

# INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

*Your state wide voice in the cattle industry!*

PO Box 123

Menoken, ND 58558

[www.i-band.org](http://www.i-band.org)

2023-2

## Presidents message



Recently, I had a conversation with a producer, who like me has land in 2 states. The only difference is he lives south of the state line. Our discussion was mutual. Everything he complained about, we have a policy against and/or what we believe in. MCOOL, brand inspection, EIDs, Checkoff reform. He has the same issues as I-BAND. Same issues as The South Dakota Stockgrowers. So, I asked him to join I-BAND. NO! Are you a member of SD Stockgrowers? NO! NCBA? NO! R-Calf? NO! USCA? NO! I believe this producer has the same sentiment as almost every producer in the 2 states. They're fed up with our systems. Fed up with our checkoff dollars working against us. Fed up with brand inspection fees. Fed up with

legislators denying us MCOOL. But, he also is like most producers, refusing to be a member of ANY organization. I can't believe the cost of a membership is the reason for not being a member. I do believe it's more of being too independent. We as cattle producers are used to being independent, getting things done by ourselves. But we need to get out of that bubble. Most producers need to take your frustrations and apply them to organizations like I-BAND, R-Calf, and USCA. When I first started ranching with my dad, I joined a competing organization and started attending meetings (the only one to join at the time). He told me I was wasting my time. Dad was right, I wasted a lot of time..... with that organization. But what he was wrong about is that there are thousands of other producers who think like me. And with those frustrated producers, I-BAND was formed. I'm not against being members of multiple organizations, in fact, I was for 25+ years. But ya need to be members that support your membership dollars. I'm still a member of multiple organizations, but I'm damn careful of where those membership dollars go. We all need to get out of old-school thinking and start working together with like-minded producers. That message has been preached for decades.

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## Presidents Message cont.

But it's more important now than ever; because there are getting to be fewer and fewer of us every year. Have ya noticed all the ads coming from NCBA? Almost every Ag radio program I listen to has ads recruiting producers to join NCBA. They also had a fly-in to Washington DC in the past couple of weeks. Where are they coming up with all this? A lot of it is coming from EVERY producer through their checkoff dollars, not just their members. For instance, in March I received a letter from the South Dakota Beef Industry Council (SDBIC) reminding me if I sell private treaty not to forget to pay the checkoff. First of all, it was addressed to Silent Butte Ranch. I've never sold or bought cattle in the ranch name, only in my name. So, I called the new executive director of the SDBIC wondering how they got me on their mailing list. Evidently, they went through bull sale reports, advertisements, meat processors, video sales, etc. I call BS on that cause I don't use the ranch name. Whatever, I got it straightened out that I DO NOT owe SDBIC any money. AGAIN, a waste of checkoff dollars. Another very good reason to become a member of the organization that fits your operation. In closing, it's just as important to RENEW your membership, as it is to BECOME a member. Bring on Summer!

## Articles in the Meat Messenger



### A Message from the Commissioner

Greetings,

Our local meat processing industry remains a critical necessity. We thank you all for your service and helping us to understand your needs.

I wanted to talk about a few things we did last year that could be potential opportunities for your business. Last year we attended the National Restaurant Association show and the Americas Food & Beverage show and provided international trade mission assistance to promote beef and other commodities produced in North Dakota. We had some North Dakota meat processors attend with us. We are planning to do more of this in 2023 and invite other meat processors to participate if you are interested in connecting with buyers from both the U.S. and all over the world. We also increased our Farm to School efforts, along with the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, by encouraging beef producers to sell to schools. Please let us know if you are interested in working with producers to process beef destined for local schools.



We also received a Local Food Purchase Assistance grant in cooperation with Great Plains Food Bank which provides funding to purchase North Dakota beef and other locally grown, minimally processed foods for the North Dakota food bank system. Please contact Stephanie Erickson at the Great Plains Food Bank at (701) 232-6219 if you are interested in this. Interested producers may also complete a form to show interest at [forms.office.com/g/wZTuy84d5N](https://forms.office.com/g/wZTuy84d5N).

We will continue to work with you to strengthen the industry, add value locally and improve local economies. We look forward to continuing to serve you and ensuring a safe and economical meat supply for consumers.

Sincerely,

Doug Goehring

# How to Supply Schools with Meat

Every child deserves a wholesome, filling lunch to help them concentrate and learn throughout the day. High quality meat is one of the items that schools have been trying to add more of into their lunch programs, so many schools have been reaching out to local meat processors to purchase.

All meat sold to a school must be sourced from state or federally inspected animals. The meat can then be cut or ground and sold to the schools. Most retail meat shops can sell the products as part of a Hotel Restaurant Institutions (HRI) sales. The limitation would be that HRI sales cannot exceed 25% of total retail meat sales for the calendar year, or no more than \$91,400 to HRI accounts.

The ND Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) sets the nutritional requirements for schools. Plain ground beef and unseasoned meat cuts are not subject to child nutrition labeling requirements. Further processed or seasoned meat products would need to meet the USDA Child Nutrition Labeling Program requirements. More information on Child Nutrition Labeling can be found at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/labeling-program>.

The NDDPI has been encouraging schools to purchase meat from local suppliers and they have heard many success stories around the state between processors and schools. For information about supplying schools with meat or other food products, contact Lynelle Johnson, Assistant Director of Child Nutrition, at the NDDPI at 701-328-3718 or [lynellejohnson@nd.gov](mailto:lynellejohnson@nd.gov).

## Sportsmen Against Hunger

Some deer hunters are so successful, they can't handle or store all of the venison they harvest. What can they do with the meat? Sportsmen Against Hunger is a Community Action Partnership of North Dakota that pays processors to grind and package wild game. The wild game is then donated to those in need through food pantries throughout North Dakota.



Currently there are 17 processors in North Dakota that are participating in the Sportsmen Against Hunger Program, but several regions are without participating plants. The whole western side of North Dakota does not have any participating plants. If you would like to participate, contact Carmel Froemke, Programs Director, at [programs@capnd.org](mailto:programs@capnd.org) or 701-232-2452.

The program donated 3,996 pounds of meat in 2020, which dropped to 2,770 pounds in 2021. More information can be found at <https://www.capnd.org/programsandinitiatives/statewideprograms/sportsmen-against-hunger/>.

# Bills to watch...

## **S. 557 - Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act of 2023**

## **H.R 1249 - Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act of 2023**

This bill establishes restrictions and requirements for checkoff programs, which are programs overseen by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to promote and provide research and information for a particular agricultural commodity without reference to specific producers or brands.

The bill prohibits boards established to carry out a checkoff program or a USDA order issued under a checkoff program from entering into a contract or agreement to carry out program activities with a party that engages in activities to influence any government policy or action that relates to agriculture.

A board or its employees or agents acting in their official capacity may not engage in any

- act that may involve a conflict of interest;
- anticompetitive activity;
- unfair or deceptive act or practice; or
- act that may be disparaging to, or in any way negatively portray, another agricultural commodity or product.

Upon approval of USDA, a board may enter directly into contracts and agreements to carry out generic promotion, research, or other activities authorized by law if the agreement or contract requires records accounting for the funds received to be submitted to the board.

The board must meet specified requirements regarding the publication of budgets and disbursements of funds.

The USDA Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office must conduct specified audits regarding checkoff programs.

[Www.Congress.gov](http://www.Congress.gov)

Contact Sen Hoeven and Sen Cramer.

Ask them why they haven't signed on yet.

# Contact Information

## Senator John Hoeven

Bismarck - 701-250-4618

Grand Forks - 701-746-8972

Watford City - 701-609-2727

Fargo - 701-239-5389

Minot - 701-838-1361

Washington, DC - 202-224-2551

## Senator Kevin Cramer

Bismarck - 701-204-0500

Grand Forks - 701-402-4540

Fargo - 701-232-5094

Minot - 701-837-6141

Williston - 701-441-7230

Washington, DC - 202-224-2043



### If passed the OFF Act would:

- Prohibit checkoff programs from contracting with any organization that lobbies on agricultural policy.
- Prohibit employees and agents of the checkoff boards from engaging in activities that may involve a conflict of interest.
- Establish uniform standards for checkoff programs that prohibit anticompetitive activity, unfair or deceptive acts, or any act or practice that may be disparaging to another agricultural commodity or product.
- Require transparency through publication of checkoff program budgets and expenditures.
- Require periodic audits of compliance with the act by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector General.
- Require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) audit of checkoff board compliance and a report with further recommendations related to checkoff programs.

Call (202) 224-3121 and ask your Senators and Representative to cosponsor the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act, S.557 and H.R.1249.



# Mandan Independence Day Parade

Join us July 4, 2023

Cruising with the Red White and Blue

144th Annual

# MANDAN Independence Day PARADE



EST. 1879

PRESENTED BY  
**CHEVROLET**  
OF MANDAN



**SUBARU**  
OF MANDAN



## A Cowboy's Code

*Live each day with courage.*

*Have respect for everyone you meet.*

*Be confident in your dreams.*

*Always do what's right.*

*Take pride in your work.*

*Talk less and say more.*

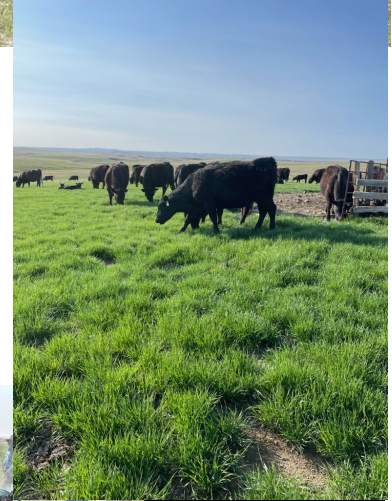
*Know where to draw the line.*

*Always finish what you start.*

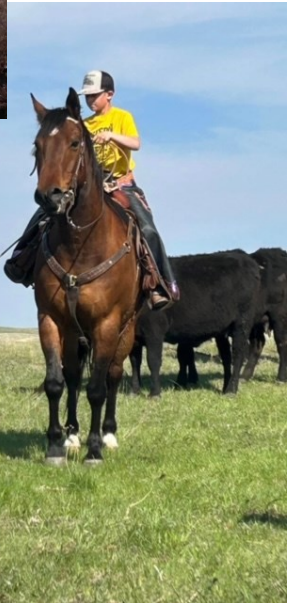
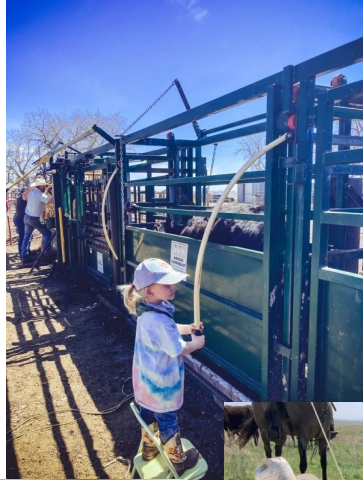
*Be tough, but always fair*



# Spring has sprung



# Spring has sprung cont...



All photos submitted by I-BAND Board members







Affiliates



Social Media



All of our links in one place!  
<https://linktr.ee/independentbeefnd>



# 'Opportunities for Fairness in Farming' – OFF Act

Some Congressional representatives have heard producers' cry for checkoff reform.

U.S. Reps. Nancy Mace, (R) South Carolina, and Dina Titus, (D)- Nevada, and U.S. Senators Mike Lee, (R)-Utah, Cory Booker, (D)-New Jersey, Rand Paul, (R)-Kentucky, Elizabeth Warren, (D)-Massachusetts, and Kirsten Gillibrand, (D)-New York are advocating the inclusion of the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act (S.557 and H.R.1249) in the 2023 Farm Bill. The Act seeks reform in the checkoff programs. So far a coalition of 131 groups representing farmers, the food system, the environment, animal welfare, and antimonopoly advocacy have also lent their support to the motion.

## Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act, (OFF ACT)

*This bill establishes restrictions and requirements for checkoff programs. It will prohibit boards established to carry out a checkoff program or a USDA order issued under a checkoff program from entering into a contract or agreement to carry out program activities with a party that engages in activities to influence any government policy or action that relates to agriculture.*

*A board or its employees or agents acting in their official capacity may not engage in an act that may involve a conflict of interest, or anticompetitive activity, or unfair or deceptive act or practice; or act that may be disparaging to, or in any way negatively portray, another agricultural commodity or product. Upon approval of USDA, a board may enter directly into contracts and agreements to carry out generic promotion, research, or other activities authorized by law if the agreement or contract requires records accounting for the funds received to be submitted to the board. The board must meet specified requirements regarding the publication of budgets and disbursements of funds. The USDA Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office must conduct specified audits regarding checkoff programs.*

The term "checkoff" was coined at a time when promotion programs were voluntary.

Producers checked a box if they wished to contribute to the program. Mandatory programs do not have such forms, but the name has remained. American farmers pay over 850 million dollars a year into promotional or "checkoff" programs.

Some US producers feel that the checkoff money could be better spent and that they see no real benefit from it. Others are satisfied with the current system.

North Dakota cow-calf producer, cattle feeder and multi-grain crop producer Corey Hart doesn't believe the checkoff programs are benefiting the independent producer. "With just the money from my grain check off, I could take my wife on a very nice vacation and probably buy a new pickup every year," he said. "They do collect a lot of money, it is a forced promotion, the associations should be protecting ag producers, but they fight things like county of origin labeling. So much money is wasted, millions of dollars even in the state checkoffs, it's all part of the reason this country is in the shape it's in."

Scott Schively, North Dakota producer believes checkoff reform is needed but has his doubts on this bill actually passing. "I think it will accomplish some things that need done. Some would like to see the beef checkoff dealt with on its own, but each commodity has its own set of problems. Producers have no say in how the checkoff money is spent but unless the USDA is really committed to doing their job, I don't think new rules will do any good. The rules already are simple, but they aren't enforced."

*"The OFF Act was first introduced in the 115th Congress and here we are in the 118th Congress still working for transparency and accountability to reform the USDA's commodity checkoff programs," said Deborah Mills, chairwoman of the National Dairy Producers Organization. "This speaks volumes*

*about what frustrates producers who are paying into checkoff programs. The recipients of the checkoff dollars are the greatest proponents of maintaining the status quo. Producers are being denied the basic right to have their questions about their investment answered.”*

While Senator Lee is known as one of the most conservative senators in DC, Senator Booker is known as one of the most liberal, considered by many to be an animal rights activist. Many beef industry spokesmen have been vocal about their concerns of Booker’s involvement and “ulterior motives” in the bill.

Although Lee didn’t respond to TSLN’s request for an interview, Utah sheep rancher and Utah Republican party chair Carson Jorgensen is a strong advocate for the bill.

“The OFF Act will help producers and will help make the big organizations to be accountable for the money. If people were seeing a big ad campaign but we see no visible benefits from the check off money,” said Jorgensen. “Senator Lee told me that we are the only industry that is forced to pay to be punched in the face. We should not have mandatory checkoffs; I don’t know why senators from beef states aren’t behind the OFF Act. We have the same problem as our founders, there is no reason for mandatory taxation without representation.”

In a news release, Lee said:

*“Checkoff programs are filled with waste and often abuse those who are forced to contribute to their coffers,” said Sen. Lee. “These common-sense reforms will ensure that checkoff funds promote and protect all ag producers (big and small) who are meant to be served by these programs.”*

Adam Zipkin, Senator Booker’s agricultural liaison, spoke to the senator for us.

He said this issue is an important one for Booker.

”After visiting farmers and ranchers across the country and hearing about their priorities and concerns, it was regularly pointed out that many trade groups who claim to speak for farmers and ranchers on important issues — such as mandatory country of origin labeling for example — only really speak for big corporate agribusinesses. It was alarming to hear that these farmers and ranchers who are required to pay into checkoff programs then see their own dollars funneled to these trade groups that often work against their interests. It was also very troubling to learn about the well-documented history of conflicts of interest, lack of transparency, misuse of funding and anticompetitive behavior by many of the biggest checkoff programs and their associated boards,” he said.

Calling attention to the lobbying organizations who have been checkoff beneficiaries will help keep them honest, Booker believes.

“Shining a light on what these organizations are doing will make them more accountable to the producers, and preventing checkoff funds from being diverted to groups that engage in ag lobbying will mean that the farmer dollars paid in will be used for promotion and research as originally intended,” said Booker’s aide.

The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, and Farm Bureau have also voiced opposition to the OFF Act.

The North Dakota Stockmen’s Association, and NCBA affiliate, opposes the bill. “The North Dakota Stockmen’s Association is opposed to the bill. When the Humane Society of the United States, an extreme animal rights organization that fights against animal agriculture at every corner, is championing the legislation, it leaves little question that this is poor public policy designed to impair, not support, the hardworking cattle ranching families across the country. I see it as a thinly veiled attempt by opponents of animal ag to eliminate the checkoffs we use to promote our products,” said Jason Leiseth president of the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association.

## Atypical BSE Case Detected in South Carolina

(WASHINGTON) - On Friday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) [announced](#) that an atypical case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), a neurologic disease of cattle, has been found in a bovine animal that arrived at a slaughterhouse in South Carolina.

The approximately five-year-old or older beef cow tested positive following routine surveillance protocols and the carcass was condemned soon after. The animal possessed a radio frequency identification tag associated with a herd in Tennessee. USDA APHIS and state animal health officials will conduct a thorough investigation of the case.

"Atypical" BSE cases occur rarely and spontaneously, often in older cattle. This is only the nation's 7<sup>th</sup> case of atypical BSE, [following a previous incident in 2018](#).

U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) president Justin Tupper issued the following statement:

"USCA is grateful to the nationwide team of veterinarians, animal health officials, meat inspectors, and others who ensure the wellbeing of the U.S. cattle herd and the safety of our food supply. The swift detection of this case proves that the systems and protocols we have put in place are working.

"This animal never entered slaughter channels and at no time entered the food supply chain due to the effectiveness of the surveillance team and, as a result, domestic and international trade markets can remain active and strong with no hit to consumer confidence."

## Outtagrass Cattle Co

OUTTAGRASS CATTLE COMPANY by Jan Swan Wood c 2023



## 2023 Annual Convention

SAVE  
The  
DATE

2023 Annual Meeting

November 17-18, 2023



## USCA Applauds Introduction of DRIVE Act

May 4, 2023

(WASHINGTON) – On Tuesday, Representative Josh Brecheen (R-OK), a fourth-generation rancher and former trucking company owner himself, introduced the [\*Deregulating Restrictions on Interstate Vehicles and Eighteen Wheelers Act\*](#), or DRIVE Act.

The bill would prohibit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration from “implementing any rule or regulation requiring vehicles over 26,000 pounds that are engaged in interstate commerce to be equipped with a speed limiting device set to a maximum speed.”

In 2022, the FMCSA [issued a notice of intent](#) that it was considering rules requiring speed-limiting devices for certain large commercial vehicles.

**U.S. Cattlemen’s Association Transportation (USCA) Committee Chairman Steve Hilker issued the following statement:**

“Our members are responsible for the daily transportation of millions of animals. Livestock haulers must take into consideration the welfare of their cargo which means avoiding rough-road conditions, adjusting speed, and being more aware of their surroundings to prevent animal injury.

“USCA is opposed to any federal mandate that limits a driver’s autonomy over their own truck and trailer. We’d like to thank Rep. Brecheen for his support of our nation’s livestock haulers through the introduction of the DRIVE Act.” *The bill was co-sponsored by Reps. Pete Sessions, R-Tex., Lauren Boebert, R-Colo., Scott Perry, R-Pa., Eric Burlison, R-Mo., John Moolenaar, R-Mich. and Matt Rosendale, R-Mont.*

–US Cattlemen’s Association

# Recipes

Hearty, filling and cheesy delicious, this stromboli is quick and easy to make. Low carb and family friendly!

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 roll refrigerated pizza dough
- 1 pound ground beef, approximately 2 cups
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper or to taste
- 1¾ cup mozzarella, shredded
- ¼ cup parmesan cheese, shredded
- 1 tablespoon olive oil, for brushing on top



*Cheesy Beef Stromboli*



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees
2. In medium frying pan, sauté ground beef and seasoning until browned.
3. Drain fat and let cool slightly.
4. Lightly grease 10 x14 cookie sheet and unroll pizza dough on cookie sheet.
5. Mix together the raw egg and mozzarella cheese. Add slightly cooled seasoned meat and stir quickly to combine.
6. Spread pizza dough with ground beef and cheese mixture. Roll up like a cinnamon roll on cookie sheet. Brush the top with olive oil and sprinkle with ¼ cup shredded parmesan cheese
7. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown.
8. Let set 3 minutes to cool slightly, then slice diagonally across the roll to make 8 pieces.

**SUBMIT YOUR  
FAVORITE BEEF RECIPE**

Beef Recipe      Seasoning      Sides

[independent.beef.assoc.nd@gmail.com](mailto:independent.beef.assoc.nd@gmail.com)

# Membership

The Independent Beef Association of North Dakota is North Dakota's statewide voice in the cattle industry for the cattle producer. Our membership is primarily made up of cow calf operations in North Dakota. We're a non-profit organization that works in conjunction with other organizations as your statewide and national voice in the cattle industry. We have represented our membership on issues including the Farm Bill, COOL, Waters of the US, HSUS bills, Horse Slaughter, the National Animal Identification System, EPA, Foot and Mouth disease in South America, and the Beef Checkoff. There are numerous issues of importance to cattle producers in the coming year. Strength comes in numbers and I-BAND needs a strong membership to carry out your voice within and outside of North Dakota. We're a grassroots cattle-men's organization, addressing the market interests of North Dakota cattle producers.

I-BAND has been going strong for 18 years now. If you are a new member, a past member or an existing member, we would like you to let us know what you like about this organization and the direction you would like to see this organization take in the future. We take pride in having a membership association where every member's voice is heard through a one member one vote policy. Without the backing of membership, I-BAND would not be in existence. We wish to thank each and every one of you for your support. Any comments can be directed to any I-BAND board member or drop us a line at: I-BAND, Box 123, Menoken, ND 58558.

Strength comes in numbers and I-BAND needs a strong membership to carry out your voice within and outside of North Dakota. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to any friends, neighbors or businesses that may be interested. If anyone would like to schedule an informational meeting in their area please contact any I-BAND Director.



1 Year Voting \$50                       1 Year Associate \$50  
 2 Year Voting \$100                      2 Year Associate \$100  
 3 Year Voting \$125                      3 Year Associate \$125

Do you own cattle?     yes             no

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

District One (1) will be west of the Missouri River from the South Dakota border north to Interstate 94 and west of US Hwy 83 from Interstate 94 north to the Canadian border. District Two (2) will be on the east side of said boundaries.

## District Residing In:

District One \_\_\_\_\_                      District Two \_\_\_\_\_

- Voting Members must own cattle. Annual dues are \$50.00 per year per member (one member/one vote).
- Associate Members do not own cattle and do not have voting rights. Annual dues \$50.00.

Please mail application and dues (cash, check or money order) to the address below. Contributions or gifts to I-BAND are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

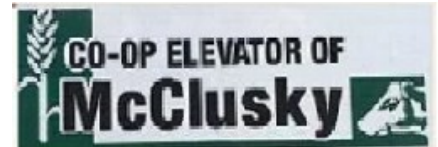
I-BAND, Box 123, Menoken, ND 58558

# Sponsors

We want to thank all our sponsors for supporting I-BAND. When you are out shopping for supplies, equipment or repairs, please support our sponsors!



Maher <sup>J</sup>M Angus



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*Grant County State Bank*



I-BAND

PO Box 123

Menoken, ND 58558

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President/Director at Large

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701-422-3396

**Ron Volk**

701-872-2172

**Jeremy Maher**

701-522-3696

**JW Froelich**

701-425-4314

**Jay Berg**

701-391-3126

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Secretary/Treasurer

[kari@i-band.org](mailto:kari@i-band.org)

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Vice President

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**Kerry Dockter**

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**Larry Kinev**

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**Kyle Shively**

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**Medora Kologi**

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