

Johnson, Joy

From: Dave Jacobson <djacobson@pie.midco.net>
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2016 1:59 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: GF&P land acquisition input

Dear Mr. Coughlin:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on GF&P land acquisitions. It is very important to not only continue land acquisitions that allow for public access but to expand these acquisitions. There is just no other option for permanently saving and providing places for wildlife to survive and places to hunt and fish for the average person. As it gets harder and harder to find private land where access is allowed, increased public areas are a necessity to keep our outdoor traditions going.

More specifically, wetland areas east of the Missouri River should be the main focus of future acquisitions. With the draining of wetlands happening at an ever increasing rate, it is important to save as many as possible now. Of course wetlands and surrounding prairie deliver the most bang for the buck in wildlife production and protection.

It seems the most resistance to further land acquisitions comes from the western part of the state. Given the amount of Walk-In area available there, maybe GF&P should concentrate their acquisition efforts elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Jacobson
216 W. 8th Street
Pierre, SD 57501

Johnson, Joy

From: Gregg Van Beek <drvanbeek@abe.midco.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 9:35 AM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Land purchase

The state has no business buying land. You pay whatever you want with no need to make a profit. This is just another "grow the power" scheme of the Government's. Government needs to shrink, not grow even larger.
Gregg Van Beek DDS

Johnson, Joy

From: Bern, Arlan L
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2016 2:38 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: GFP land

I support of GFP buying land! Thanks Arlan Bern

Johnson, Joy

From: Dean and Delia Johnson <the7xranch@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 11:27 AM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Opposition to further land purchases

Mr. Coughlin:

My husband and I own and operate a cattle ranch in Western SD. We live East of Fairburn, in Custer County. Our county has a large sum of federally and state controlled lands. We feel strongly that enough is enough. If we are not mistaken, most of this government controlled land is not taxed, pushing even more burden onto the people of our county. We adamantly appose any further purchases of private, deeded land by the State. SD Game and Fish was designed to help with game preservation, not to be land barrens. There are programs available to offer opportunities for the State to partner with land owners to manage wild life in our state. The State does not need to own more land.

Dean and Delia Johnson
14585 East French Creek Road
Fairburn SD 57738

(605) 255-4697 Home phone

Johnson, Joy

From: Chet Hofer <chofer4044@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2016 5:52 AM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: land purchase

I would like to state that I believe GFP needs to be able to purchase land for lake access, hunting land & camp grounds, which we are in very short supply. thank you
Chet Hofer

Johnson, Joy

From: Malone, Mark
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 12:16 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Input on Land Purchasing Guidelines

Paul

I support the current proposals and any others to increase hunting/fishing opportunities in SD.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Mark Malone, PE

SDDOT

Ph 773-7191

Johnson, Joy

From: Andy Vandel <andyvandel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2016 12:11 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Support the purchase of land acquisitions

Hi Paul,

I support future land acquisitions by GFP. It is very important for GFP to continue this process so land will be available for future generations to enjoy the opportunities GPAs provide. GFP does an outstanding job managing habitat on these properties in order to get the most benefit out of the investment.

Thanks!

Andy Vandel
Pierre, SD

Johnson, Joy

From: Dana Loseke <dana.loseke@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 2:10 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: GF & P Land Purchasing Guidelines



On behalf of the South Dakota Sierra Club Chapter, we would like to express our support of Game, Fish & Park's land acquisition strategies. We woverwhelmingly endorse the continued purchasing of land for use by the general public and for the protection of our natural resources. We believe that the policies followed by GF & P not only provide enjoyment of outdoor recreation, and the protection of natural environments, but also balance the economic realities of a state with limited revenue sources. Two recent acquisitions are great examples of the need for more public lands coupled with sound financial management of available dollars.

- **Good Earth State Park** near Sioux Falls protects an important cultural site and history of the Oneota culture. The location is close to South Dakota's largest city and provides an outdoor opportunity, a recreational opportunity, and an educational experience for over a quarter million South Dakota citizens within 12 minutes of Sioux Falls. Support for the purchase of this land was done with the partnership of local citizens and communities who recognize the value of preserving this site for future generations. The purchase and expansion of this park will enhance tourism and recreation in eastern South Dakota which suffers from a shortage of natural spaces to enjoy. This park has also inspired local activists to begin an effort to restore the Big Sioux River water quality which will benefit future generations with clean water for wildlife, swimming, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Numerous non-profit groups have volunteered time, effort, and money to further develop this park which is a testament to the support by local citizens for the work of GF & P!
- **Spearfish Canyon State Park** will protect the most beautiful spot in South Dakota for the vast majority of South Dakotans and thousands of visitors from around the world. Although many people enjoy this area now due to their ability to own land in the area, very little of the canyon area was available for the enjoyment of the general public. The purchase and development of this park will protect and preserve its beauty for generations while bringing more economic growth to the Rapid City area.

We sincerely applaud the leadership of the Game, Fish, and Parks in recognizing the need for the purchase, development, and protection of natural and cultural locations as part of our South Dakota heritage. We endorse the continued practice and the policies that benefit the public in preserving these important places for nature, and for the people of South Dakota.

Regards,
Dana Loseke
Chairperson
South Dakota Sierra Club
2701 Thomas Circle

Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Johnson, Joy

From: D Hansen <dhansen147@itctel.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2016 10:49 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Comments on Land Acquisition Priorities/Guidelines

Hi Paul,

After reading several news releases requesting public comment on your Land Acquisition Priorities and Guidelines document, I thought I better do my part as a member of the public and offer some comments.

Being an adjacent landowner to a GPA and close neighbor to many other GPA's and water access areas in northeast SD, I have a strong interest in the Wildlife Division's land acquisition program. The abundance of opportunity to recreate on public lands and waters is a primary reason I have chosen to live in this part of the state.

From personal experience, I am also aware of the sensitive nature of lands being purchased by the government for wildlife or recreational purposes. For that reason, I believe it is very prudent that you have developed the Priorities and Guidelines document and made it available for public comment and input.

Overall, I think the document is very well written - logically laid out, comprehensive, yet brief and to the point. I agree with and support the guidelines and priorities presented. I suggest one addition to the beginning of the document, and also noticed one typographical error.

1. Suggestion: Add a heading at the very beginning entitled **Yesterday** (in keeping with headings **Today** and **Tomorrow**), or perhaps **History**. Under that heading, I think it would be helpful to make a brief statement reiterating the technical fact that it was our forefathers in the Legislature who mandated and authorized GFP to acquire land for these purposes. I think it is a common misperception by the public that some GFP Secretary or Wildlife Division Director decided on their own that it would be good to go out and buy up a bunch of private land. I don't think it's necessary to belabor this point, but I think it's worth making.

2. Typo: In very last sentence of document, need to omit the word "with" after the word "Parcels". (I still haven't lost my love for editing - ha!)

Otherwise, good job. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Doug Hansen

Webster, SD

Johnson, Joy

From: star@midstatesd.net
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 2:44 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: State owned land

Dear Mr. Coughlin,

We have two young adult kids who will be graduating with degrees in agriculture with the next 1-2 years. I would prefer land stay in the private sector rather than seeing the state buy more land. Give young people a chance to buy some land.

Thank you for taking comments.

Sincerely,

Tim and Suzanne Tarabetz

Rural Chamberlain

Johnson, Joy

From: Steve and Joyce <steve_joyce_mccormick@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 8:09 AM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: GFP land purchase guidelines

The GFP should not be in the business of purchasing land!!!!

The local land owners end up paying more in taxes when government purchases land.

There are USDA programs that allow private land owners the option to develop land for wildlife development if they want--the landowner continues to pay property taxes.

The GFP as well as the FWS own several hundred acres around me--these acres are full of weeds, scrub cedars, etc.

The Government should sell their land and pay off the national debt--that's what farmers have to do when they have too much debt!!!!

Johnson, Joy

From: Wes Hickey <weshickey22@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 2:45 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul

I would like to say I don't like the idea of land being purchased by the state. There's alot of farmer/ranchers still trying to make a living off the land and if there comes a time when a piece of land bordering a certain persons property is for sale he would have no chance bidding against the state and winning.

Johnson, Joy

From: Brad <brad5n@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 4:34 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: land purchases

Just want to voice my opinion on the game fish and parks purchasing land . no government agency should be allowed to own any land at all if they want land open to the public for hunting they can rent it from the land owner just as they do with walk in areas. Does our Governor have complete control over the GF&P and their monies raised? I do not think so why are they allowed to own land in South Dakota?

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Johnson, Joy

From: Betty Olson <bets_reva@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 3:59 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: GF&P land purchases

I am writing in opposition to Game, Fish and Parks buying more private land for hunting. Private landowners are much better stewards of the land and I would much rather have GF&P expand their walk-in areas and CHAP. GF&P already has 282,000 acres dedicated to game production and public hunting that they pay taxes on, but the 100,000 acres of parks have been taken off the tax rolls, which hurts the other taxpayers in those counties.

There are 800,000 acres of national grasslands, 270,000 acres of BLM and a million acres of national forest in South Dakota. Adding in the 382,000 acres GF&P already owns means 2,452,000 acres have been taken out of the private sector.

If the commission decides to go ahead with this they should have to get approval from both the legislature and the county commissioners in the counties where the land is located.

Please vote against this.

Sen. Betty Olson, District 28

11919 SD Hwy 79

Prairie City, South Dakota 57649

Phone: 605-855-2824

Johnson, Joy

From: C Pederson <theshootist93@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 4:52 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Land purchase

Mr: Coughlin:

I oppose the SD Game and Fish purchasing any additional lands in South Dakota. With all the land available already, amounting to **over 2 million acres** in Grasslands, National Forest, and BLM that is **over 2.42 acres per every SD resident right now!!!** That doesn't even include lakes, rivers, state lands, school lands, etc!!! I bet that acre/resident number rises quickly when those acres are factored in.

Private land ownership is just as important cornerstone to our own freedom as the Constitution is. Without it, we become nothing more than "serfs" to the "state". Also, as a landowner, my land is much more productive and holds more game than most of the public lands that surround me. I HAVE to manage my land to it's highest potential so that it will be productive for me, my family, and future generations, for both ag and wildlife interests here. I know that some of the public lands I rent are the biggest pain in my ass there are. I can't cut any hay before a certain date because of the birds, don't worry about the fact that the nutritional value of that hay/grass is virtually worthless by the time that happens for livestock! It is of no concern to those in charge, as long as we save a baby pheasant or grouse, but funny thing is on my PRIVATE hay fields, I have an abundance of wild game birds and I cut my hay early, leaving strips on it for them specifically. How about that, good stewardship, great hay for my cattle, AND habitat for the birds, all without the "wise" input of the government.

Any kind of change that makes is easier for the Game and Fish, or any governmental agency to purchase more land is bad. I will not support it, and would be upset that my license fees, etc, would go toward making it happen. **Over 2 million acres of public land in the hands of some entity of the government already is ENOUGH!!!!**

Clayton Pederson
Morristown, South Dakota

Johnson, Joy

From: Comes, Rachel
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 4:31 PM
To: Hepler, Kelly; Leif, Tony; Kirschenmann, Tom; Coughlin, Paul
Subject: FW: SDGFP Land Acquisitions Letter
Attachments: Aquistions Letter.pdf

From: Karen Weisbeck [<mailto:kweisbeck@pheasantsforever.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 4:30 PM
To: Comes, Rachel
Cc: Dave Nomsen
Subject: SDGFP Land Acquisitions Letter

Rachel,

I hope you are doing well and enjoying your summer.

Dave asked that I forward on the attached letter to you to see that it gets distributed as needed.

We also sent a hard copy to Secretary Hepler as well. It should be arriving in the mail shortly.

Thank you for your help in getting this letter out to the appropriate parties.

Karen D. Weisbeck, SD Regional Executive Office Assistant

Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever | 2301 Research Park Way Suite 152 | Brookings, SD 57006

p. (605) 692--6006) | kweisbeck@pheasantsforever.org

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PHEASANTS

forever

South Dakota Regional Office
2301 Research Park Way, Suite 152
Brookings, South Dakota 57006
605-692-6006
www.PheasantForever.org

August 2, 2016

Secretary Kelly Hepler and the SD Game Fish and Parks Commission
South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks
523 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Secretary Hepler and Members of the Commission:

I am writing on behalf of South Dakota's members and supporters of Pheasants Forever in response to your request for input in developing guidance for land acquisitions by the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) over the next decade. Pheasants Forever is in strong support of continued land acquisitions as one of the primary tools to provide high-quality pheasant habitat and support South Dakota's treasured outdoor hunting heritage by providing hunting opportunities for sportsmen and sportswomen.

Targeted land acquisition projects can serve as permanent focal points of habitat conservation in rural areas and communities throughout South Dakota. Acquisition projects strengthen South Dakota's agricultural landscape, our rural economy, and support our state's rich outdoor heritage. We support the Land Acquisition Priorities and Guidelines (last updated: July 1, 2016, version) including a priority for parcels containing significant habitat and hunting opportunities for pheasants.

Pheasants Forever and our SD Chapters are pleased to partner with SDGFP on selected acquisition projects and we encourage SDGFP to continue land acquisitions in concert with strong private lands conservation and access programs. Together, these efforts must continue to be robust enough to provide the habitats necessary to support all forms of outdoor recreation including hunting and fishing in perpetuity.

Respectfully yours,

David E. Nomsen
Director, SD Regional Office

Cc: Paul Coughlin

Johnson, Joy

From: Sheri Tinant <dstinant@me.com>
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 5:50 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: land purchases

I don't believe the state needs to be purchasing any more land! Hunters will have access to hunt private land if they respect the land and landowners.

Dan & Sheri Tinant

Johnson, Joy

From: Dave Nomsen <DNomsen@pheasantsforever.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 4:40 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Fwd: Acquisitions Letter
Attachments: Acquisitions Letter.pdf

Fyi. Dave

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Karen Weisbeck
Date: 8/2/16 4:34 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Dave Nomsen
Subject: Acquisitions Letter

Dave attached is a PDF Copy of the SDGF&P Acquisition letter.

Karen D. Weisbeck | SD Regional Executive Office Assistant

Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever | 2301 Research Park Way Suite 152 | Brookings, SD 57006

p. (605) 692--6006) | kweisbeck@pheasantsforever.org

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South Dakota Regional Office
2301 Research Park Way, Suite 152
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August 2, 2016

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South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks
523 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

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Respectfully yours,

David E. Nomsen
Director, SD Regional Office

Cc: Paul Coughlin

Johnson, Joy

From: Elizabeth May <emay4district27@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 10:10 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Land buying guidelines

The federal and state governments should not be allowed to acquire any additional land and in all actuality the land they own now should be sold back to citizens of South Dakota to manage and pay taxes on. My district is consumed with State, Federal and Tribal Lands. It has had a disastrous affect on our county governments not to mention the divineness it causes among citizens. In the event land acquisitions are necessary the following should be required:

1. legislative approval beforehand
2. county commission approval in the county or counties that are home to the land purchases or trades and
3. Accurate and fair appraisals.

It has to be good for the local community, it shouldn't go through!

Elizabeth May

Johnson, Joy

From: jann@itctel.com
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 7:52 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: land acquisition

I strongly support the GBP position on land acquisition. To ensure future generations of a place to experience hunting and nature we need to purchase land. As more land is leased or bought by out of staters the average SD hunter will have fewer opportunities to enjoy the numerous outdoor activities. Thanks for all your and the Secretary's hard work on this issue. I encourage the Commission to support your work.

Johnson, Joy

From: Joel Koskan <joelkoskan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 12:31 AM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Land purchases

The state should not be in the business of buying land and taking opportunities away from local producers and taking more revenue out of our small communities. We already have a hard enough time competing as farmers with big money hunters from out of state and out of the area. Our small schools are dying because opportunities are being swallowed up by buyers and farmers that are not local and don't contribute to our communities. In our area specifically between the tribe, state, and hunters mellette county is less then 48% privately owned.

Joel Koskan

Johnson, Joy

From: John & Amber Pollmann <der_jaeger@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 10:51 PM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: GFP Land Acquisition

Paul -

I just had the chance to read through the proposed guidelines for purchasing land by the SDGFP, and I find the plan to represent a fair, balanced and appropriate approach to land acquisition. As a hunter and angler, I fully support additional land purchases that meet the guidelines as proposed and hope the SDGFP Commission will approve the proposal as written. For the past 25 years, I have hunted upland birds, waterfowl and big game predominantly on state and federal land open to the public, and I hope that the great state of South Dakota will continue to add more acres as spelled out by the proposed guidelines.

Sincerely -

John Pollmann
Dell Rapids, SD

Johnson, Joy

From: Jeff Van Beek <vanbeekranch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 8:16 AM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Buying more land

The more government gives hunters to hunt the more it hurts hunter/ farmer rancher relationships. I am growing tired of hearing that there is no place to hunt. Twenty years ago we used to have people from my small little town of Pollock come out and work calves. Of course those people had a place to hunt. I am 53 and my parents are still alive and live in Pollock anyone who does them a favor has a place to hunt.

Allowing hunters to hunt ditches for pheasant hunting has made our roads unsafe. These hunters do not follow the law. Vehicles are parked on the roads with doors open. It is a little tough calling a game warden when you are hauling a load of grain or hay. Also these hunters drive 5 to 10 miles an hour looking for the birds before they get out and walk. You can see the middle of roads littered with shotgun shells and candy bar wrapper, pop bottles. If these hunters would get out of their vehicle and walk that would help

The more you give a certain class of hunters the more it harms hunter landowner relationships. I have hunters show up with a google map of my place and ask me where they can hunt. A lot of other people get permission from one person and accidently hunt the whole neighborhood.

Thank you

Jeff Van Beek Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Johnson, Joy

From: Robby Christensen <Robby.Christensen@avera.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2016 9:48 AM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Support GF&P buying land

I am a member of the RMEF and every magazine that is published I hear about them buying land or making deals for the public to access lands. I also subscribe to outdoor life and field and stream where there is a huge push for public land for outdoors persons to access.

I fully support using my fees to purchase more land for the public to access for not only hunting but any outdoor activity.

Rob Christensen
System Engineer – IT Servers
Avera Information Technology
Phone: (605) 322-6585
Fax: (605) 322-6240

To submit an ITC work order online click here :
<http://averait/>

Johnson, Joy

From: Aaron Davis <millboroseed@ymail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 8:17 AM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Subject: Land purchases

The gfp in my opinion has no business buying up land farmers and ranchers have a hard enough time getting young people back on the farms and ranches without competing with state or out of state hunters buying up land and not to mention US government giving money to tribes to buy land. We have several walk in area's around us that are loaded with thistles and non controlled weeds if gfp wants to spend money do. Some spraying on those acres.

Sincerely Aaron Davis

Sent from my iPad

Johnson, Joy

Subject: FW: Land purchases

-----Original Message-----

From: Aaron Davis [<mailto:millboroseed@ymail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 8:17 AM

To: Coughlin, Paul

Subject: Land purchases

The gfp in my opinion has no business buying up land farmers and ranchers have a hard enough time getting young people back on the farms and ranches without competing with state or out of state hunters buying up land and not to mention US government giving money to tribes to buy land. We have several walk in area's around us that are loaded with thistles and non controlled weeds if gfp wants to spend money do. Some spraying on those acres.

Sincerely Aaron Davis

Sent from my iPad

Johnson, Joy

From: Krystil Smit <k.smit@sdfbf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2016 10:29 AM
To: Coughlin, Paul
Cc: Scott VanderWal
Subject: SD Farm Bureau comments
Attachments: SD Farm Bureau.Comments to GF&P.docx

Mr. Coughlin,
Please find attached comments on GF&P land purchasing guidelines from South Dakota Farm Bureau for your consideration.

Best regards,

--

Krystil Smit
Executive Director
South Dakota Farm Bureau
2225 Dakota Ave. S.
Huron, SD 57350
k.smit@sdfbf.org
O: 605.353.8051
M: 605.261.2960



August 3, 2016

Attn:

Paul Coughlin
Wildlife Habitat Program Administer
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Coughlin,

South Dakota Farm Bureau (SDFB) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the GF&P land purchasing guidelines. SDFB is our state's largest general agricultural organization representing over 16,000 farmers, ranchers and consumers interested in food and agriculture's well-being. Our policies are put in place by our grassroots membership.

South Dakota's farmers and ranchers who own and control our private lands appreciate and value our natural resources and wildlife very highly. Most landowners are also hunters and/or outdoor sports enthusiasts.

One of our major principles is private property rights and the rights of willing sellers and willing buyers. There must be a balance between that and preserving the ability of individuals, including beginning farmers and ranchers, to acquire property for farming and ranching purposes. Competition between government and private individuals for land should be minimized if possible.

Recognizing these facts, our members also believe that SD GF&P owns or controls enough land. We believe that additional acquisition of land by GF&P should be halted except for small narrow tracts that provide access to any existing GF&P property. Before any property is acquired by GF&P, the commission should hold public hearings in the vicinity of the proposed acquisition. As an alternative, we believe that leasing of land for wildlife production and hunting, as well as refuges, should be a strong priority over government ownership.

Our policy also states that funds that are currently scheduled for land acquisition should be used for animal damage control.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important issue,

and pledge to work with all interested parties to ensure that SD agriculture, wildlife and our natural resources can all thrive together.

Sincerely,

Scott E. VanderWal
President, South Dakota Farm Bureau
Vice President, American Farm Bureau
605-695-5479
scottvanderwal63@gmail.com

Krystil Smit
Executive Director, South Dakota Farm Bureau
605-350-8051
k.smit@sdfbf.org