

Greetings! The National School for Beginning Ag Leaders is fast approaching. We are looking forward to seeing everyone soon. Below are several details that will help you prepare for school. ***PLEASE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY as it contains very important information.***

HOMEWORK

- **Commodity Challenge Game:** You should be receiving regular emails from instructor Ed Usset regarding the Commodity Challenge Game. If you have NOT been getting these, please let us know.
- **Pre-Session Survey:** You will be receiving a link to a pre-session survey in the coming days. It will also be posted on the website, www.sdba.com/ag-school. Please complete this survey prior to coming to school. You will not need to turn this in, but it will be referenced at school.
- **Instructor slide decks** will be available at www.sdba.com/ag-school as well (in a couple of weeks). ***We will NOT be printing the slide decks. It will be up to each student to either print the presentations or bring a device to access them on-site.***

COLLEGE HOUSING AND FACILITIES

Please refer to the [Black Hills State University campus map](#) to familiarize yourself with locations for registration and various activities. The map also includes driving directions to get to campus from I-90. For more information about BHSU, visit the [university's website](#).

For those of you registered to stay on campus, you will be housed in Bordeaux Hall (8 on the map). Each bedroom has two extra-long twin beds, dressers, desks, chairs, and an open closet. (**Note:** mattresses are made of a recycled plastic material which allows for easy sanitation. They have a 4" firmer piece and a 2" softer piece. Typically, the softer piece should be on top. If you find it uncomfortable, try flipping it over. Some students have stacked the two mattresses on top of one another. Others bring a mattress topper.) The shared bathroom between each set of two bedrooms has two sinks in front of a big mirror, a shower stall, and a toilet stall. BHSU will provide a linen package for each person that includes two flat sheets, a light blanket, a pillow, a pillowcase, a towel, and a washcloth. Your dorm assignment will be given to you when you register on-site. If you have a roommate request, please submit that by 5/29. Dorm rooms have been reserved Monday night through Wednesday night, with checkout on Thursday. **If you need a dorm room on Thursday night OR if you plan to check in to your dorm room on Sunday rather than Monday, please let me know by May 29th so that we can extend your reservation.** Additional nights can be added to your stay at a minimal cost (approximately \$50-\$60) per night. Your bank will be billed for this expense after school ends. If you have changed your mind since your registration and no longer wish to stay on campus, please let me know immediately so I can get accurate information to BHSU.

Breakfasts and lunches will be served in the BHSU cafeteria in the Student Union. There is a good variety of options available.

REMINDER: Hotel blocks close on 5/21. You are responsible for making your own reservations.

REGISTRATION

Registration and dorm check-in will be from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. MDT on Monday, June 22nd on the third floor of the Jonas Building (#3 on the campus map). If you are staying on campus, you will also get your dorm key at this time. **LUNCH IS ON YOUR OWN** on Monday. School will officially begin at 1:00 in room 305 in Jonas Hall with an orientation session. On Monday evening, there will be a get-acquainted happy hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Salem Park. Directions will be provided on Monday at school. It is just a few short blocks from the classroom. This gathering will conclude at 6:30, allowing you time for dinner on your own. We encourage you to network with other students, make new contacts and connect with other students throughout the school.

PARKING

Free parking is available outside Bordeaux Hall. For commuters, the Jonas parking lot – the big lot south of Jonas Science Hall - is available for parking.

CAMPUS POLICIES

BHSU campus has a "No Smoking" policy. This includes classrooms, dining hall and all facilities on campus. Smoking is also prohibited in your room. In addition, no alcohol is permitted on campus unless in defined areas for formal receptions. Residence assistants and college personnel will strictly enforce these rules, and anyone found in violation of these rules will be asked to leave the campus. We appreciate your understanding.

What Should I Bring?

The college will provide one set of linens for the week (pillow, mattress pad and bed sheets, flannel sheet that is used as a blanket, towel, and wash cloth). Other items you will want to bring with you:

- Personal toiletries, including soap and shampoo, hair dryer.
- Your own pillow. Campus pillows are thin and small.
- Extra towels. Campus towels are also very thin and very small.
- Extra blanket: very important as only a thin, flannel sheet blanket is provided.
- Hangers.
- Water bottle.

- Workout clothes for the fitness center and any recreational equipment such as golf clubs, a basketball, tennis racket, swimming suit, etc.
- Calculator/app.
- Paper, pens, and pencils.
- Laptop/iPad for notes (**not required for class**) and wireless access to your e-mail.
- There will be trash bags, but no trash cans in the rooms.
- Fan – if you are warm-blooded, you may wish to bring a fan to assist the air conditioning. Rooms cool to 72 degrees.
- Breakfasts and lunches will be served in the cafeteria located in the student union. There are many options to choose from, and most food sensitivities can be accommodated. There are beverage machines and water bottle fillers throughout campus. Selected snacks will be available in the classroom. If you have specific needs, you may want to bring your own beverages and/or snacks/food items.

Dress Code

Casual dress (slacks, jeans, shorts, shirts, bank logo shirts, and the like). We recommend you also bring a sweater or jacket since the evenings can get rather cool.

Recreational Facilities

You have access to the Donald E. Young Sports & Fitness Center on campus. This fitness center is state-of-the-art and has a tremendous range of weight and workout machines, swimming pool, etc.

Spearfish Activities

Evenings are “free time” for you to use how you choose. We would encourage you to get to know your fellow classmates and see what Spearfish has to offer. [Click here](#) for the Spearfish Visitor’s Guide. Also check out the “[Downtown Spearfish](#)” link for food and drink options.

Required Events to Attend

In addition to the schedule of classes that you are required to attend, students are also required to attend the evening gathering on Monday after class as well as Tuesday’s “Grill the Instructors” session.

Upcoming Requests

We will be reaching out soon to inquire about your breakfast plans. Breakfast is provided on campus and those staying off campus are welcome to join.

Special Requests

If you have any special requests such as a mother's room, dietary needs, etc., please let us know by 5/29.

Arrival/Departure

If for some reason you cannot keep our school schedule or have any further questions, please contact me (School Administrator, Halley Lee) prior to the start of school: 1-800-726-7322 or e-mail me at hlee@sdba.com. My cell number is 605.295.0168, should you have any questions. I look forward to meeting all of you on June 22nd! Safe travels to Spearfish.