

# AG HORIZONS CONFERENCE **Virtual**

**Kick-off Week**  
**February 7 - 13, 2021**  
**Available until April 14**



Sponsored by:

SD Crop Improvement Association, SD Oilseeds Council, SD Pulse Growers,  
SD Seed Trade Association, SD Soil & Water Conservation Society,  
SD Soil Health Coalition, SD Wheat Inc., and the SD No-Till Association

## February 7th - Dr. Lee Briese

**Title:** *Nutrient Management in Cover Crop systems*

**Subject:** *Nutrient Management*

- *Nutrient capture and tie up with cover crops*
- *Nutrient fixation and release from cover crops*
- *Nutrient timing and rate adjustments in cover crop systems*

*This session will discuss recent research and field observations relating to nutrient management in cover crop systems. Nutrient sequestration, nutrient releases, deficiencies and management techniques will be discussed. Some recommendations will be provided for how to adjust nutrient application rates and timing.*



Doctor Briese has a Doctor of Plant Health Degree from the University of Nebraska, a Master of Science in Soil Science from North Dakota State University, a Bachelor of Science in Crop and Weed Science from Dickinson State University. He is also a Crop Consultant for Centrol Crop Consulting in Edgeley, North Dakota.

## February 8th -

### Nate Fransen, First Dakota Bank

**Title:** *Surviving & Thriving in Agriculture Today*

**Subject:** *Keys to successful financial performance in agriculture.*

- *Current financial condition of Ag producers*
- *Economic outlook for agriculture*
- *Characteristics of successful farmers and ranchers*

Franzen has more than 25 years of banking experience. He joined First Dakota in 1998, and currently



is President of Ag Banking leading all aspects of Ag Banking for the company. Franzen is a graduate of Northern State University with a BS in management and marketing. He holds an MBA from the University of South Dakota, and is a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Georgetown University. He has held many leadership positions across the Ag industry both in SD and on a National level.

## February 9th - Senator John Thune



“To South Dakota’s farmers and ranchers, I want to say, I hear you. “I know that things have been incredibly tough for you all over the past few years. “I know that you are fighting through a lot of challenges. “I am committed to making sure Washington addresses your priorities.

“And I will do everything I can to make sure that you have access to the support and the resources you need to continue feeding our nation, and the world.”

## February 9th - Senator Mike Rounds



Agriculture is our state's greatest economic engine. South Dakota farmers and ranchers play an important role in feeding and fueling a growing global population. I will work to pass the Reins Act; a bipartisan effort to limit federal bureaucracy and the overreaching rule-making our producers are frequently exposed.

## February 9th – Representative Dusty Johnson



“Dusty Johnson brings an energetic and optimistic style to Washington as South Dakota’s lone voice in the U.S. House of Representatives. A “policy guy,” he works hard to be a knowledgeable and value-added member on issues related to his two primary committee

assignments: Agriculture, Education & Labor.

A recognized leader in issues related to rural America, agriculture, and welfare reform, Dusty was grateful to receive the unusual honor of being named ranking member of the Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations Subcommittee as a freshman. This panel allows him to focus on how SNAP Food Stamp program reforms can better prepare Americans for a life beyond poverty and on ensuring that all aspects of the Farm Bill are successfully implemented. Dusty also serves on the Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit Subcommittee.

He enjoys engaging on the issues that impact producers in South Dakota and looks forward providing an overview of what’s ahead for the House Agriculture Committee and taking any questions.”

## February 10th – Dr. Adam Varenhorst, SDSU Field Crop Entomologist



Dr. Adam Varenhorst is the Extension Field Crop Entomologist at South Dakota State University.

His research and extension work focus on the integrated pest management of insect pests in corn, soybean, sunflower, wheat and alfalfa. *For this presentation,*

*Dr. Varenhorst will be covering the potential for reduced pyrethroid susceptibility in populations of red sunflower seed weevils. In addition, Dr. Varenhorst will also provide updates on other sunflower insect pests including banded sunflower moth, sunflower moth, grasshoppers and early season sunflower insect pests.*

## February 10th – Michael Krueger, Founder and President of The Money Farm

*Title: Having Some Fun Now!*

*Subject: Grain Market Outlook*

• *What has changed the market outlook so significantly in just six months?*



• *A look at soybean corn and wheat U.S. and world supply and demand estimates based on the January 12th USDA reports.*

• *What factors will affect prices going forward?*

• *A peak at the potential 2021-22 corn and soybean numbers.*

• *How will all of this affect what farmers plant in 2021.*

• *Quick weather look.*

## February 11th – Pulse Crops Tim McGreevy, US Pea & Lentil Council

*Title: Pulse Crop Sustainability, Risk Management and Market Factors.*

• *Introduction of the Sustainability of Pulses and impacts to Soil and Water*

• *Current Research on pulses and soil and water*

• *Pulse Crop Risk Management Tools*

• *Discussion of Pulse Crop Marketing Factors.*

It is the goal of the US Pea & Lentil Council to bring



together everyone in the pulse crop value chain to work toward the goal of improving the return on investment for the entire value chain. The APA members include a diverse array of pulse crop processors, warehouses, exporters, food manufacturers, producers and

associate members representing the entire US pulse industry.

## February 12th – Anthony Bly, SDSU Extension Soils Field Specialist

*Title: Native Nutrient Supply and Carbon Basics*

*Subject: Soil fertility and carbon sequestration.*

- *Cropped soil has lower native nutrient supply.*
- *Sustainability of soil nutrients are important.*
- *Organic matter and carbon are higher in native soil.*
- *Carbon sequestration is an important topic.*
- *What is the carbon status on your farm?*



This presentation seeks to provide insight to how farming practices have changed the soil. Carbon is a cornerstone element in soil health, productivity and nutrient cycling. How are farming practices changing the soil will be the focus of this presentation and how to understand the value of the carbon in your soil.

## February 13th – Syngenta Wally West, Wheat Disease

*Title: Disease Management in Wheat*

*Subject: Identification and management of diseases in South Dakota wheat*

- *Examine the pathogen threat at the various growth stages of wheat, planting through heading.*
- *Focus on the best management practices to limit the impact that disease pathogens create.*
- *Practices including variety selection considerations, crop rotation, residue management, seed treatment, and fungicide recommendations, including application timing.*



Wally West, Agronomy Services Rep for Syngenta Crop Protection in South Dakota and SW Minnesota. He has a B.S. degree in Agronomy from SDSU, with over 40 years of professional sales, marketing and agronomy experience.

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**February 7th to April 14th, 2021**

# Legislation of Interest to Agriculture Groups

## Ten Year State Permit: Senate Bill 52

DENR is asking the legislature to change the length of time a state permit for CAFOs can be issued from five years to ten years. If passed by the legislature and signed into law, this would allow a ten-year state general permit to be issued when the current permit expires. This change will save resources for producers and DENR. Minnesota has a 10-year state permit for CAFOs and have not had additional threats to their state's natural resources because of the change. If you have any questions, please contact Kent Woodmansey at (605) 773-5559.

## Meat Processing Grant: House Bill 1040

Governor Noem's goal of the proposed grant program is to assist South Dakota's small meat processors responding to market



and workforce disruptions due to COVID-19 by providing \$5 million to make immediate increases on the state's capacity to process or store South Dakota raised protein products. Many of our small processing plans are booked for months or even years into the future – the grant program

will help increase local meat processing capacity, thus providing additional market opportunities for livestock producers and jobs in rural communities. The final criteria for the grant program are still being developed, however, the following small meat processors would be able to apply: state inspected "equal to" slaughter or processing plants; licensed custom-exempt slaughter plants; or small and very small federally inspected plants. Eligible expenses would include items such as coolers/freezers, temporary cold storage, portion cutters, processing equipment, slaughter equipment, or animal holding equipment. The funding will be allocated by tiers – final tiers and funding amounts are still being developed. If the program is approved, we plan to move forward quickly with the application and award process so the funds can be used in 2021. For more information contact Jason Simmons at (605) 773-5559.

## Change to Petition Requirements and the Criteria for Issuance of a Water Right Permit: House Bill 1028

DENR is asking the legislature to focus contested case hearings for water rights applications to matters under the jurisdiction of the Water Management Board. Currently, anyone can oppose any application for any reason; the proposed legislation requires a petitioner to allege unique injury if a contested application is approved. Under the current petitions filed, there can be several months delay of projects for matters that are under the purview of county commissions and planning and zoning boards. A second goal of the legislation is to limit the criteria the board uses to approve an application to only matters falling within the board's regulatory authority. Matters unrelated to the water use such as the siting of a CAFO, property values, roads, odors, dust, etc. could be excluded from board consideration since the board has no authority to regulate those matters. For more information contact Eric Gronlund at (605) 773-3352.

## Revise Certain Provisions Regarding Riparian Buffer Strips: House Bill 1042

DENR is asking the legislature to make the voluntary enrollment of buffers more attractive by:

- Increasing the tax incentive by changing the assessment from sixty percent of its agriculture income value to fifty percent; and
- Changing the annual enrollment requirement to a ten-year enrollment.

The proposed legislation increases incentives for land-owner participation in the buffer strip program. Riparian buffer strips have a proven track record of improving water quality. For more information contact Bill Smith at (605) 280-4839.

## Make an Appropriation from the Coordinated Natural Resources Conservation Fund to the State Conservation Commission and to Declare an Emergency: House Bill 1038

SDDA is asking the legislature to provide the State Conservation Commission with the authority to spend the funds that are deposited into the coordinated natural resources conservation fund. The coordinated natural resources conservation fund was established by the State Legislature in 1992. The fund receives \$500,000 on July 1st of each year (SDCL 10-47B-149(5)). The fund is used to assist the state's sixty-nine conservation districts in promoting conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, improve cropland and grazing land condition, improve surface and ground water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. For more information contact Bill Smith at (605) 280-4839.

## Authorize the Department of Agriculture to Contract for the Construction of a Livestock

*(Continued on next page)*

## **and Equestrian Complex on the South Dakota State Fairgrounds, to Make an Appropriation Therefore, and to Declare an Emergency: Bill Not Yet Introduced**

SDDA is requesting \$12,000,000 in one-time funds for the DEX: Dakota Events CompleX at the State Fair. A fire caused by a faulty electrical cord on a refrigerator occurred in the early morning hours of October 31, 2020. No people or animals were hurt but the building was a total loss

### **The DEX will feature:**

- 200,000 square foot, one-of-a-kind, livestock and equestrian facility that will set a new standard for hosting local and national events.
- 7,000 seats will hold spectators from around the globe, as they witness events brought to South Dakota never thought possible.

### **Dalton Henry, USW Vice President of Policy**

# **One Year Later – Phase One Trade Deal with China Producing Results for U.S. Wheat**

Just over a year ago, on Jan. 15, 2020, the U.S.-China “Phase One” agreement was signed, leading to the eventual waiver of China’s retaliatory tariffs against U.S. agricultural products. Those actions opened the door again to the largest wheat consumer in the world after nearly two years in which U.S. wheat producers were all but shut out.

While the final results of the Phase One agreement will not be written for several months, early returns show the agreement paid off in a big way for U.S. wheat producers and their Chinese customers.

The Phase One agreement contained both specific purchase targets for agricultural commodities, and structural changes to China’s import systems. To date, much of the celebration and criticism has centered on the purchase targets — with very little attention paid to the structural changes that in some instance resolved disputes decades in the making.

One dispute of relevance to wheat had been at the center of a WTO case dating back to 2015 on China’s administration of their grain tariff rate quotas (TRQ). In a case the U.S. won in mid-2019, the WTO panel found that China had not administered the quota in such a way as to be “transparent, fair or predictable.” With the WTO case entering compliance at roughly the same time as Phase One agreement was being negotiated, U.S. negotiators included additional language in the agreement to build on the WTO case win and ensure eventual Chinese compliance. That language included stipulations making clear that Chinese “State Trading Enterprises” are subject to the same rules as private companies and specific transparency requirements to make it possible to evaluate Chinese compliance with the allocation and reallocation provisions that are so important to the proper functioning of their TRQ.

• The capacity to host two full size equestrian arenas, larger livestock shows, concerts, auto thrill shows, and events throughout the year make this complex unmatched.

The footprint will encompass the area abandoned by the Beef Complex, that is scheduled to be demolished by February of 2021, and retire the 37,000 square foot Sheep Barn, that has long outlived its useful life.

### **Funding:**

- Estimated project cost is \$19 million
- Insurance payments (final amounts pending)
- Discover the DEX Fundraising - \$4 million

More information, including information on how to make a pledge, can be found at [www.sdstatefair.com](http://www.sdstatefair.com). For more information contact Peggy Besch at (605) 353-7340.

With those new rules in place, China is projected to import 9 million metric tons (MMT) of wheat this marketing year — a 25-year high, and almost double their previously highest TRQ purchases. China turned to U.S. wheat producers for a significant portion of that higher import volume. Since the signing of the Phase One agreement, U.S. wheat sales to China have totaled more than 2.8 MMT — nearly 90% above USW’s long-term pre-trade war average. Those imports have come from four different classes of U.S. wheat and helped meet the demand for U.S. wheat from China’s private flour millers. This import volume is likely to make China the fourth largest export market for U.S. producers in marketing year 2020/21, which ends May 31.

There are likely to be substantial trade negotiations between China and the United States in the coming months — something wheat producers should welcome. The Phase One agreement was never supposed to be an “end-all agreement” — in fact, when it was announced, plans were already in place to start on “Phase Two,” which were eventually scrapped after COVID-19 turned the world on its head.

With a new U.S. administration taking office this week, many in agriculture are watching closely to see which way the political winds will blow those discussions with China. While there may be a desire by some for a “fresh start” in the China relationship, the Biden administration would do well for U.S. agriculture to pick up where Phase One left off and continue to build on the tremendous export potential for China. President-elect Biden’s early statements and plans to keep tariffs in place on Chinese goods until they can be reviewed are an important first step in the right direction

# Assessing Winter Wheat Stands for Winter Survival



## Winter Wheat

Winter wheat can often be found to survive short freeze thaw events throughout the winter. However, there are concerns about crop damage and survivability, particularly in those fields that were planted late last fall and those fields that were covered in ice for prolonged periods.

When making assessments for winter survival, fields are typically walked after a week or two of warm weather. This usually occurs in late April to early May after growth resumes, with the replant decision to another crop being made as late as possible. Fields that should be prioritized include: those that were planted shallow, had frost heave problems (planted too shallow!) (Figure 1), planted with a variety that has poor winter hardiness, were planted late or had ponding and ice throughout the winter. When evaluating wheat stands you need to count the number of plants per foot of row. Table 1 shows the yield potential for various plant stand counts.



Figure 1: Winter wheat plants showing signs of frost heaving. Roots are not well anchored into the soil. Photo courtesy of Dave Hooker

It is also important to assess the health of the plants themselves to determine whether plants are actually going to survive or not. Are the plants well anchored into the ground or is the seed lying on the soil surface with the plant holding on by a single root? If plants are not well anchored, do not include them in your stand counts as they are less likely to survive.

When making assessments do not focus on bad spots in the field. Conduct a number of stand counts and plant health assessments throughout the entire field to get a broader perspective of what is happening. If 5% of the field is in poor condition and the remainder of the field is in good condition, do not take the wheat out (Figure 2). Also, be sure to consider the planting date. If the wheat was planted early, it has more yield potential.



Figure 2: An established winter wheat stand with areas of winterkill. If killed out areas of a field make up less than 10% of the field, the stand should be kept. Photo courtesy of Dave Hooker

**Table 1. Determining Yield Potential for Various Plant Stand Counts**

Per metre of row	Number of Plants		Planting Date	
	Per foot of row	% Yield Potential	Yield t/ha (bu/acre)	
			Oct. 5	Oct. 15
66	20 <sup>1</sup>	100	5.34 (80)	4.84 (72)
33	10	95	5.11 (76)	4.57 (68)
23	7	90 <sup>2</sup>	4.84 (72)	4.37 (65)
20	6	85	4.57 (68)	4.10 (61)
16	5	80	4.30 (64)	3.90 (58)

Source: Smid, Ridgetown College, University of Guelph, 1986-90.

<sup>1</sup>Full stand.

<sup>2</sup>23 plants/m (7 plants/ft) of row, healthy and evenly distributed plants.

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*SDWI's current top priorities are:*

- Helping shape the Farm Bill
- Preserving the farm safety net by protecting crop insurance
- Protecting land owner rights
- National farm program spending
- Shortline rail and transportation
- Agricultural research
- Free trade and marketing

SDWI officers, board of directors, and staff have been actively representing wheat farming interest in many policy areas in Pierre and Washington, DC.



**Call 1-605-224-4418 or join online at [www.sdwheat.org](http://www.sdwheat.org)**

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