



E-Alert Newsletter

Happy Thanksgiving!

As Thanksgiving approaches, it is a good time to step back and reflect on the year. More than any other holiday, food plays a central role in our Thanksgiving celebrations, so it is only appropriate to think about the state of our food supply and those who produce the food that eventually makes it to our tables each day. [Read the entire entry.](#)

Safe, Nutritious and Affordable Food Supply is Top Priority in South Dakota

Leaders representing every link in South Dakota's food production chain reinforced their commitment to working together to deliver a safe, nutritious and affordable food supply to South Dakota and the world at a South Dakota Food Chain Roundtable held last week in Sioux Falls.

The roundtable was hosted by Ag United and included panel discussions with farmers, processors and food service professionals, as well as open discussions with all participants. The event generated a number of recommendations to improve communications within the food chain, as well as ideas to deliver more positive messages to South Dakota consumers about the importance of agriculture and food production in the state.

For more information about the roundtable visit www.agunited.org.

Ag United Annual Luncheon

Ag United will be hosting its 5th Annual Luncheon on Tuesday, December 8th at the Sioux Falls Ramkota starting at 11:30 a.m. Our featured guest is John Hinnners from the US Meat Export Federation. John will be sharing with us his insight on meat exports to the Asian market. Seating is still available, to receive your complementary ticket please contact the Ag United office at 336-3622 or info@agunited.org

“Thank a Farmer Day” Recognized in South Dakota

South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds joined governors across the country in issuing a proclamation declaring November 20 as "Thank a Farmer or Rancher" day. Governor Rounds recognized farmers and ranchers for not only providing the food we eat but also helping to sustain rural communities, preserving open spaces and wildlife habitats, and protecting the environment. He noted that agriculture is South Dakota's number one industry, employing over 173,000 people in production, processing and support industries – nearly 40 percent of the state's workforce – and generating more than \$645 million in tax revenues.

Classic Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Declines for 2009

Menu items for a classic Thanksgiving dinner including turkey, stuffing, cranberries, pumpkin pie and all the basic trimmings dropped 4 percent in price this year, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. The 24th annual informal price survey of classic items found on the Thanksgiving Day dinner table indicates the average cost of this year's feast for 10 is \$42.91, a \$1.70 price decrease from last year's average of \$44.61.

The AFBF survey shopping list includes turkey, bread stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a relish tray of carrots and celery, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and beverages of coffee and milk, all in quantities sufficient to serve a family of 10. The cost of a 16-pound turkey, at \$18.65 or roughly \$1.16 per pound, reflects a decrease of 3 cents per pound, or a total of \$.44 per turkey compared to 2008. Milk, at \$2.86 per gallon, dropped \$.92 and was the largest contributor to the overall decrease in the cost of the 2009 Thanksgiving dinner.

Click [here](#) for more information.

PETA protest planned in Rapid City

The animal rights organization People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) plans to protest the dairy industry by dumping gallons of milk into the Rapid City waste water system.

"Milk and dairy products have long been a staple in healthy diets," pointed out Hadrick. "To have a group like this waste gallons of milk is reckless." The South Dakota Farm Bureau plans to donate a like amount of milk dumped by PETA to the local food pantry.

To read the press release sent out by the Farm Bureau click [here](#).

Donate a gallon of milk to fight PETA

If you would like to donate a gallon of milk to the Community Food Banks of South Dakota in response to PETA dumping milk in Rapid City, Ag United will match your donation gallon for gallon. Please contact Ag United at 336-3622 or info@agunited.org with the number of gallons you would like to donate. To learn more about how dairy products lead to a healthy diet check out the Midwest Dairy Associations web site [here](#).

Don't Forget the Fall Farm Photo Contest!

There is still time to submit a photo of fall harvest or cattle work and win one of the following prizes:

- Soybean harvest - \$25 in Biodiesel from the South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council
- Corn harvest - \$25 in Ethanol from the South Dakota Corn Council
- Fall Cattle work - \$25 in Beef from the South Dakota Beef Industry Council

To enter please send your photo, what category you would like your photo to be entered in and contact information to Kelly Wubben at: Kelly@agunited.org. The photos will then be uploaded to the [South Dakota Farm Families](#) Facebook page for others to see. The contest will close November 30th with the winners to be announced December 1st.

GrowingOn 2010 is POSTPONED at four locations due to late harvest conditions

The latest harvest on record in South Dakota is causing SD Corn and Farm Credit Services of America to respond to our valued farmers' current schedules and POSTPONE four of the six GrowingOn 2010 Education Seminars planned for the week of Dec. 1-4.

Postponed seminars include the seminars previously planned at Aberdeen, Watertown, Huron and Sioux Falls. Programs in these locations will be rescheduled and information will be provided soon with details about new dates.

The Mitchell and Yankton GrowingOn 2010 Seminars will be held as planned. Mitchell will remain on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at the Mitchell MTI Technology Center, 6 p.m. start; and on Thursday, Dec. 3 GrowingOn 2010 will be offered at the Yankton Riverfront Event Center East Side with a 9:30 a.m. start.

GrowingOn 2010 features Steven Johnson, Iowa State University Extension Farm Management Specialist, offering strategies for producers in 2010. The program is a special outlook on crop marketing and crop insurance strategies that aims to position producers with growth opportunities for 2010.

Please call the SD Corn office with any questions or to register for the Mitchell or Yankton events at 605-334-0100. Or check out our website at www.sdcorn.org for more information.

GrowingOn 2010 Seminars STILL SCHEDULED:

- Wednesday, Dec. 2: Mitchell MTI Technology Center, 6 p.m. start
- Thursday, Dec. 3: Yankton Riverfront Event Center East Side, 9:30 a.m. start

POSTPONED GrowingOn 2010 Seminars:

- Tuesday, Dec. 1: Aberdeen Best Western Ramkota
- Tuesday, Dec. 1: Watertown Event Center
- Wednesday, Dec. 2: Huron Crossroads Hotel
- Friday, Dec. 4: Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel

Please forward this message to anyone that you feel would pertain to this information.

USDA Reports Hunger at Historic Levels

More people in the U.S., including children, are going hungry than ever before in history, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Household Food Security" report issued this month. The [annual report](#) revealed that 17 million American households - 14.6% of households - were "food insecure" in 2008, the highest level observed since the report was first undertaken in 1995, USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) said. The numbers represent 49 million Americans, including nearly 17 million children.

Web Watch: Learn About Modern Dairy Farming with Online "Operation Dairy"

Kids (and adults, too) can check out a new interactive online game at www.OperationDairy.com to learn about how milk is produced and cows are cared for on modern dairy farm. "Operation Dairy" challenges players to explore a rich virtual farm landscape to find and "win" nine unique dairy tokens by correctly answering a question about the dairy industry. Each token is accompanied by an engaging video clip from the Discover Dairy education-based Web site, www.DiscoverDairy.com.