

January 25, 2012

## The Life of Dean Allen Eichler



- The funeral for Dean Allen Eichler, 50, of Groton, will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, January 27, 2012 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Columbia with the Rev. Jais Tinglund officiating. Burial will follow at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery. Dean died at his home in Groton.
- Closed casket visitation will be from 1-7 p.m., Thursday with family present from 5-7 p.m. at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home 1111 S. Main St. Aberdeen.
- Dean Allen Eichler was born on August 18, 1961 to Harvey

and Elinor (Bruns) Eichler at Aberdeen, SD. He grew up five and one half miles north of Columbia and was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church. He attended school at St. John's Lutheran Parochial and Columbia Elementary for a few years. Dean then went to school in Groton and graduated from Groton High School in 1980. He continued his education at the vo-tech in Watertown, SD. After receiving his education, Dean returned to the Columbia area where he farmed on his own for awhile. He moved to the Spearfish, SD area where he worked on a ranch for several years. His love for cattle brought him back to the Groton area. He worked as a herdsman at various places prior to working for Jack and Helen Walter at the Walter Angus Farm, where he was employed at the time of his death.

- Dean was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. When he was younger, Dean was a member of the 4-H Club where he showed cattle. He always looked forward to the Brown County Fair, he enjoyed horses and loved attending the rodeos. Dean was known for going to the sale barn and watching the auctions. Listening to music always brought him joy and he loved a good harmony. Dean also liked to spend time playing cards with his family and friends, and thoroughly enjoyed his nieces and nephews.

- Grateful for having shared Dean's life are his mother, Elinor of Columbia, four sisters, Phyllis (Art) Yeske, Columbia, Joyce (Joel) Wilson, Houghton, SD, Sharon (Roger) Zastrow, Columbia, and Betty (Steve) Dunker, Groton, two brothers, Karl (Val) Eichler, Columbia, and Keith (Suzan) Eichler, Aberdeen, three step-brothers, Lloyd (Doris) Dennert, Columbia, Don (Norma) Dennert, Aberdeen, and Paul (Peggy) Dennert, Aberdeen, two step-sisters, Doris (Alfred) Larson, Aberdeen and Alice (Tom) Hanson, Columbia, his aunt, Alice Wegehaupt, ten nieces and nephews and their families and a good neighbor and friend, Julius Kolb.

Dean was preceded in death by his father, Harvey, step-father, Harold Dennert, all of his grandparents, two aunts and four uncles.