



South Central Dakota Regional Council

Newsletter - February 2018

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Only about 48 days until spring!

Just in time to celebrate the shortest month of the year and that there are less than three months until spring, The Old Farmer's Almanac says our weather should be about normal Feb 1-5, sunny, cold then mild; 6-10 will bring snow, then flurries, cold; 11-17 flurries, cold in the east, mild in the west; 18-25 flurries, mild and 25-28 showers, mild.



Get acquainted
meeting on January
31st with SCDRC, Child-
Care Aware, USDA ,
Bank Forward.



SCDRC is pleased to have Child Care Aware with its wealth of technical resources among our partners in the council's Child Care Initiative. Our additional partners are First Children's Finance - a national provider of financial and technical assistance within the child care industry, The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bank Forward, The Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota Department of Commerce.

Since 1989, Child Care Aware, a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, has been assisting families in their search for quality child care, building the knowledge and skills of early childhood professionals through professional learning services and coaching and expanding the capacity of care to meet community needs. Child Care Aware is the primary organization that works with all parts of the child care delivery system – families, child care providers, educators, employers and policymakers.

Child Care Aware® of North Dakota assists families in their search for and understanding of quality child care, supports communities in developing innovative strategies to expand the capacity of care to meet families' needs, plus we advocate for public and private investment in child care.

Child Care Aware has experienced consultants throughout North Dakota who offer: attendance at community planning meetings, meeting with individuals considering opening their own child care business, guidance on new facility development, assistance with a tailored community needs assessment, data on the current supply and demand, the cost of licensed care and the results of our most recent salary survey, start-up support and free technical assistance that walks communities and potential providers through the licensing process and onward, business essentials, health and safety essentials, and setting up your child care environment and sharing information on successful models.

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Mobile Food Pantry is going to Stop in Oakes, Edgeley, and Gwinner

As part of the Great Plains Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry program, anyone in need of food assistance in each town or neighboring communities are welcome to attend and receive food at no cost. There is a strong need and this program puts food directly into the hands of those that need it most and is made to make it as easy as possible for those who need help to be able to get help. The Great Plains Food Bank serves as North Dakota's only food bank. Its partner network includes 215 food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens and other charitable feeding programs operating in 99 communities across ND and Clay County, MN. Since 1983, there has been over 133 million meals to children, seniors, and families in need distributed. Below is the schedule and location of the stops on Thursday, February 8th:

- Edgeley 9:15-10:00 a.m. Armory parking lot (508 1st Ave)
- Oakes 12:00-12:45 p.m. Lot behind the Travel Inn (401 Main Avenue)
- Gwinner 2:00-2:30 p.m. Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church (207 1st St SE)

Special crop grants available in North Dakota

These grants are for projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in ND. The allocation amount from USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service has not yet received an allocation amount but expects to receive it in February, 2018. Eligible applicants include enhancing food safety; pest and disease control; developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops; and increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops. Not eligible are projects that directly benefit specific or commercial products or profit a single organization, institution or individual. Specialty crops grown in ND include dry beans, dry peas, lentils, potatoes, confection sunflowers, grapes, honey and various vegetables. Application instructions, scoring criteria and an application template is available at <http://bit.ly/2DqUO3T>. Projects funded by the grants start Oct 1, 2018 and must be completed by Sept 30, 2020.

Farmers look to pull through another year of low prices

Despite a drought year, most ND producers appear to be pulling through, spoken at the Life Beyond Break Even Farm Economic Summit that was held in Bismarck last month. Kyle Olson, who runs the adult farm management program at Bismarck State College, said the data has not been finalized but his impression so far is that moods are positive. There are 66 enrolled in this program, three are in fairly deep financial trouble, but they are holding their own. August rains saved yields and soybean and sunflower prices were enough to get by. Ranchers were greeted by a friendly fall calf market as well. It is expected that there will be fewer acres of corn planted this spring and estimated that last season's relatively high yields will have farmers, on average, breaking near even going into planting.

North Dakota Department of Human Services would like to remind everyone that applications are being accepted for programs to help qualifying low income housing with heating costs through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/energyassist.html

This federally-funded program pays a portion of home heating costs for qualifying low-income households. The primary groups assisted by LIHEAP are older adults, people with disabilities and families with children age five and younger. Households that qualify for the program may also benefit from weatherization services to reduce energy consumption and efficiency, furnace cleaning, repair and replacement.

