

SDSU Seednews

Volume 28 Issue 1

January 2020

Special points of interest:

- State Crop Contest Entrance Deadline Noon Feb. 7, 2020
- Watertown Winter Farm Show Feb. 11-15, 2020
- SDCIA Board meeting March 13, 2020

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S.D. Governor Noem Proclaims Feb 21 as Soil Health Awareness Day

PIERRE, S.D.- Improving soil health is a mission many South Dakotans take seriously, including Governor Kristi Noem, proclaiming February 21 Soil Health Awareness Day in South Dakota.

“South Dakota’s farmers and ranchers are deeply committed to stewardship,” Noem said. “Soil health is a crucial component to ensuring the land that grows our food remains productive for future generations.”

Soil Health Awareness Day provides an opportunity for all South Dakotans to learn about the need for, and benefits of soil health, explains Cindy Zenk, Coordinator of the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (SDSHC). “Soil health matters. No matter what your occupation or where you live in South Dakota, its health impacts you,” explained Zenk, who works with hundreds of farmers and ranchers to advocate for the importance of the irreplaceable natural resource.

“Healthy soil supports food production and water quality, topics which are of great importance especially this year and will be for many years to come.

Healthy soil supports wildlife economic stability and profitability and much more... Soil truly is the foundation of life.”

SDSHC is a producer-led, non-profit which collaborates with many agencies, organizations and individuals to promote improved soil health, providing education and resources to South Dakotans of all ages and occupations.

“Our mission, to improve soil health, is an attainable goal as long as those within the agricultural community become aware and receive support from the community at large,” Zenk explained. “The Governor’s Proclamation certainly aids us in our mission.”

Because healthy soil is better able to absorb and retain water, benefits of implementing management practices that bolster soil health are especially evident

during years of extreme weather – excess moisture or drought – benefits Noem noted in the Proclamation.

Established in 2015, SDSHC has worked tirelessly to increase awareness and provide information through programs like their youth-focused Soil Health Buckets. A hands-on teaching tool, funded by grants, individuals and businesses. Today more than 100 South Dakota classrooms implement Soil Health Buckets and accredited lesson plans into their STEM education.

Beyond educational resources and connecting farmers and ranchers with soil health experts, the organization’s team of Soil Health Technicians work one-on-one with producers helping them develop and implement soil health practices to work on their land.

“If agriculture, our state’s number one industry, is going to be sustainable for future generations, we have to practice the principles of soil health,” explained Dan Forgey, a SDSHC board member and farm manager for Cronin Family Farm and Ranch near Gettysburg.

Governor Noem agreed. “After the wet year we had in 2019, producers across the state have seen the benefit of practices that support soil health, and I’m hopeful more producers will implement added water infiltration and retention soil practices to better support our state’s long-term soil health.”

To learn more about Soil Health Awareness Day, materials available to promote the day, as well as the work SDSHC does to support their mission, visit www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org, email sdsoilhealth@gmail.com or call (605) 280-4190.

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**EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

WHEREAS, agriculture is the economic driver of South Dakota, contributing 132,105 jobs, 11.2 billion dollars in total value added, and 32.5 billion dollars in total output. With farmers and ranchers creating this impact through the management of cropland, grasslands, and livestock; and

WHEREAS, soil is the basis for all life, the foundation and means by which plants and animals can be grown and products produced; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers have seen a need to increase awareness of the importance of our soils as a state resource as well as promote management practices that increase its health and productivity for sustainability; and

WHEREAS, 2019 remained an especially challenging year for farmers and ranchers with extreme weather conditions causing large erosion and flood events; and

WHEREAS, healthy soil can create many advantages including improving water infiltration and retention to better manage the effects of flood or drought, filtering and cleaning water that moves through it, decreasing soil loss due to erosion by wind or water; and

WHEREAS, building organic matter which retains and cycles nitrogen and sequesters carbon reducing production costs and enhancing wildlife habitat while balancing the biological community above and below ground; and

WHEREAS, a collective effort to increase sustainable agricultural production through improved soil health.

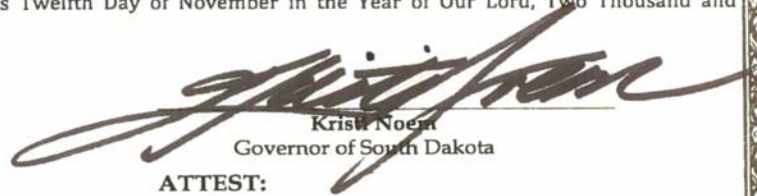
NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 21, 2020, as

SOIL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

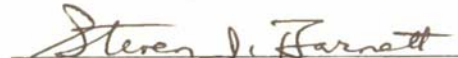
in South Dakota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of November in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.




Kristi Noem
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:


Steven J. Barnett
Secretary of State

Field Applications for Winter Wheat

With the winter season heavily upon us and if you are looking for something to do, winter wheat field applications can be made at any time. If this will be your first-time making field applications on-line this is the perfect time to learn how. There is a tutorial for field applications posted under "Resources" at www.SDCrop.org. No fees will be applied until the inspector sets foot in the field, cancelations can be made at any time before inspection.

Watertown Winter Farm Show and State Crop Contest

This year the Watertown Winter Farm Show will be February 11th through the 15th. Held in conjunction with the Farm Show is the State Crops Contest. The classes for the show have been reworked as follows:

Classes:

Grain Crops:

Small Grains – Plaque for Grand and Reserve, Ribbon for top 3:

Spring Wheat, Winter Wheat, Durum Wheat, Oats, Rye, Barley, Flax

Row Crops - Plaque for Grand and Reserve, Ribbon for top 3:

Corn – Shelled, Corn – Dent (10 Ears Required), Corn – Flint (10 Ears Required), Corn – Pop (10 Ears Required), Soybeans, Sorghum, Safflower, Sunflowers – Oil Seed, Sunflowers – Confectionary Seed

Other Crops – Plaque for Grand and Reserve, Ribbon for top 3:

Proso Millet, Foxtail Millet, Buckwheat, Edible Beans, Canola, Peas

Forages:

Hay - Plaque for Grand and Reserve, Ribbon for top 3:

Alfalfa, Legume and Grass Mixture, Prairie Hay, Tame Grass Hay

Silage - Plaque for Grand and Reserve, Ribbon for top 3:

Corn Silage, Legume and grass Mix Silage, Sorghum Silage, Small Grain Silage, Alfalfa Haylage, High Moisture Corn

• **STATE CROP SHOW ENTRY RULES** •

1. No entry fees will be charged.
2. All entries must have been grown in South Dakota in 2019 by the Exhibitor.
3. An exhibitor may make as many entries as they wish.
4. All exhibits must conform to the amount specified. Smaller exhibits will be displayed but will not be eligible for awards.
5. Every exhibit must be properly labeled with (a) name of exhibitor, (b) address, (c) county, (d) variety/hybrid and (e) lot entry number.
6. All entries shipped must be received by Thursday February 6th, 2020. Entries should be shipped to:
Watertown Winter Farm Show
c/o Codington County Extension Office
1910 West Kemp Avenue Watertown,
SD 57201-3048
Allow sufficient delivery time for UPS or mailed shipments.
7. Exhibits personally brought to the show must be entered by 12 noon, February 7th, 2020.
8. Exhibits must be removed from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday, February 15th, 2020.
9. Three ribbon placing's will be made. Plaques will be awarded for Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Small Grains, Row Crops, Other Crops, Hay and Silage.
10. Each entry made by a contestant will be eligible for a prize drawing of a \$1000.00 donation, made by the South Dakota Crop Improvement Association in the contestants name to a South Dakota 4-H Club or FFA Chapter of their choice.

Seed Dispositions Will Soon Be On-Line

With all the changes that have occurred over the last year for the SDCIA record keeping system, one of the last additions is the seed disposition. This will replace the old Form E. The need for accurate accounting of bushels harvested is crucial for this to be able to function properly. This begins when the initial sample is submitted for testing. On the Form C "Request for Testing", you are asked to state the amount of seed harvested (in dirt bushels). When you estimate the bushels harvested be as accurate as possible. It is always best to estimate slightly on the high side. The same goes when combining fields on the Form C, be as accurate as possible when estimating bushels. The Seed Disposition portion is tied into the bulk sales certificate. Each time that a bulk sales certificate is filled out and submitted, it is recorded and subtracted from the amount of total seed available. If the bushels are not accurate the program will not allow bulk sales certificates to be completed. By using bulk sales certificates on-line many of the cells with labeling information will automatically populate – purity, germination etc... The seller and buyer (if a recurring sale) will also auto populate. The auto populate cells can be adjusted by the seller as desired i.e. auto populate germination is 97% you can adjust this down on the bulk sales certificate. This will save you from handwriting each certificate The categories of the seed disposition will stay the same; clean out, sold as seed (will be automatic if bulk sales certificates are completed on-line), own use, and non-seed uses. If you need help with the seed disposition or bulk sales certificate, please contact the SDCIA Office.

**South Dakota Crop
Improvement Association**

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State Crop Contest

This year the State Crop Contest will be held during the Watertown Winter Farm Show, February 11th thru the 15th. Every year SDCIA hosts the Crops Contest and for several years now the number of entries has been declining. In an effort to increase interest in the show the SDCIA will be sponsoring a \$1000.00 donation. Anyone who enters the contest is eligible for the drawing. The winner of the drawing will get to designate a South Dakota 4-H Club or FFA Chapter that will receive the donation. The classes and entry requirements are posted on the Watertown Chamber of Commerce web site: www.watertownsd.com and Watertown Winter Farm Show web site (www.watertownwinterfarmshow.com). **To enter the contest the samples must be at the Codington County Extension Office by noon on Friday, February 7th, 2020.**