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South Dakota
Wildlife
Federation

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OUT OF DOORS

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 5

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Ethanol issue sputters along

Makers of cars and marine engines wary of EPA's proposed ethanol fuel cap increase

By Colin Moore - Special to ESPNOutdoors.com

For the past few years, many boaters have been using fuel that contains 10 percent ethanol. Most of those boaters probably haven't noticed much of a difference in engine performance while they're up on plane.

Marine manufacturers, however, say that a tsunami of bad side effects might be on the way, especially if the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decides to raise the ethanol cap from 10 to 15 percent of fuel content. The ethanol industry, composed of refiners and agricultural interests, have requested that the EPA grant a waiver on its 10 percent cap and allow a standard of 15 percent.

This is the story of how contentious 5 little percentage points can get.

Ethanol, which has been in use in the Midwest for several decades, started to become a household name in the rest of the country after the Energy Policy Act of 2005 required the use of renewable fuels to cut down carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

The Renewable Fuel Standard, part of the program, calls for a graduated increase in the general usage of "biofuels," with a cap of 10 percent of total volume for most engines. Thus, the E10 designation for ethanol.

There are specially designed engines in "flexible-fuel" vehicles that can run on ethanol up to 85 percent by volume (E85). Provisions of the 2007 Energy Act also addressed the development and use of alternative bio-fuels.

This spring the proponents of increased ethanol usage started putting pressure on the EPA to allow the blend cap to go from E10 to E15. The EPA is in the process of collecting comments on the waiver request and has until Dec. 1 to decide.

In the meantime, it's sandwiched between a consortium of E15 proponents called Growth Energy (co-chaired by Wesley Clark, the retired Army general and would-be President) and opponents led by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), leaders of the not-so-healthy auto industry and — strangely even by the standards of political bedfellows — the environmental movement.

Except as it applies to the latter, the controversy centers on money, and lots of it. Agribusiness, represented by Growth Energy, wants to get a bigger slice of the American pie. Various marine engine and vehicle

... Continued on page 3

BARCODED PLATS

21 Gun Giveaway Winners Announced

At the Spring Board Meeting held in Pierre, SDWF's board members drew the winning names of those who had purchased 21 Gun Giveaway tickets. There were 1730 tickets sold for this annual fundraising event. SDWF gave away 17 guns or cash settlements to the winners.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Donald Fellbaun, SD | 10. F.Lee Jackson, AL |
| 2. Amer. Trust Ins, SD | 11. Margaret Mach, SD |
| 3. Lance Gerth | 12. Jim Bacon, SD |
| 4. Pat Carnicle, SD | 13. Norman Buxcel, SD |
| 5. Thomas Krebs, MN | 14. Gary Elliot, SD |
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| 7. Fred Prindle, MN | 16. Lawrence Roghair, SD |
| 8. Michael Finnegan, SD | 17. Larry Trapp, SD |
| 9. Roger Nussgen, SD | |

I want to thank everyone who purchased and sold tickets for this raffle. Your generosity makes SDWF what it is today. THANK YOU!



Executive Director's Update *by Chris Hesla*

South Dakota has been fortunate this year in receiving moisture for good habitat; although in some areas, way too much moisture. It is very green and there are lots of pheasants running in the road ditches. I am predicting that SD will have another record setting pheasant season this fall. I am looking forward to the end of August to see the results of the GF&P's Annual Pheasant Brood Survey.

At the recent SDWF Board of Directors meeting, the Board members drew the names of 17 lucky winners of SDWF's 21-Gun Giveaway. Their names and states are listed on the front page of this issue. THANK YOU to all of that bought tickets for a chance at a new gun.

As I am writing this column, there are nearly 100 young adults and many volunteers getting ready to

head to Custer State Park for SDWF's 49th Annual Camp Bob Marshall. I cannot say thank you enough to the many volunteers that give their time to teach conservation to our young adults and the never ending clubs, organizations and individuals that help send these young adults to camp.

SDWF will be sending out the 2008 Pheasant Hunt and Buffalo Shoot raffle tickets very soon. PLEASE support SDWF and purchase tickets when you receive the offer in the mail.

Have a safe and fun filled summer. Get out and enjoy your area's natural resources. Thank you for all that you do for SDWF!

SDWF will be sending out the 2008 Pheasant Hunt and Buffalo Shoot raffle tickets very soon. PLEASE support SDWF and purchase tickets when you receive the offer in the mail.



President's Column *by Rieck Eske*

The Federation has come a long way since I became a board member. We are always trying to improve the Federation. I would like to pose a question to you, the members. The State Convention is one of the biggest events of the year.

We used to have the dinner and auction on Friday night. Saturday we held our meeting in the morning and then in the afternoon we had speakers. Saturday night was the Banquet and Award Presentations. Sunday we finished up with our meetings and elections.

The last couple of years we have had a social gathering on Friday night for those that showed up Friday. Saturday morning we held our meetings and then the Saturday afternoon is open or had

tours. Saturday evening was the Banquet, Awards Presentation and Auction. Sunday we finished up with meetings and elections.

I would like your input on which setup you would like to have our State Convention. So please call me at 605-380-9569 or 605-229-1743, email me at sdhunter8@gmail.com.

Any affiliate club that would like to host the 2010 Convention please let me know. Remember the 2009 State Convention is being held August 15-16 in Watertown, Drake Motor Inn. Please plan on attending and show your support for this great organization.

CARRY ON THE TRADITION

I would like your input on which setup you would like to have our State Convention. So please call me at 605-380-9569 or 605-229-1743, email me at sdhunter8@gmail.com.



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Ethanol Issues Spudders Along . . .

manufacturers want to keep the cost of research and development, plus warranty service charges, as manageable as possible, and E15 probably isn't going to let that happen.

High stakes

Ethanol refiners are awash in money. They've received billions of dollars in subsidies and research grants from the federal government in recent years to develop and market a fuel that it hopes will be cheaper and cleaner-burning than fossil fuels.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that in 2008, American producers cranked out 9 billion gallons of ethanol, some of which was exported.

Depending on who's estimating, that fuel cost between \$1.50 and \$1.74 to produce, for a total worth between \$13 billion and \$16 billion last year alone. Tack on another 50 percent in production, which is what E15 will do as soon as Growth Energy and its allies can make it happen, and the stakes get astronomically higher.

In the U.S., all that cash is riding on corn. Nowadays, about a fourth of the corn grown in this country is used in the distillation of ethanol, a form of alcohol. Ethanol can be cheaper to produce than undiluted gasoline, depending on the current asking price for oil and taking into account the various government subsidies that support the production of what in the U.S. is principally a corn-based fuel.

As far as engine manufacturers are concerned, the issue with ethanol is whether its side effects, namely degradation of fuel system components and engine performance, are going to be greatly exacerbated if the EPA grants the waiver. Some marine manufacturers admit that they don't know, and the E15 proponents don't seem to care.

"Our position is not anti-ethanol, but that the waiver shouldn't be approved until there is sufficient test data to show it works as advertised and doesn't hurt engines or affect emissions negatively," says Steve Fleming, a Mercury Marine spokesman. "Some valid tests of road and non-road engines have been proposed by the EPA, and it wants some companies to conduct them. Mercury is willing to be one of them."

Most gas-operated engines are designed and calibrated to handle E10. The long-term effects it has on engines, fuel lines and fuel system components are less understood.

"There are about 18 million boats in this country, and about 98 percent of them are trailerable," says Matthew Dodd, the legislative director for the NMMA. "The owners pull into gas stations somewhere, fill up their boats' fuel tanks, often if not usually with E10

fuel, and head for the water. The boats run, but it's the after-effects that we have questions about."

Generally, such concerns involve:

- The affinity between ethanol and water, which encourages condensation and causes more corrosion in metal parts
- The fact that ethanol burns hotter and faster than regular unleaded gas, which ultimately shortens engine life
- The heat buildup in engines, which could lead to vapor lock in the carburetion system and sudden engine failure



... Continued from page 1

Other issues relate to the caustic effect of ethanol on various resins and materials in fuel lines and fiberglass gas tanks.

Enter the environmentalists

Not everyone shares Peters' concern for customers. In a Growth Energy phone-in press conference two weeks ago, the subject of E15 and engines was barely mentioned. Of greater concern was "indirect land use," which relates to the destruction of rainforests in sub-equatorial countries to make room for the crops that will provide the raw material for ethanol in its various forms.

Indirect land use is a big deal to environmental groups such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Environment, which don't want to see natural ecosystems converted into croplands for sugar cane, switch grass, corn or any other main ingredient for biofuel.

Although Growth Energy claims that ethanol's emissions are much less harmful than those of fossil fuels, there's no scientific consensus yet. The chemical composition of E10 and petroleum-based fuel are certainly different, but whether ethanol emissions are safe for people and the environment is a thesis awaiting final proof.

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Rep. Collin Petersen (D-Minn.) have charged the EPA with blocking this new clean, green path to the future after the EPA noted in early May that initial study results indicated corn-derived ethanol would likely not meet federal emission standards.

Scarcely fazed by the EPA party-poopers, Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) asked the agency to raise the ethanol waiver to 12 or 14 percent now as it conducts or authorizes studies related to such issues.

If stalling for time is the EPA's intent, it has allies in the boating industry and the environmental movement. Both groups also want more studies, but don't want any changes to the current E10 standard until and unless conclusive proof is provided that more ethanol won't cause harm.

For the past few years, many boaters have been using fuel that contains 10 percent ethanol. Most of those boaters probably haven't noticed much of a difference in engine performance while they're up on plane.

FROM SCIENCE TO FISHING TECHNOLOGY

By Dr. Charles R. Berry Jr.¹

Year of Science 2009 is a 12-month celebration of how science works, why science matters, and who scientists are. A basic definition of science has two parts. Science is “a body of



knowledge and a process (i.e., a way of learning) - by which we gain that knowledge.

True or false: the earth revolves around the sun and takes 365 days to do it. If you answered “true” you are among the 54% of Americans who answered correctly. Ahem! Do we need a little refresher on some basic knowledge? Actually, we could look up the answer in that “body of knowledge,” which is one half of the definition of science.

What about the process of science – the second half of the definition? The process of science is a way of learning. Science relies on testing ideas with evidence gathered from the natural world. Those last two words – natural world - are important because science can’t deal with the supernatural.

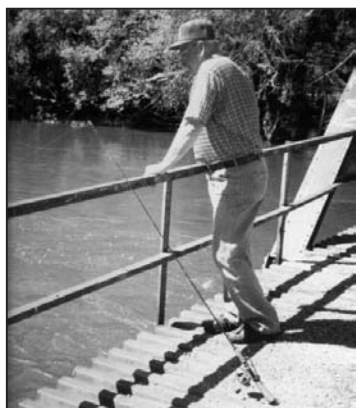
SDWF and Year of Science

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation (SDWF) was founded in 1945 by outdoor enthusiasts who cared about the state’s natural resources. The Federation became an important voice for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation, and remains a strong advocate for conservation. The SDWF is a member of the Coalition for the Public Understanding of Science (<http://www.copusproject.org>). Why? – because fish and wildlife science is the foundation for that wise use and conservation.

And science can lead to technological advances in the gear we use to hunt and fish and study fish and wildlife. Scientific advances lead to the design of new technologies, and new technologies enable new observations or tests that advance scientific knowledge. Let’s use an example from your tackle box.

A better fishing lure

A “ton” of science is going into building a better fishing lure at the Berkley Fish Research Center in Spirit Lake, Iowa. Their story about merging fish behavioral science and sport fishing is detailed in the very readable book titled Knowing Bass.² Superstition and fancy has given way to facts about fish behavior and fish sensory capabilities.



I have just finished teaching a graduate class in fish anatomy. Knowledge of the skin, muscles, and other organs are fascinating and has many applications in

management, aquaculture, and angling. Most students find the information on the nervous and sensory systems the most interesting. The tremendous sensory abilities of fish help us understand how they function “in the vail.”³ And, the information about what they see, hear, smell, taste, and feel can be directly applied to fishing. I like the non-technical language and diagrams presented in the book.

Let’s take one of the many examples of the behavioral research that may help develop a better fishing lure. The “super lure” and the angler have some work to do to overcome these facts from an experiment designed to answer the question “How long do bass remember lures?”

Several groups of six largemouth bass were allowed to strike an artificial minnow (no hooks) during a 5-minute test period. The fish averaged 24 strikes during the test period. Most strikes were during the first minutes of the test when the bait was novel; the fish ignored the lure when they discovered it was not food (no positive reward). The bass were then divided into two groups. When Group 1 was exposed to the lure 2 weeks later, they averaged only 2 strikes in 5 minutes. When Group 2 was presented the lure 3 months later, they averaged only 3 strikes in 5 minutes. Conclusion: bass memory for lures lasts at least 3 months.

Our graduate students are taught to be skeptical - that’s how science works to get to the truth. You might be skeptical about research presented in the book because it has not been peer-reviewed or published in the scientific literature (its proprietary), and it is paid for by a company that wants to sell lures. Fair enough criticism I think. However, there is enough methodological detail given to temper my skepticism. All of the basic information on fish sensory systems squares with the scientific literature that I use to teach my class. And I can find data in peer-reviewed fish journals that agree with the bass memory study.⁴

Fair Chase

One goal of the Year of Science is to awaken the public to the process and power of science, but also to think about the consequences of so much knowledge. The study of the fish sensory capabilities may reveal their greatest vulnerabilities. The technology of some future super lure with the right sound, taste, texture, and movement may be “beyond fair chase.”⁵



I like the admonishment at the beginning of the book that says “the obligation of the angler himself to adapt his fishing to the needs of the fish, specifically the avoidance of wanton exploitation or abuse of his

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation (SDWF) was founded in 1945 by outdoor enthusiasts who cared about the state’s natural resources.

Increased incentive aids conservation program

Farmers can hedge their bets against wavering grain prices and a wet spring - and still turn a profit - by enrolling wetlands into the Conservation Reserve Program, a South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Department biologist said. But they'll have to hurry, as many CRP programs are at or near allotted caps. One of the most popular programs, the CP 38 Pheasant Nesting practice, reached its allocation of 50,200 acres in March. Rental rates have increased considerably, making CRP contracts attractive. In 2008, producers holding about 766,000 contracts on 430,000 farms received an average of \$50.93 per acre, or about \$4,105 per farm.

"It is unclear if additional acres will be allocated to these CRP practices by (the U.S. Department of Agriculture)," GF&P habitat biologist Rocco Murano said. "Landowners, sportsmen, and conservation-minded individuals should contact the congressional delegation and the USDA secretary's office to encourage support for CRP." The state's \$219 million pheasant industry springs from a population base that includes about 1.5 million acres of cropland sown back into grass as part of the federal program. Twenty-one states, including South Dakota, participate in the program, which gives the public access to the lands for hunting, fishing, bird watching and other recreational activities.

However, 234,666 acres of South Dakota CRP land is set to expire this fall. That's about 1,500 quarter-sections of nesting cover for pheasant and other upland gamebirds. "The nesting and brood-rearing habitat provided by CRP serves an important role in the pheas-

ant population we currently enjoy and has allowed prairie grouse to expand their range in certain portions of the state," senior upland game biologist Chad Switzer said. The USDA has announced that certain CRP contracts expiring in October will be eligible for three- to five-year extensions. That's good news for 28 percent of the state's CRP contracts, but farmers still need to look at re-enrolling their land into continuous CRP practices.

"By far, CRP is the most important federal conservation program," said Scott McLeod, a regional biologist at the Great Plains Regional Office of Ducks Unlimited in Bismarck, N.D. "It's vital to pheasants, but it's vital to waterfowl as well." The state had 1.2 million acres enrolled in 2008 in the Walk-In Area hunting program, said Bill Smith, senior wildlife biologist and Walk-In Area coordinator with the GF&P. The state pays landowners up to \$1 per acre per year for access, plus a bonus of up to \$5 per acre per year for permanent, undisturbed cover in the state's prime pheasant hunting areas. Landowners also can get an additional one-time bonus of up to \$1 per acre for each hunting season remaining on their CRP contract if they enroll their CRP land as a Walk-In Area for the length of the contract.

When the Walk-In Area program was created in 1988, there were 23,000 acres enrolled. "CRP, especially in the Dakotas, is critical for waterfowl," McLeod said. "There's no better place, that grass on those prairies, for our birds to nest. Without CRP, those populations would dwindle significantly."

However, 234,666 acres of South Dakota CRP land is set to expire this fall. That's about 1,500 quarter-sections of nesting cover for pheasant and other upland gamebirds.

"You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of your grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves."

Chief Seattle (1786-1866)

South Dakota Wildlife Federation Donors

At the recent Winter Board Meeting the SDWF Board created the SDWF Wildlife Legacy Council. The Council was created to allow recognition of the people who support SDWF above and beyond their membership and raffle donations.

Thank you to the following donors for their contributions to the SDWF. Please consider becoming a member of the Wildlife Legacy Council. SDWF is a 501(c3) non-profit, all donations are tax deductible.

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 Kenneth Zoellner, CA

Level III Elk \$250-\$499

29-90 Sportsmen's Club, SD
Dave Eisenbeisz, CO
 Thomas Flesher III, OK
 Kenneth Halstrom, SD
Eric Johnson, MN
 Virgil Johnson, SD

James Juckette, MO
Frank Kocvara, NV
Karl O. Lee, SD
 Jim Lemonds, SD
Herb McClellan, SD
 Jan Nicolay, SD

Jeffrey G Olson, SD
 Pheasants Forever Northern Oahe Chapter
 Tim Rainey, MN
 Gary Seeley, KS

Craig Stadtfeld, SD
Marlin Stammer, CA
 Dale Wilms, CA
Yankton Area Pheasants Forever, SD

Level IV Buffalo \$500-\$999

Black Hills Sportsmens Club
Ken Greenwood, OK

Max & Stephanie Sandlin, SD
 Sportsman's Club of Brown Co.

SD Walleyes Unlimited, SD
 Roger Steinberg, MN

Level V Eagle - \$1000 and above

Beadle Co. Sportsmans Club
John W. Chapman, PA

Dakota Sportsmen Inc., SD
Richard Dillon, MN

High Plains Wildlife, SD
 Kenneth Michalek, WA
Republic National Distributing Company, SD

SD Chapter of NWTf, SD

These tax-deductible contributions will speak volumes for the future of the SDWF's Wildlife Legacy Council! Please consider your donation today. Names in *ITALICS* indicate that the Legacy Member has made their 2008 contribution to the SDWF Wildlife Legacy Council. Names in *ARIAL* indicate that the Legacy Member has made their 2009 contribution to the SDWF Wildlife Legacy Council.

Fishing Technology. . . . Continued from page 4

newfound knowledge. Embracing the responsibility of catch-and-release ecological stewardship is rapidly becoming a requirement, not an option."

History of Science

It was mentioned above that knowledge about fish behavior moved from superstition to science in the last 50 years. These words can also be used to describe the history of science. Here's the VERY brief story.

The Greeks and Romans had some ideas about science but their writings were hidden for a thousand years. During the dark ages, explanations for nature's mysteries were from tradition, mysticism, revelation, faith, and the occult.⁶ The dawn of modern science began in the sixteenth century when philosophers began to suggest a new way of knowing. They sought hypotheses and theories that were verified by measurements (empirical observations), experimental prediction, and the precision and power of mathematics.

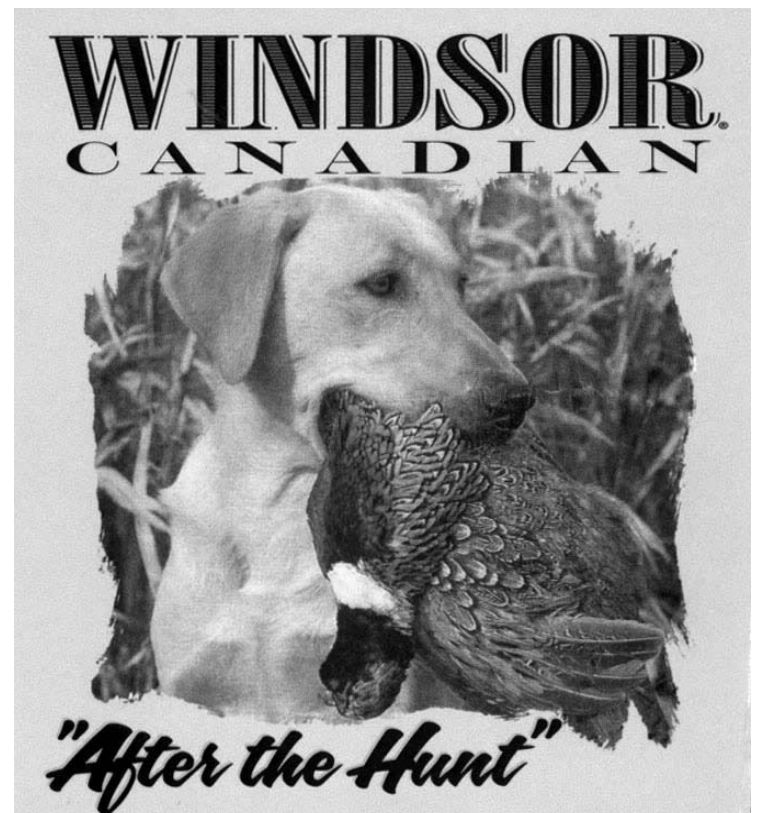
The new way of knowing required skepticism, so scientific principles were (and still are) considered tentative, open to revision in the light of new data or more comprehensive theories. This was a big change from knowledge based on tradition and faith.

Religion held the big stick in those days and there were a few scientists burned at the stake or imprisoned. The episode that makes all of the history books is about Galileo, who was imprisoned for his wild "earth revolves around the sun" hypothesis. The Year of Science 2009 acknowledges the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of a telescope.

However, the process of science, the fresh, bold new approach to gaining knowledge led to unparalleled breakthroughs in field after field of research. This path of understanding is a major force in our lives today, including our hunting and fishing and natural resource conservation activities. It also requires us to think about how we use the technology developed from the new knowledge.

Footnotes

1 Dr. Charles Berry is Adjunct Professor, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, South Dakota State University, and Co-chair for the Year of Science Coalition in South Dakota.
 2 Jones, K. 2005. Knowing bass - The scientific approach to catching more fish. Lyons Press, Guilford CN.
 3 "the veil" refers to the murky conditions under water, which are discussed, as are guidelines for catch-and-release fishing, in Chapter One of History of Fisheries and Fishing in South Dakota (available from the GFP webstore at www.sdgifp.info/shop.htm, or download Chapter 1 for free from <http://www.wfs.sdstate.edu>)
 4 Another good book on amazing facts about fish behavior is by Stephan Reeb, Fish Behavior in the aquarium and in the wild. 2001. Comstock Publishing Associates, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.
 5 Posewitz, Jim. 1994. Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting. Falcon Pub. Helena, MT.
 6 Kurtz, P. 2003. Science and Religion, Are they compatible? Prometheus Books, Amherst, NY. See Chapter 1 titled "An Overview of the Issues."



EPA OKs corn irritant use to keep pheasants away

Regulators are stepping in to address a conflict between two of South Dakota's biggest money crops: corn and pheasants.

The Environmental Protection Agency will allow farmers to treat seed corn with an irritant that keeps pheasants from eating the seed before it can sprout.

The state Department of Agriculture requested an emergency exemption to allow the use of Avipel seed treatment. Farmers apply it either dry or wet to seed before it goes in the ground.

"It doesn't hurt the pheasants in any way," said Brad Berven, administrator of the pesticide program within the Agriculture Department.

"It irritates their stomach and they appear to learn pretty quickly how to recognize treated seed because they stay out of the stuff that's been treated."

Seed loss to pheasants is not new, but the damage can be especially severe when the pheasant population is large as it has been in recent years, Berven said.

An emergency approval for Avipel was given last year, too.

Pheasant populations the past two years have been the largest in more than 40 years, according to the Department of Game, Fish and Parks Department.

The corn crop also has been growing. The ethanol industry spurred a 2007 crop that covered 4.5 million acres and produced 544 million bushels. The 2008 crop was a record 585 million bushels from 4.4 million acres.

The cost of Avipel treatment averages about \$5.50 per acre, said Berven.

EPA approval is needed for anything that repels or kills a pest.

"Because this product doesn't have full approval from the EPA the only way to get it approved is through the emergency exemption process, and we're saying the economics of this are such that we can justify there is a significant economic loss to the producers due to the increased pheasant population," Berven said.

The Agriculture Department conducted an unscientific online survey of farmers last year to gauge the extent of losses.

In the seven counties with the highest response rate (Beadle, Brown, Edmunds, Faulk, Potter, Spink and Walworth), each respondent reported losses from pheasants. The seven counties also have some of the highest pheasant densities in the state at more than 200 birds per square mile, the department said.

Twenty-two percent of respondents overall reported a range of 21 to 50 percent yield loss, and 26 percent indicated a range of 51 to 75 percent yield loss.

Losses were greatest in fields next to Conservation Reserve Program acres, shelterbelts, and roads. The field's outside rows also showed the largest yield losses.

Farmers who replant incur extra production costs that they estimated at \$66 to \$80 an acre. Yield losses also are possible because of the delayed replanting.

Berven said survey results provided some basis for estimating statewide losses in its request to the EPA.

"Next year we're going to have to try to do a scientific survey in case it isn't approved and we don't get full registration by then, unless the (pheasant) population really falls off, but it looks like this winter was good to the pheasant population again and the numbers are looking good again I think, so we'll probably be preparing to do it again next year if we need to."

"It irritates their stomach and they appear to learn pretty quickly how to recognize treated seed because they stay out of the stuff that's been treated."

"Man always kills the thing he loves, and so we the pioneers have killed our wilderness. Some say we had to. Be that as it may, I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in. Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?"
From *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold

Obama's 2010 Budget reflects nearly \$700 Million in Farm Bill Cuts

Charles Abbott of Reuters reported that the details of the recently released Obama Administration proposal for the 2010 federal budget reflect cuts of nearly \$700 million from Farm Bill conservation programs like the Wetlands Reserve Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

The 2008 Farm Bill included "mandatory funding" for these and other conservation programs that help farmers and ranchers improve wildlife habitat and conserve natural resources. Like the Bush Administration before it, the Obama Administration is proposing substantial cuts from the funding levels agreed to for USDA conservation programs in the Farm Bill.

Some key cuts:

Wetlands Reserve Program - In the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress provided for the enrollment of just over 3 million acres in the program by 2012, including about 185,000 acres per year. The Obama budget would limit 2010 enrollment to 152,636 acres, and permanently reduce the acreage cap by 138,904 acres. The total cut through 2012 would be about \$438 million, according to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program - the Farm Bill provided for \$85 million in funding per year, but the Obama budget would cut that in half to \$42 million for 2010.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - the Farm Bill provided for \$1,450 million for 2010, the Obama budget would cut that to \$1,200 million.

Farmland Protection Program - the Farm Bill provided for \$150 million in 2010. The Obama budget would cut that to \$120 million.

Healthy Forests Reserve Program - the Farm Bill provided for \$9.75 million per year, but the Obama budget would cut that to \$4.75 million for 2010.

In addition, USDA will be spending \$17 million less in 2010 on the Conservation Reserve Program, because Congress reduced the program's acreage cap to just 32 million acres.

Overall, it appears the 2010 budget proposed by the Obama Administration would cut funding for key Farm Bill conservation programs by nearly 9 percent from the 2010 level approved just one year ago when the 2008 Farm Bill was passed.

Boxer Welcomes Obama Administration Letter on Need for Clean Water Act Legislation

Senator Boxer said: "The Obama Administration has provided a clear call for legislation to ensure that the Clean Water Act continues to be an effective tool to keep America's waters clean and our families healthy."

Washington, DC - U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, today made the following remarks regarding a letter from the Obama Administration urging enactment of legislation to amend the Clean Water Act to clarify the scope of the Act's protections in response to recent Supreme Court decisions, and outlining principles for that legislation.

Senator Boxer said: "The Obama Administration has provided a clear call for legislation to ensure that the Clean Water Act continues to be an effective tool to keep America's waters clean and our families healthy. I look forward to working closely with the Administration and my colleagues in the Senate to enact legislation that protects rivers, lakes and wetlands and keeps Americans' drinking water safe while providing the clear guidance that farmers, businesses, federal agencies, and state and local governments need."

The letter, signed by Nancy Sutley, the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality; Lisa Jackson, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; Interior Secretary Ken Salazar; and Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Terrence Salt, outlines principles for legislation to clarify the meaning of the term "waters of the United States."

Supreme Court decisions in 2001 (*Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. United States Army Corps of Engineers*) and 2006 (*Rapanos v. United States*) narrowed the prior interpretation of the scope of waters protected by the Clean Water Act, fostering confusion and uncertainty and making it difficult for federal agencies to effectively implement the law to protect public health and the environment. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) has authored legislation to address this issue, and Senator Boxer has pledged to work with her colleagues to move legislation forward as soon as possible.