

# State Biologists Want A Repellent As Tool for Pheasant Management

BY BOB MERCER  
STATE CAPITOL BUREAU

PIERRE – The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks wants a pesticide that federal regulators haven't approved yet to become part of the state Wildlife Division's pheasant management plan.

Anthraquinone sickens birds by disrupting their digestion systems. The pesticide is applied to seeds before they are planted.

The purpose is to change birds' behavior by making them ill after they eat the treated seeds or the young plants from those seeds.

Various states started using the repellent during the past decade to protect crop fields against geese, blackbirds, sandhill cranes, crows and, in South Dakota's case, pheasants.

The states received emergency exemptions from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. South Dakota was one of them.

EPA now has the manufacturer's application for registration to allow general sales. Arkion Life Sciences, based in Delaware, produces the Avipel-brand seed treatments.

Approval is expected in time for 2016 corn planting, according to Tom Gere, agronomy services manager for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

U.S. approval would run counter to action by the European Union. EU members removed anthraquinone from their list of authorized pesticides in 2009.

Researchers linked the chemical to organ problems in mice and rats including cancer.

U.S. manufacturers also use the chemical in other ways, such as industrial dyes on various products including some pizza boxes.

The chemical after it is applied to seeds isn't apparent to the human eye.

Researchers at South Dakota State University reported anthraquinone can be seen at the UV end of the light spectrum by pheasants and geese, when it is on young plants growing from seeds that were sprayed or dusted with it.

Geese that previously became ill from it turned away when they came upon it again,

according to one study involving soybean plants in Day County.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture received a series of special emergency exemptions from EPA starting in 2008 for use on corn and later on sunflower seeds.

Several SDSU research projects studied the effectiveness of anthraquinone in crop fields in various parts of eastern South Dakota including the area of Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

The state Game, Fish and Parks Department used federal funds to pay for the SDSU studies.

The department's Division of Wildlife is updating its pheasant management plan this fall.

One of the proposed changes would specifically refer to anthraquinone as a repellent for reducing crop damage by pheasants.

GFP's pheasant specialist is Travis Runia at Huron. The senior upland game biologist cited the 2009 study by SDSU graduate student Emily Hodne-Fischer. She found anthraquinone was effective at reducing pheasant depredation on planted corn seeds.

"The irritant is consumed in a sub-lethal dose," Runia said in an email Thursday. "We rely on the EPA approval process to assure there are no unintended impacts to wildlife and humans."

Asked whether he had seen evidence of pheasant mortality associated with anthraquinone, he replied, "No."

Anthraquinone also might become a tool for repelling geese from soybeans. SDSU faculty members conducted research in the past year using a federal grant channeled through GFP.

GFP spent \$446,972.83 in 2014 specifically on damage management involving Canada geese.

That included \$179,200 in Day County alone.

The EPA exceptions for South Dakota involving anthraquinone covered corn and sunflowers.

However, the sunflower exception was pulled in 2013 when the company focused on treatment for corn and rice.

# Openings Remain For Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Contest

Huron, S.D. - The South Dakota Farm Bureau (SDFB) is encouraging young farmers and ranchers between the ages of 18 and 35 to consider participating in the Discussion Meet contest, held during its annual meeting on Nov. 20-21 in Pierre. The winner of the Discussion Meet at the state level wins a cash prize and a trip to Orlando in January for the national contest at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting.

"The prizes are great, but they're not the only reason to give the Discussion Meet a try," said Renae Gebhart, Farm Bureau member from Meadow, S.D. and past Discussion Meet winner from South Dakota. "The Discussion Meet really sharpens your communication skills and helps you build composure and strength under pressure. You have to know about each of the topics, but you also have to be able to work together with varying opinions, ask questions and build consensus. These are skills you'll use and appreciate more than you realize."

Farm Bureau's Discussion Meet is not a prepared speech and it is not a debate. Instead, it is set in a panel discussion format where participants

thoroughly assess the topic at hand, exchange ideas and offer constructive solutions to the agricultural question chosen for their round. Judges are looking for communication skills, a cooperative attitude, and the ability to analyze problems and develop solutions. The five potential questions this year are:

1. How should Farm Bureau protect and encourage producers' ability to use new technology? How can Farm Bureau work with government and the public to ensure public acceptance while encouraging innovation?

2. Should we draft policy to protect livestock producers from false accusations regarding animal welfare? What could it look like?

3. How do we balance agriculture's water needs with maintaining vibrant communities? How do historical water rights influence this discussion?

4. How do we get the public to support right-to-farm laws? Should these laws be determined on the state or the federal level?

5. How can we influence state and local policy that more effectively balances the social and economic interests of farmers and ranchers

versus burdensome federal regulation?

The question is chosen at random prior to each round, so participants need to be prepared for any of the five. The same five questions are used for both the state and the national Discussion Meets.

"Farm Bureau has a vibrant Young Farmers and Ranchers program, and the Discussion Meet is one of the great opportunities for this age group to grow their leadership and communication skills," stated Krystil Smit, South Dakota Farm Bureau's executive director. "Succeeding in agriculture today means being able to communicate effectively and tackle complex problems. I'd encourage young people in agriculture to consider participating."

To participate, you must be between the ages of 18 to 35 and a Farm Bureau member. More information about the 2015 Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Discussion Meet, and this year's SDFB annual meeting, can be found at [www.sdfbf.org](http://www.sdfbf.org). For details about the contest itself and how to sign up by the Nov. 16 deadline, contact SDFB's Lowell Mesman (605-281-1319, [lowell@sdfbf.org](mailto:lowell@sdfbf.org)).

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Must be experienced truck driver, able to operate various types and sizes of equipment including, but not limited to, loaders, tractors, backhoes, mowers, etc. Able and willing to do heavy manual labor, working as part of a road and bridge crew in all types of weather. Must have commercial drivers license. Drug testing in place.

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**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Plans and executes to the manufacturing schedule; ensuring we are producing product in the priority established by the scheduling department
- Confer with other departments and shifts to meet goals which strive toward continuous improvement
- Achieve or exceed production objectives including safety, quality, schedule, and cost
- Training and coaching of associates
- Lead problem solving activities and improvements to increase the effectiveness of the manufacturing process
- Other duties as assigned

**Key Skills**

- Adaptable to a changing work environment, competing demands; able to deal with delays and unexpected events
- Intermediate computer skills
- Individual must be able to work with little to no supervision after initial training period, showing a high degree of initiative, self-motivation, and excellent work ethic
- Mechanical aptitude
- Excellent organization skills

**Qualifications:**

- High school diploma or equivalent

For more information on the position or to receive an electronic application, e-mail Bridget Benson; [Bridget.Benson@appliedeng.com](mailto:Bridget.Benson@appliedeng.com). No phone calls, please.

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### Vermillion Chamber & Development Company

**Job Title:** Chamber Manager  
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**SUMMARY**

The Chamber Manager is the front line to the members of the Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce and gets to work with members in helping them promote their business. The Chamber Manager is responsible for developing and implementing member recruitment and retention strategies to strengthen the base of the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber Manager also promotes and reviews member benefits to make sure they meet member expectations.

Job responsibilities include visiting members, developing leads for new members, updating member information, planning and assisting with ribbon cuttings, grand openings, the annual golf tournament, the annual banquet and other chamber events. The Chamber Manager reports directly to the Executive Director and has a direct involvement in advising the Executive Director on implementing strategic initiatives for the Chamber of Commerce.

The ideal candidate is an outgoing, energetic self-starter with a passion for sales, marketing and customer service. Job requirements include excellent oral and written communications skills, knowledge in social media, Microsoft Word, Excel, and the ability to learn new software programs. A "can-do" attitude is a must. Experience in design software, and Chamber Master are a plus! Candidates must also have experience leading volunteer committees and spearheading special events. Knowledge of the Vermillion community is a plus. Two years in sales, marketing or chamber work preferred.

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