

July 2026

THE HOUSEHOLDER BULLETIN

The Monthly Newsletter of Leut Services, P.C.

NEW LEADERSHIP IN SD AG

Two of South Dakota's agricultural organizations have undergone leadership changes. Kevin Scott is assuming the position of executive director of the South Dakota Soybean Association and South Dakota Soybean Research & Promotion Council. Scott replaces Jerry Schmitz. Scott is a fourth-generation farmer from Valley Springs, South Dakota, which is in the southeastern part of the state. He formerly served as president and chairman of the American Soybean Association. Tina Erickson is assuming the duties of executive director of the South Dakota Pork Producers Council. She replaces Glenn Muller. Erickson formerly served as the director of membership, outreach, and engagement for SD Pork.



Kevin Scott (Soybean) and Tina Erickson (Pork)
Graphic from Tristate Neighbor

A NOTE FROM YOUR *Attorney*

In life, we encounter people and situations that test our integrity. I categorize them into two groups: molders and boulders. A molder is someone or something that strengthens your integrity. They are people who align with your values, support good decision-making, and help you be better than the person you were yesterday. While some situations may require you to make tough decisions, making the right decision strengthens your foundation of integrity. Then there are boulders. Just like a rock, they obstruct your path in life and cause problems. You can try to chip away at the boulder, making it smaller, but ultimately, it remains in your way. You can push and pull the boulder to try to clear your path, but it may come rolling back, destroying everything in its path. Integrity takes a lifetime to build but seconds to destroy. In business, *(continued on next page)*

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SD GOP RECAP

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the South Dakota Republican Convention as a Precinct Committeewoman. What is a Precinct Committeewoman? I am so glad you asked. It is a position that flies under the radar but holds a lot of power in South Dakota. A precinct person is an elected delegate on behalf of the County's political party (Republican or Democrat). However, if your County is inactive like mine, you won't have an election. The precinct person goes to the state convention for their respective political party to elect their constitutional officer candidates. In South Dakota, the constitutional officers are: Public Utilities Commissioners, Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Secretary of State, and Commissioner of School and Public Lands. These candidates are then on the November General Election ballot. On Saturday, June 27, approximately 700 Republicans gathered at The Monument in Rapid City. It took the leadership about two hours to get the correct headcount for voting members (*not very organized!*). Then nominations for constitutional officer candidates were taken from the floor. Nominating members gave a speech of support, and the candidate gave a speech. Then votes were cast. While some races were close, others were not. These candidates will now face other party candidates on the November General Election Ballot. However, if there is no candidate to run against on that ballot, they will assume office in January. For example, Lance Russell received the Attorney General nominee. He does not have a candidate to run against, so he automatically is our state's next Attorney General. Yep, those 700-some people elected our next attorney general, and you probably had no idea such an event was going on--crazy!!

(Note from Your Attorney continued)

once you fracture that bridge of trust, it is impossible to reconstruct the original foundation you once had. To have integrity, you must have grit (quite literally, you need it to spell "integrity"). Your integrity will be challenged when you are placed in uncomfortable situations. This discomfort should not be dismissed as merely a feeling; it's a signal, an alarm ringing and red flags waving, alerting you that a test is ahead. The decision you make will either mold you or become a boulder in your path of life. Live with integrity. You will sleep better at night. You will live a life aligned with your values. You will experience fulfillment. At Leut Services, integrity is one of our shared values. We practice it and expect our clients to do the same. At this stage in my career, I know that our integrity is evident in our brand and reputation, based on an unusual compliment I received. During a phone call with a consultant, we were discussing the different attorneys in this state. He went on to thank me for not being like a prostitute (*stay with me here*). Many attorneys and businesspeople will take on clients or projects solely for the lucrative payouts they promise, prioritizing profit over purpose. They value getting paid well above anything else. In less than three years, our reputation has established us as a law firm rooted in integrity. We expect our clients to practice it; I expect my employees to practice it, and while I recognize our firm holds a higher standard of integrity than most, it is this standard that will drive our future success. Anything less will be dismissed. "*Integrity—the choice between what's convenient and what's right.*" – Tony Dungy. As always, **Consult Your Attorney,**

Kiera Leddy

DID YOU KNOW

with Grandpa Joe

Thunderbird Colony is located in Faulk County, South Dakota. Thunderbird began in 1964 and is a daughter colony of Glendale Colony. Each fall, Thunderbird hosts ThunderMart, which is a roadside stand that is open for two weeks. They sell pumpkins, squash, and other produce in addition to baked goods, coffee, and crafts. Thunderbird raises crops, hogs, manufactures, and sells sourdough crackers. Thunderbird has one daughter colony: Brentwood.



Thunderbird "back in the day."



ThunderMart



Back at the Thunderbird Ranch...

PESTICIDE PROTECTION

The Supreme Court has ruled on a federal pesticide labeling law in the case *Monsanto Co. v. Durnell*. The Court held in a 7-2 decision that Monsanto is protected from cancer victims suing over Roundup due to a federal pesticide law that blocks states from requiring cancer warnings on labels.

H-2A FOR DAIRIES

Dairy farms can now obtain labor through the H-2A program. H-2A is a governmental program that allows temporary foreign workers for agricultural jobs. On June 17, the Department of Homeland Security published guidance for dairy producers to hire labor through the H-2A program. The H-2A program allows agricultural employers to hire foreign workers on a seasonal or temporary basis. Under the new guidance, dairy farms are eligible to participate in the program, as Congress intended, according to the guidance.

NEW VAX FOR TURKEYS

Researchers at South Dakota State University (SDSU) have developed a vaccine for avian metapneumovirus subtype B, also known as turkey rhinotracheitis. It is associated with swollen head syndrome. SDSU was the first to identify this virus in 2024 and will now be the first in the nation to develop a vaccine against this strain. Currently, the only vaccine available in the U.S. is imported from Europe and does not offer full protection. This SDSU-developed vaccine will provide full protection. The vaccine is expected to be available on the market within six months to one year.

NO MORE HUNTING AND FISHING

An Oregon petition to ban hunting and fishing has moved closer to making the November ballot. Currently, Oregon exempts hunting, fishing, and livestock processing from state animal cruelty laws; however, Initiative Petition 28 seeks to change those exceptions. If passed, Initiative 28 would criminalize injuring or killing animals, except in cases of self-defense or veterinary care. It would also ban certain breeding practices. To date, the petition has received more than 126,000 signatures, which meets the minimum for the ballot. Hunting and fishing have a huge economic impact in Oregon through licenses and tags, equipment, travel, and guide services. In 2019, it is estimated that there was a \$1.2 billion impact.

MILLBORN SEEDS EXPANDS

Millborn Seeds, a family-owned seed company in Brookings, SD, acquired Clearwater Seeds, a Washington company, on June 15. Clearwater Seeds is a seed company with strong ties to conservation-focused products relating to CRP, reclamation, turf, native seed, pasture, wildflowers, and cover crops. The two companies worked together in the past before the acquisition. Millborn Seeds says the acquisition will allow it to continue completing large-scale projects and improve market access.



SD NEEDS YOUR VOTE

By Laney Andrews

Larry Rhoden and Toby Doeden emerged from South Dakota's competitive June 2 primary race. Since no candidate reached 35% of the votes cast, there will be an additional election held on July 28. This election will select the Republican governor candidate. This is the first time in South Dakota history for a gubernatorial run-off election. Before 1985, in the event that no candidate reached 35%, the Republican convention delegates would choose. While voters may be experiencing some campaign burnout from phone calls, mailers, and TV ads, this law change put the power back into the people's hands. Aberdeen businessman, Toby Doeden, is running his campaign on eliminating property taxes. He has not served as an elected official before. His prior experience includes owning car dealerships, a bitcoin and land mining facility, rental properties, and other various entities. Current Governor Larry Rhoden, a rancher from West River, has spent years of public service in the SD Legislature. He says he has helped South Dakota create more jobs, grow the economy, decrease crime and drug rates, and invest in education and rural health care. Through his time as lieutenant governor and governor, he developed relationships and expanded his knowledge of South Dakota. Deciding the next governor of South Dakota won't just impact the next four years of our state, but the next 20-30 years of South Dakota business, policy, agriculture, education, and values. The time to act is more important than ever. You can vote now at your county courthouse until July 27. Otherwise, we hope you get to your polling place on July 28. The future of South Dakota needs you to act! ***Leut Services encourages you to vote for Rhoden in July.***

BUSINESS BODYGUARD

By Kellie Ripp

A registered agent is an individual or a company that acts as a point of contact for official and legal business. For example, when government notices are issued or legal documents are served, such as a subpoena, the registered agent receives the paperwork (talk about a stress reducer 😊). Having a law firm or other corporate services company act as your business's registered agent will help keep your sensitive information private. Registered agents also help your business comply with state laws. A registered agent is responsible for filing the business's annual report. At Leut Services, we take filing annual reports very seriously, going beyond what other registered agents do. We put forth extra efforts to ensure your business information is up-to-date and the right names are listed. This best practice ensures that no former officers or directors—and even deceased individuals (true story!)—are associated with your business. A business must have a registered agent in the state where the business is formed and does business. For our clients doing work outside of South Dakota, we will work with businesses of comparable professionalism to find you an out-of-state registered agent.



Tune in to Coffee with Kiera on Tuesday, July 7, at 10 a.m. Email or text Kellie for the link. *Available to Colony clients only.*

GOING TO THE CHAPEL

Getting married this year? Don't forget to change your name on your legal documents. Changing your name on your social security card is the first step, before your driver's license, passport, or any other identification. You will need your original Social Security card, driver's license or state ID card, and passport or birth certificate to process this change. If you do not have access to a computer, we recommend going to the Social Security Administration office to process this change. Be sure to make an appointment first. You will also need to complete an SS-5 form application. Social Security will process this change at no cost. Once you update your Social Security card, you can update your driver's license/state ID card and passport. And don't forget to update your voter registration at the courthouse, too, as this is an election year. Please contact Leut Services if you have questions about these processes.

CHECKOFF CHALLENGED

Three Wisconsin dairy farmers have sued the USDA, challenging the constitutionality of the federal dairy checkoff program. Currently, dairy producers are required to pay 15 cents per hundredweight of milk to finance the administration of dairy promotion and advertising. The farmers allege that the checkoff dollars are being used to promote Dairy Management, Inc.'s environmental, social, and governance (ESG)-centered agenda. The complaint also alleges the dairy checkoff program is unconstitutional under the First Amendment because the government compels the farmers to subsidize the ESG-based speech of a private nonprofit.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Strawberry Pretzel Ice Cream Cake

Kellie's Birthday Cake

1 cup pretzels
 15 gingersnap cookies
 6 Tablespoons butter, melted
 5 cups vanilla ice cream
 4 cups strawberry ice cream
 1 cup strawberry jam
 1 cup sliced fresh strawberries

Line an 8-inch square baking pan with parchment paper. In a food processor, pulse the pretzels and gingersnaps into fine crumbs. Add the butter and pulse until the mixture holds together when pinched. Press into the bottom of the pan. Freeze for 15 minutes. Scoop four cups of vanilla ice cream out onto the frozen crust. Flatten/spread into a mostly even layer. Freeze for 30 minutes. In a bowl, gently swirl together the strawberry ice cream and strawberry jam. Spread onto the vanilla layer. Freeze for 30 minutes more. Take 1/2 cup of vanilla ice cream and flatten/spread onto the strawberry layer. Top with sliced strawberries. Wrap the cake and freeze for four hours or until frozen. Remove the cake from the freezer. Use the parchment paper to lift the cake out of the pan. Let it sit for five minutes. Slice and enjoy. *Recipe by Half Baked Harvest.*



The 2026 Governor's Ag Summit was a great opportunity for a few members of the Leut team to learn from industry leaders and gain insight into the many opportunities shaping the future of South Dakota agriculture.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

July 3 // Office Closed
 July 7 // Coffee with Kiera
 July 15 // SDSPA Summer Tour
 July 21 // Seminar for Stewards (Dimock)
 July 28 // SD Run-off Election
 Aug. 4-6 // MN Farm Fest
 Aug. 18-20 // Dakotafest
 Sept. 2-7 // SD State Fair
 Sept. 7 // Labor Day (Office Closed)

CONTACT US

Kiera Leddy, Attorney

kledddy@leutservicespc.com
 605-924-0271

Kellie Ripp, Paralegal & Client Coordinator

kripp@leutservicespc.com
 605-656-8344

Rebecka Butz, Bookkeeping Specialist

rbutz@leutservicespc.com
 605-656-6525

Laney Andrews, Summer Intern

landrews@leutservicespc.com
 605-656-6370

MAKING CENTS OUT OF DOLLARS

Foundations for Financial Stewardship

TUESDAY, JULY 21



10 AM – 3 PM



THE SHOFFICE



JANELLE GUERICKE

Lunch, refreshments, and
handouts provided.

RECOMMENDED ATTENDEES:

Officers & Enterprise
Managers

RSVP TO KELLIE BY JULY 14

kripp@leutservicespc.com



SEMINARS
— FOR —
STEWARDS



TOPICS TO ADDRESS

- Financial Fundamentals
- Budgeting
- Crop Marketing Plan
- Servant Leadership (by Kiera)

Janelle Guericke began her career as a high school business teacher before transitioning into a commodity broker at Farmers Trading Company in Mitchell. However, her passion for teaching led her back to the classroom, where she serves as an instructor at Mitchell Tech. Over the years, she has taught ag business subjects in the classroom and has provided farmers with commodity marketing skills. She and her husband live in Alexandria, South Dakota.