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2015 State-Tribal Relations Events to Highlight Cooperation in Agriculture

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations (SDDTR) has partnered with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) to highlight 'Cooperation in Agriculture' during this legislative session at the State-Tribal Relations Events on Feb. 25 and 26 in Pierre.

"Agriculture is key to both the state and the tribes," said Steve Emery, Secretary of Tribal Relations. "We have brought together a great mix of people in the ag industry from state, tribes and federal entities that reflect our theme 'Cooperation in Agriculture.'"

Events start with a State-Tribal Listening Session from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Feb. 25, followed by a Legislative Reception from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. CST. Secretary Emery will be honored by Gov. Dugaard for his recent appointment to the Governor's cabinet. These events are by invitation only.

"When working together, opportunities in agriculture are endless for both our state and tribes," said Lucas Lentsch, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture. "We hope this event opens doors for both agricultural and tribal leaders to explore the many possibilities."

On Thursday, Feb. 26, tribal, federal, and state agricultural booths will be available in the Capitol Rotunda from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. CST. A Rotunda Ceremony will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. CST featuring a welcome from Gov. Dugaard as well as comments by tribal leaders.

The tribal honor guard, Rosebud's Sincagu Lakota Warriors, will be present. Tribal singers and dancers from the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate's Tiospa Zina and Enemy Swim Tribal Schools will perform and a traditional buffalo stew will be prepared and served by the Lower Brule High School ProStart Culinary Program with supplies donated from InterTribal Buffalo Council and Lakota Thrifty Mart. Events in the Capitol Rotunda are free and open to the public.

For more information on the event for SDDTR, please visit the SDTR website at www.sdtribalrelations.com. For more information on South Dakota agriculture and SDDA, please visit <http://sdda.sd.gov/>.