

# State of the Ag Department

*Ag Secretary highlights priorities, accomplishments in new administration.*

The Agriculture Department is being reoriented with a new focus on farmers,

its customers, and has already built a record of success, Secretary of

Agriculture Sonny Perdue said Jan. 8. He made his comments at the American

## Ponca Creek

Cattle Company

### ANNUAL ANGUS BULL SALE & 2017 HEIFER CALF DISPERSION

**NEW DATE**

Thursday, March 15, 2018

1:00 pm • at the Ranch

6 miles West & 4 miles South of Bonesteel, SD

**Selling 60 Yearling Angus Bulls and 70 Yearling Angus Heifers**



He Sells!

**PC Diamond 520** AAA 18751479  
Diamond in the Rough x Connealy Packer 547



He Sells!

**PC Big Easy 1076** AAA 18784606  
HFA Big Easy L41B x ALC Tracker L06T



He Sells!

**PC Big Easy 545** AAA 18784581  
HFA Big Easy L41B x Connealy Substance 9283



He Sells!

**PC Territory 1180** AAA 18790100  
Baldrige Territory Z068 x Connealy Thunder 4424



He Sells!

**PC Southside 340** AAA 18784598  
K C F Bennett Southside x TC Foreman 016



She Sells!

**PC Tess 732** AAA 18784601  
K C F Bennett Southside x Sitz Upward 307R



She Sells!

**PC Acclaim 738** AAA 18790235  
Jindra Acclaim x Sitz Upward 307R

**FEATURED AI Sires**

**KM Broken Bow 002 • Connealy Guinness • Jindra Acclaim  
Baldrige Territory Z068 • KCF Bennett Southside  
Connealy Leadtime • Diamond in the Rough**

## Ponca Creek

Cattle Company

**For Sale Book Contact:**  
**Tom & Cindy Lillibridge, Owner**  
PO Box 168, Bonesteel, SD 57317  
605-680-2200  
cindylillibridge@hotmail.com

**Herdsmen**  
**Dwight Pepper**  
605-830-1072 - cell

This sale will be broadcast live on the internet.  
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**Sale Manager: Joseph Kvigne • 605-670-1785 • jkvigne@goldenwest.net**



Looking ahead to President Trump's address later in the day to the Farm Bureau members, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue emphasized that the president understands how important rural America is as the breadbasket of the world.

Farm Bureau Federation's 2018 Annual Convention.

In his opening remarks, Perdue spoke about the importance of trade to U.S. agriculture and the priority of successful NAFTA negotiations.

"To get a deal, we need all sides to seriously roll up their sleeves and get to work," Perdue said. "We have put a number of proposals on the table to modernize NAFTA, and critically for agriculture, to address key sectors left out of the original agreement — dairy and poultry tariffs in Canada. Now, we want to see our negotiating partners step up and engage so we can get the deal done."

In Perdue's first eight months as secretary, USDA has already reopened the Chinese market to American beef, signed a protocol to allow exports of U.S. rice to China for the first time ever and eased European Union regulations on citrus exports. South Korea lifted its ban on imports of U.S. poultry, while Argentina has allowed American pork back into the country for the first time since 1992.

Perdue said USDA has been rolling back excessive regulations following a directive from President Trump. He cited the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule as an example of regulatory overreach negatively affecting farmers.

"You know, sometimes a mud puddle is just a mud puddle," he said. "We don't need the federal government coming in and regulating everything to death."

USDA has targeted 27 final rules for elimination that will save \$56.15 million annually. Perdue asked farmers and ranchers to bring any onerous



contain more than 100 practical, actionable recommendations for economic growth in five key areas:

- e-connectivity;
- quality of life;
- rural workforce;
- technology; and
- economic development.

In conclusion, Perdue praised America and American farmers.

“One of the biggest reasons that we are the envy of the world is gathered right here in this room — the farmers of America. You feed this country and the world, with all of your labors every day,” Perdue said.

“The bonds of faith are directly tied to

our liberty,” he said in closing. “Every time you plant a seed in the ground, you are exhibiting your faith in a bountiful harvest. There is nothing more American than that.”

**Editor’s Note:** This article was provided by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

regulations to USDA’s attention by visiting the agency’s website.

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— *Sonny Perdue*

“It is proof of the importance that he places on all of us — rural and urban, North, South, East, West and Midwest — working together to make our country even greater,” he said.

Perdue highlighted USDA’s newly released Economic Research Service (ERS) report that shows 99% of American farms are family farms that account for 90% of production. President Trump, he said, understands that family farms are small businesses that must turn a profit to provide for their families. Perdue cited recent tax reform as a solution that will allow farmers to keep more of what they earn in order to reinvest in their operations.

Perdue said a report from the administration’s Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity will

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