

May 2026

# THE HOUSEHOLDER BULLETIN

The Monthly Newsletter of Leut Services, P.C.

## MEET ERICA, SUMMER ASSOC.

Please join us in welcoming Erica Ulberg-Matthews as our summer associate. Before attending law school at the University of South Dakota, Erica served eight years in the United States Marine Corps. While a marine, she earned her bachelor's degree in legal studies. Since 2022 she has served as a paralegal for Foresight Legal Group, P.C., where she assists with probate and trust administration. When she is not working or studying, she enjoys cheering on her children, Easton and Sophia, with her husband, Alex, at sporting events. We are excited to have her on the team!



## A NOTE FROM YOUR *Attorney*

Sunday, May 3, marks our second anniversary. We survived the terrible twos. But honestly, it was a pretty terrific year, especially compared to our first year. (*If you know, you know*). Although we will not have a big party like last May, there are still plenty of reasons to celebrate. Last year, we welcomed new faces and expanded our services, and we are on track to do the same this year. As we grow, we remain committed to transparent communication, exceptional customer service, and our shared values. In April, we were invited to serve as tour guides at the first Hutterian Safety and Farm Education (HSAFE) Day, and we were so impressed by what we saw. More than 250 children and adults gathered together on April 21 to learn farm safety and hear from others' personal experiences. Throughout the day, (*Continued on next page*)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 1 Meet Erica  
Note from Your Attorney
- 2 FinCEN Fun  
Note continued
- 3 DYK w/ Grandpa Joe
- 4 The Code  
CDL Changes
- 5 John Deere Repair Settlement  
\$DRP Supplement
- 6 Recipe of the Month  
Events & Activities

# FINCEN FUN

FinCen is making headlines again in the agricultural industry due to a new regulation affecting real estate transactions. Unfortunately, the most controversial phrase of 2024 is back: “*beneficial owner.*” The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) seeks to increase transparency and combat money laundering in the residential real estate market. To do so, new regulations have been put in place when residential property is purchased or transferred through business entities. Agricultural land transactions may be affected if it includes a farmstead or worker housing. The new regulations require the following information to be reported when the buyer is a legal entity:

- Information on the business entity buyer
- Identify the buyer’s beneficial owner(s)
- Legal description
- How the property was paid for (i.e., cash, financing)
- Information on the seller

While the rule does not explicitly apply to agricultural land, it may be triggered when a residence, like a farmhouse or dwelling, is included in the sale. If you buy land, make sure you know who is filing this report to avoid fines and penalties.

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## PRAIRIE POTHOLE WATERBANK PROGRAM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has granted \$2 million to a water bank program for qualifying landowners in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota. Selected landowners will receive an annual acre payment based on the type of land use and flooding potential. The rates are as follows: \$50/acre cropland, \$35/acre pastureland, and \$20/acre forestland. The contracts are 10-year nonrenewable agreements. Applications are accepted until May 15, 2026.

### *(Note from Your Attorney continued)*

I found myself thinking about the importance of safety. Safety is vital for all ages. We should protect not only our limbs, appendages, and organs, but also our minds and hearts. At its core, safety is an act of selflessness. We need to be aware and act safely around the farm because there are loved ones in our lives who want to share moments with us-- like a grandparent who gives you a snack after school, a parent who tucks you into bed at night, or a friend who sits beside you at lunch. Most of us know someone who has been in a farm accident. If that person survived, they are fortunate to be alive. And if they are not so fortunate, their loss leaves an impact on a community. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the agricultural industry is the most dangerous industry in America. While freak accidents do happen, most farm accidents are preventable. By staying aware of our surroundings, communicating with equipment operators, and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), we can ensure our safety and protect those around us. Safety is a selfless act. It is not something to learn by accident. We are so excited to see what the HSAFE Foundation accomplishes. “*When you gamble with safety, you bet your life.*” As always, *Consult Your Attorney,*

*Kiera Leddy*

Our tiniest teammate, Lela Butz.



Gathering together for an afternoon snack and to recap the day.

# DID YOU KNOW with Grandpa Joe

Spring Creek Colony is located near Leola, South Dakota, and is a daughter of Maxwell Colony. Spring Creek was formed in 1961 and had a bit of a rocky start. A few families moved up to an existing farmstead in 1960, about two miles away from the new colony's homestead. Many Colonies assisted with the construction of Spring Creek. Two years after moving to the new homesite, Oscar Wipf's house burned down. Spring Creek raises cattle, hogs, turkeys, crops, and manufactures steel products. Spring Creek has four daughter colonies: Sundale, Grand Valley, Rosenfeld, and Whetsone. Thank you to our friend for finding these photos!



*A one room school house and church.  
How things have changed!*



*The newly established Spring Creek Colony,  
September 1964.*



*Proof that Spring Creek has always strived to  
have the best farm equipment.*

**Fulfilling An Ancient Ideal**

**COVER STORY**

By Warren Overlie

My first visit to Spring Creek Colony was a memorable one. It was the sunny, beautiful morning of Ascension Day, and everything was quiet when I drove into the Hutterite courtyard. There were no adults to be seen, only a few children playing near a white picket fence.

"Where are your parents?" I asked. The children were shy, and, between their giggles, eventually told me that the older people were in the church. So that's where I headed.

When I opened the doors and stood in the small vestibule, peering into the interior of the church, I felt a warm (but curious) friendliness toward the people there. Trying to be inconspicuous (and not too successfully, I am afraid), I headed directly for the back pew. The sanctuary fit my expectations of what a Hutterite chapel would be: clean, direct, unadorned and matching the Hutterite architectural lines. The men, wearing dark suits, all sat at the left side of the church. The women sat at the right, all of them wearing long dark dresses with polka dot head scarves. The children there sat by themselves in the front pews.

I didn't understand the service as it was all in German. (I was told later that there are two types of German used at the colony—one for the worship services and the second for other everyday communication.) The elders, all men, sat at the front, facing the congregation, and the guest preacher that day was from another colony in Montana, who read portions of Scripture.

**Friendly Hosts**

Afterwards, I was invited to the home of John Hefer, the colony's German teacher, where I learned more of the Hutterite humor and warm-hearted hospitality. While there, I enjoyed some of his home-made wine, and we talked more of the history and customs of Spring Creek Colony. Later, we all went to the main dining hall, a separate building. Hutterites have no

**SPRING CREEK COLONY**




Spring Creek Colony is located at the extreme edge of McPherson County, S.D., just a few miles southwest of Forbes, N.D. Fleeing persecution in central Europe and Russia, the pacifist sect sought asylum in the United States in the 1870s. Spring Creek Colony, established in 1964, is an offshoot of the Hutterite colony near Scotland, S.D. About 100 people now live at Spring Creek Colony. Families tend to run large, with some families consisting of between six and eleven children. The Hutterites at Spring Creek farm about 5,000 acres and have built up a highly modern, efficient agricultural operation.

PRAIRES June 1977 13

*A journalist visits Spring Creek Colony on  
Ascension Day.*



*Spring Creek's Church/School House and  
Kitchen/Dining Hall.*

# THE CODE

Many of my friends work in the medical field (one just got accepted into medical school—congrats! 😊), and it got me thinking of the similarities and differences between the medical and legal fields. Both require a license to practice our trade, rigorous training, diagnosing issues, and presenting solutions. Personally, I prefer to deal with words on a page rather than needles and blood. In South Dakota, there are hundreds of law firms, whereas a couple of corporations dominate the medical services in our state. This has created a somewhat monopolistic atmosphere in the medical industry, whereas the legal field has yet to see those changes. And if your attorney insists that you must only use their law firm for all your needs, we refer to that as *manipulation*—not the practice of law. Plus, it's likely he hasn't worked a 40-hour week in over a decade. Being an attorney is a demanding career. I like to describe the job as problem management. Clients typically come to you with an issue, and your role is to provide solutions. Much like doctors, attorneys have their own specialized practice areas. You would not go to a podiatrist to fix an aneurysm. You would not go to a dentist for heart surgery. Similarly, it wouldn't make sense for a criminal law attorney to draft a manufacturing contract or a divorce attorney to form and manage a corporation. With the multitude of laws in our nation-- thanks to Congress and our legislators-- it is impossible to be well-versed in every area. Some attorneys even require specialized education. For example, to be a patent lawyer, one must hold a degree in science or engineering and pass the USPTO Patent bar exam. At Leut Services, we have specialized practice areas. And while we have explored some unexpected areas due to our clients' unique needs, you won't find us handling a DUI, divorce, probate, or lawsuit. We like to stay out of the courtroom and keep our clients out of there, too. And if our clients come to us with an issue that is not our specialty, we will find you the right attorney for the job. There is more than enough work to go around.

# CDL CHANGES

If you hold a South Dakota CDL and do not have a medical card, you must obtain this card by July 1 to avoid downgrading your CDL. This is a new requirement in South Dakota, triggered due to South Dakota's alignment with federal regulations. The rest of the country operates this way; South Dakota has just had its head in the sand. You are affected by the CDL medical card requirement if you operate CDL-required vehicles, drive vehicles over 26,000 pounds in-state, have a K restriction, or operate without a medical certificate. About 28,000 South Dakota CDL holders are affected by this change, so book your medical exam now. Failure to comply may place you out of service while on the road, downgrade your CDL to a Class D license, jeopardize your CDL renewal, or require you to take both a written and skills test to reinstate your CDL. Even if you think you or your drivers will not drive out of state, this is not an area where you will save money by not obtaining the medical card. Acquiring a CDL has become difficult in recent years. Do not be foolish and let it downgrade; act now.



Tune in to Coffee with Kiera on Tuesday, May 5, at 10 a.m. This month's topics: South Dakota Primary Election, QuickTips, and the June Seminar. Email or text Kellie for the link. *Available to clients only.*

## STATE FSA COMMITTEES

The administration change prompts new appointments to State FSA Committees. The Secretary of Agriculture appoints the State FSA Committee members. The committee oversees the FSA farm program implementation, operations, and appeals in the state. The following have been appointed in South Dakota: Mark Gross, Chair (Bridgewater), Chance Davis (Belle Fourche), Douglas Noem (Bryant), Betsy Pravecek (Winner), and Brian Top (Sioux Falls). North Dakota appointees include Erika Jo Kenner, Chair (Leeds), Dustin Johnrud (Epping), Jeremy Kihne (Mayville), Daniel Price (Center), and Barton Schott (Kulm). Minnesota appointees include Charles Radman, Chair (Randolf), Jim Kukowski (Strathcona), Jason May (Rush City), Pamela Kay Uhlenkamp (Green Isle), and Scott E. Winslow (Fountain).

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## FARM BILL FORTHCOMING

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 is edging closer to passage. On April 30, the House passed its Farm Bill by a vote of 224-200, sending it to the Senate for deliberation. The Farm Bill has not been reauthorized since 2018. Multiple policy disagreements led to the delay. House Republicans were split over the idea of year-round E15, and additional division centered around pesticides. The House version of the bill stripped a special provision for a pesticide liability shield. Meanwhile, Democrats are raising concerns about cuts to SNAP. Critics of the current language state Congress needs to do more to ensure farm payments do not go to high-income farmers or those who are not actively engaged in farming, similarly to how income limits and work requirements exist for SNAP. The American Enterprise Institute estimates 60% of farm subsidies in 2026 go to the largest 10% of farms, receiving an average of \$225,000 per farm.

## SETTLE DOWN DEERE

After years of litigation, John Deere has agreed to settle a class action lawsuit challenging the company's repair restrictions. In a proposed settlement agreement, JD has agreed to pay \$99 million to members of the lawsuit class. The class membership includes individuals or business entities that purchased repair services for JD large ag equipment between January 10, 2018, to present day. In addition to payment, JD will now allow farmers and independent mechanics the ability to "diagnose and repair problems without having to use the services of an authorized dealer." Those logistics have not yet been worked out. The settlement is waiting for approval from the judge.

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## SDRP PAYMENT SUPPLEMENT

Farmers eligible for the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) will receive a second "top-up" payment this spring. Since April 2024, the USDA has paid \$6.7 billion under the program, yet 60% of the authorized funding remains to be distributed. The USDA also announced that the 35% payment factor will be increased to 70%. The USDA also extended the deadline for SDRP applications from April 30, 2026, to Aug. 12, 2026.



## FOLLOW

US ON FACEBOOK

LEUT SERVICES, P.C.

# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## Banana Biscoff Ice Cream Cake

(Kiera's Birthday Cake)

2 cups pretzels  
30 Biscoff cookies (about 2 big cups worth)  
1 stick (8 tablespoons) butter, melted  
Honey  
48 oz. container of vanilla ice cream  
2-3 bananas  
3 tsp vanilla extract  
1 cup heavy cream  
1 cup sliced fresh bananas (topping)

Get your ice cream out to thaw so you can spread it. Layer parchment paper on the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan and preheat the oven to 350°. In a food processor, pulse the pretzels and cookies into fine crumbs. Add the butter and mix until the mixture holds together when pinched. Press 1/2 of the crumbs into the bottom of the springform pan. Bake 5-8 minutes, until toasted. Scoop 3-4 cups of vanilla ice cream out onto the cooled crust. Flatten/spread into an even layer. With the remaining 1/2 of the pretzel/cookie crumb mixture, sprinkle 1/2 of it over the ice cream to create a layer. Drizzle honey over the crumb mixture. Freeze for 30 minutes. Mash 2-3 bananas in a bowl with 2 tablespoons of honey, 2 teaspoons of vanilla, and a pinch of salt. Add 2 cups vanilla ice cream and gently swirl together. Take the cake out of the freezer and spread the banana ice cream mixture on top. Sprinkle the remaining crumb mixture over the top and drizzle with honey. Freeze for 3-4 hours before serving. Before serving, use a mixer to whip the cream with 1-2 tablespoons of honey, 1 teaspoon vanilla, and a pinch of salt. You can top the cake with sliced bananas and whipped cream. Enjoy!

# KIDS' CORNER

We have a few celebrations in May, so to celebrate, we have a giveaway. To participate, color the coloring page and submit it to Kellie by May 31, either by mail or email. You must be 12 or younger to participate. One entry per child. Even though this is a drawing, we still expect an A+ effort. The selected winner will have their coloring page featured in June's newsletter. The winner will receive a Summer Starter Pack— essentials for a great summer vacation. The Colony with the most submissions also gets a prize.

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## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

May 3 // Leut's 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
May 5 // Coffee with Kiera  
May 14 // Office Closed  
May 25-26 // Office Closed  
June 2 // SD Primary Election  
June 3-4 // World Pork Expo  
June 9 // ND Primary Election  
June 12 // Glenn Muller's Retirement Party  
June 16 // Seminar for Stewards  
June 25-26 // Gov's Ag Summit- Pierre  
July 3 // Office Closed

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# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Name:  
Age:  
Colony: