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South Dakota State Fair Offers Free Gate Admission to State Flood Victims, North Dakotans

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced today that South Dakota flood victims and North Dakotans whose 2011 State Fair was cancelled will receive free entry to the South Dakota State Fair every day during this year's event in Huron.

South Dakota residents and their children will receive free gate admission by showing a valid flood identification card from one of the several communities that distributed them earlier this year.

All North Dakota families will receive free admission to the South Dakota State Fair with official forms of North Dakota identification. The North Dakota State Fair at Minot was called off last month when major flooding made it impossible.

“Flooding has impacted thousands of people across the region this year, and many families have not been able to enjoy a summer festival or vacation,” Gov. Daugaard said. “We hope all of our neighbors in North Dakota and those who live in flood areas of South Dakota take advantage of the free gate admission to visit the South Dakota State Fair.”

Grandstand entertainment this year includes the Red Wilk Construction CBR Bull Bash, Don Williams with Sammy Kershaw, Ronnie Dunn with 32 Below, Cheap Trick with Little River Band, Kory and the Fireflies, and the Dakota State Fair Speedway Stock Car Races.

The South Dakota State Fair also offers six stages with free entertainment. Headlining the NorthWestern Energy Freedom Stage is Love and Theft on Saturday, Sept. 4. Other entertainment includes Reptile Adventures, Sherwin Linton and the Cotton Kings, Elisabeth Hunstad, and Thank A Farmer Ag Magic Show, just to name a few. Take a walk through the Arts and Ed, Horticulture or Women's Buildings to see a variety of exhibits.

“This summer we've been seeing neighbors helping neighbors fight flooding,” said South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Walt Bones. “It makes me proud to be a South Dakotan. If we can offer a small token of appreciation to those who have helped their neighbors, that's what the State Fair is all about.”

The 2011 South Dakota State Fair runs from Thursday, Sept. 1 – Monday, Sept. 5. Preview day is Wednesday, Aug. 31. The State Fair theme this year is Country Pride Statewide. For more information on State Fair events, contact the Fair office at 800-529-

0900 or visit www.sdstatefair.com . You can also find the State Fair on Facebook and Twitter (@SDStateFair).

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