Here is your opportunity to win a trip to the land of Spanish moss, mud bugs (crawfish, they actually taste like lobster) shrimp and oyster poor boys, zydeco music, all night jazz, beignets with chicory coffee, Bourbon Street and the French Quarter. You can escape the South Dakota winter for a couple of days, ride a street car, and Laissez les bons temps rouler! (Let the good times roll). New Orleans will the host of the 2016 Commodity Classic. This is your chance to win a trip to this annual event.

All you need to do is attend the annual meeting of the South Dakota Crop Improvement Association which will be held on Tuesday December 1st at 5:00PM at the RamKota Convention Center. During the annual meeting a drawing will be held of those Crop Improvement members present for a trip to the Commodity Classic. The Commodity Classic will be held in New Orleans March 3rd through March 5th. For Details on the Classic see their web page at - http://www.commodityclassic.com. SDCIA will pay for registration, airfare and three nights lodging. In order to win you must be a member of SDCIA and present at the annual meeting.

The Commodity Classic presents the newest innovations in agriculture; you can experience this first hand rather than reading about it later. There will be sessions on management practices and ways to improve efficiency. There will be many highly recognized speakers (watch the web site for names and times). The trade show is one of the largest in the nation with equipment, technology and information; where you can talk directly with the suppliers from the companies that you depend on. The Classic provides the opportunity to meet farmers from across the nation and exchange ideas.

State Crop Contest

This year the State Crop Contest will be held during the Watertown Winter Farm Show, February 9th thru the 13th. Every year SDCIA hosts the Crops Contest and for several years now the number of entries has been declining. In an effort to increase interest in the show the SDCIA will be sponsoring a $1000.00 donation. Anyone who enters the contest is eligible for the drawing. The winner of the drawing will get to designate a South Dakota 4-H Club or FFA Chapter that will receive the donation. The classes and entry requirements are posted on the Watertown Chamber of Commerce web site: www.watertownsnd.com and will be posted on the Watertown Winter Farm Show web site (www.watertwonwinterfarmshow.com) at a later date.
J. Duane Colburn Passes Away

This past month one of the former executive directors of SDCIA passed away. The following is Duane Colburn’s obituary, courtesy of Rude’s Funeral Home.

J. Duane Colburn was born on April 28, 1925 in Appleton, WI the son of John and Laura (Rohm) Colburn. Duane grew up in Madison, SD and was a graduate of the Madison High School in 1944. Upon graduation, he served in the United State Navy from 1944 until 1946. JD was united in marriage to Eunice McCoy in 1946. He continued his education at SDSU graduating in 1950. He then started the Vocational Agricultural Department at Willow Lake High School. After five years, he opened a new vocational ag department in Clear Lake, SD where he taught for two years. In 1957, JD accepted a position in the Agronomy Department at SDSU where he taught seed courses and was manager of seed certification and secretary for the Crop Improvement for 22 years. He owned several farms and considered himself a city farmer. JD retired in 1978 and was employed with RBA Seed Company as director of their operations in Hawaii. In 1979, JD was employed with Sokota Hybrids to direct their sunflower research. In 1989, his programs were sold to a French seed company for which he consulted for several years.

Duane passed away Sunday, October 11, 2015, at Bethany Meadows in Brandon at the age of 90.

JD was an avid sportsman and was named Conservationist of the Year in 1979. He was a founding member of the Big Sioux Bowmen Archery Club of Brookings. He was also active in many groups including the American Legion, VFW, Society of American Agronomy, NRA, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Gamma Sigma Delta, South Dakota Bow Hunters, Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever.

Duane is survived by his wife of 69 years, Eunice of Brandon, SD; three sons, Zoell Colburn of Littleton, CO, Lorre (Vicki) Colburn of Sioux Falls, SD, Jon Colburn of Chandler, AZ; nine grandchildren, Nathan (Michelle) Colburn, Darin Colburn, Corie Colburn, Joshua (Heidi) Colburn, Samantha (CJ Schmidt) Colburn, Alex Colburn, Cristina (Travis) Mousel, Tanner (Onya) Colburn, and Trase Colburn and four great grandchildren, Abigail, Mathew, Cali, and Maverick.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Lee, his daughter-in-law, Connie, and two sisters.

Foundation Winter Wheat Sales Up 22% from 2014

With the extensive amount of winter injury in 2015 reducing Certified Seed supplies, Foundation Seed sales were up 22% as compared to 2014. Redfield, (2013 SDSU release), which sold out early, replaced Ideal as the top selling variety with 2,670 bushel sold. Ideal, also an SDSU release, was the second in sales followed by Overland, Expedition and Lyman. Wesley, a variety that was a top seller a few years ago, continues to have little activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HRW Variety</th>
<th>2015 Sales (bushels)</th>
<th>2014 Sales (bushels)</th>
<th>2013 Sales (bushels)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Redfield</td>
<td>2,670</td>
<td>2,045</td>
<td>1,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideal</td>
<td>2,179</td>
<td>2,441</td>
<td>1,471</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overland</td>
<td>2,093</td>
<td>2,032</td>
<td>5,281</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expedition</td>
<td>1,162</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>1,125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyman</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>8,598</td>
<td>7,057</td>
<td>9,287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2015 Ag Horizons Conference December 1-2, 2015

This year’s Ag Horizons Conference will be held December 1st and 2nd at the RamKota Convention Center in Pierre. Please plan to attend. For registration go to www.SDWheat.org and click on the Ag Horizons tab.

The following is the tentative schedule:
Tuesday, December 1, 2015
8:00 – 8:50 Advances in Cropping Systems, Jeff Zimprich
8:00 – 8:50 SD Conservation Districts Natural Resources Stewardship Committee Meeting
9:00 – 9:50 Winter Wheat Breeding for SD, Sunish Sehgal
- Estate Planning, Stulken Peterson
- Practicing Precision Agriculture, Nick Jorgenson
- SD Conservation Districts District Capacity Committee Meeting
10:00 – 10:50 Breakout Sessions
- Dynamics of Soil Health, Jeff Hemingway
- Crop Rotation Economics – Mitchell Technical Institute
- SD Conservation Districts Public Relations Committee Meeting
11:00 – 11:50 Dan Gillespie, Soil Health Coalition
12:00 Noon Luncheon – Sponsored by SD Wheat Commission, TBA
1:00 – 1:50 What Keeps a SD Banker Up At Night? Nate Franzen, First Dakota Bank
2:00 – 2:50 Breakouts
- GROWING with Pulse Crops, 4 Member Panel
- Cover Crops/Lessons Learned, Producer Panel
- SD Oil Seed Initiative, SDSU Researchers
- Timing for Wheat Disease Management, Emmanuel Byamukama
2:50 – 3:00 Cookie Break – Sponsored by Farm Credit Services
3:00 – 3:50 Dwayne Beck
3:00 – 5:00 SD Conservation Districts Business Session
4:00 – 4:50 Breakouts
- Protect Grain Storage from Insect Infestation, Paul Drache
- Leaf Spot & Root Diseases of Wheat, Shaukat Ali
- Pulse Breeding Program for North Central US, Dr. Kevin McPhee NDSU
5:00-6:00 SDCIA Annual Meeting
5:00 – 7:00 Lobby Exhibit Areas - Social Hour, Game Night and Silent Auction
Wednesday, December 2, 2015
9:00 – 10:00 US Senator Thune, National Transportation Committee
9:00 – 10:50 Conservation District Supervisor’s Legal Responsibilities
10:00 – 10:50 Breakout
- Drone Technology in Ag Today
- Managing Sunflower Phomopsis, F Mathew and T Olson
- Practicing Precision Agriculture, Nick Jorgenson
11:00 – 11:50 Breakouts
- Estate Planning - Stulken Peterson
- Introducing Carinata as a new Oilseed for South Dakota
- Dynamics of Soil Health, Jeff Hemingway,

Ag Horizons Rooms are filling up fast. If you have not reserved a room or cannot get a room at the RamKota here are several other choices:
Club House Phone 605-494-2582 Single or Double $119.00
Governors Inn Phone 605-224-4200 Single or Double $80.00 (state rate accepted)
Days Inn Phone 605-224-0411 Single or Double $73.00 (state rate accepted)
Our Land

by J. Duane Colburn

A place to plant, a place to grow, a place to hunt, a place of great spiritual peace
Meditation revives our spirit and strengthens our heart
Mother Nature heals the land
Grass, legumes and trees will help to restore
This land needs considerable healing
Willows in the low areas - scrub oak, black walnut, butternut, ash hackberry
All planted with our hands - some by cuttings and some by seed like squirrels would plant
Rocks are removed even though there is moisture underneath
Noxious weeds may not survive
Removal of pocket gophers and mice so grass and trees will have a chance
Native grass is beautiful and everlasting - was here before mankind and will survive
Switchgrass will feed the birds, pheasants, partridge, turkey and deer
With the healing will come wildlife - the dog will find scent
When nut trees mature, squirrels will again appear
With annual water runoff - the slough and dam will fill
Ducks and geese will hatch in great numbers
Northern mallards will find a great place to rest on their southern journey
Meditation will continue with greater fulfillment
The spirit of God will always be near
I pray my descendants will enjoy our land
Dust to Dust then the Resurrection