

# THE GREEN SHEET FARM FORUM



P.O. Box 4430  
124 S. SECOND ST. ABERDEEN, SD 57402-4430

MORE THAN 100,000  
READERS EVERY WEEK



43rd Year No. 28  
Friday, October 3, 2008

Email Farm Forum Editor at [farforum@aberdeennews.com](mailto:farforum@aberdeennews.com)  
Classifieds online: [www.farmforum.net](http://www.farmforum.net)

SERVING NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, MINNESOTA, IOWA, NEBRASKA & THE MIDWEST IN AGRICULTURE SINCE 1966

## COMMON SENSE MFG.

- o Bottomless Feed Buck
- o Wind Winder
- o Bale Feeder
- o Calfr Helter
- o Post Buck

SEE ALL THE PRODUCTS ON MY AD  
ON PAGE 120 IN THIS ISSUE!

**HELP WANTED.  
CALL KELLY FOR  
EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES.**

**Common Sense  
Manufacturing, Inc.**

[www.helcoinc.com](http://www.helcoinc.com)

**CONTACT KELLY MELIUS**

For order information call:  
1-800-557-6100, Aberdeen, SD 57438  
605-598-4157 office 605-210-0687 cell

ALAN GUEBERT

## Free-market mockery, mayhem

Chicago Cub fans hope October brings the team its first World Series title in a century. Most other Americans, after a month of stock and commodity market mayhem, just hope October brings November.

That's anything but certain given the hash Congress, the White House and the Federal Reserve made of September. On second thought, biting off the entire month

See **LOSERS** Page 2F

## EXTERIOR ALMOST DONE

# Beef plant opening delayed til February

*Summer rains set back planned November date; exterior work almost finished*

By Scott Walman  
[scottwalman@aberdeennews.com](mailto:scottwalman@aberdeennews.com)

Summer rains have delayed progress on and the opening date of a beef plant being built just south of Aberdeen.

The plant will now open in February, said Dennis Hellwig of Northern Beef Packers.

Originally, he had hoped the plant would open this summer. After the spring 2007 flood, the tentative date was pushed back to November. Now, it's early next year.

While financing on the plant has yet to be finalized, Hellwig said the primary hinderance has been the weather. Consistent rains through much of the summer have caused construction delays, Hellwig said. The problems don't compare to spring 2007, when extra dirt had to be hauled in because of



The south side of the exterior of the beef plant under construction south of Aberdeen.

flooding, but they have slowed progress. There were also some delays in getting needed materials, Hellwig said.

Hellwig said work on the exterior of the plant should be finished in a couple of weeks. Warm fall weather until then would help, he said. Once that happens, construction can continue inside, he said.

Now, construction workers are

pouring concrete, installing equipment and doing plumbing and electrical work.

A \$2.1 million mechanic's lien filed this spring against Northern Beef Packers by Scott Olson Digging of Huron remains unsettled. The two sides are at odds about how much money is owed for work to prepare the plant site before

See **CONSTRUCTION**, Page 3F

## INSIDE

Agripulse	136F	Horse Forum	128F
Antiques	90F	Hortiscopes	97F
Business Notes	113F	Livestock Marketer	137F
Crop Weather	103F	Market Adviser	4F
Family Matters	76F	Jerry Nelson	93F
Jane Green	76F	Outdoors Forum	125F

## MARKET FACT

On Sept. 1, there were **1.44** million head of hogs and pigs in South Dakota, up 4 percent from one year ago.



**Cottonwood Angus Farms**  
30th Annual Profit Maker's Sale

Saturday • **NOVEMBER 1, 2008** • 12:30 P.M.  
At the Farm in Poplarville, MS

## SELLING 128 HEAD

11 Herd Bull Prospects • 10 Single Lot Show Heifers  
9 Spring Calving Pairs • 11 Bred Cows  
37 Registered Bred Heifers • 2 Embryos Lots  
39 Comm. Black Baldie Bred Heifers  
These Sales Start 2:00pm till: [www.cottonwoodangus.com](http://www.cottonwoodangus.com)

**Cottonwood Angus Farms**

137 E. Main St. • Poplarville, MS 39074  
Gregg Rutman (601) 625-2734  
Justin Rutman (601) 625-0034  
11th Day (601) 625-4004 • Lunch Open (601) 625-4298  
[www.cottonwoodangus.com](http://www.cottonwoodangus.com) • [cwaangus.com](http://cwaangus.com)  
Wee Provided by CONQUEST AUCTION SERVICE, INC.  
AL B. JOHNSON, OWNER • 601-227-7627 • Fax 601-227-2762  
Email: [conquest@conquestauction.com](mailto:conquest@conquestauction.com) • [www.conquestauction.com](http://www.conquestauction.com)

# Saving money and the family farm, pond or dugout

Renewable wind power gives new life to troubled rural ponds, eliminating high energy and maintenance costs for aeration.

Whether for crops, fish, livestock or drinking water, farmers, ranchers and rural landowners often rely on ponds or dugouts. The danger is that these can become not only stagnant, algae-filled nightmares but also financial sinkholes.

To clean up their ponds and dugouts more and more of these rural landowners are turning to clean, efficient pond aeration run by renewable wind power. As energy costs rise across America, they're discovering how pond aeration by windmill can boost the bottom line and improve quality of life by eliminating an ongoing source of energy use and costly maintenance.

## A pond gone very bad

"My time was spent raking algae from the pond, lots of algae," notes Terry, a farmer in Miller Albion, New York who found copper sulphate treatments ineffective. "The open surface would turn into a green and brown hairy mat. I would spray the algae, the algae would sink to the bottom and the cycle would repeat itself. The perfect pond we dreamed of had turned into a huge liability."

"Then came the hard winter when the pond was snow covered from November through early spring. Every fish big and small were floating on the surface when the ice cleared," adds Terry. The cost of the fish loss was in the thousands of dollars.

Generations ago, pond aeration would not have been needed to clean up stagnant water—the wind and rain did the job, stirring up the water enough to keep it oxygenated. In the last 20 years, however, pollutants and fertilizer run-off, combined with an increasing lack of rainfall, has caused many ponds and dugouts to stagnate. Medical costs for livestock that drink from algae filled ponds can be thousands of dollars. The costs of maintenance and filters for irrigation pumps can also be thousands of dollars per year.

## Saving the pond or dugout

The only way to save these

ponds and dugouts is with bottom up-water aeration, which gives the water the strength to burn off the excess chemicals and pollutants that cause algae, weed growth and stagnation. The water becomes significantly more clear and clean when a supply of air, diffused into tiny bubbles and transported by tube, is continuously pumped to the bottom of a

pond or dugout.

In this effort, windmill aerators are gaining in popularity over electrical ones for a number of reasons. Powered by wind as light as 3 mph, windmill aerators were originally developed for farm pond use when running electricity out to ponds was found to be too expensive. Wind costs nothing. It can save farmers and

ranchers thousands per year in energy, maintenance and filter costs. It can save thousands more per year in preventing fish and livestock loss or sickness.

Another reason for the popularity of windmill aerators is how long they last. While the windmills only have 3 moving parts and will last decades, electrical aeration devices have

motors and generally die out in a few years after constant needed use. Environmentally friendly windmills also eliminate the need for costly electric power or oil-based fuels.

After investigation, Terry chose a windmill aerator by Superior Windmill ([www.superiorwindmill.com](http://www.superiorwindmill.com)). "Fine air bubbles flowing up

*(Continued on Next Page)*

**After all this work, do you really want to take 40% off the top in taxes?**

**Here's a better way....  
Announcing The "Green Trust"**



The South Dakota State University Foundation is offering grain producers an alternative called the "Green Trust". It features:

1. Avoidance of income tax and self employment tax on grain sales—a savings of 40% or more! And you can still deduct your input costs
2. Generous income from the trust, so you get all your money back and take advantage of current high grain prices.

Farmer Jones has a bumper crop of grain, but knows this expensed-out commodity will have a reduced return once taxes are taken out. He elects to put a portion of his crop, worth \$240,000, into a charitable trust with the SDSU Foundation. The trust owns the crop as it is sold and pays no taxes. The entire sale value goes into generating income for the farmer. He elects a ten-year payout, for example, that pays him 10% of the initial trust value each year, or \$24,000. In ten years, he gets all his money back, including the \$96,000 that would have

been lost to taxes.

This deal is full of benefits, but Mr. Jones feels even better because there is something left in the trust for a charitable gift to SDSU. He decides to start a scholarship in his family's name available to local youngsters.

**Want to know more?** Please send the coupon below to the SDSU Foundation. For even faster service call 1-888-747-7378.

- Send me an illustration of a Green Trust  
 Or call me with more information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to SDSU Foundation, 201 S. Phillips Avenue,  
Suite 110, Sioux Falls, SD 57104