

Guest commentary:

## Foster families in South Dakota

All across South Dakota there are children in need of a loving and safe foster home.

Helping fill the need for foster families in South Dakota is something that both the Governor and I are very passionate about, and that's why I've become involved with this initiative.

In June I kicked off the FosterOne campaign. Since then I've been to communities across the state, asking folks to commit to know more about becoming foster parents. So far we've had 200 families request more information!

As a former teacher and librarian, a mother of three and a grandmother of two, I know how important it is to provide children with meaningful connections,

unconditional support, guidance and love. These are the keys to helping our children reach their full potential and find success in life.

Foster parents provide opportunities for youth to stay connected with their family, friends, culture, school and community. They also provide a positive impact for children while their families work through difficult circumstances.

Right now, children across South Dakota are waiting for someone to open their home and their hearts and be their foster parent. Will you be the one?

Please take a few minutes to find out more about becoming a foster family by visiting [www.FosterOneSD.org](http://www.FosterOneSD.org).

# Americans paying cheapest gas prices of the year

South Dakota's average price this week for regular self-serve gasoline stands at \$3.240, 21 cents below one month ago according to [www.AAAFuelGaugeReport.com](http://www.AAAFuelGaugeReport.com).

Over the past five and one-half months, the statewide average has slipped 73 cents. As recently as May 22, South Dakota's average was \$3.967.

The national average today is \$3.24 per gallon, the lowest since December 21, 2012. This price is four cents cheaper than one week ago, 11 cents less than one month ago and 23 cents below the price on Nov. 5, 2012. Prices have dropped 35 cents since September 1 and have fallen on 58 of 65 days

during this stretch.

Lower prices at the pump are being seen nationwide, as motorists in every state and Washington, DC are appreciating cheaper prices than a year ago.

Drivers in 48 states and DC are paying less than one month ago, led by drops of at least 20 cents in nine states and 33 cents in Montana. Only two states (Ohio and Indiana) are posting higher month-over-month pump prices, and both averages have risen less than a penny and one-half.

These also are two of only four states — including Michigan and Hawaii — where prices are higher on the week.

Even as national gas prices have drifted lower,

sustained expensive crude oil prices have been an effective floor for how low pump prices could fall. After settling above \$100 per barrel for 15 straight weeks, the price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil finally settled below this mark on October 21 and has remained there each trading day since.

At the close of yesterday's formal trading on the NYMEX WTI settled at \$94.62 per barrel, a penny above Friday's settlement price, the lowest since June 21.

AAA expects the national average price of gas could drop to a low of about \$3.10 per gallon by Christmas, which would

be the cheapest average since February 2011.

As many as ten states or more could see local averages drop below \$3.00 per gallon.

"Expect a nice holiday bonus in the form of much cheaper gas prices," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota "The national average should get tantalizingly close to \$3 per gallon, and many consumers will find bargains below that price before the year is over."

The annual average for 2013 likely will be the cheapest since 2010 and is currently at \$3.54 per gallon. Last year's annual average of \$3.60 per gallon was the most expensive on record.

## Fall sampling for soybean cyst detection encouraged

With soybean harvest finished or just about wrapped up for most, now is the time to start sampling for soybean cyst nematodes (SCN).

SCN silently robs yields causing significant yield losses without displaying obvious symptoms. Unfortunately when SCN is introduced in the field it can never be completely eliminated; however, SCN can be managed to keep SCN population below injury level. occur in a growing season.

SCN sampling allows you to determine if SCN are present and if so at what population levels. Soil sampling for SCN can occur at any time throughout the year as long as the soil is not completely saturated or frozen, but to get a good idea on your true numbers sampling in the fall after


harvest is recommended.

Through a grant provided to SDSU Extension by the Soybean Research and Promotion Council, SCN testing is free for all South Dakota growers. We will have soil sampling information and bags available for pick-up at the Sioux Falls Regional Extension Center but you can always use a paper bag or plastic bag of your own as long as the soil is dry. You can always request additional soil sampling bags from me at the Sioux Falls Regional Extension Center by calling (605) 782-3290.

Soil samples may be submitted for SCN testing to the:

SDSU Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic  
1205 Jackrabbit Drive  
Box 2108  
Brookings, SD 57007

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