

October 2026

THE HOUSEHOLDER BULLETIN

The Monthly Newsletter of Leut Services, P.C.

LEGAL ASSISTANT CHEYENNE WURTZ

Please join us in welcoming Cheyenne as our new legal assistant. Cheyenne grew up in Herreid, South Dakota. She is currently working toward her bachelor's degree in nursing, but plans to attend law school. Cheyenne will join us four days a week so she can balance school and work. In her free time, she enjoys being outside, practicing yoga, reading, and spending time with family. We are excited to kick-start her legal education and believe she will be a wonderful addition to our team!



A NOTE FROM YOUR *Attorney*

For almost three years of my life, I have faced a recurring dilemma: whether to give oxygen to a burning fire. Attorneys, by nature, can be argumentative. They want to stand up for what's right, zealously advocate for their client, and, as some might say, "get their way." Unfortunately, this fire that keeps burning is of a story that I have been cast as the villain in. About three years ago, I started Leut Services, and that is when the fire was ignited. Running a business is challenging, but when you consistently have to defend your integrity and good character, it's even harder. It is a mental battle that most people never see. And it wages a violent war when people believe that fire of lies. Most people in my situation would take the matter to court. Liars get sloppy, and the evidence starts to pile up. And so, you come to a crossroads: you either give oxygen to that fire, or you walk away, and eventually it burns out. Walking away is not easy, especially for someone (*Continued on next page*)

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MN VET TECH LICENSE

The Minnesota legislature passed significant updates to the Minnesota Veterinary Practice Act in 2024 and 2026. The changes bring the law more in line with other states. Effective July 1, only individuals licensed by the Minnesota Veterinary Medicine Board may use the title “veterinary technician” in Minnesota. All other medical support staff in veterinary practices must be referred to as veterinary assistants. This allows customers to identify those who have met established standards more clearly. The law also clarifies what veterinary technicians can do. For example, they can now legally take blood draws and administer injections under remote veterinary supervision. Licensed veterinary technicians can also supervise veterinary assistants when a veterinarian is not present. As of August 17, at least 2,494 licensed technicians had been approved. The law also included a grandfather clause that allowed individuals with two years of full-time experience within the past five years to be licensed.



Tune in to Coffee with Kiera on Wednesday, October 7, at 10 a.m. Email or text Cheyenne for the link: cwurtz@leutservicespc.com or 605-656-6370. Available to Colony clients only.

(Note from Your Attorney continued)

like an attorney who wants to stand up for what is right. But let's think about that person who ignited the fire of lies. Imagine how insecure that person must be to ignite that spark. Their moral compass needs some serious recalibration. Imagine the misery and shame they carry in order to keep the fire going for almost three years. A lie is never strong enough to stand alone. It has to multiply to keep burning. When the victim gives oxygen to the fire, the flames only grow higher. So, I have decided to walk away from this fire. To those who listen to the fire and watch it burn, you have been swindled by a *schlecht mensch*. And to the person who ignited the spark, you can walk away too; otherwise, you just might eventually fall into that burning ring of fire. As always, **Consult Your Attorney,**

Kiera Leddy

COMMENT ON WOTUS

On September 9, the EPA announced an additional public comment period on a proposed rule to redefine “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act. While the EPA proposed a WOTUS definition in November 2025, it has not been finalized. The agency is seeking comments on the terms “perennial,” “relatively permanent,” and “continuous surface connection.” These terms are relevant to determining whether water and wetlands qualify as WOTUS. The deadline to file comments is October 9.

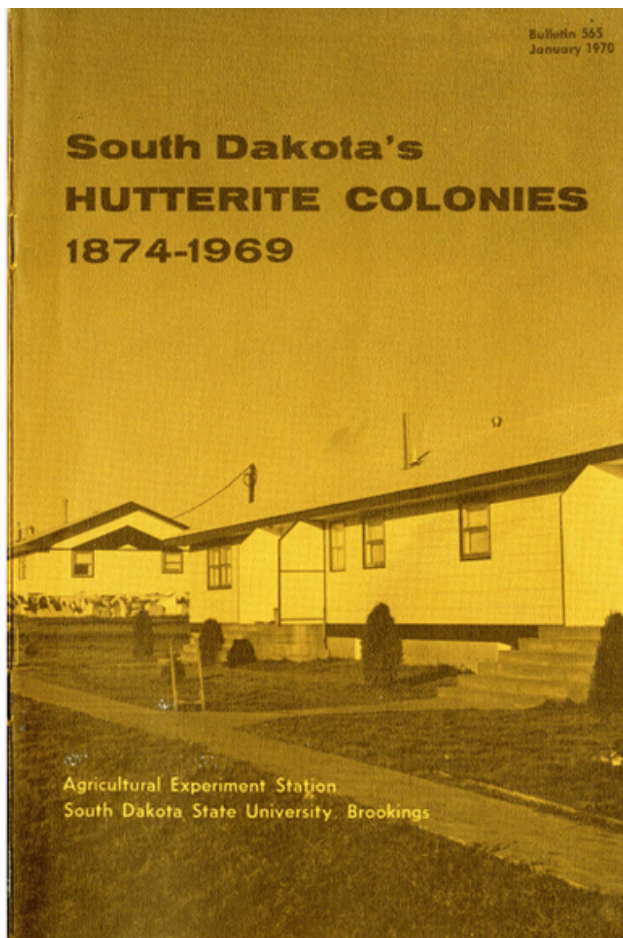
DID YOU KNOW

with Grandpa Joe

Poinsett Colony is a daughter of New Elm Springs Colony. It was established in 1968 and is located north of Estelline, South Dakota. Poinsett has one daughter colony: Claremont. The following pictures are of Poinsett Colony in 1969, when it was featured in a South Dakota State University publication on the Hutterites of South Dakota. You can view the entire study [HERE](#).



(Top) Jonathan Wollman served as the householder and carpenter in 1969.
(Bottom) School teacher Levi Tschetter prepares for a lesson.



Poinsett Colony houses featured on the cover of the SDSU publication.



THE CODE

By Cheyenne Wurtz

As true as the sun rising each morning, dealing with organizations or individuals we deem “incompetent” is an unfortunate reality of daily life. Be that as it may, there are some professions where it becomes unacceptable to be incompetent. For example, is there anything scarier than an incompetent brain surgeon? Attorneys are held to an equally rigorous standard. Rule 1.1 in the American Bar Association’s Model Rules of Professional Responsibility states that a lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. What does this mean? Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation that is necessary to handle each client’s case. To help you ensure you are receiving the high-quality advocacy that you deserve, here are three major “red flags” that indicate an attorney is falling short of professional competence. Number one is persistent poor communication. Timely, honest, and thorough communication is essential. The next red flag is missed deadlines and disorganization. If an attorney is chronically missing deadlines, misplacing files, and has unorganized information with no clear plan, that should be a warning sign for you. The final flag to keep a close eye on is unclear, excessive, and/or hidden fees. Any competent, honest attorney should have a written fee agreement that is clearly outlined and readily available. A pattern of these behaviors- not simply isolated incidents- may indicate incompetence. If you think this is happening to you, you should consult another attorney for a second opinion. It may also be a good idea to document the issues with dates and examples, in case you have to file a complaint with the state bar. That said, if your experience with Leut Services has reflected clear communication, organized guidance, and competent support, feel free to give us a call to thank us for our competence. 😊

GOVERNORS FOR HARVEST RELIEF

If you have been to the fuel pump lately, you have likely winced at the price. At the end of September, diesel prices hit a record \$6.53 per gallon, according to Energy Information Administration. This situation is not ideal for harvest season. To offer relief, South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden signed an Executive Order for farmers to haul crops, livestock, and agricultural commodities at 10% above weight restrictions, so fewer trips can be taken. The \$25 overweight trip permit was also suspended. The order expires on December 28, 2026. In Minnesota, Governor Tim Walz signed a similar Executive Order to allow vehicles transporting agricultural and forest products to exceed regular weight limits by up to 10% on state and local highways. Some may wonder, if you are hauling a heavier load, are you really saving on fuel costs? Meanwhile, the state of Nebraska is refunding diesel taxes. President Trump is considering an expansion of red-dyed diesel, a tax-exempt fuel, for highway use. Red-dye diesel is used for equipment and vehicles that are not usually operated on public roadways, and is essentially banned for use in most trucks.

ARC/PLC ENROLLMENT

The One Big Beautiful Bill authorized more than 30 million newly allocated base acres. This is the first expansion since 2006. However, more acres will qualify than the law allows, so a prorated reduction of 3.69% will be applied to every newly allocated base acre. The 2026 crop year signup runs through December 11. If you do not submit a 2026 election by December 11, your election from 2025 carries forward. Do not miss this deadline; otherwise, your farm is ineligible for the 2026 farm program payment. The 2027 crop year signup opens November 2 and closes March 15, 2027.

BACK & BETTER THAN EVER?

By Kellie Ripp

Some of you may recall a previous HB article about Missouri farmer Steve McBee, Sr., star of the reality TV show “The McBee Dynasty.” Nearly a year ago, McBee received a 24-month sentence at the federal prison in Yankton, SD, for crop insurance fraud. He was found guilty and was ordered to pay back over \$4 million to the USDA’s Risk Management Agency. However, his time in Yankton was cut short as he was released early on September 11. The McBees are not out of the woods yet. An upcoming trial is scheduled to start on May 3, 2027, claiming that Steve McBee, Sr. was transferring assets and ownership interests of three companies evenly to his sons’ trusts in an attempt to avoid paying his crop insurance fraud penalties. McBee’s attorneys claim that the trusts were created 10 years before the transfers happened, and the transfers were just routine business. The U.S. attorneys argue McBee was being sneaky and knew his criminal conviction on six federal and state claims for fraudulent conveyance was on its way. The U.S. attorneys also claim these transfers were because McBee did not want to surrender or terminate the three businesses if he could not afford the initial crop insurance fraud restitution. The \$4 million restitution was to be paid right away; however, as of early spring 2026, nothing has been paid. This open tab leaves all viewers of the TV show “The McBee Dynasty” confused, as the McBees are often shown purchasing high-dollar items, driving luxury vehicles, and living in lavish houses. Let this be a lesson for us all: Never trust what you see on the screen, and be honest when it comes to government payments.

SEMINAR FOR STEWARDS

In November, we will hear Dakota State University professors discuss cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (AI). Luckily, we did not have to go far to find the experts because DSU is nationally recognized as an expert in cybersecurity and is leading the charge on AI. DSU is one of nine institutions in the U.S. to hold all three designations from the National Security Agency Center of Academic Excellence in cyber defense, cyber operations, and cyber research. This year, the Dakota State University Applied Research Corp. will open the Applied Research Lab in Sioux Falls. This 100,000-square-foot building will be used for advancing solutions in cybersecurity. The facility includes training rooms that can be used by law enforcement, as well as a Faraday room, which isolates electronic devices from outside signals while investigators work on them. This Seminar will focus on exploring what artificial intelligence is, best practices for email security, and how AI integrates on the farm. We believe this will be a great seminar on a very timely topic.

REGENERATIVE PILOT PROGRAM

The USDA announced it is increasing financial assistance for the Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) from \$700 million to \$1 billion for fiscal year 2027. The RPP includes conservation programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). We recommend producers reach out to their local NRCS office to discuss project ideas that may qualify for funding.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Baked Apple Donuts

1/2 cup apple cider
2 tbs butter, melted
2 tsp vanilla
2 eggs
1/4 cup apple butter
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp ground ginger
1/2 tsp salt
1 apple, chopped
1 tbs cinnamon sugar
Glaze
4 tbs melted butter
1/3 cup maple syrup
3/4-1 cup powdered sugar
1 tsp instant coffee
1/2 tsp cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Grease a 6-cup doughnut pan. In a large mixing bowl, stir together cider, melted butter, eggs, apple butter, vanilla, and brown sugar until combined. Add the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and salt; mix until just combined. Toss the apples with the cinnamon sugar mix, then stir the apples into the batter. Divide the batter evenly among the prepared pan, filling 1/2-2/3 the way full. Bake 12-13 minutes, until just set. Remove and let cool for 5 minutes, then run a knife around the edges to release from the pan. To make the glaze, whisk in the melted butter, maple syrup, powdered sugar, instant coffee, and cinnamon. Dip or drizzle the glaze onto the donut. *Recipe by Half Baked Harvest.*

MN LEADS IN BIRD FLU

Minnesota currently leads the nation in cases of avian influenza, a position that does not come with bragging rights. More than half of the U.S. flocks affected by the highly pathogenic avian influenza in the last month are from the state of Minnesota. At the end of September, 10 flocks totaling 261,450 birds in the state were affected by the virus. These flocks existed in the counties of Wright, Becker, Otter Tail, Big Stone, Kandiyohi, Stearns, and Benton. Nationally, 19 flocks and 517,840 birds in seven states have been affected. Avian influenza has been tragically affecting the turkey industry since 2022 and appears to have no inclination of letting its foot off the gas.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Oct. 7 // Coffee with Kiera
Oct. 13-14 // Office Closed
Nov. 17 // Seminar for Stewards
Nov. 26-27 // Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Dec. 24-25 // Office Closed for Christmas
Dec. 31-Jan. 1 // Office Closed for New Year

CONTACT US

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN AG

Dr. Shawn Zwach

Dr. Zwach is an Assistant Professor in Dakota State University's Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences. He has worked in cybersecurity since 2012, with experience in code assessment, digital forensics, system accreditation, and forensic tool development. He teaches software security, mobile communications, and offensive network security.

Dr. Mark Spanier

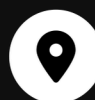
Dr. Spanier is an Associate Professor in The Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences, where he also serves as Department Chair for Emerging Technologies. He teaches courses in mathematics, cryptography, machine learning and AI, and the foundations of computation. He serves as co-director of DSU's Artificial Intelligence Lab and director for the DSU + AI Sweden Industrial Immersion Program.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- ✓ What is AI?
- ✓ Email Security
- ✓ Password Protection
- ✓ AI Fraud
- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ AI and Farming Software



November 17, 2026
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



The Shoffice
Dimock, SD

RECOMMENDED FOR:

Hutterite Colony Officers, Board Members & Enterprise Managers
Lunch, refreshments, and handouts will be provided

RSVP to kripp@leutservicespc.com by November 10
\$75/Attendee

SEMINARS
— FOR —
STEWARDS

**LEUT
SERVICES**
P.C.