

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the South Dakota Housing Development Authority's certification received by September 15th, 2014, or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (1) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the South Dakota Housing Development Authority approved by HUD; (2) SDHDA has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (3) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (4) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR part 58) and shall be addressed to HUD-Denver Office at 1670 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202-3690. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

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Executive Director

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SBA disaster assistance may be available

WASHINGTON — Following the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) announcement that it rejected South Dakota's request for individual assistance in Jerauld, Lincoln, and Union counties, Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) is encouraging South Dakota residents in Minnehaha, Lincoln and Union counties to consider applying for Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster assistance.

"While I was disappointed to learn FEMA denied our request for individual assistance, I am pleased home and business owners in Minnehaha, Lincoln, and Union counties will have access to low-interest disaster loans through the SBA," said Thune. Minnehaha, Lincoln, and Union counties are contiguous to Iowa counties where a major disaster was declared, making residents and business owners in these counties eligible for SBA disaster loans. Homeowners are eligible to receive up to \$200,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Both homeowners and renters are eligible to receive up to \$40,000 to replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses and nonprofits are eligible to receive up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

Eligible homeowners and business owners may apply online at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/el>. Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955 or e-mailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

MidAmerican Energy shares advice to help recognize and avoid scams

DES MOINES, Iowa — Scam artists are at it again. MidAmerican Energy Company and local police have noted an increase in reports of suspicious calls and personal contacts from individuals posing as utility employees and threatening customers with service disconnection in an attempt to swindle funds.

Details vary, but most of the scams work like this: A resident or small-business owner receives a call from someone claiming to work for MidAmerican Energy or another local utility. The caller demands immediate payment of a past-due account or repair bill to avoid disconnection of natural gas or electric service. In some cases, the caller instructs the resident or business owner to purchase a Green Dot prepaid debit card and call back with the serial number from the card; in others, the scam artist requests personal credit card information in order to make immediate repairs to the customer's meter.

These scams are so thorough that the recipient's caller-ID display even makes it appear as though the calls are coming from the utility. Many of the scams target the elderly or those for whom English is a second language. Some small-business owners have received personal visits from scam artists demanding immediate payment.

MidAmerican Energy reminds customers that credit card information, account numbers and other personal information should never be provided in response to a suspicious or unsolicited call. To avoid falling victim to these scams,

customers should:

- 1.) know their options when it comes to paying bills;
- 2.) contact MidAmerican Energy directly to make payment arrangements or learn about assistance programs available to them; and
- 3.) recognize the telltale signs of a scam attempt and report any such attempts to authorities.

- Know your options. MidAmerican Energy customers have a number of bill-paying methods available to them. You can set up your account so payments are automatically deducted from a checking or savings account, or you can pay your bill each month via mail, online, over the phone, or in person at locations throughout MidAmerican Energy's service area. More information is available in the Payment Options — <http://www.midamericanenergy.com/service3.aspx> — section of the MidAmerican Energy website.

- Contact MidAmerican Energy for payment assistance. Sometimes customers do fall behind on their bills or struggle to meet their payment obligations. When this happens, MidAmerican Energy works with customers to help them manage their accounts in an effort to avoid overdue bills or disconnection of service. Customers should contact MidAmerican Energy's customer service department at 888-427-5632 to learn about payment assistance programs that are available.

- Recognize the signs of a scam. If you receive an unsolicited call demanding immediate payment of

a utility bill and threatening disconnection, the following should cause you to question the legitimacy of the call:

- This is the first you're hearing about a delinquent bill. MidAmerican Energy makes several attempts to contact customers regarding nonpayment of accounts before disconnecting service. These contacts may take the form of past-due notices, letters, door hangers, phone calls, emails or personal visits. Disconnection is a last resort, not a first step in the process.

- The caller asks for your account number or other personal information. MidAmerican Energy already has your MidAmerican Energy account number on file and will not call seeking this information. Do not supply personal information in response to suspicious or unsolicited calls; hang up and call MidAmerican Energy at 888-427-5632 to confirm the validity of the call.

- The caller insists on a Green Dot prepaid debit card as the only acceptable method of payment. MidAmerican Energy will never request that you purchase a prepaid debit card in order to avoid disconnection. MidAmerican Energy accepts several different forms of payment; your MidAmerican Energy customer service representative can let you know what options are available to you.

- A person visits your home or place of business and demands immediate payment to avoid disconnection. MidAmerican Energy personnel do not accept payments or process debit or credit

card payments at a resident's home or place of business. Verify any number provided to you for making a payment. Any MidAmerican Energy employee visiting your home or business regarding a past-due bill carries a company identification card and drives a company vehicle.

- The call originates from an unknown number, or the caller requests a return call to a cellphone or other unknown number. If MidAmerican Energy attempts to contact you regarding a bill or payment, the callback number will always be MidAmerican Energy's customer service department: 888-427-5632, the number listed in the phone book and on MidAmerican Energy's website; or 800-952-0112, the number listed on disconnect notices.

- The caller requests a credit card number in order to repair your meter or other equipment. Routine repairs or replacement of meters is the responsibility of MidAmerican Energy, not the customer. MidAmerican Energy will not call customers demanding payment for repairs to its equipment.

If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and report the call to MidAmerican Energy's customer service department at 888-427-5632. MidAmerican Energy is working with law enforcement officials throughout our service territory to locate and stop scam artists. If you believe you've been the victim of a utility scam, contact your local police.

USDA seeks public input to increase transparency of SNAP retailer data

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking public input concerning a proposal to provide more information to the public about the amount of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits used by participants at individual grocery stores and retailers.

USDA's goal is to provide as much transparency as possible on retailer data within the limits of the law. In doing so, USDA will consider input from a wide variety of stakeholders through a Request for Information (RFI) published Aug. 4 in the Federal Register. The RFI seeks public comment on several questions related to the transparency of SNAP retailer redemption information.

The RFI is part of the Obama Administration's ongoing effort to make government more open and accountable and increase transparency. Since 1978, USDA has interpreted federal law as protecting SNAP retailer redemption information.

A South Dakota newspaper successfully challenged that view and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit ultimately

agreed, ruling in favor of the newspaper. The ruling was limited to the interpretation of Section 9(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act and did not address whether redemption data constitutes "trade secrets, [or] commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential" which would still be protected from disclosure through Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

USDA is now considering whether this redemption data constitutes confidential business information under FOIA. To make a determination, USDA is required to seek feedback from affected stakeholders, specifically SNAP retailers, on whether annual aggregate redemption data from individual stores is confidential under FOIA. Additionally, the USDA is considering what, if any, adjustments should be made to SNAP regulations regarding the release of SNAP retailer transaction data in the future based on input from the public.

Comments may be submitted through the Federal Register until Sept. 8.

SDSU Extension hosts forums during Dakotafest

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension will host several grower forums during 2014 Dakotafest held Aug. 19-21 inside the SDSU Pavilion on the Schlaffman Farm, Mitchell.

The cutting-edge topics range from drones and the best weed identification apps, to climate, food safety and farm bill program training. Organized in a discussion format, these forums provide participants with the opportunity to have their questions answered.

"Dakotafest is a wonderful opportunity for our staff and faculty to interact directly with producers and discuss issues relevant to our state's agriculture industry," said Karla Trautman, SDSU Extension Associate Director.

The forum lineup also includes three Political Candidate Forums. All candidates running in the House, Senate and State Gubernatorial races have been invited to participate in agriculture-focused forums that will be moderated by WNAX Broadcaster, Jerry Oster.

New this year, the SDSU Pavilion will feature the iGrow.org kiosk; designed to teach the public about the wide range of SDSU Extension resources and tools available online through the iGrow.org page and mobile app.

Dakotafest attendees looking for SDSU Extension staff or South Dakota State University faculty will find them located throughout Dakotafest, primarily within the following tents; Association of South Dakota Weed and Pest Boards; South Dakota Department of Agriculture; South Dakota Soybean Association; and Northwest Veterinary Supply.

The 2014 agenda and forum lineup is as follows:

- Tuesday, Aug. 19
 - 10-11 a.m. U.S. House Forum — Candidates include; U. S. Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., and her challenger Corinna Robinson.
 - 11 a.m.-Noon SDSU Weeds App Evaluation: "The Good, The Bad and Our Opinions" — Darrell Deneke, SDSU Extension IPM Coordinator and Paul O. Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Program Coordinator, will lead a discussion on mobile crop weed identification apps available in the market. They will provide insight into how to use these applications and which applications make the most sense for South Dakota growers.
 - Noon-1 p.m. SDSU ice cream — Free.
 - 2-4 p.m. USDA Farm Bill Q&A — SDSU Extension staff will partner with FSA/USDA staff and the S.D. Dept. of Agriculture to answer grower's questions on the 2014 Farm

Bill.

- Wednesday, Aug. 20
 - 10 a.m.-Noon "Stop the Fighting on the Way to the Funeral Home!" — Presented by Jolene Brown, a farmer, author, professional speaker and champion for the people of agriculture.
 - Noon-12:30 p.m. SDSU ice cream — Free.
 - 12:30-2 p.m. Governor's Forum — Candidates include incumbent, Gov. Dennis Daugaard, R-S.D. and his challengers, Susan Wismer, D-S.D. and Mike Myers, I-S.D.
 - 2-3 p.m. U.S. Senate Forum — Candidates include; Mike Rounds, R-S.D., Rick Weiland, D-S.D., Larry Pressler, I-S.D., and Gordon Howie, I-S.D.
 - 3-4 p.m. Silver Bullet, Useful Tool, or All of the Above? Key Issues Surrounding Drones for Precision Agriculture — SDSU Extension will be partnering with Measure, A 32 Advisors Company, based in Washington D.C., for a presentation and demonstration of the future of unmanned aerial vehicles in agriculture.

- Thursday, Aug. 21
 - 10-11 a.m. SDSU Physical Health and Food Safety — The first portion of this forum, titled "Fitness 4 Farmers," will focus on Flexibility for Health and Injury Prevention led by Tara Pratt, SDSU Extension Community Food Policy Field Specialist and Nikki Prosch, SDSU Extension Health and Physical Activity Field Specialist. Pratt and Prosch will discuss the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for American adults. The second portion of the forum will focus on "Backyard Chicks: Cute but Risky," led by Lavonne Meyer, SDSU Extension Food Safety Field Specialist and Joan Hegerfeld-Baker, SDSU Extension Food Safety Specialist. They will discuss what precautions need to be taken to reduce the risk of Salmonellosis when raising backyard poultry.
 - 11 a.m.-Noon SDSU Weather Update — State Climatologist and SDSU Extension Climate Specialist, Dennis Todey and SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist, Laura Edwards will review new free weather and climate tools available to producers to help with on-farm decision making.
 - They will also review current conditions for the growing season and talk about what we can expect through the rest of the growing season and harvest including an update on the current El Nino.
 - Noon-12:30 p.m. SDSU ice cream — Free.
 - To learn more, visit www.iGrow.org.

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are in the Top 25. Add FBS' No. 4 team, the Ducks of Oregon and the Coyotes have 10 teams of considerable measure on their 2014 schedule. "It's a tough schedule, everyone plays a hard schedule," Glenn said. "But, there are some teams up there in the Top 25 that we beat last year. I don't know why they deserve to be there more than we do, maybe because they finished with a better record? We got beat up down the stretch and weren't deep enough and we are deeper now. I hope

those things add up to wins. We aren't afraid of anyone on our schedule and will go toe-to-toe with everybody."

2014 FCS Coaches Preseason Poll (first-place votes, 2013 record, voter points, final 2013 rank)

1. North Dakota State (18)	15-0	636	1
2. Eastern Washington (6)	12-3	615	3
3. Southeast Louisiana (1)	11-3	542	6
4. New Hampshire	10-5	510	5
5. Montana	10-3	505	8
6. Coastal Carolina	12-3	447	7
7. Towson (1)	13-3	438	2
8. Jacksonville State	12-2	425	12

9. McNeese State	10-3	424	9
10. South Dakota State	9-5	332	14
11. Eastern Illinois	12-2	314	4
12. Fordham	12-2	305	10
13. Villanova	6-5	287	NR
14. Sam Houston State	9-5	277	13
15. Northern Iowa	7-5	263	NR
16. Chattanooga	8-4	238	25
17. Tennessee State	10-4	237	17
18. Furman	8-6	188	21
19. Montana State	7-5	170	20
20. Maine	10-3	169	11
21. Youngtown State			

8-4	162	19	
22. William & Mary	7-5	159	NR
23. Bethune-Cookman	10-3	136	16
24. Richmond	6-6	118	NR
25. Northern Arizona	9-3	116	15
Others receiving votes:			
Samford 95, Southern Illinois 59, Harvard 42, Charleston Southern 39, James Madison 30, Princeton 24, Southern Utah 20, Alcorn State 16, Liberty 16, Delaware 15, South Carolina State 15, Cal Poly 14, Missouri State 12, Sacred Heart 10, Wofford 8, Central Arkansas 7, Alabama State 6, Lehigh 6, Eastern Kentucky 4, Holy Cross 1, Illinois State 1, Jacksonville			

1. **Media Day set for Tuesday** USD's annual football media day will take place at 1 p.m. Tuesday inside the DakotaDome located on the north side of the USD campus. Members of the media are invited to come down on the field for one-on-one interviews with USD players and coaches at that time. Prior to the press conference, the Coyotes will have practice at 10 a.m. on the outdoor fields, now located directly north of the DakotaDome and surrounding the USD soccer complex. In case of inclement weather, the practice will move inside the DakotaDome. All Coyote practices are open

to the public. South Dakota kicks off the 2014 season Aug. 30 against Oregon in Eugene, OR. The Coyotes take on William Penn in USD's home opener Sept. 6. Coming up this weekend: More of the same as Glenn continues to aim for getting as much of the system in place. Be it offense, defense, or special teams, the coaching staff's goal for the next week or so is to focus on 'Coyote football.' *If you are looking for more updates on Coyote football, be sure to check out plaintalk.net every day for team progress reports and breaking news.*