WITHIN THE SHORT PERIOD OF A WEEK, I serendipitously had a series of experiences focused around the accomplishments of three generations of SDSU Extension faculty and staff. As I reflect on the impressive work of these individuals, I am struck by a common thread that runs through their lives and careers: altruism. Following World War II, Boyd Bonzer became a poultry Extension specialist in the Animal Science Department at SDSU, and he spent the following 30 years helping to lead our state through the greatest agricultural revolution in the history of the world. Sadly, it was at Boyd's funeral where his service and leadership were highlighted. But what a wonderful man, and what a wonderful celebration of his 96 years of life!

Boyd was a native of Hecla, SD, and an SDSU alum of ’42. He followed his service to our nation in the U.S. Army with a lifetime of service to his alma mater and his state. His career spanned the period when the entire poultry industry shifted from small farm flocks to highly productive modern systems. He was a leader during a frenetic period of change in agriculture and society. He was a specialist when the science of poultry production exploded. And yet, as people reminisced at his funeral, what stood out to me was the unselfish spirit with which he carried himself. Part of the “Greatest Generation,” I was humbled by the life of Boyd Bonzer, and grateful for his service to SDSU Extension.

Fittingly, Jim Krantz was recently honored with SDSU’s highest award for service, the F. O. Butler Award for Excellence in Service. Jim, SDSU Extension Cow-Calf Field Specialist, recently retired from SDSU Extension. His 25 year career in Extension will for me always serve as a role model for how to do it right and do it well. While his humble, selfless, and caring temperament was his hallmark, I also know him to be rock solid from a scientific and technical perspective and a highly effective communicator. In an earlier part of my career, I had the privilege of working with him on the design and delivery of Extension programs. I was always impressed at how one minute he could be gently guiding a novice 4H’er through the show ring, and the next be shepherding an adult audience through the explanation of the most recent information about a scientific breakthrough. As I reflect on his career, his altruistic spirit was amazing. Everything Jim did was for, and on behalf of, others.

Recently, the staff of SDSU Extension helped 675 girls learn about the exciting future in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers at the Sioux Falls Women in Science Conference. The conference connected 8th grade girls with role models and mentors through hands-on workshops, discussion panels, and numerous exhibits. SDSU Extension staff could be found in the exhibit hall, presenting in workshops, and behind the scenes assisting in planning and facilitating the event. SDSU Extension’s team served the event in multiple ways by building partnerships, helping in fundraising, soliciting exhibitors, and lining up presenters. This year’s event had girls from 35 schools in attendance and presentations from 28 different organizations.

The catalyst for SDSU Extension’s role in this great event was Christine Wood, 4-H Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Field Specialist. While certainly not a traditional area for 4-H, the STEM program that Christine has developed provides us with an exciting vision for the future. Career opportunities in STEM for young people are not only exploding, they are critical to our nation’s ability to meet the challenges of that same future. Christine is doing important work across South Dakota, with young people of countless backgrounds, whose world is bigger and brighter because of her tireless efforts. The beneficiaries of her work, of course, are not only the children, but all of us. And just like Boyd and Jim, at the heart of Christine’s work, is an altruistic spirit determined to make a positive difference in the world around us.

As I reviewed this issue of “Growing South Dakota” focused on SDSU Extension, I was struck by the language in the titles of the articles. They are full of verbs like “serving, envisioning, meeting, directing, adapting, achieving, and giving.” And I found adjectives like “committed, relevant, new, and multi-cultural.” I am heartened that behind all of the exciting action described by those verbs and the adjectives describing such positive attributes, lies the altruistic spirit of people like Boyd, Jim and Christine. How blessed we have been, and continue to be, to be served by people of such character.

BARRY H. DUNN, PH.D
CONTENTS

2 Committed To South Dakotans
Programs Focus On “Healthy Food, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities”

4 Serving South Dakota’s Multi-Cultural Communities
Programs Take Root In Sioux Falls And On Standing Rock Indian Reservation

4 Relevant Resource
New Manual Provides Guidance For Farmers Markets

6 Food Growers Unite
Formation Of “Food Hub” Being Explored

8 Envisioning The Future
Extension Assists Community Leaders With Forward Thinking

10 Innovative New Tools
Online Resources Provide Useful Climate Data, Drainage Calculators

12 Meeting Producer Needs
Production Knowledge Enhanced With Extension Efforts

14 Directing Dairy Dialogues
Collaborative Outreach Efforts Engage & Educate

15 Empowering Women
Annie’s Project Builds Business Skills Among Rural Women

16 Adapting & Achieving
4-H Youth Programming Continues To Grow & Serve New Audiences

21 Planned Giving
A Message From The SDSU Foundation
Committed to South Dakotans
Programs Focus On “Healthy Food, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities”

Healthy. It’s a word used to describe an individual’s physical or mental condition; to describe relationships; to gauge the status of natural resources or economic conditions; to categorize how a business or community is fairing in current society. And it’s a word SDSU Extension is focused on through their program efforts statewide as issues are addressed in the five capstone areas: Agriculture & Natural Resources; Community Development; 4-H & Youth; Food & Families, and Native American Programs.

Throughout this special issue of Growing South Dakota, which serves as the 2014 SDSU Extension Annual Report, we highlight several of the ongoing programs statewide that are being implemented to continue moving toward a healthier state – from our people and the products they produce to the businesses and communities that comprise all aspects of South Dakota.

WELLNESS COALITIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED

One SDSU Extension focus area is to prevent and reduce obesity of children, youth, and their families, especially in high-obesity counties within the state. To help foster a change for health and well-being, community dialogue, community decision-making, and community action are all critical factors in the process of producing environmental change.

To that end, SDSU Extension will foster the development of community-based wellness coalitions in six South Dakota high-obesity counties (Bennett, Buffalo, Campbell, Corson, Union, and Ziebach) and seven American Indian reservations (Cheyenne River, Corson, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Yankton Sioux) to address the issue of preventing and reducing obesity of children, youth, and their families.

The wellness coalitions, facilitated by SDSU Extension, will then conduct a community needs assessment to engage the local community and ultimately to select and implement interventions and corresponding activities, explains Suzanne Stluka, SDSU Extension Food & Families Program Director. Her counterpart Shawn Burke, SDSU Extension Native American Programs Program Director, is overseeing the coalitions established on the seven Reservations.

Stluka notes that utilizing this community-based approach allows the wellness coalition and communities to have ownership over the activities they select, which will result in greater success and sustainability. “The core of this program is a collaborative effort of organizations and individuals interested in food production, food sovereignty, health and nutrition in specific counties and South Dakota reservations. Extension offices and partners in each area will work with these coalitions to design program outreach and resource development in accordance with local goals,” she adds.

The activities will be individualized to the interests and goals of each participating community, but will ultimately focus on three core elements:

- Promoting access to fruits and vegetables.
- Increasing healthy behaviors such as consumption of healthy food and beverages.
- Providing access to physical activity opportunities.

Examples of community activities that may be implemented include developing local food farm-to-school programs, establishing school or community gardens, founding farmers markets to serve community needs, or developing community fitness zones.
A three-year timeline has been set for this effort. In 2015, Year 1, wellness coalitions will be created along with conducting a community needs assessment and development of a strategic plan. In Year 2 and 3, implementation of activities outlined in the strategic plan will be initiated, sustained and potentially expanded.

ADDRESSING FOOD DESERTS

In addition to the wellness coalitions, Burke reports that SDSU Extension is continuing to provide education and outreach programming related to food production and marketing topics to South Dakota’s reservations – all of which are classified as food deserts by USDA.

“We are committed to providing programs to address food access issues and that contribute towards self-sufficiency and food sovereignty,” explains Burke. Trainings typically focus on home and commercial gardening, utilization of small acreages through livestock and other enterprises, nutrition education, marketing and market development.

Much of the training is provided in direct workshop settings, with limited programming provided by webinars and other technology. Programs are held in conjunction with local partner agencies with content based upon community request.

“Individuals participating in these programs acquire skills that help improve nutritious food utilization in home and agency settings. On the business side, participants acquire skills in marketing and presentation of their goods, as well as an understanding of the regulations governing local food utilization in commercial settings,” he adds.

Burke says the positive impacts among reservation communities are noticeable. More than 50 individuals benefited from gardening trainings in 2014 – several are now Master Gardeners and many have established their own home gardens. Community gardens and school gardens are also being established. All of these efforts are increasing local food access on the reservations. Workshop participants also have shown an increased understanding of nutrition, food preparation and budgeting, as well as farmers markets and food hubs as marketing options.

Other recent programming efforts in ranching and small acreage development have specific training and resource development for over 100 participants on three Western South Dakota reservations.

Looking ahead, Burke notes that SDSU Extension will continue working with local and state partners to provide information and skills to reservation and other South Dakota communities.

These SDSU Extension efforts are receiving funding assistance through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Program Grant 1416, and through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) funds administered by the SD Department of Social Services, Economic Assistance.
THIS WINTER WHILE TEACHING a food preservation class in Sioux Falls, SDSU Extension Food Safety Field Specialist Lavonne Meyer faced a unique challenge—her participants were from several different countries and eight languages were represented in the room. “We had translators and we got through it. They were so enthusiastic and so willing to jump in and learn,” Meyer says of the class.

The participants were refugees who live in Sioux Falls, and they were participating in “New Roots for New Americans” programming designed to help them learn skills in horticulture and gardening, nutrition, cooking and food preservation, as well as skills related to local food entrepreneurship.

The programming is the result of a partnership formed in 2013 between SDSU Extension, the Somali Bantu Community Development Councils of South Dakota, and grocery retailer HyVee.

The Somali Bantu Community Development Councils of South Dakota acquired a Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program (RAPP) grant to assist aspiring, limited-resource refugees to develop their skills as growers, to encourage healthy diets and to sell their produce.

Through this funding and partnerships, SDSU Extension field and state specialists developed the “New Roots for New Americans” curriculum, a 6-month intensive urban farming incubator program where refugee families are provided classroom and garden-based training—such as the food preservation class Meyer conducted.

The program, which is now going into its second year and is offered from January through June, involves SDSU Extension Community Development, Food Safety, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) staff, and a Minnehaha County Master Gardener. They provide 50+ hours of multidisciplinary training to participants covering the topics of gardening/horticulture, food entrepreneurship, food safety and preservation, food preparation, resource management, and nutrition. Participants also take field trips to commercial produce farms. In 2014 the program had 38 participants, for 2015 there are 30.

The participants are also provided a community garden plot at the New American Garden near the East 10th Street HyVee store in Sioux Falls. HyVee provided the ground for 102 garden beds—for 2015 more garden plots are also being offered at Oak Hill Baptist Church. Refugee participants then have the opportunity to sell their locally grown produce at the New American Garden Farmers Market in the HyVee parking lot.

To further support the program, SDSU Extension wrote and administered a S.D. Specialty Crop Block Grant which funded promotional and marketing materials to increase awareness of the New American Garden Market. It also provided funding for display containers and tents that aided in presenting a professional-looking market. The grant also supported expansion of the garden site while allowing more participants in the program.

Meyer says many of the refugee participants are so enthusiastic they use multiple beds to grow produce. Last fall, about two-thirds of the program participants sold their produce, while the rest grew food for their families.

Relevant Resource

Farmers markets have grown in popularity over the past decade—and as a result, there is an increased need for information about how to establish and successfully operate a farmers market, as well as requirements for selling at a farmers market.

To help address those needs and answer many of the questions about farmers market operations, the iGrow Farmers Market Resource Manual has been published by SDSU Extension.

The manual was co-authored by three SDSU Extension staff with a combined 39 years of service: Joan Hegerfeld-Baker, Rhoda Burrows and Christina Zdorovtsov. Baker, SDSU Extension Food Safety Specialist, is an Assistant Professor in Health and Nutritional Sciences. Burrows is a Professor of Horticulture and SDSU Extension Horticulture Specialist. Zdorovtsov is an SDSU Extension Community Development Field Specialist.

Baker says many people from across the state were involved with the development of the manual and notes that more than 20 are listed on the acknowledgements page. She shares that as the content for the manual was developed, input was also sought from farmers market directors and vendors. “We wanted to address what they felt was relevant and needed for the success of farmers markets both locally and nationally.”
Meyer and her colleagues have seen many positive outcomes from the program. She points out that Sioux Falls refugees have an increased opportunity to produce their own food, reducing food costs and increasing access to healthy food options. As well, those who choose to sell their products have opportunities for increased incomes, and the Sioux Falls community has an additional asset that increases access to fresh, locally produced food.

From a cultural aspect, the program has also created the opportunity for the community to interact with diverse refugee cultures – potentially bridging barriers, building trust and forming relationships.

The SDSU Extension team who developed and serve as instructors for the New Roots for New Americans curriculum includes: Chris Zdorovtsov, SDSU Extension Community Development Field Specialist; Karin Woltjer, SDSU Extension Master Gardener; Lavonne Meyer, SDSU Extension Food Safety Field Specialist; and Becky Phillips, SDSU Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) Assistant.

Above: In Sioux Falls, refugee participants are working with SDSU Extension to grow produce, and then have the opportunity to sell their items at the New American Garden Farmers Market.

The 10 chapters featured in the manual outline key elements that should be considered by farmers markets – from forming a new farmers market and establishing vision and mission statements to considering operational, regulatory and product rules. Entire chapters are devoted to EBT sales, food safety and food and product regulations, which Burrows says are topics for which information is frequently requested.

Zdorovtsov says a key goal of this publication was to serve as a foundation for effective communication between vendors, market directors and community members in establishing and maintaining a successful farmers market. Example worksheets, forms and even invoice formats are included in the manual, making it practical and easy for users to adapt to their own needs.

Another unique aspect included in the manual are “market profiles” that share lessons learned and experiences from existing farmers markets within the state. The culmination of all those efforts has resulted in a manual that is earning acclaim statewide, and Baker says although parts of the book are specific to South Dakota, it will be a resource for farmers markets outside the state as well.

Of the information provided by the manual, Barry Dunn, Dean of SDSU’s College of Agriculture and Biological Resources, points out many beneficial facets. He says, “Not only will this guide aid entrepreneurs in achieving profitability, it will also allow them to contribute to improving food accessibility, improving nutrition, educating consumers, and strengthening communities.

Funding for the publication was supported in part by the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program at USDA. To purchase a copy visit the iGrow Store at www.iGrow.org. Individuals or communities interested in establishing a farmers market should contact Christina Zdorovtsov@sdstate.edu.
SDSU EXTENSION IS WORKING WITH SOUTH DAKOTA food producers in the southeastern corner of the state to explore opportunities for developing a “food hub,” which would provide a means of getting local food from small producers to consumers.

A food hub is a way for local food producers to aggregate their food together to distribute out to a broader market, such as restaurants and institutions interested in a constant supply of local foods for their establishments, explains Kari O’Neill, an SDSU Extension community development field specialist who is helping coordinate the partnerships and business planning necessary for establishment of a food hub.

Over the past few years, SDSU Extension has been working with many communities, farmers markets and individual food growers across the state to create a network for sharing and exploring ideas related to local food. One such effort included a video conference last year featuring a food hub manager in Illinois. That food hub uses an LLC structure with 20-member farmers selling to many restaurants in the Chicago area.

A food hub usually includes a manager, who leads the marketing and gathers clients for the food hub. Producers send a list of goods they have for sale to the manager, who passes the itemized list to clients who make requests on a first-come, first-serve basis. Producers bring the goods to a central location – a warehouse area known as a hub. From there, the manager fills the orders and delivers the goods to the buyers. The manager also collects the money from the buyers and deposits the revenues back with the farmers.

After hearing about that effort, producer interest in creating a similar food hub in South Dakota began to grow, reports O’Neill. To explore the idea further, SDSU Extension applied for – and received – a one-year $25,000 planning grant from the USDA Ag Marketing Service through the Local Food Promotion Program in October 2014.

The food hub effort is focused on the southeastern quarter of South Dakota, and if established would become the first food hub in the state. O’Neill says opportunities exist to establish local food markets to Sioux Falls, Sioux City, and even Omaha.

During 2015, the grant is being implemented to take the necessary steps to explore establishing a South Dakota food hub. Interested producers were invited to meetings in Wagner, Parker, and Yankton in January to learn more about the food hub idea.
A strategic planning meeting was held in Mitchell in February to discuss business structure for the venture – about 30 small-scale farmers were in attendance. Six committees were formed, which will consider a name and brand, forming the group’s LLC, quality control, physical infrastructure, customer base and marketing, and food safety. The committees are tasked with developing specific plans for a follow-up meeting this spring.

Things such as the location of a potential food hub and identifying both farmers and markets are still being worked out, shares O’Neill. Other actions the group will address in the coming months include: a geo-mapping process to give producers an idea where potential aggregation sites could be feasible, and how transportation routes could be developed; hosting “Meet the Farmer” receptions for potential clients, such as restaurant chefs and food service managers; and training on using an online marketing tool for listing and ordering food products.

Additionally, local food producers, resource providers and potential clients interested in South Dakota’s food hub will have the opportunity to participate in a field trip to Fairbury, Illinois, this spring to visit the Stewards of the Land Food Hub.

At the completion of these activities, results will be shared, and if the project moves forward, the search will begin for a food hub manager, reports O’Neill.

She notes that other areas across the state are paying close attention to how the food hub concept works in this region. “They kind of want to watch and see how this one develops and see where it goes from here,” she says.

She adds that the food hub concept offers several benefits – including boosting the economy of rural communities, creating viable opportunities for young producers and their families in rural communities and offering fresh, locally grown foods that encourage healthier eating habits for all consumers.

For more information about local food efforts in South Dakota, visit https://www.iGrowSDLocalFoods.org. Content is updated on the site weekly related to educational and community gardens, marketing local foods, handling and processing and regulations/certifications.
Envisioning The Future
Extension Assists Community Leaders With Forward Thinking

South Dakota communities face a plethora of issues – from housing, business and leadership development to retaining and attracting residents. How can these “challenges” become opportunities? SDSU Extension has been proactive in providing resources and partnering with communities statewide to address that very question. These pages highlight several of those ongoing efforts.

Marketing Hometown America Program Earns Acclaim

Community development specialists from SDSU Extension, the University Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, and North Dakota State University Extension have been collaborating for the past two years to develop and test a community engagement process called Marketing Hometown America. The program was developed to assist communities in changing their local conversation from “everyone is leaving” to “how can we attract new residents?”

The Marketing Hometown America process includes training community facilitators who then conduct study circles, or focus groups, that lead to developing a marketing plan unique to the community. The end goal is to empower communities to create a vision to grow, explains SDSU Extension Community Development Field Specialist Kenneth Sherin.

Three South Dakota communities – Hot Springs, Faith and Wessington Springs – served as pilot communities for the program in 2013 and 2014. Four other communities in North Dakota and Nebraska also participated.

As a result, today several of those communities are actively engaging in projects to enhance their communities. For instance, Hot Springs has several active committees working on projects identified in their Vision 20/20 plan to enhance their community.

In recognition for their team effort and innovation in developing this program, SDSU Extension, NDSU Extension, and UNL Extension received the Regional and National Team Work Awards from the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals in June 2014 and the Innovative Program Award from the Community Development Society in July 2014.

Regional Economic Development Efforts Continue

Helping rural communities work together to develop and implement an economic development blueprint for their multi-county region is the goal of a program called Strong Economies Together, or often referred to as the acronym SET.

The SET effort is a partnership nationally between Cooperative Extension Service, USDA Rural Development, the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, and the Purdue Center for Regional Development.

SDSU Extension, in cooperation with USDA Rural Development, is working with three multi-county SET regions in the state. They are the Badlands/Bad River Region, the James River Valley Region, and the Brookings Area Commute Region.

The regions have invested countless hours of discussions and strategic plan development for their communities – and now, some of their efforts are progressing to the next phase. In February 2015, Badlands/Bad River Region was notified that their revised plan has been designated as a High Quality Plan.

Peggy Schlechter, SDSU Extension Community Development Field Specialist based in Rapid City, reports that the Badlands/Bad River Region is only the fourth plan to receive the High Quality Plan designation nationally. She says, “This is quite an accomplishment considering that SET has been launched in 28 states and nearly 60 regions.”

Next, those involved in developing the regional plan will work on plan implementation with $5,000 seed funding to support efforts identified in their plan. Initial steps include submitting a proposal to the South Dakota Community Foundation and a kick-off campaign to get more people involved to further the goals and strategies of the plan.
Energy Development Conference Held in Belle Fourche

What are the impacts of uranium, oil and gas energy development on communities within those development regions? That was the focus of a one-day conference held in Belle Fourche, S.D. on Feb. 11. The event was coordinated by SDSU Extension’s community development specialists and was attended by community leaders, government and school officials and other stakeholders living in energy development regions.

“Our goal was to provide an opportunity for participants to understand successes and failures of communities impacted by boom/bust energy development and to learn about the resources that can help create vital communities and ways to fund community projects,” explains Paul Thares, SDSU Extension Community Development Field Specialist who coordinated the event. Discussions on both positive and negative impacts of energy development, pitfalls to overcome, and how to work with the industry were also part of the event.

Thares, who is based in the SDSU Extension Lemmon Regional Center, also writes a series of articles about the community impacts of energy development featured on iGrow.org.

Grant Writing Workshops

Through a series of workshops designed to increase community leaders’ knowledge of writing successful grant proposals, the SDSU Extension community development team is helping communities and organizations access resources to improve the quality of life for individuals and families. Several representatives of funding agencies and foundations are involved with the workshops, which provides participants the opportunity to network and test ideas for grants with them.

The first “Writing Your Future” Grant Writing Conference was held in Mitchell in June 2013. Numerous requests for a similar conference to be held in Western South Dakota led to a “Writing Your Future” Grant Writing Conference being held in Rapid City in June 2014. The one-day event attracted more than 80 participants from 21 communities.

During the workshop, sessions were held on how to write a grant proposal and how to find assistance in preparing proposals. Sessions were also held to connect funding agencies with those seeking grant opportunities. Participants also learned about community savings accounts, and current funding opportunities through the South Dakota Community Foundation and Bush Foundation, and they were able to interact with a panel of 10 funders that shared funding opportunities from their organizations.

As the result of the Rapid City workshop, a private funding agency requested SDSU Extension’s assistance with promoting their grants with a goal of receiving a greater number and higher quality proposals from South Dakota communities. Over 60 people participated and over 20 communities were represented.

Additional requests for another conference have been received and a third conference is planned for June 2015 in Huron.

Upcoming Virtual Conference Will Highlight Supporting Small Businesses

The SDSU Community Development team will host a “Small Business is Everybody’s Business” conference April 24 via Dakota Digital Network (DDN) at up to 10 locations across the state. The virtual conference will provide communities an opportunity to hear nationally-known speakers share information about how rural places can support small businesses. Teams from the same community will then have discussions to strategize ways they can promote small business in their area.

“Rural communities have real advantages when it comes to attracting new entrepreneurs and retaining small businesses. It comes down to building relationships and providing an atmosphere conducive to local commitments, and this conference is designed to help foster some of those relationships and ideas,” explains Peggy Schlechter, SDSU Extension Community Development Field Specialist based in Rapid City.

Community Conversations Powered By the Bush Foundation

SDSU Extension community development staff and the Department of Sociology hosted a Bush Foundation event called Community Conversations Powered by the Bush Foundation this past October. Seventy-one community leaders from Eastern South Dakota met at the McCrory Gardens Visitors’ Center in Brookings to share the community successes and challenges that they face. Participants also learned about the Bush grants available to communities. The Bush Foundation is considering holding more of these events in other parts of the state to assist in shaping its policy.
A TEAM OF MORE THAN 50 RESEARCHERS at nine land-grant institutions in the Corn Belt, including SDSU, are working together to make climate information useful to farmers and to the people who advise farmers. The effort, known as Useful to Usable, or U2U, is an integrated research and extension project working to improve farm resilience and profitability in the North Central U.S. by transforming existing climate data into usable products for the agricultural community.

The five-year project was initiated in 2011 with funding from the USDA Agriculture and Foods Research Initiative and includes experts in applied climatology, crop modeling, agronomy, information technology, agricultural economics and other social sciences.

South Dakota State Climatologist and SDSU Extension Climate Specialist Dennis Todey is the South Dakota U2U project director. SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist Laura Edwards is also involved with the effort.

The U2U team is tasked with producing online decision support tools to help producers make better long-term plans on what, when and where to plant, and also how to manage crops for maximum yields and minimum environmental damage. To that end, U2U launched two new online decision support tools in February 2014.

One of those online tools is Corn Growing Degree Days, or GDD, which has the ability to show producers how their crops are developing with regard to the growing season’s weather conditions. GDDs are a measure of heat accumulation used to predict plant development rates.

Todey explains that with the online tool, farmers can choose their location, when the corn was planted and the number of days it takes to reach maturity. The program then assesses current development compared to a 30-year average and projects tasseling and maturity dates.

The farmer can then compare that with when the first freeze has occurred during any of the last 30 years.

The second online tool that is now available, the Climate Patterns Viewer, allows farmers to examine the impact global climate patterns, such as El Niño Southern Oscillation and the Arctic Oscillation, have had on the Corn Belt.

Farmers can track month-by-month how these oscillations have influenced temperatures, precipitation and subsequently crop yields.

With crop production facing more variable conditions and price volatility, Todey says online tools like these can be critical to both food safety and the farmers’ economic survival.

Two additional tools are under development – one looking at the impact of in-season nitrogen application and another to help farmers decide whether to invest in an irrigation system.

“The goal of U2U is to develop a dashboard of tools farmers can use for decision-making not only within the season but also when looking ahead at multiple seasons,” says Todey. He adds that U2U capitalizes on the work scientists have been doing on longer-term practices focused on sustainable corn production.

Find the online tools produced from the U2U collaboration at www.agclimate4u.org and click on the “Decision Dashboard” tab.

Right: State Climatologist and SDSU Extension Climate Specialist Dennis Todey and SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist Laura Edwards examine the condition of corn at the field station south of Volga.
Drainage Calculators Developed & Available On iGrow

A series of sixteen Drainage Calculators are now offered to help contractors and producers address common calculations for agricultural subsurface (tile) drainage design. The online tools relate to calculations for pipe sizing, drain spacing, lift station design and a few other common drainage calculations. The suite of tools is offered at http://iGrowDrainage.org.

Assistant Professor and SDSU Extension Water Management Engineer Chris Hay developed the online tools in collaboration with University of Minnesota Professor and Extension Engineer Gary sands.

Of the development of these tools, Hay explains that drainage guides have long existed for Eastern states where ag drainage has been practiced longer. However, a similar guide to provide guidance for drain spacing and other calculations used in subsurface drainage design was never developed for South Dakota, and others, such as Minnesota's, are no longer in print.

Hay first developed the drain spacing calculator and the rest followed. Hay says one of the newer drainage tactics is sub-irrigation through tiling systems, so there is even a calculator for users to evaluate that strategy. The calculators are designed to work on mobile devices or desktop computers.

Of the end product he says, “It nice to consolidate these resources into one place online and make them accessible to contractors and producers.”
Meeting Producer Needs
Production Knowledge Enhanced With Extension Efforts

When grain and livestock producers have production-related questions, SDSU Extension is often the “go-to” source for unbiased information. A variety of educational programs are offered for producers across the state throughout the year from SDSU Extension and collaborators. Here’s a glimpse at a few of the programs and information offered to help enhance producers’ knowledge.

“DEMAND HAS BEEN STRONG,” says Warren Rusche of the AI (artificial insemination) schools that are offered to cattle producers by SDSU Extension each year. Rusche, who is an SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist based in the SDSU Extension Watertown Regional Center, helps teach the schools to producer groups across the state along with fellow Cow/Calf Field Specialist Robin Salverson, who is based in the SDSU Extension Lemmon Regional Center, and George Perry, SDSU Extension Beef Reproductive Specialist.

Rusche says that with cattle producers seeing an increased return-on-investment of timed AI programs, many have shown increasing interest in learning how to successfully implement AI programs into their operations – and SDSU Extension is continuing to work to provide the information and skills to fulfill that interest.

The AI schools not only teach the technical skill of learning how to AI, but also address estrous synchronization programs, heat detection protocols, proper semen handling as well as genetic selection, nutrition and other management considerations. “We designed it to cover all aspects of a good breeding program,” Rusche explains.

The AI schools will continue to be offered to groups of participants, but in an effort to reach even more producers, Rusche and his colleagues are working to create an online video library that producers can also use as a resource. The video segments would demonstrate proper semen handling, as well as address topics like estrus synchronization and heat detection.

Additionally, Perry is currently conducting research analyzing different semen thawing techniques and the resulting impact on sperm motility. The results of that research will be shared with producers via the schools and video lessons as well. The research was prompted from
More Efforts To Keep Producers Informed

Farm Bill Trainings

SDSU Extension partnered with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to host informational meetings about Farm Bill programs. The meetings were held at 16 locations in South Dakota from December 2014 through early February 2015 to help producers become informed prior to the Feb. 27 deadline.

Jack Davis, SDSU Extension Crops Business Management Field Specialist, said the meetings were held to guide producers through the process to update yields, reallocate base acres, and make program choices for their farms.

The meetings provided producers with an explanation of updating yields, base acre reallocation and election of programs between Agricultural Risk Coverage-County (ARC-CO), Agricultural Risk Coverage-Individual (ARC-IC), and Price Loss Coverage (PLC).

Davis noted that learning about the Farm Bill programs can help producers see what opportunities fit their individual farms.

SDSU Extension, the Farm Service Agency and the South Dakota Center for Farm Ranch Management have partnered to bring South Dakota producers podcasts on the Farm Bill choices. These podcasts are available at https://www.mitchelltech.edu/sdcfrm/farmbill.

Crop Performance Data

To help growers with crop production decision-making, the SDSU Crop Performance Testing program tests varieties developed by the SDSU Agricultural Experiment Station, as well as different private seed entrepreneurs. Results from the trials are published annually following harvest of respective crops. In addition to yield, the results also provide other agronomic traits for all major crops grown in South Dakota.

Trial results from the 2014 growing season can be found at www.iGrow.org/agronomy and click on Variety Trial Results.

“When selecting varieties for the upcoming growing season, it is essential to understand the yield potential of different options available in the market,” says David Karki, SDSU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist.

He notes that different prices between seed bags may not represent the actual yield difference that can be observed at the end of the season. As an example: There could be a $10 dollar difference between two bags of soybean seeds however, the yield difference of those two varieties could be five bushels-per-acre. “Furthermore, some varieties do well over larger areas while others may only exhibit desired performance in narrower areas,” he adds, and calls the Crop Performance Test Results a “very good tool” for making planting decisions.

Wheat Walks & Plot Tours

Wheat Walks hosted by SDSU Extension have become a tradition in Central South Dakota. In 2014, events were held near the communities of Corsica, Harrold, Draper and Hayes on May 28-29 through the support of the SD Wheat Commission and several local business sponsors.

Producers, agronomists and creditors were in attendance to learn more about evaluating a wheat stand, properly determining growth stage, and current crop performance testing results. Additionally, SDSU Extension specialists shared information on Integrated Pest Management, plant pathology and disease management and soil fertility.

“Meeting with producers face-to-face, in the field is highly valued as a way of sharing information,” notes SDSU Extension Plant Pathology Field Specialist Bob Fanning. Fanning has coordinated the wheat walks for several years.

Throughout summer and fall, SDSU Extension also hosts field plot tours providing research updates and management ideas at the SDSU Field Stations and variety trials on cooperator’s land located throughout the state.
A SPECIAL MILESTONE IS BEING MARKED IN 2015 by dairy industry Extension personnel in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and North Dakota – it marks the 10th year that these states have collaborated as the I-29 Dairy Outreach Consortium.

The consortium formed with the mission of “agvocating for a sustainable dairy community along the I-29 corridor through education,” and over the past decade Extension specialists have coordinated a variety of events to share best management practices, research-expertise and resources to help foster a vibrant dairy community.

Today, the I-29 Dairy Outreach Consortium includes South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and North Dakota University Extension personnel and the Southwest Minnesota Dairy Profit Group, Iowa State Dairy Association and South Dakota Dairy Producers.

Tracey Erickson, SDSU Extension Dairy Field Specialist based in the SDSU Extension Watertown Regional Center, says the collaborative multi-state approach has been very successful in engaging with dairy producers and providing resources to benefit their dairy operations.

When the consortium was first formed, one main annual conference was hosted for dairy producers. But with changing needs of producers, the efforts of the consortium have evolved to offer a variety of farm tours, “Moo University” educational workshops and short course events to better address the different interests and needs of dairy producers.

Erickson shares that several of the workshop topics have been selected based on past surveys and needs assessments of producers asking them to rank which topics would be most-beneficial to them. Some examples include:

- The “Ag Employee Management Workshops” conducted in the spring of 2013 in Flandreau, SD and Jamestown, ND. These workshops offered strategies to help producers gain the necessary skills to more-effectively manage employees within their operations.

- The “Boots on the Farm Heifer Growers Tour” was held in December 2014. The farm tour provided dairy producers, dairy heifer growers as well as dairy industry representatives, the opportunity to learn about management strategies other producers are effectively using to raise healthy dairy heifers, including automated technology.

- The “Raising Your Best Calf Ever Workshops” were offered January 5-8, 2015 in Orange City, IA; Brookings, SD; Fergus Falls, MN and Mandan, ND. Each day long workshop provided information on topics ranging from automatic calf feeders, milk replacers, and facilities/ventilation to nutrition and incorporation of DDGS into diets and calf health.

In March 2015 a Dairy Beef Short Course is being held on the day prior to the Central Plains Dairy Expo. The nutritional management and economics of dairy beef production will be explored.

Erickson reports that producer response to the variety of workshops the consortium offers is always very positive and often generates requests for additional materials and information. She adds that the collaborative effort to develop the programs and utilize university personnel offers an efficient use of resources.

“The engagement with producers that these events provide and being able to offer resources that benefit their businesses reflects the positive results of a learning community in action,” Erickson concludes.

For more I-29 Dairy Outreach Consortium activities visit https://www.facebook.com/I29DairyOutreachConsortium

Above: Dairy producers participated in the “Boots on the Farm Heifer Growers Tour” held December 11, 2014 at Landwehr Dairy located at Watkins, MN. The tour was hosted by the I-29 Dairy Outreach Consortium.
To empower farm women to be better business partners through networks and by managing and organizing critical information – that is the mission statement for a national program called Annie’s Project. The program is offered in 34 states including South Dakota and has earned acclaim for providing risk management knowledge and resources to farm women.

SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist Robin Salverson based in the SDSU Extension Lemmon Regional Center has been involved with Annie’s Project in South Dakota since it was first offered in 2007. At that time, the course was offered to groups of women in Buffalo and Timber Lake – and since then has been offered in 24 additional communities across the state.

Each community group averages about 15 women participating. The six-week program is a series of workshops focused on the five areas of risk management: financial, marketing, production, legal and human.

“Annie’s Project is focused on helping women gain the knowledge and confidence to better understand the different components of the farm business, and if they desire, to take more of a leadership role in the business,” Salverson explains.

She shares that the feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. In exit surveys, participants have indicated that their knowledge has increased, they plan to keep better financial records; and they’ve improved their communication skills.

She also shares that one of the most popular sessions covers different personality styles and how to more-effectively communicate and adapt to situations. “It’s a powerful skill that women can use to enhance their relationships,” she notes.

SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist Adele Harty has also led Annie’s Project programs in communities. She notes that another powerful outcome of the program is bringing women together to network with one another. “They share ideas, build relationships in their communities and realize they are not alone in many of the farm situations they face,” Harty explains.

As a result of this networking, Harty says several of the Annie’s Project groups continue to meet regularly – even after their formal six-week Annie’s Project has concluded. That’s occurred in Faith and Hot Springs, where the group of participants have formed self-driven learning communities. In Hot Springs, the women continue to meet regularly, have attended the Women in Ag Conference together, and have requested the Level 2 Annie’s Project course to be conducted in Fall 2015.

“These women have become good friends and know they can reach out to one another,” Harty says.

Of her experience with Annie’s Project in Lemmon, Connie Hermann says she not only benefited from the content presented, but also the people involved. “The presenters were excellent and they shared life experiences that we could relate to,” she says.

Hermann says as she anticipates retiring from her career and employment off the farm/ranch, participating in this program helped prepare her to be more involved in the farm and ranch decision-making and management. Of the program, she adds, “I would highly recommend it to others.”

In 2015, Annie’s Project is being offered in Pierre, St. Onge, Eagle Butte and Level 2 will be offered in Hot Springs. In addition to Salverson and Harty, SDSU Extension Field Specialists involved with Annie’s Project include Shannon Sand, Peggy Schlechter, Kari O’Neill, Leacey Brown, and Heather Gessner.

In South Dakota, Annie’s Project has received funding from USDA Farm Service Agency and three grants from the North Central Risk Management Education Center to support Annie’s Project Level 1 and 2. Farm Credit Services of America has also become a regional sponsor.

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Above Left: Women from Faith, SD, learn about plant identification and range management. Above Right: During one of the Annie’s Project sessions, women from Hot Springs, SD, work together to learn about the parts of a balance sheet.
Adapting & Achieving
4-H Youth Programming Continues To Grow & Serve New Audiences

SDSU EXTENSION’S 4-H YOUTH Development program has a history of more than a century of providing service to South Dakota’s youth. With changing times and technology, the program has seen many challenges, but proudly the organization continues to grow in membership and adapt its outreach and programming to meet the needs of today’s youth and their families.

4-H programming in the state is especially focused on outreach to youth who are often underserved.

In Sioux Falls, members of the Pueblo de Dios 4-H Club work with duct tape, plastic water bottles and some PVC pipe one afternoon to assemble rockets under the guidance of Chuck Martinell, SDSU Extension 4-H Program Advisor for Minnehaha County.

Martinell says the hands-on activity is a fun way to introduce kids to the science behind rockets, which is part of the 4-H STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) curriculum.

The 4-H members Martinell works with participate in the Pueblo de Dios Lutheran Church weekly after-school program, which caters to immigrant youth. Each Wednesday, youth are transported by vans to the church where
they participate in a two-hour program developed by church staff and volunteers and includes an evening meal. However, one Wednesday each month, church programming is replaced by a 4-H Club meeting.

Only a year old, the 4-H Club already has 60 members. “Today’s 4-H offers a lot of projects and programming in the areas of STEM, food and fitness which appeals to a non-traditional, more urban audience,” Martinell explains.

Albeit non-traditional, this 4-H programming provides the same character and confidence-building benefits to youth today that it has provided to South Dakota’s youth for more than a century.

That’s the reason Jeanette Clark, Pastor at Pueblo de Dios wanted to introduce 4-H to the community they serve. “I’ve already seen how being a member of this 4-H Club has provided our youth with experiences they would not otherwise have,” Clark says. “They know how to run a club meeting, and now that the kids have participated in club elections in this safe and familiar environment, many will feel confident enough to take on leadership roles when other opportunities arise.”

Pueblo de Dios is one of 20 youth programs in Sioux Falls that Martinell partners with to provide 4-H programming. He explains that partnerships are key to introducing Minnehaha youth to 4-H. “Due to a number of socioeconomic reasons, there is a huge population of kids who don’t have the opportunity to participate in a traditional 4-H Club,” says Martinell of the more than 40,000 4-H-age youth in the county. “Through partnerships we are able to bring the 4-H model to them and share its benefits while building tomorrow’s leaders.”

Partnerships are thriving across South Dakota between schools, youth organizations and 4-H thanks to the creative efforts of SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisors.

In Brookings County, Sonia Mack partnered with the Boys and Girls Club after school program to launch its first 4-H Club; in Roberts County, Tracey Lehrke integrated healthy living, leadership and team building skills programming and helped found the first Tiospa Zina Tribal School 4-H Club; and in Pennington County, science activities have been shared with a small group of Native American students through junk drawer robotics, videography and photography activities led by a 4-H Program Advisor during bi-monthly after school STEM programming at North Rapid Middle School.

“These are just a handful of many examples of how 4-H is able to provide South Dakota youth who may not already be involved in the 4-H organization with informational programming to expand their view of themselves, their community and their world,” says Peter Nielson, SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program Director.

Editor’s Note: Statewide, South Dakota 4-H membership grew by 500 youth in 2014. Today, South Dakota 4-H boasts 8,911 members.

4-H Focuses On...
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In 2014, the Marshall County SDSU Extension Office and the Community 4-H Promotion and Expansion Committee worked together to host a Farm Safety Day for both 4-H and non-4-H youth and their families.

“We are a rural community and have many youth who live and work on farms. We wanted to focus on educating the kids so that accidents can be prevented,” explains Jennifer Ringkob, SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisor for Marshall and Day Counties.

The volunteers on the committee organized the event and garnered support from school administration, who hosted the event on the school grounds, making it possible for more than 90 fifth through eighth graders to attend.

The community collaboration led to additional opportunities for local 4-H members when members of the Governor’s Commission on Fort Sisseton reached out to Ringkob and local 4-H volunteers looking for youth to re-enact local ghost stories during the Ft. Sisseton State Park Haunted Forest.

“They wanted 4-H Jr. Leaders to participate because they recognize them as the community’s youth leaders,” Ringkob notes.

Below: North Marshall Fire Department Chief, John Beaner shows 5th grader, Wyatt Bray how to use a fire extinguisher during Farm Safety Day hosted by the Marshall County SDSU Extension Office and the Community 4-H Promotion and Expansion Committee.

Photo by Karen Mikkelson
Outreach Includes Military Youth

Looking for a positive social environment for her 10-year-old daughter and a fun activity to do together, Ashley Williamson volunteered to become a 4-H Club leader in the Ellsworth Air Force Base after school program held at the Base Youth Center.

The unique 4-H cooking club meets each Thursday afternoon, and utilizing 4-H materials, Williamson teaches club members about nutrition as they cook together.

Williamson credits the 4-H Club with helping her daughter open up and make new friends – it has also helped them make better choices. As an example, the club members put what they learned during the 4-H meetings into practice and decided to revamped the Youth Center’s snack bar to create a healthier menu.

She explains that the snack bar used to have ice cream Fridays. The 4-H members brought up the idea of making fruit smoothies made with yogurt, fruit and vegetables instead. Williamson says, “Many kids have no clue when it comes to healthy foods. It’s satisfying to know that I planted a seed that will help these kids live healthier lives.”

Many U.S. military bases worldwide now have 4-H Clubs like the one Williamson leads. The partnership began about two decades ago when 4-H was recognized by the U.S. Military as a positive organization to support military families. The idea is that because military families move every three to five years, a 4-H Club will be one constant that kids and families can look forward to participating in no matter what community they are in, explains Kathryn Reeves, SDSU Extension 4-H Science Field Specialist based in Rapid City.

In 2003 Reeves was named South Dakota’s 4-H military liaison. As part of their commitment, the U.S. Department of Defense pays for a portion of Reeves’ salary through the Air Force Military Partnership Grant, Operation Military Kids, and the military camping initiative.

Along with helping develop 4-H Clubs on Ellsworth Air Force Base, Reeves is also responsible for Operation Military Kids, a program that works to garner community support for military families when a loved one is deployed.

For the last seven summers she has worked with the South Dakota National Guard and other military personnel to organize summer camps for military kids. (The Child & Youth Reintegration Support Camps are funded through a partnership of the Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Military Community & Family Policy, Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth and U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture under Kansas State University Special Project number 2014-48713-22245.)

“It can be very isolating for many children of deployed parents who live in communities across the state. This camp provides them with a fun opportunity to spend time with other kids who understand,” explains Reeves.

For last summer’s camp for 9-11 year-olds, Reeves worked with the local Astronomers Society who visited with campers about the science of stars. “We tied in with a personal development concept of finding the star within you, and encouraged campers to discover the positive things about themselves and be a strong person,” Reeves says.

4-H Focuses On...

SCIENCE & ROBOTICS

Helping students gain knowledge and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, often called STEM, continues to be a national education initiative and 4-H programs are part of that effort.

Christine Wood, SDSU Extension 4-H STEM Field Specialist, explains that STEM activities not only enhance technical skill development, but also emphasize teamwork, communication and leadership skills similar to traditional 4-H program areas.

Wood shares that several counties and clubs are exploring STEM and robotics programming. “There’s a lot of expansion going on,” she says.

As one example, Megan Peterson, SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisor for Tripp and Gregory Counties, regularly leads hands-on science activities for youth. Through an after school program, she is focused on making learning fun. One recent activity included making cardboard boomerangs, then discussing the design, why they fly and why they come back to us when we throw them. She has also hosted activities allowing youth to utilize GPS units to participate in an outdoor scavenger hunt.
4-H Focuses On…

CHARACTER EDUCATION

When Willow Lake community members, parents and school faculty made character education a focus for students; they turned to South Dakota 4-H to help them develop programming.

The decision to add character development to the school’s curriculum came out of a two-day strategic planning session the school hosted in 2013 where parents, community leaders and faculty outlined goals and direction for the school.

“We want to make sure that our students are prepared for the 21st Century and ensure that they not only have the education, but the character skills necessary to succeed,” explains Willow Lake Principal, Tracy Bratland Bruns. She adds that partnering with SDSU Extension 4-H staff made sense because the 4-H resources are available to provide to teachers.

The curriculum developed by SDSU Extension 4-H staff focuses on character traits, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. It outlines fun, grade-appropriate activities teachers can do with students to help them gain an understanding of how to implement character into real-life situations.

“In a small school like ours, teachers wear many hats and their days are full. Because our teachers didn’t have to reinvent the wheel and develop curriculum, they were able to easily incorporate character into their classroom instruction,” Bratland Bruns says.

Each month a new character trait becomes the focus of a school-wide assembly. During the assemblies the sixth grade class puts on a skit to demonstrate the character trait of the month. To encourage citizenship, one teacher began taking the seventh grade class on a monthly visit to the local Senior Citizens’ Center, where they play BINGO with community members’ decades their senior.

As a result, character has become an integral part of the culture at Willow Lake School. Students’ character is celebrated right along with academics and athletics. Students from each grade level are recognized for exhibiting character – receiving certificates and their photo in the local newspaper.

One student said she’s noticed a difference, and shared, “I feel like now that everyone is focused on character, bullying has gone down and people are nicer to each other. It’s really evident among the younger kids.”

Kim McGraw, the SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisor for Clark County and Karelyn Farrand, SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Character Education Field Specialist based in Aberdeen continue to work closely with Willow Lake School staff to provide them with character education training, curriculum and guidance.

McGraw calls the partnership a natural fit. "Every aspect of 4-H develops members’ character; whether they learn responsibility and discipline caring for a livestock project or communication and public speaking skills through judging contests and leading their club meetings; character development goes hand-in-hand with traditional 4-H programming. This partnership with schools and partnerships like it, allows us to spread the message on character development to a much larger audience,” McGraw says.

Above: Tracey Lehrke, SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisor for Roberts County, partnered with Tiospa Zina school to establish a 4-H program for youth. Their activities have included talking about opportunities and traditions in 4-H, while also modeling good character.

Robotics and National Youth Science Day are two additional program areas being shared in counties. Wood says Lego robotics, VEX robotics and junkdrawer robotics are all programs being utilized in different county programs statewide. Each August a Robotics Challenge is also hosted at the South Dakota State Fair. The event allows youth who have been working with robotics during the year to showcase their skills in a competition. And, youth who aren’t currently involved with robotics have the opportunity to explore activities that are offered.

Left: During the 2014 State Robotics Challenge in Huron, SD, last September, the Lake County 4-H team utilized their problem-skills. Left to right are Lance Lee, Larry Lee, Jared Thayer, and David McClatchey.
SDSU Extension Regional Centers — Bringing SDSU To You

The eight SDSU Extension Regional Centers can be considered the front door to the educational opportunities awaiting you within South Dakota State University. By walking through SDSU Extension’s front door, the staff can connect you to education, research and the exciting opportunities that are a part of your land-grant university.

The SDSU Extension Regional Centers are home to over 40 SDSU Extension Field Specialists. While their desks may be at one of the eight centers, SDSU Extension Field Specialists serve the entire state through innovative collaborations and partnerships as well as through the use of technology. In fact, the SDSU Extension Regional Centers are becoming “hubs of learning” as smart classrooms are utilized to connect learners and experts across the state and region.

Stop by an SDSU Extension Regional Center and say “Hello!”

SDSU Extension Regional Center in Aberdeen
13 Second Ave. SE, Aberdeen SD 57401
Phone: 605-626-2870
- Laura Edwards: Climate Field Specialist
- Karelyn Farrand: 4-H Youth Character Education Field Specialist
- Marj Zastrow: Nutrition Field Specialist
- Jessica Ness: Administrative Assistant

SDSU Extension Regional Center in Lemmon
408 Eighth St. W., Lemmon SD 57638
Phone: 605-374-4177
- Robin Salverson: Cow/Calf Field Specialist
- Paul Thares: Community Development Field Specialist
- Jocelyn Barnes: Administrative Assistant

SDSU Extension Regional Center in Mitchell
1800 E. Spruce St., Mitchell SD 57301
Phone: 605-995-7378
- Jack B. Davis: Crops Business Management Field Specialist
- Megan Olesen: Nutrition Field Specialist
- Kenneth Sherin: Community Development Field Specialist
- Connie Barnes: Administrative Assistant

SDSU Extension Regional Center in Pierre
412 W. Missouri Ave., Pierre SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8120
- Ruth Beck: Agronomy Field Specialist
- Amanda Bachmann: Pesticide Education and Urban Entomology Field Specialist
- Andrea Knox: 4-H Youth Development & Resiliency Field Specialist
- Aletha Scott: Administrative Assistant

SDSU Extension Regional Center in Rapid City
1530 Samco Road, Rapid City SD 57702
Phone: 605-394-1722
- Leacey E. Brown: Gerontology Field Specialist
- Anitha Chirumamilla: Entomology Field Specialist
- Adele Harty: Cow/Calf Field Specialist
- Rutendo Nyamusamba: Agronomy Field Specialist
- David Ollila: Sheep Field Specialist
- Shannon Sand: Livestock Business Management Field Specialist
- Peggy Schlechter: Community Development Field Specialist
- Paulette Morse: Administrative Assistant

SDSU Extension Regional Center in Sioux Falls
2001 E. Eighth St., Sioux Falls SD 57103
Phone: 605-782-3290
- Anthony Bly: Soils Field Specialist
- Heather Gessner: Livestock Business Management Field Specialist
- Tara Shafrath: Community Food Policy Field Specialist
- Lavonne Meyer: Food Safety Field Specialist
- Connie Strunk: Plant Pathology Field Specialist
- Christine Wood: 4-H STEM Field Specialist
- Christina Zdorovtsov: Community Development Field Specialist
- Christina Van Ruler: Administrative Assistant

SDSU Extension Regional Center in Watertown
1910 W. Kemp Ave., Watertown SD 57201
Phone: 605-882-5140
- Pete Bauman: Range Management Field Specialist
- Tracey Erickson: Dairy Field Specialist
- Karla Hernandez: Forages Field Specialist
- David Karki: Agronomy Field Specialist
- Nikki Prosch: Health & Physical Activity Field Specialist
- Audrey Rider: 4-H Technology and Communications Coordinator
- Warren Rusche: Cow/Calf Field Specialist
- Jan Rounds: Administrative Assistant

SDSU Extension Regional Center in Winner
325 S. Monroe St., Winner SD 57580
Phone: 605-842-1267
- Ann Schwader: Nutrition Field Specialist
- Sharon Klein: Administrative Assistant

SDSU Extension FRTEP Office on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation
BIA Education Building, Eagle Butte SD 57625
Phone: 605-964-4955
- Marcella Gilbert: Community Development Field Specialist

SDSU Extension FRTEP Office on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
7958 Lakota Prairie Drive, Kyle SD 57752
Phone: 605-455-1299
- Jason Schoch: Community Development Associate
- Jonathan Rohrer: 4-H Program Advisor

SDSU Extension FRTEP Office on the Rosebud Indian Reservation
211 E. Second St., Hattie Marcus Building, Mission SD 57555
Phone: 605-856-2198
- Rachel Lindvall: Community Development Field Specialist
- Kathi Her Many Horses: 4-H Program Assistant
- Marietta Kloppel: EFNEP Nutrition Assistant
A Case For Planned Giving…

The first message I remember hearing from our priest, while sitting in a church pew, was simply this: “You are going to die.” He, of course, went on to talk about getting past this issue and living life to its fullest and being proud when standing at the pearly gates.

But for an eight-year-old, that first part somewhat overshadowed the broader message. This leads me to the topic at hand: gift planning.

Ironically, the message I want to share today is that gift planning is not just about commitments made as part of your estate when you pass away. Your will is just one component of gift planning – and it tends to be the one most default to when the topic comes up.

Gift planning includes charitable trusts, unitrusts, lead trusts, annuities and other tools that allow individuals to make gifts to their favorite charities, while utilizing the tax advantages they provide and even securing income streams for the remainder of their lives (or for their loved ones).

Not sure how these all work? Good news: We have gift planning experts on our staff who not only understand these tools, but are good at explaining how they might work to fit your particular circumstance.

While these gifts do need to start with a charitable heart, they have very real advantages to donors and their families. If you care about SDSU and other worthy charitable causes, and are thinking about estate planning, retirement, generational transition of assets, or anything that would fall into that realm, you would be doing yourself a favor to sit down with our gift planning team.

While we hope that these meetings lead to support for SDSU, their principal goal is to provide advice based on what makes most sense for you. If the initial conversation leads to further interest, our team can meet with your personal advisor, estate planner or attorney to discuss these concepts in greater detail.

Thanks for caring about State!

MIKE BARBER ’97

Planned Giving: Some things perhaps you didn’t know

› Maximize charitable impact purposefully for all/any charities
› Make a permanent, ongoing legacy for the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences
› Tax-lowering sale of business, land, assets – with income in return
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› Leverage income or capital gains’ tax savings for more income
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› Achieve financial goals for self and family, during lifetime as well as after

For more information or to make a contribution, please contact the SDSU Foundation:
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INTRODUCING...

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