# **Celebrate Beef Month This May**

BROOKINGS, S.D. - South Dakota celebrates its beef industry throughout the

month of May. "This tradition began more than 40 years ago and recognizes beef production as one of South Dakota's largest economic sectors," explained Holly Swee, the Director of Nutrition & Consumer Information for the South Dakota Beef Industry

Because beef is so important to the state's well-being, Swee said South Dakota cattlemen and women take great care in their production practices. "Cattle producers are constantly finding ways to improve beef production and sustainability practices to help ensure a safe, wholesome and nutritious product now and well into the future," she said.

The South Dakota Beef Industry Council utilizes checkoff dollars paid in by South Dakota beef producers from the sale of beef cattle to fund research. "This research supports the fact that animal protein, like lean beef, provides a complete,

high-quality protein which contains all the essential amino acids the body needs for optimal health," Šwee

She added that new research indicates many consumers may benefit by spreading their protein intake evenly throughout the day to achieve health and wellness goals.

"Unfortunately, people tend to consume about 65 percent or roughly twothirds of their daily protein needs at dinnertime," Swee said. "This doesn't leave much room for spreading protein intake throughout the day during other meals and snacks.

By distributing protein more evenly throughout the day, Swee said people have a tendency to feel more satisfied, which helps reduce mindless eating. "Additionally, meals and snacks with high-quality protein also help to build muscle and reduce body fat, which helps to boost your metabolism, she said.

Celebrate with a 30-Day Protein Challenge

Recently the Beef Checkoff Program developed the 30 Day Protein Challenge across the country. This health challenge is a step-bystep way to get an optimal amount of protein through-

out the day. "This designed to help consumers better balance their protein consumption within their calorie limits.' Swee explained.

Swee said if you are looking for a way to kickstart your overall health and wellness goals, this 30 day challenge may just be for you. "Once you sign up, this free online resource will provide you with helpful tools and a quick email every day for 30 days that includes tips, advice and inspiration to keep you dialed in for the duration of the challenge, she said.

For more information and beef recipe ideas, contact at 605.224.4722 or visit the SD Beef Council website.

## Feeding Sorghum as Alternatives to Corn

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The combination of poor margins for row crops and the threat of continued dry conditions are prompting many producers to re-evaluate cropping plans. Warren Rusche, SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist encourages them to consider crops like sorghum which require fewer inputs and use water more efficiently.

How well do these crops fit livestock production? Rusche said the answer depends on the

class of livestock fed and feedstuff. There are two general options for sorghum crops for feed

As for grain sorghum or milo, Rusche said it produces a crop that can substitute well for corn. The energy content of milo is usually about 85 percent of that for corn grain, which is usually reflected in price.

Because milo is more variable in starch and protein content than corn, Rusche said periodic feed testing is warranted if it will be the base of a finishing diet. "The seed coat of milo is essentially indigestible, so the crop needs to be ground or rolled for feeding. In general, grinding milo finer results in improved feed efficiency compared to coarser particle sizes," he said. 'Grain sorghum residue is very similar to corn stalks and makes an excellent resource for fall grazing cows.'

When it comes to forage sorghum, Rusche said it works best as a silage crop and has been grown successfully by a number of producers. "The crop can produce silage yields similar to corn but with 40 percent less water. Reduced cash input costs per acre represent another advantage," he said.

Sorghum silage is lower in energy content compared to corn silage. Typical compositions are listed in Table 1. "Of course, actual composition can vary depending on hybrids, harvest maturity, and storage losses, so producers should sample their own feedstuffs for analysis," Rusche said.

Impact

The impact of using sorghum silage depends on the class of livestock, explained Rusche. Sorghum silage works well in gestating cow diets. Growing and backgrounding cattle would most likely gain more slowly because of the lower energy content compared to corn silage unless cattle feeders add additional amounts of energy dense feeds such as grains or distillers, he said. "There likely would be only small differences for finishing cattle because of the small amount of roughage included in those diets.'

Another factor to consider is the effect crop choice has on the entire operation. "One advantage of corn over forage sorghum is that producers have the option of harvesting as either silage or grain, depending on weather and market conditions," Rusche said."Once farmers decide to plant forage sorghum, they have also decided to devote those acres to forage

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