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Around Dakota Ag

S.D. corn groups present awards

THE South Dakota Corn Growers Association and South Dakota Corn Utilization Council presented several awards at a recent SDCGA annual meeting.

Award recipients

■ **Brian Woldt**, Wentworth, received the Presidential Recognition and Outstanding Service Award. As SDCUC president, he led efforts in many market development projects, including biotechnology and aviation ethanol.



■ **Larry Gabriel**, South Dakota secretary of agriculture, received the Excellence in Agriculture Award. The award honors an outstanding leader in agriculture who exemplifies excel-



lence in agriculture by their significant contributions to the industry as a whole. He served as a Haakon County commissioner from 1975 through 1982 and as a state representative from 1983 until retiring from the Legislature in 1998. During his tenure in the House of Representatives, he served six years as House majority leader. He was named secretary of agriculture in 2000.

■ **Steve Domm**, manager of Fremar Farmers Cooperative, Marion, S.D., received the Elevator Manager of the Year Award. Under Domm's leadership, Fremar's grain volume has doubled, the fertilizer business has quadrupled, the seed business has tripled and profitability has soared. In addition, Fremar has added \$10 million in building and equipment assets, making it possible for them to handle an average of 25 million bushels. In the fall of 2004, he sat in the combine cab of every one of his Fremar board directors and challenged them to consider spending \$30,000 on a corn availability/ethanol feasibility study for an ethanol plant located next to a



Key Points

- SDCGA and SDCUC recognize directors with awards.
- Fremar Co-op manager receives Manager of the Year award.
- Group presents awards to Gabriel, Dkystra and Tonneson

grain terminal. The result is Millennium Ethanol, a 100 million-gallon plant being built adjacent to Fremar Farmers Cooperative.

■ **Chad Johnson**, Platte; Bjorn Nelson, Huron; Paul Shubeck, Centerville; Craig Swanson; and Clint Vanneman, Ideal, received Outstanding Service awards. These directors served their allowed terms with the SDCUC and helped lead the organization through years of ethanol, livestock and value-added market development.

■ **Rep. Joel Dykstra**, Canton, received the Legislative Appreciation Award. Elected to the South Dakota



House of Representatives in 2002, Dykstra served on the Governor's Energy Task Force and has promoted renewable-energy legislation, including acting as House prime sponsor of the bills creating and funding the South Dakota Energy Infrastructure Authority. He currently serves on the Advisory Council for the Anaerobic Digester Project at South Dakota State University.

■ **Lon Tonneson**, editor, *Dakota Farmer*, received the Excellence in Public Outreach Award. A graduate of SDSU with a degree in journalism, Tonneson began writing for *The Farmer* and *Dakota Farmer* in 1981. He also is a contributor to Farm Progress Cos.' 18 other state farm magazines. He has won many awards for his reporting and photography, including being named Writer of the Year by the American Agricultural Editors Association.



Corn meetings coming to western N.D.

THE basics of corn production and marketing in western North Dakota will be discussed at a series of meetings in February.

Neil Hansen, Colorado State University, will review corn production techniques developed for the drier regions of Colorado. North Dakota State University Extension Service specialists and representatives of the ethanol and insurance industries also will discuss the factors involved in corn production.

"These meetings should be an excellent opportunity for those new to corn production to learn key practices that can make corn production

profitable," says Joel Ransom, NDSU Extension agronomist for cereal crops and a program organizer.

The meetings are free and will include lunch, but preregistration is requested to help plan for the meal. The meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Dates and locations are:
Feb. 12 - Memorial Hall, Washburn
Feb. 13 - American Legion Hall, Regent

Feb. 14 - Taylor School, Taylor
For more information and to register, contact a county Extension Service office in McLean, (701) 462-8541; Hettinger, (701) 824-2095; or Stark, (701) 456-7665.