmers work hard to grow and produce the wholesome, delicious food we so proudly serve.



JOIN US IN SAYING,
"Thank You."



MV Shopper MISSOURI VALLEY