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Assessors Conference  
Ted Risty

Ag Lender's Conference  
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Scholarship Fundraising  
Brian Gatzke

**SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER**  
**AMERICAN SOCIETY FARM MANAGERS & RURAL APPRAISERS**

4/06



*Enhancing Our Members' Ability to Succeed  
in Their Rural & Agriculturally Related Professions!*

**DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**2006**

May 18-19 - Chapter Board Meeting & SDSU Breakfast - Brookings

May 25 - West River Breakfast Meeting (9 A.M.)  
Rapid City Rodeway Inn Restaurant

June 1 - Assessor's Conference - Brookings

June 11-14 - Ag Lenders Range School  
@Conger Ranch between Buffalo Gap and Hot Springs

July 27-28 - Summer Tour - Pierre

Sept. 16-20 - Leadership Institute – Washington, D.C

**2007**

January 17-19 – Winter Education & Joint Meeting W/PAASD - Mitchell

Feb. 14-17 - ASFMRA Annual Meeting w/ ASAC & NAICC in Atlanta, GA

**July 18-25, 2009** – International Farm Management Conference in  
Bloomington, Illinois co-hosted by national ASFMRA and Illinois ASFMRA

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It's time to get out your calendars and start penciling in some dates. Please note the above Dates to Remember and pick as many events to attend as possible.

First on the calendar for May is the SDSU breakfast. This is a great opportunity to network with some of the folks at SDSU. I attended last year and it was well worth the drive across the state. So if your schedule permits I encourage you to attend. It's a ½ day well spent.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the SDAAO, otherwise known as the South Dakota Assessors Group is holding its annual conference in Brookings. Joyce Dragseth, Director in Brookings County has put together an outstanding conference. For those of you who desire more information check out the website, [www.SDAAO.org](http://www.SDAAO.org). The Chapter Public Relations Committee will have a presence at the conference, providing door prizes at the banquet on the evening of June 1st. The banquet starts at 6:30, with a social gathering prior to that. This is a great chance to meet and thank some of the Assessors from all across the state for what they do.

If anyone is interested in attending, please let Ted Risty know, so that we can communicate with Joyce as to the number attending. This will help them with meal preparation. There is a cost to the meal, as I recall it has been around \$15 per person.

Continued

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED**

Another fun and interesting event coming up is the Ag Lenders Range Camp. This year the event takes place in the Hot Springs/Buffalo Gap area in the southern Black Hills. I have attended the camp in the past and let me say it's a "hoot" There is good education, good people and food, food, food. If you have never gone, this is a super opportunity to take it in. And if you have gone in the past, it's time to go again.

The end of July the Chapter will be hosting a summer meeting in the Pierre area. This is a result of the interest shown by the membership. Jim Hollenbeck is spearheading this event. Jim and his band of merry helpers have put together a nice agenda, that looks like it will have something for everyone. Please see the article found elsewhere in the newsletter. For anyone who wants to help there is plenty to do, so please let Jim Hollenbeck know. I want to give special thanks to those who have already stepped forward with their talents.

In closing I want to use this forum to let the membership know that the Chapter has agreed to support the proposed legislation limiting the liability of appraisers. This legislation will be introduced in the 2007 session of the South Dakota Legislature. The board agreed to support the legislation on a pro rata basis with PAASD. The Chapter portion will be based on appraiser members of the chapter and is capped at \$3,000.

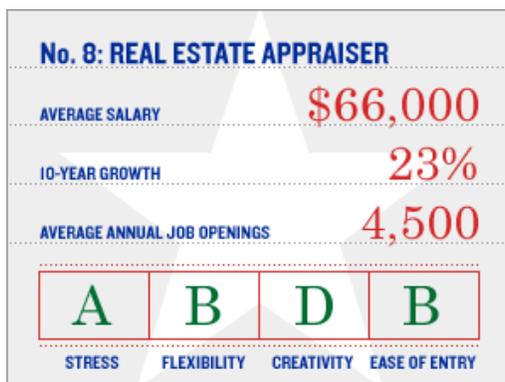
Hope you all have a good day. Enjoy the spring!

## **CHAPTER WINTER EDUCATION IS FINANCIAL SUCCESS**

Treasurer Allan Husby reports that net income for the winter education was \$4,254 compared to a \$3,000 budget. The chapter had 50 people take the continuing education generating \$6,250 income. The \$4,254 net income was after deducting expenses of \$1,996. The expenses included the chapter's share of the joint mailing costs and hospitality room with PAASD.

## **REAL ESTATE APPRAISER MAKES MONEY MAGAZINE TOP 10 BEST JOBS**

<http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bestjobs/>



### **8. Real Estate Appraiser**

**Why it's great** The housing boom has meant beaucoup bucks for appraisers in recent years, but the field hasn't gotten as crowded as real estate brokerage.

And because valuations are needed whenever any property is sold, mortgaged, insured, taxed or developed, there's going to be work even when the market slows. A quarter of appraisers have steady nine-to-five government gigs assessing property for tax purposes.

**What's cool** Abundant self-employment opportunities. Research isn't the pain that it used to be, thanks to the Internet.

**What's not** There's still a lot of legwork; advancement is limited.

**Top-paying job** Collateral appraisers, who work with lenders, earn \$130,000-plus.

**Education** Bachelor's degree; licensing and certification requirements vary by state.

## CHAPTER AWARDS ACORN SCHOLARSHIP AT SDSU

Members Brian Gatzke and Paul Reisch represented the chapter at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Ag-Bio Scholarship Banquet at the Brookings Inn.

Becky Lambert, a Doland High School graduate, was announced as the recipient of the chapter's \$600 scholarship for the 2006-07 academic year.

Becky was chosen when SDSU Relationships Committee members Paul Reisch, Jim Dunlap, and Jim Hollenbeck interviewed three well qualified candidates on March 21st.



The candidate pool represented General Ag, Ag Economics, and Ag Education majors and the locations of Columbia, SD, Letcher, SD, and Frankfort, SD.

Becky is an Agricultural Education major with a passion for FFA and high school agricultural education. She is interested in incorporating exploration of the appraisal, farm management, and consulting professions into her future high school teaching curriculum. She will be working with SDSU Relationship Committee members to accomplish this over the next several months.

The scholarship was created to develop and support student interest in the rural appraisal, farm management, and agricultural consulting professions and to encourage students to become American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraiser (ASFMRA) chapter members.

Upper level undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences are eligible for the scholarship. A cumulative GPA of 2.5 minimum, or upper half of class ranking, is required – along with a stated interest in considering rural appraisal, farm management, or agricultural consulting as a career. The following preferences are also considered:

- Community service achievements and demonstrated leadership qualities,
- Completion of or current enrollment in the Rural Estate Appraisal course (Econ 373 / Plant Science 373) and / or Farm and Ranch Management course (AgEd 271).
- South Dakota resident,
- Financial need.

The establishment of the scholarship has contributed to a strengthened chapter relationship with SDSU personnel. The scholarship interview process provided interaction of chapter members with SDSU students, who will share those experiences with other students. The process has also served as a catalyst of potential student members in the chapter (see article next page).

## **CHAPTER BOARD ADOPTS STUDENT MEMBER POLICY**

In an April 13th conference call, the chapter board established a student member policy to encourage more involvement and participation of college students in the organization. Catalysts for board action were the national student member dues reduction to \$25 this past year, the chapter's scholarship program, and student interest in membership conveyed to SDSU Relationship Committee member Brian Gatzke at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Ag-Bio Scholarship Banquet.

Student members are those who are full-time students in accredited high schools or colleges or universities and who are not providing farm and ranch management, agricultural consulting, rural appraisal and/or appraisal review services for a fee or a salary on rural property belonging to others. Students may remain in this classification for one year following graduation.

The chapter policy adopted by the board:

- Scholarship winner - Chapter pays national dues for one year and waives state dues as long as a person meets the national definition of a student member.
- Other students pay national dues. Chapter waives state dues as long as a person meets the national definition of a student member.
- When a person no longer meets the national definition of student member, the individual pays chapter dues of \$25 regardless of member classification. At the national level, the individual pays national dues related to member classification of academic or candidate if they apply. If they do not apply, the individual pays affiliate dues to belong to national or pays only chapter dues as a partner member.

We are hopeful we can announce student members to the chapter in the near future.

There is a special application for student membership. Contact Membership Chair Paul Sickler or SDSU Relationships Committee Chair Paul Reisch for applications and the process to be followed for a student member to join ASFMRA.

## **MONSANTO WILL SPONSOR MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SDSU BREAKFAST MEETING**

Active public relations are a part of achieving our chapter mission. As a part of the chapter's active public relations efforts, we will be inviting South Dakota State University (Extension, Economics, Animal Science, Dairy Science, Plant Science, and SDSU Foundation) representatives to join us for breakfast on Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> for our member breakfast meeting at 9:00 a.m. in Brookings.

This will give chapter members an opportunity to:

- Interact with various SDSU extension and academic personnel that have contributed in recent years or can contribute in the future to our achieving our chapter mission through education and networking.
- Share chapter education activities this year and plans for the coming year.
- Discuss University resources and possible programs for future education offerings.
- Discuss needs of students desiring to enter the rural appraisal, management, and consulting professions including possible scholarship opportunities and networking opportunities with those in these professions.
- Provide an interesting and educational program for those attending.

**The breakfast is scheduled for Friday May 19th in Brookings at Ag Hall Room 100B on the SDSU campus. Through the support of affiliate member Bruce Magnus, Monsanto will sponsor the breakfast for the chapter.**

**We have confirmed program speaker Brian Jennings from the American Coalition for Ethanol ([www.ethanol.org](http://www.ethanol.org)). Brian will provide those attending with information regarding new technology for ethanol plants, the future outlook for the industry, and the industry impact on agricultural commodities.**

**Members are encouraged to attend and support the chapter public relations efforts. Please mark your calendars to attend! A follow-up letter will be sent to members the first part of May requesting RSVP from members.**

## **CHAPTER SUMMER TOUR PLANNED FOR PIERRE AREA JULY 27-28**

Things are coming together quite well for the upcoming summer tour in Pierre in July. Tip Hamilton and other chapter members have been working hard to get all of the details ironed out. The Chapter is grateful to Monsanto Company for helping sponsor this event.

The theme for the tour is fun and networking. The end of the week schedule will allow those who want.....to stay and enjoy the Pierre area and attractions over the weekend. Extra effort has also been put into providing activities for spouses while chapter members are touring. In addition, there are many options for things to see and do in the Pierre area for member families.

The tours that are scheduled will cover a broad array of topics from wind farms to mint farms to a commercial hunting lodge. We are fortunate that the time of year will enable us to see the mint being harvested and the extraction process during the Bower Mint Farm tour. The Skatter Gun Lodge is one of the finest commercial hunting lodge operations in the state...and this tour will dovetail nicely with the hunting topics from last spring's continuing education in Mitchell.

### **Preliminary Agenda**

#### **Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Afternoon | Members tour of Wind Farm near Highmore, SD<br>Spouse tours of State House & Cultural Heritage Center |
| Evening   | Picnic social in park in Pierre   |

#### **Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Morning | Members tour Bower Mint Farm & Scatter Gun Hunting Lodge<br>Sewing/Quilting demonstration for Spouses |
| Noon    | Lunch prior to departing  |

The social committee is working on an excellent meal for the Thursday night social. Our Chapter President can say that he had Beef for supper!

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Ramkota Inn in Pierre. A registration flyer will be sent out in June with more details on the tours and motel reservation information.

## **TECHNOLOGY ODDS & ENDS** - Technology Committee Chair Allan Husby

I thought I would use this month's column as a follow up to the items presented at the February Continuing Ed in Mitchell and list out some sources for GIS Information.

**Aerial Maps-** The FSA Aerial Map saga continues to have some changes. As those in attendance in Mitchell know, I presented a sample of section maps that would be available in FSA offices which would show CRP acres and easements along with crop and pasture acres. At that time, it was presented that this would only be available on request through SD Info 10 to appraisers. Since then, it has been determined by our State to make this the stocked, black & white map which offices will have available. Our State Staff has just made the judgment that there is nothing so sensitive in this data that it cannot be provided to those that request maps.

My guess is that you will find all different degrees of labeling to maps being stocked by offices until they cycle through the maps already copied to files. You can request a map with all of the labeling if this is needed.

At this time, only one computer per office has the capabilities to print out and edit particular maps. Over the next month or so, all computers in an FSA Office will have what is called "ArcGIS Lite" installed so all computers will have limited capabilities in ArcGIS, including printing out particular section maps. As FSA approaches having these maps being web based, less and less of the maps will be stocked. This is still a few years into the future.

**Statement from Mitchell - "Imagery that is used is satellite imagery."** "I heard someone from the group make that statement and that actually is false. None of the imagery from APFO that is used by FSA is satellite imagery and is all done by conventional flyover by airplanes using high quality digital cameras. Older imagery has been oriented to location by putting latitude /longitude points on the maps when they are digitized.

The location of the new imagery is actually "satellite guided" in that a series of satellites pinpoint the location of the picture through GPS. I would suspect that all populated area imagery is also conventional flyover imagery to get the high resolution needed. It can be obvious this is what is happening in Google Earth as it is zooming in to particular locations and then it picks up squares of an area that are orthoquad photos of an area. It looks like it is zooming in to a square picture.

**Free Viewers and other Internet Sites** – I thought I would do some follow up on what is available and how well they work. A main site that Jim Hollenbeck discussed is Agridata Inc. at the site- <http://www.agridatainc.com/>. This is not meant as an ad, but from what I have investigated, is still the best site as far as a package of available mapping combined with topo maps, soils maps, and aerial maps. It is the only site I have found that combines the productivity indexes with soil descriptions. It, of course, has a fee, but is reasonably priced. I would guess that this site and other sites will continue to evolve with more capabilities.

Continued

## **TECHNOLOGY ODDS & ENDS CONTINUED**

Another site discussed in the March /April – FMRA News was the Web Soil Survey at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. This is a free site and actually navigates somewhat similar to Agridata. An area of interest is selected by drawing a polygon. A soil map and soil data can then be selected. The site will give acres and per cent of the area of each type of soil. The site will also give links to detailed descriptions of each soil. The only drawback is it does not include productivity indexes.

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An additional NRCS site includes a listing of productivity indexes for each county. This might vary from those received from Assessors offices because it is updated yearly, but would be consistent if all properties are treated equally. These are located at the site, [http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Nutrient\\_management.html](http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Nutrient_management.html). They are listed as excel spreadsheets as NRCS crop Yield Tables (East) and (West).

One more NRCS site which we discussed was the NRCS Gateway at <http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/>. I use this site to download various layers, such as imagery, updated CLU layers, and soils to ArcGIS projects and actually works quite well. The data can also be used in free viewers, such as Arc explorer. These viewers, are of course, limited in what data manipulation that can be done. An account needs to be set up to acquire data from this site, but nearly all of the data is free if downloaded from the site.

Jim also did a demonstration of Google Earth and its capabilities. A free version of Google Earth can be downloaded from this site- <http://earth.google.com/>. From this site, select Get Google Earth (free Version). I don't see any appraiser needing to purchase the google Earth plus- \$20, or Pro- \$400 unless they want to get real geeky.

Adding to this topic there are couple of site that are good for measurement and mapping, some not just for appraising but just good general mapping. Those sites are Google Maps- <http://local.google.com/>, and Google Maps Mania Blogspot- <http://www.googlemapsmania.blogspot.com/>. The final site includes one site where it shows how to connect pictures to locations on a map and that picture will pop up when that location is selected., or it will show where all pictures are connected to particular locations. This site has an overwhelming list of uses of Google Maps.

Speaking of pictures and mapping, Jim H sent me a site which references a new camera available by Ricoh which imprints pictures with GPS location. The pictures can then be connected to a map. The site for this camera is <http://www.geospatialexperts.com/ricoh.html>. This also brings up another site with all kinds of technology gadgets- <http://www.geospatialexperts.com/>.

By now, I'm sure I've given you your fill of websites, especially those not real interested in technology items. The information is put out for you to explore and make your own decisions if you think it might help you in your profession.