I am an undergraduate student in the Sociology Department at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. I am conducting a research project entitled, “Health insurance access and health quality among family farmers in South Dakota.” The purpose of the study is to determine the health and health insurance status among South Dakota farmers. Your name was randomly selected from the rural directory for your county, and I am hoping that you will agree to participate in this study. To be consistent, I ask that the person completing the survey be at least 18 years old and head of household.

The survey involves answering some questions about you, your health, health insurance status, and use of health care services. As the son of a farmer, I realize your time is especially valuable leading up to harvest season so I have attempted to keep the enclosed questionnaire as brief as possible. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and mail. Participation is completely voluntary and your responses are strictly confidential. When the findings are presented, you will not be identified by your name, title or any other personal information. There are no known risks involved with this study. You do not have to answer any question you would rather not answer, and there are no negative consequences if you decide not to complete the survey.

If you agree to complete the survey, please do NOT write your name on it. After you finish filling it out, please put the survey in the stamped envelope provided. As a way to encourage your participation, a drawing for two $100 Visa Gift Cards will be conducted at the end of September. After completing the survey, you may also choose to be eligible for this drawing. Your drawing information will not be connected to your survey in any way and will only be used for the drawing. Your consent is implied by the return of the completed survey.

The results of my project will be available after April 1, 2013. If you would like to view the results of my project you may go to http://www.augie.edu/farmstudy. If you have any questions about the study, you may contact my advisor Dr. Susan L. Schrader, Ph.D Professor – Augustana Sociology Department at (605) 274-5212. Please keep this letter for your information.

Thank you for your participation,

Michael Dulitz
Sociology Department
Augustana College – Sioux Falls, SD