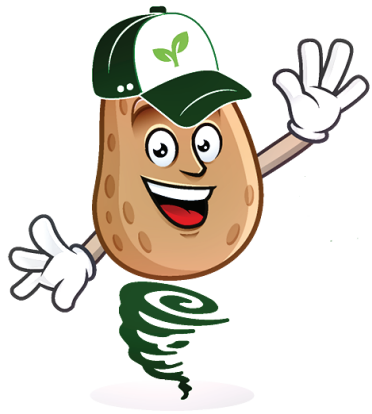


28th annual Potato Day festivities promise to be fun for the entire family



Potato Day, in Clark, held the first Saturday in August, promises to be fun for the entire family. Potato Day is Saturday, Aug. 3, but actually it could be called Potato Days, because activities are held the entire weekend, not just Saturday. A day of celebration, in honor of

the potato, will give young and old alike an opportunity to enjoy many Potato Day activities. This will be the 28th annual Potato Day.

Many individuals work very hard to make Potato Day a lasting success, working each year to make it a quality family event. Clark Chamber of Commerce chairman Nichole DesLauriers along with Potato Day co-chairmen Robin Hartley and Cassie Kottke work hard behind the scenes. Both groups also have key members that work hard with little recognition to pull off this community event.

With two and a half weeks before the big weekend make sure the date, August 3, gets put on the calendar. It is impossible to list the near 50 events in a news story, as the stories and promotions will be on-going.

Great activities

The full Potato Day schedule is being finalized this week. There are so many great activities, for young and not so young, alike. New this year will be a 3-on-3 basketball tournament; face painting in Dickinson Park; Chicken Bingo; Clark Drum Line; Pilots of Christ; and pool dive at the Clark swimming pool.

These activities will add on to the many including: the 12:00 noon Potato Wrestling; the Strong Farmer competition; Sheltered Reality; the Plane Toss; and many, many other events and activities.

Times and places are all being finalized this week, for all Potato Day events, with the Potato Day schedule being inserted in the July 31 *Clark County Courier* edition.

Parade

The 5:00 p.m. Potato Day Parade annually is a quality parade and a crowd pleaser, with many floats and entrants.

The antique tractor parade again will come from Watertown.

Many from the Car Show also stick around to enter the Clark Potato Day Parade

Potato contests

Anyone with a tasty potato and chip dip recipe should enter the contest at Heather's Bistro. The Flower and Garden Show as well as the Best Decorated Potato Contest is at the Clark Flower and Gift Shop.

Arts and Crafts Show

Dickinson Park will be the place
Potato Day
(continued on page 4)

S.D. Pork Producers council member Foster visits Washington, D.C.

Ever eaten 'pig wings'?

Pig wings and pork chops were on the menu served up by members of the South Dakota Pork Producers council recently in Washington, D.C.

Local pork producer Jason Foster who was recently voted onto the Pork Producers Council for the state of South Dakota last January - was one of the members chosen to represent the state pork council when they lent their expertise to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Associations annual meeting picnic.

They served up pork to electric cooperative representatives from all over the United States.

Pork council members from Beresford and Mount Vernon along with Foster and his girlfriend Ashley Foyt of Watertown spent from June 22 to June 24 in Washington, D.C. The picnic was on a Monday where they fed some 300 people.

Foster and his girlfriend enjoyed seeing the sights in Washington, D.C. such as the war memorials, the capitol and White House. They also spent 3+ hours at the Holocaust Museum.

"Pig Wings"

What's a pig wing was asked of Foster. "They came out about 10 years ago. It's a six inch piece of meat and tendon on the bone that comes from the shank of the pig leg. It's right above the hock (ankle) on the pig's leg. This was actually the first time I had that cut of meat labeled a 'pig wing,'" stated Foster who prefers the old school cuts of pork usually.

This is the first year of three that Foster will be serving on the council. His father Rod Foster served previously on the board. "You'll learn a lot about the industry," he advised his son and now looking back so far, the younger Foster agrees.

33 years of pigs

Jason Foster is a 2006 graduate of Clark High School and earned degrees in Ag Production and Ag Business at Lake Area Technical Institute, graduating in 2009.

Jason and his father work together in the 150 sow farrow to finish operation with Jason living close by to the home place where it will be the farm's 33rd year of having pigs on the farm.

The breeding stock and show pigs they raise are: Hampshire's - the black and white ones; Yorkshire - all white and Duroc - the reddish colored pigs. "We usually have about 500 to 600 on feed at all times at various stages," noted Foster. They're at 280-290 pounds when



Jason Foster of Garden City was chosen as one of the SD Pork Producers council members to go to Washington, D.C. to promote and help feed some 300 members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative at their annual picnic. Pork chops and pork wings were served by three council members and their partners. Jason was accompanied by his girlfriend Ashley Foyt of Watertown on the trip.

they go to harvest, ending up at a Storm Lake, Iowa (Tyson's) plant. They sell about 1,000 pigs per year.

In the breeding parts of the operation, they use 50% artificial insemination and 50% natural boar bred.

"You've got to be on good terms with your boars," advised Foster of the large male pigs - (boars). They have 10 of them for their operation.

In a climate controlled building all year round, Foster's pigs have the option of going outside in an open lot as well. Their water and food are outside. They use deep

Foster
(continued on page 4)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
July 9	86	65	.78
July 10	80	61	--
July 11	77	60	.08
July 12	82	60	0
July 13	87	68	0
July 14	83	68	.21
July 15	85	72	0
2019 precipitation to date	18.38		
2018 precipitation to date	8.51		



A huge amount of fiber optic cable was placed along Idaho Street in Clark this week as the project continues of burying the cable for Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative - or ITC.

One may see many white MasTec pickups around as that is the sub-

contracting company that is doing the Clark area upgrades. After burying the new cable, the MasTec company will also be doing the splicing of the cable to finish the job.

Fiber optic cable being buried in Clark last week

A higher speed internet and cable TV will soon be an option for Clark area residents through ITC as it is 'our turn' in upgrading the older copper cable to fiber optic.

Along Idaho Street in Clark coming in from the north to the ITC building was the route MasTec out of Shevlin, Minn. used last week to bury the new cable.

In the area since May - the Mas-

Tec company will also be doing the splicing of the cable later to bring it all together for the change over to fiber optic.

They recently finished in Webster and hope to be moving on to Lake Benton, Minn. next on their list. They're shooting for October to be finished with the Clark area.

Darin Amick, a foreman out of the Clear Lake office and an inspec-

tor with Vantage Point stated that all of the rain this year has slowed down the project. Vantage Point is the engineering firm that designed the project for ITC with MasTec doing the contracting work for the Clark area.

"This run's been tough with all the rain. It's been some crazy weather lately making for some delays, but the job's getting done.

We're done pulling cable in the Garden City and Raymond areas. Now everything is coming to the splicing stage," stated Amick.

The new fiber optic cable is buried about 36 inches deep and will replace the existing copper cable for all of the Clark area ITC customers when the project is completed this fall.

Public meeting hosted by First Planning District to identify interest in Public Transit



A Clark County public transit coordination plan meeting, initiated by First District Association of Local Governments was held Wednesday, at the Ulyot Building.

Facing the camera in the back are Tom Nealon and

Mark McLaughlin of First District. At left are Terry Hoffman, director of Watertown Area Transit and Kathy Holman, executive director of Community Transit, Inc., Sisseton.

First District Association of Local Governments coordinated a public meeting for the purpose of assessing public transit and human services transportation needs within Clark County.

This Clark County public transit coordination plan meeting was held Wednesday at the Ulyot Building.

Terry Hoffman, director of Watertown Area Transit and Kathy Holman of Community Transit, Inc., stationed in Sisseton, spoke of how these two (non-profit) companies are consolidating and trying to involve as much and as many as possible to the concept of public transportation.

Usually at a meeting such as this a market outline directive is followed, but this was not the case Wednesday, as this meeting is the first step in a process of deciding if there is an interest, what the demographics are, where the density numbers lie and what are the basic needs to meet the public's goals.

Following this meeting, Hoffman and Holman will attend county and city meetings to see if there is support for public transit and then a needs assessment survey could be warranted. If public transit is to come to Clark County, Hoffman and Holman stated that monetary support would be of utmost importance.

Clark City finance officer Jackie Luttrell, in attendance at this meeting, talked that the city would keep what the city has, although drivers are always needed, but would still sign up if the public transit option became a reality.

The City of Clark has had a Med Van Program, going on 20 years. This program assists the elderly and disabled in rides for medical purposes.

Luttrell noted that this 'med van' service worked great and she talked about the three, city-owned med vehicles, as two are wheel chair accessible.

As Luttrell voiced, 'There is a need (for public transit) she was quick to

Public transit
(continued on page 4)

Eighteenth annual 4-H Rodeo is set for July 27 and 28 with many activities planned for 4-H contestants

The Clark County Fairgrounds will be the site of the 18th annual Clark County 4-H Rodeo on Saturday and Sunday, July 27 and 28. The rodeo events will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Over 200 contestants have signed up to take part in the two day event. Events for junior and senior contestants are planned in both the small and large arenas at the rodeo grounds.

The rodeo event order for both days at the large arena includes: senior barrels, junior barrels, junior-junior barrels, senior steer wrestling, senior dally team roping, junior flag race, junior-junior flag race, senior pole bending, senior bareback riding, senior saddle bronc riding, junior cattle riding, senior bull riding.

In the small arena, the event order is: senior calf roping, junior

boys breakaway, senior breakaway, junior boys goat tying, junior girls breakaway, senior ribbon roping, junior girls goat tying, senior girls goat tying, junior pole bending.



The 4-H Rodeo contestants will compete for an opportunity to qualify for the South Dakota 4-H Rodeo State Final to be held August 16-18 in Fort Pierre.

4-H'ers from across the state are coming to Clark next weekend to compete in the 21 different events in three divisions, junior-junior, junior and senior.

Saturday and Sunday will be considered separate rodeos so actually contestants will have two chances to qualify for the state finals. Over 1,500 run-throughs will take place in the two days.