

Spring Load Limits are in Effect

A spring load restriction report is usually issued in advance of any major load restriction change. This report is issued for guidance only and does not take precedence over load restriction signs in place. For further information or a copy of a Spring Load Restriction Map, please contact the DOT at 605-773-3571. Spring Load Limit Information may also be found on online [here](#).

Individuals can subscribe to an email list to receive Spring Load Limit Restriction information electronically. To subscribe click [here](#).

South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) Offers Disaster Resources for Producers

A resource for crisis support and assistance for livestock loss, feed loss, debris removal, repairs to farmlands, and financial assistance can be found on the SDDA website [here](#).

2019 Legislative Session Recap

The main run of this year's legislative session ended on the 39th Legislative Day (March 13) at 3:00 AM due to blizzard warnings. Legislation that impacted agriculture include:

- **Chemical Trespass** - SB147 would have required commercial pesticide applicators to carry a \$300,000 surety bond or \$100,000 liability insurance to pay for damage from pesticide drift. The bill was killed, but the story doesn't end there. The SD Department of Ag (SDDA) agreed to form a work group (of which SDABA is part of) to study the issue.
- **Manipulated Manure** – This bill proposed setting the inspection fee for manipulated manure at \$0.16/ton, based on its relative nutrient value. The current fertilizer inspection fee is \$0.90/ton for commercial fertilizer and \$0.80/ton for manipulated animal manure. The money goes to the SD Department of Ag for administering the fertilizer program, to the Nutrient Research and Education Council, and to help pay for the Precision Ag Center at SDSU. The bill died in Senate Tax committee.
- **Industrial Hemp** – This would have authorized the growth, production, and processing of industrial hemp. The hemp would have to contain less than 0.3% THC, growers would need

to be licensed, and growers would have to pass a background check. The bill sailed out of the House on a vote of 65-2, then died in the Senate...then was revived...and amended...and passed. The House agreed with the Senate amendments and sent the bill to Governor Noem, who vetoed it within minutes. The House easily overrode the veto on a vote of 55-11, but the Senate upheld the veto on a vote of 20-13.

- **2+2 Veterinarian Program** – Students wishing to pursue a degree in veterinarian science now have the opportunity to complete the first two years of veterinary medical education through SDSU, with classes in Brookings and clinical options at university laboratories and at nearby facilities. The final two years will be completed at the Minnesota CVM in St. Paul and the University of Minnesota will grant the DVM degree.
- **State Budget Summary** – Overall, major increases include 10% increase for nursing home reimbursement rates, 6.5% increase for community support providers, and 2.5% increase for education and state employees. The total FY2020 budget is \$4.862 billion and 14,013.2 FTE's:
 - \$1.693 billion in general funds
 - \$1.754 billion in federal funds
 - \$1.415 billion in other funds

Training Required for Newly Labeled Paraquat Applications

Applicators are required to take the training if they are using a new label that was stamped by EPA in December 2018. It is anticipated the new label will be widely available by 2020. Retailers with bulk product may order new repack labels.

The training was developed by paraquat manufacturers as part of EPA's 2016 risk mitigation requirements and approved by EPA.

Paraquat is one of the most widely used herbicides in the U.S. for the control of weeds in many agricultural and non-agricultural settings and is also used as a defoliant on crops such as cotton prior to harvest. Paraquat is a restricted use pesticide for use only by a certified applicator. The restriction applies to mixing, loading, and applying paraquat, as well as other pesticide handling activities.

Since 2000, 17 deaths have been caused by accidental ingestion of paraquat. Many of these deaths resulted from people illegally transferring the pesticide to beverage containers and the victim later mistaking it for a drink. A single sip can be fatal. In addition to the deaths by accidental ingestion, since 2000, three more deaths and many severe injuries have been caused by the pesticide getting onto the skin or into the eyes of those working with it.

To help prevent these tragedies, certified applicators must now take paraquat-specific training before use, to emphasize that the chemical must not be transferred to or stored in improper containers. The training also covers paraquat toxicity, new label requirements and restrictions, consequences of misuse, and other important information.

The requirement for training is only one of several actions EPA has taken to prevent poisonings, including:

1. Making label changes,
2. Restricting the use of all paraquat products to certified applicators only, and;
3. Requiring closed-system packaging for all non-bulk (less than 120 gallon) end use product containers of paraquat.

View the paraquat:

- [Training module and list of FAQs](#),
- [Summary of mitigation measures](#), and
- Mitigation decision and other supporting documents at www.regulations.gov under [docket # EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855](#)

SDABA Board of Directors Endorses Infotech Solutions, LLC of Madison, SD, as Cybersecurity & Professional IT provider

SDABA recently hired Infotech Solutions to shore up our computer security and provide day-to-day IT support. It is important to SDABA that the information we collect from our members is protected and we can provide reliable services. The Board has also endorsed Infotech Solutions as a company that would be beneficial to our members for providing IT support and solutions for cybersecurity.

SDABA encourages all its members to examine areas where your company would be vulnerable to attacks. The FBI identified agriculture as an industry with cyber risk, and reports that foreign nations are trying to illegally get hold of American agricultural technology, particularly data on genetic engineering, as well as improved seeds and fertilizer. How do these attackers get in? The top threats to data security are:

1. Employees (exposing the company to attacks through clicking on false links)
2. Ransomware
3. Unpatched Security Vulnerabilities/Bugs

Do you know your vulnerabilities? Infotech Solutions can conduct a FREE Network Security Health Check, just click on this link to schedule one: [Network Security Health Check](#). As an IT provider, Infotech was able to tailor support for SDABA's small two-person office and limited budget. For more information on their managed services, please visit [Managed Services](#), or call or email Tyler Ruhd, Business Development Director, at tyler.ruhd@infotechsd.com, 605/427-0555.

Ammonium Nitrate Truck Explosion in Arkansas

TFI is aware of this week's ammonium nitrate truck explosion in Arkansas. Our deepest condolences go out to the family of the driver who was killed. TFI remains confident in our industry's ability to safely and securely transport ammonium nitrate, out of an abundance of caution we are once again sharing the [Ammonium Nitrate Safe Storage and Handling Guidelines](#). *Source: TFI*

AG Systems, Inc and Heartland Ag Merge

Long-time fertilizer and crop protection application equipment distributors, AG Systems, Inc. of Hutchinson, Minn., and Heartland Ag of Ames, Iowa, merged to create the largest Case IH commercial application equipment distributorship in North America. The new organization will operate under Heartland AG Systems, Inc.

The merger brings customers an expanded footprint, with nine locations across eight states, from the upper peninsula of Michigan to Colorado from east to west and from North Dakota to Missouri from north to south.

“This is an exciting time for our companies,” said Bill Oltean, president of Heartland Ag. “We’re creating opportunities for our employees, customers and partners by bringing together our collective capabilities with our Case IH commercial application equipment portfolio.” *Source: Heartland Ag Systems*

South Dakota County Level Commodity Level Estimate Released

County-level estimates for 2018 row crops are now available, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The estimates, based primarily on surveys conducted with farmers and ranchers last fall, can be accessed using the QuickStats online database, found here: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/.

CCA NEWS

Revocation: ICCA has begun the revocation process for those who were short CEUs for cycles ending December 31, 2018. CCA's were sent an official letter stating they were dropped, along with explaining the process of getting their certifications reinstated.

Renewal Deadline: CCA'S THAT have not paid their 2019 renewal fees have also been notified for renewals that were due by March 1.

Exam Results: Results from the February 1, 2019 CCA and Specialty Exams were emailed to participants on March 20th. If you took exams on that day and haven't gotten an email with the specific link to check your results, please contact Jessica Elliott at the ICCA office via [email](#) or phone 608/278-8739.

Next Exam: The next opportunity to take the State and International Exam in South Dakota will be February 7, 2020. Online registration will begin in the early fall and close in mid-December. Details can be found online at <https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/exams>.

“Happy” April Fools’ Day

Although April Fools’ Day, also called All Fools’ Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery. Some memorable past spoofs include:

- In 1957, the BBC broadcast a film purporting to show Swiss farmers picking **freshly-grown spaghetti**, in what they called the Swiss Spaghetti Harvest. The BBC were later flooded with requests to purchase a spaghetti plant, forcing them to declare the film a hoax on the news the next day.
- In 1962, Swedish national television broadcast a 5-minute special on how one could get **color TV** by placing a nylon stocking in front of the TV. A rather in-depth description on the physics behind the phenomenon was included. Thousands of people tried it.
- In 1976, British astronomer Sir Patrick Moore told listeners of BBC Radio 2 that unique alignment of two planets would result in an upward gravitational pull making people lighter at precisely 9:47 am that day. He invited his audience to jump in the air and experience "a **strange floating sensation**". Dozens of listeners phoned in to say the experiment had worked.
- In 1985, Sports Illustrated tricked many of its readers when it ran a made-up article about a rookie pitcher named Sidd Finch who could throw a **fastball over 168 miles per hour**.
- In 1993, a radio station in San Diego told listeners that the **US Space Shuttle** had been diverted to a small, local airport. Over 1,000 people drove to the airport to see it arrive in the middle of morning rush hour. There was no shuttle flying that day.

Calendar

JULY

10-11 - [Governor's Ag Summit](#)

11 - SDABA Board of Directors Meeting, Pierre

14-18 - TAL Session II and Washington, DC Fly-in

16-17 - IPM Field School, Volga

SEPTEMBER

12 - SDABA Board of Directors Meeting, Brookings

OCTOBER

9-10 - TAL Session III, Sioux Falls

NOVEMBER

14 - SDABA Board of Directors Meeting, Sioux Falls

DECEMBER

11-12 - Agronomy Conference 2019, Sioux Falls www.sdaba.org

2020

January 14 - SDABA Board of Directors Meeting, Sioux Falls

January 15-16 - Ag Expo, Sioux Falls www.agexpo-sd.org

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