

Ranch

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hay. We've modified our genetics program to maintain a more moderate-sized, easy fleshing cow," Pat says.

In order to transition what had primarily been a crossbred Gelbvieh herd to a Black Angus herd, the couple initially relied on AI. However, when the process became too labor-intensive, they decided to let bulls do the work.

Along with livestock, the couple has enjoyed raising their children on the ranch. And, due to its remote location, when the country school closed and they had to drive 30 miles to the nearest school, the Clarks began homeschooling. At the time, their oldest was entering the seventh grade.

Because she used to help Pat with ranch work full-time after the kids left for school, when Barb

took on the role as her children's teacher, the entire family had to change their schedule. "Things we would normally do in the morning, we would put off until the afternoon. Basically, we all had to change our mindset. To home school, you have to stay

Once their children enter high school, they attend a Christian boarding school, Sunshine Bible Academy in Miller.

When the family is together on the ranch in the summer, along with working together, they spend time traveling to rodeos and participating in 4-H activities.

"Growing up we lived so far out that we could not be involved in sports so mom and dad got us involved in 4-H," Barb explains. "I embraced 4-H to its fullest, participating in public speaking, sewing, showing beef and static exhibits. As I got older, I saw how much 4-H taught me, as far as leadership and values, and I wanted a similar

experience for our kids." During rodeo weekends, the family helps organize church services. They line up a speaker and Pat picks up his guitar to accompany the singing. "We try to live by example," Pat says. "Rodeoing together has been a great family time. We've been blessed with the fact that we get to spend time with the kids, teaching them about horsemanship - and we've

met so many great people."

As their children graduate and leave the ranch, Pat and Barb aren't concerned about a transition plan because most of their children share their passion for the land and livestock. This fall their youngest enters the eighth grade. Barb says as they become less busy with their kids' activities, they plan to become more involved in Farmers Union, an organization they have been members of since the early 1990s.

"Life is about seasons. As this season ends, we will become more involved in Farmers Union and other agriculture organizations we belong to. We appreciate the

battles Farmers Union has fought for ranch families like us," she says.

To learn more about the Clark family and view a photo gallery, visit www.sdfu.org.

Celebrating a century of service to South Dakota's farm and ranch families, throughout 2015, South Dakota Farmers Union highlights members who farm or ranch with their families each month. This month, South Dakota Farmers Union features the Clark family who ranch 40 miles southeast of Lemmon.



Broadcast Journalist John Seigenthaler To Receive Al Neuharth Award At USD

VERMILLION, S.D. - Broadcast journalist John M. Seigenthaler, who anchors Al Jazeera America's prime-time news program and previously anchored "NBC Nightly News" weekend edition, will receive the 2015 Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in Media on Oct. 1 at the University of South Dakota.

The award is named for the late USA Today and Freedom Forum founder Al Neuharth, a native of Eureka, South Dakota, and 1950 graduate of USD. It honors lifetime achievement in media and will be presented as part of a daylong celebration on campus.

Seigenthaler is following in the footsteps of his father, the late John Seigenthaler, who received the 1999 Al Neuharth award in recognition of his lifetime work promoting quality journalism and the First Amendment. The elder Seigenthaler, a civil rights champion, founder of the Newsum Institute's First Amendment Center and founding editorial page

editor of USA Today, died in 2014.

During his 11 years at NBC, the younger Seigenthaler appeared on "Today," "Dateline" and "Meet the Press" and anchored news programs on CNBC and MSNBC. He has received numerous awards for his work in journalism.

"John's commitment to excellence in television news spans a period in which news and information has become available in unprecedented volume from an ever-increasing number of sources," said Gene Policinski, chief operating officer of the Newsum Institute. "Whether the platform is local, national or international, he consistently has called for and delivered the kind of clear, accurate and solid journalism his audiences sought and deserved."

The Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in Media is presented by USD and the Newsum Institute. Seigenthaler is the 29th recipient.

BY BOB MERCER
STATE CAPITOL BUREAU

PIERRE - The state Transportation Commission adopted rules Thursday for South Dakota's expanded program to help counties, townships and cities repair and replace road bridges.

The Legislature earmarked \$7 million from license plate fees. That is in addition to \$6 million available from federal funding and \$2 million from the commission.

The commission will control the grant decisions on a quarterly basis starting in April 2016.

County governments must file a five-year highway plan and update it annually to qualify. County commissions also must charge some level of wheel tax.

The Legislature set those two requirements. The proposed regulations now go to the Legislature's Rules Review Committee for final clearance.

The additional \$7 million from the Legislature and

Expanded Bridge Program Is Ready To Aid Local Needs

the \$2 million from the state commission will more than double the reach of the existing program using federal aid.

There currently is a backlog through 2026 of bridge projects seeking federal help.

"I'm anticipating we're going to have a large number of applications," said state Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist.

The state commission received two written comments about the rule proposals in advance of the public hearing Thursday. One of the writers, Dick Howard, was the only person who testified at the hearing.

Townships can't apply for the bridge grants but counties must include township roads on the annual plans they submit, said Howard. He is executive director for the South Dakota Association of Towns and Townships.

"The way that's drafted, we feel comfortable counties will coordinate with the townships," Howard said. Doug Kinniburgh, man-

ager of the local government assistance office in the state Department of Transportation, said buying power for bridge funds dropped in the past decade from 40 per year to 20 or less.

He said approximately 1,200 bridges in South Dakota are eligible for rehab or replacement under the federal program.

There hasn't been a bridge preservation program that allowed for treatments such as seal coats that can add 10 to 15 years to the life of a structure, Kinniburgh said.

The new BIG - that's Bridge Improvement Grants - program allows for preservation grants of \$30,000 to \$100,000. There also will be grants up to \$20,000 to assess what should be done with a bridge. The replacement and rehabilitation grants will be for \$100,000 or more.

Laurie Schultz, a DOT administrative manager, said the five-year county plans will be due initially Dec. 16, 2015, and the annual updates will come due Oct. 15 in 2016 and each year after.

Kinniburgh said the grant applications can be completed on one page and the first grant applications would be due Jan. 31, 2016, and then Jan. 2 each year after.

The state commission will make decisions no later than April 30 each year.

State commission chairman Don Roby of Watertown said the five-year plans are a big step for county governments.

"I think that's good for counties. I think some of the counties are going to change how they do business," Roby said.

Schultz said she didn't "get any pushback on 'this is a waste.' I didn't get any of that."

Bridges already are inspected using federal criteria with more than 200 data points. The information is logged in state DOT's inventory system.

There are 1,797 bridges owned by state DOT; 21 by the state Game, Fish and Parks Department; 3,744 owned by counties; and 237 by municipal governments, Kinniburgh said.

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