

INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Your state wide voice in the cattle industry!

PO Box 2

Sterling, ND 58572

www.i-band.org

2026-3

A banner for the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota Annual Meeting. The background is a sunset over a field with a wooden fence and barbed wire on the left. On the right is a Radisson hotel. The text 'INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA' is at the top. Below it is 'ANNUAL MEETING' in large, bold, black letters. To the left of this text is a logo with a cow, a person, and a child, with 'I-BAND' written below. Below the main title, it says 'October 23-24, 2026' and 'Radisson Hotel • Bismarck, North Dakota'. At the bottom, a red banner says 'We Hope to See You There!' in white cursive.

INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

ANNUAL MEETING

October 23-24, 2026
Radisson Hotel • Bismarck, North Dakota

We Hope to See You There!

Join Us for the I-BAND Convention!

We have an **excellent lineup of speakers** ready to discuss the important issues facing our cattle industry and independent producers.

Grab your friends and neighbors and come spend the day with us. **Get informed. Get involved. Help make a difference for the future of our cattle industry!**

We are also looking for **event sponsors**. If you or your business would like to sponsor the convention, please contact us.

We'll have both **live and silent auctions**, and donated auction items are always welcome! Feel free to bring an item to help support I-BAND and the work we do on behalf of independent cattle producers.

For convention details, speaker information, and more, visit:

<https://i-band.org/2026-annual-meeting>

Working together to protect and strengthen independent cattle producers.

Inside this issue:

- President's Message
- Raffle
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President Message

Hello everyone,

We are entering the busy fall season, as you all know. As we diligently work to get all of our fall “to-do’s” done, it is just as darn busy in the world of “cattle politics.” Let’s get started.

I’m going to be brief on a few very important topics, as our annual convention is coming up October 23–24, and these issues will be discussed in much greater detail there. Please consider attending! We invite everyone reading this to join us—and grab a fellow producer and bring them along, too. Everyone is welcome!



MCOOL is in the Senate version of the Farm Bill. I cannot stress how big of a deal this is. **THE WORK IS NOT OVER, however.**

Senator Hoeven is in favor of MCOOL, so please call and thank him. We also need to be calling Senator Cramer and making sure he knows how important it is that he supports MCOOL in the Farm Bill.

A few of us on the board had a very productive meeting with Congresswoman Fedorchak a few weeks ago, and we believe we will have her support for MCOOL when it is time to vote. A lot still needs to happen, as the Senate version of the Farm Bill differs from the House version. Please call Congresswoman Fedorchak as well and ask for her support of the Senate version of the Farm Bill. She needs to hear from all of us!

On to imports. As I’m sure you are all aware, we are importing 300,000 MT of beef tariff-free at a “discount” in an effort to bring down the “high” cost of beef.

I’ll say it again: **BEEF IS NOT TOO HIGH.**

Have you seen the price of fuel lately? I could go on for a long time about this, but I’m afraid it would turn into a two-page rant!

Please know that I-BAND has been all over this issue, and it is an almost daily topic being addressed by many members of your I-BAND board. Imports were also discussed at length during our meeting with Congresswoman Fedorchak, and she expressed support for opposing these imports.

Again, please find your way to convention, as this issue will be discussed in much greater detail.

We have also been active in the North Dakota State Board of Animal Health meetings regarding MEID. As of this publication, it appears the Board of Animal Health’s stance on EID will be a mandatory EID tag. We feel this is an abuse of power and government overreach. Please read the letter regarding EID in this newsletter and please contact the state vet office and voice your opinion on the use of Mandatory EID tags.

A Call to Action

I'm going to wrap up with my own call to action.

Our upcoming convention is going to be one of the most important conventions we have had to date. I also believe it is going to be one of our best.

Take the day and come hear from a great lineup of speakers, including Dr. Ethan Andress, Bill Bullard, AJ Richards, and more. We will cap off the convention with Clare Dunn.

Full details are included in this newsletter and are also available on our website.

There has never been a better—or more important—time to get involved in the industry decisions that directly affect your operation every day. Take the time to get informed, get involved, and make your voice heard.

We look forward to seeing you October 23–24!

Thank you,

August Heupel,

President



Raffle

Contact any of your board

members to purchase a ticket or call or email Kari G.

\$20

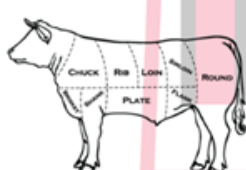
RAFFLE PRIZES



2026 POLARIS 450
(APROX \$8000 VALUE)



¼ BEEF BUNDLE
(\$1000 VALUE)
(BEEF DONATED BY PRAIRIE HILLS RANCH
& PROCESSING DONATED BY LUND RANCH)



\$500 CASH
(DONATED BY ROTH FARM & RANCH)

DRAWING TO BE HELD
OCTOBER 24, 2026
DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

\$20

PERMIT #2026-055

Kari Goldade
@I-BAND



venmo



Dr. Ethan Address, ND State Veterinarian

Dr. Address graduated from South Dakota State University in Brookings in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in biology. He earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Iowa State University in 1997. Following graduation, he was the associate veterinarian at an animal health center in Redfield, SD. Since 2000, he has been an owner and partner of West River Veterinary Clinic in Hettinger, ND and has served his community as a mixed animal practitioner for 24 years. Dr. Address is a past president and a current member of the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association, a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, a member of the North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association, a member of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and has served in various other veterinary and community organizations and associations.

Clare Dunn is an **American country music singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist** known for blending traditional country with rock influences shaped by her upbringing on a farm in south-east Colorado. Rising from independent success with her debut single "Get Out" to charting hits like *Move On* and *Tuxedo*, she has toured with major acts including Keith Urban and Luke Bryan. A strong advocate for rural communities, she uses her platform to champion agricultural rights and land issues while continuing to self-produce music such as *When I Disappear* and *Cowboy State of Mind*.



AJ Richards

"I grew up deeply connected to the land, but it wasn't until I served in Iraq and witnessed the dire conditions some families lived in that I truly understood the importance of a secure food supply. Fast forward to the early days of the pandemic, and I saw the writing on the wall—empty store shelves, food shortages, and a glaring vulnerability in our centralized food system.

As I navigated the challenges of selling beef directly from my family's ranch and later overseeing operations at a USDA meat processing facility in Cody, Wyoming, I realized that something had to change. The disconnect between producers and consumers was too significant, and

the deck was stacked against small farmers and ranchers.

That's when the idea for From The Farm was born. I knew we needed a platform that would empower producers to control their destinies by connecting directly with consumers. This isn't just about selling food—it's about restoring food sovereignty, supporting family farms, and ensuring we never have to rely again on a fragile, centralized food system. This is what I was called to do, and every step along the way has reaffirmed that this mission is bigger than me—it's about all of us. "

AJ Richards

<https://fromthefarm.org/about>

Bill Bullard, CEO, R-CALF USA

He is a prominent figure in the American cattle industry, serving as the **Chief Executive Officer of R-CALF USA**, the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America, which exclusively represents independent cattle producers.



I-BAND
Independent Beef Association of North Dakota

*Real Producers
Real Solutions
A Stronger Tomorrow*

ROUND TABLE SPEAKERS

REAL CONVERSATIONS • SHARED PERSPECTIVES • SOLUTIONS FOR TOMORROW

 AUGUST HEUPEL President I-BAND	 NICOLE WARDNER Executive Director North Dakota Beef Commission	 BILL BULLARD CEO R-CALF USA	 DR. ETHAN ANDRESS North Dakota State Veterinarian	 AJ RICHARDS From the Farm
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OCTOBER 23-24, 2026 | **RADISSON**
BISMARCK, ND

JOIN THE CONVERSATION • BE PART OF THE SOLUTIONS

*Cattle.
Country.
Community.*

Schedule of events

October 23 ~

4:00 ~ Resolutions

October 24 ~

8:00-9:30 ~ Registration; Trade Show & Silent Auction Begins

9:30-10:45~ Business Meeting & Director Elections

10:45 - 12:00 - Dr. Andress, ND State Veterinarian

12:00 ~ Lunch - French Dip Sandwiches

1:00 - 2:00 - AJ Richards, From the Farm

2:00- 3:00 - Bill Bullard, R-CALF CEO

3:00 - 3:15 ~ Break

3:15 -Round Table

August Heupel, Bill Bullard, Dr. Andress, Nicole Wardner, AJ Richards

5:15 ~ Social

6:45 ~ President's Message

7:00 ~ Prime Rib Supper – (Beef provided by Bowdon Meat Processing)

7:15 ~ Clare Dunn - Musician, Songwriter, Ranch Advocate

8:15 ~Wheel Award

~Trade Show & Silent Auction Closes

8:30 ~ Live Auction

~Raffle Drawing (Tickets will be available all day)

Be sure to check out the silent auction items!



*Time to start scheduling
town hall meetings*

in your area.

Call Kari to schedule

701-214-0639



*Be a Voice
for Ranchers!*

PRODUCERS | RANCHING | OUR FUTURE

NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Are you interested in becoming an I-BAND board member or know someone who might be?

DISTRICT 1 & DISTRICT 2

We will be seeking new nominations at our annual meeting in **October**.

*Ranchers
Representing
Ranchers*

**Names can be submitted to Kari
or to your local board member.**

*Get Involved
Make a Difference
Keep the Voice
Strong*



Advocating for rancher's rights through legal means and industry and policy reform.

Established in 2025 by North Dakota ranchers Kenny Graner, Jeremy Maher, and Mike Heaton, RRI is at work fighting to protect the rights and legacies of hardworking ranchers across the state. The first bold step in that mission came when on July 16, 2025, RRI filed suit against the North Dakota Beef Commission, Governor Kelly Armstrong and Attorney General Drew Wrigley challenging the constitutionality of North Dakota's Beef Checkoff on four counts.

The four charges are related to the state's facial and as-applied violations of Section 21's Privileges and Immunities Clause. Plaintiffs claim there is no legally legitimate reason for granting the ND Stockman's Association special privileges over cattle ranchers in North Dakota who choose not to pay dues to the organization. (A facial challenge is a constitutional challenge arguing a law is unconstitutional in its entirety, meaning it is invalid in all circumstances and contexts, not just applied to a specific individual. An as-applied challenge argues the law is unconstitutional challenge argues the law is unconstitutional only in its specific application to the person or situation.)

The plaintiffs are represented by Robby Dube, Eckland and Blando, Minneapolis, MN. The case is assigned to South Central Judicial District Judge Jackson Lofgren.

Plaintiffs claim the ND Stockman's Association, under the ND Century Code, controls a majority of the nine appointments to the checkoff's governing board; in other words, the majority of voting members who decide where and how checkoff funds will be expended. It also punishes producers who seek a refund of their state checkoff by prohibiting their eligibility to serve on the ND Beef Commission, which is also the Qualified State Beef Council for the federal beef checkoff. This thereby precludes those refund-seeking producers from serving on governing bodies of the federal checkoff they are required by federal law to pay simply because they seek a legal refund of their state checkoff.

Beyond this lawsuit there is more work ahead to bring about the change our industry sorely needs. RRI is funded with private money; we answer to no financial masters or bureaucracy. Your donations help us defend all of our livelihoods, advocate for fair and effective policy, and preserve a way of life that's under threat. Every dollar makes a difference.

Join us and back the cause.

If you wish to donate to our cause, checks can be sent to:

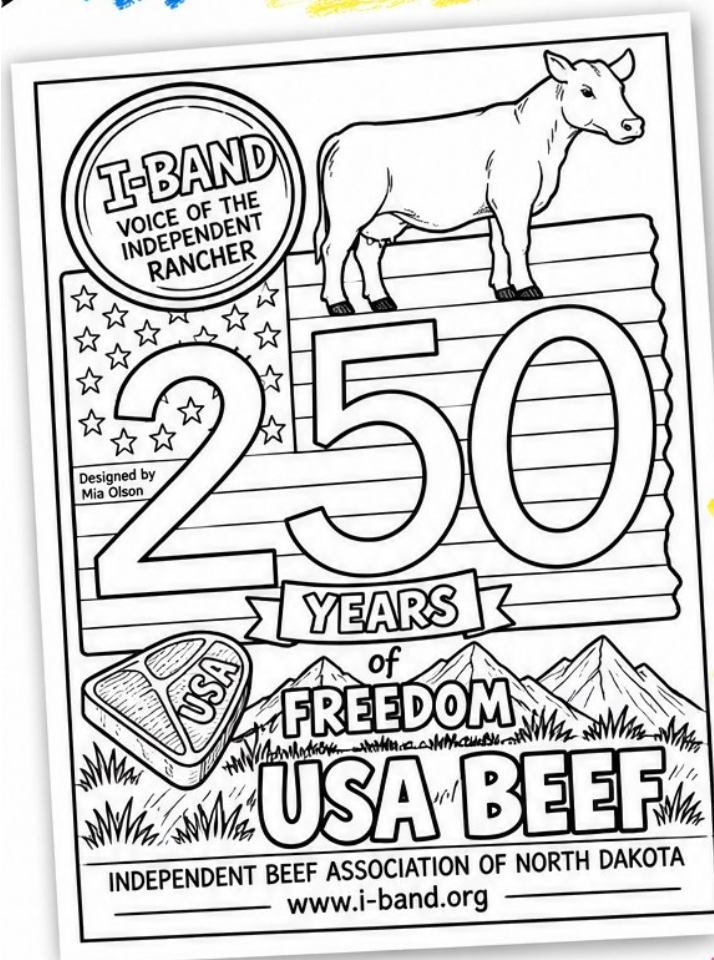
Ranchers' Rights Initiative

Po Box 12

Sterling, ND 58572



I-BAND COLORING CONTEST



Open to
**Grades
K-4!**

**CASH
PRIZES!**



A winner will be
selected from
each grade!

Entries must be returned to I-BAND
by October 16, 2026.

Open Letter to the ND BOAH

This letter comes after recent decisions and developments from the ND BOAH mandating electronic identification tags for Bangs vaccinations. I-BAND (Independent Beef Association of North Dakota) had board members present to speak in opposition to the overreaching EID mandate at the last two ND Board of Animal Health meetings and sent a letter opposing new proposed mandatory EID rules. The I-BAND board also asked for the producers to be given the opportunity to be heard with a comment period. That request was denied and the ND BOAH chose to move forward with their plan of eliminating the use of metal tags and mandating electronic tags for Bangs vaccinations for all producers.

Dear USDA, Secretary of Agriculture Goehring, Dr. Andress, ND State Veterinarian, and ND Board of Animal Health:

I just want to reiterate what the function of the ND BOAH is. It is to oversee health concerns and illness outbreaks in ALL animals within the boundaries of this state. It is not to be the mechanism to usher in digital government tracking, and other overreaching mandates for our livestock industry. I think every rancher, and every citizen has a very valid concern about the direction they see this body working towards. Before you say EID is just a different mechanism to record bangs vaccinations- you know, I know, we ALL know where this is headed if it's mandated. It is not needed, nor justified. Brucellosis has been all but eradicated over the years. With the current system, any illness outbreak in livestock has been traced and quarantined within 24 hours. Ensuring strong health protocols at our borders and limiting imports is arguably the most effective way of ensuring the continued health of US livestock herds.

From a practical standpoint, the RFID tags cost 17x more, get lost 12x more frequently, commonly get hung up on anything from net wrap and baling twine to fence lines and bale feeders. There are a multitude of scenarios that cause the animal's ears to be ripped off completely. The tags require expensive equipment to read, have no visual clue as to the state of origin, do not scan properly in cold weather, and are only manufactured by two companies who have complete control of the supply. It's not difficult to see problems on the horizon.

Many of us have fought or have family that have fought for the freedom we have to raise our families, raise our cattle, and feed this country. I'd like you to take time to reflect on your stance and determine if you believe you are standing up and doing right by the US cattlemen and women and the citizens of this state and this country who are counting on a plentiful and safe source of protein. Or, if you are caving to big government, big corporations, and a system that will likely extinguish one of the most important pillars of American food security, many lives and livelihoods, and our ag economy.

Many of us, including you, are here today because of the work, courage and foresight of the generations before us. No one would have envisioned a time when a handful of primarily unelected people sit around a table and tell others how to live their lives and raise their livestock, while assuring them that the government needs to personally track every cow they own. We aren't there yet. But this is another big step on a very slippery slope. The USDA is very clear about their goals of tracking every bovine from birth to slaughter. ND leadership has stated their intention to lock-step with the USDA plan. Let other countries that have employed these methods be a warning to US producers regarding how personal data can be shared and used to the detriment of the producer. Increasing mandates, market control and manipulation are vital concerns.

So, I ask you— where do you stand? Do you stand for freedom or for control? For American families or for big brother? Because when it comes down to it, it really is that simple. The citizens are counting on you to do the right thing—not the easy thing, not the most personally profitable or advantageous thing— the right thing.

Respectfully,

Carrie Roth, Mott ND

Independent Beef Assn of ND

Animal Health Committee

There is power in numbers. We are calling out to the ranchers of ND and others in the industry to contact the ND State Veterinarians office, and the ND Sec. of Agriculture, as well as senators and representatives to let them know your thoughts on this important issue. While we have our heads down grinding out our daily work, there are many critical policy decisions being made that affect our future. Please get involved! If you have questions or would like further information, please reach out by visiting our website. WWW.I-BAND.ORG

Respectfully,

Carrie Roth, Mott ND

Independent Beef Assn of ND

Animal Health Committee

Independent Beef Association of North Dakota

2026 Sponsorship

Sponsor Name _____

(Please complete all sections as it should appear in the I-BAND newsletter/webpage)

Representative/Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

CHOOSE YOUR LEVEL OF SPONSORSHIP

____ **Level 1 - Platinum Sponsor \$3000**

Includes 5 Convention Supper tickets, 1 Free membership (Associate), webpage recognition, newsletter recognition and booth at convention.

____ **Level 2 - Gold Sponsor \$2000**

Includes 4 Convention supper tickets, 1 Free membership (Associate), webpage recognition, newsletter recognition and booth at convention.

____ **Level 3 - Silver Sponsor \$1500**

Includes 3 Convention supper tickets, 1 Free membership (Associate), webpage recognition newsletter recognition and booth at convention.

____ **Level 4 - Bronze Sponsor \$1000**

Includes 2 Convention supper tickets , 1 Free Membership (Associate), webpage recognition, newsletter recognition and a booth at the convention.

____ **Level 5 - Friends of I-BAND \$500**

Includes 1 Convention supper ticket , 1 Free Membership (Associate), webpage recognition, newsletter recognition and a booth at the convention.

____ **Level 6 - Break Sponsor \$250**

Includes webpage recognition and newsletter recognition.

____ **Level 7 - Silent Auction Items**

Includes webpage recognition and newsletter recognition.

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 21 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 2, Sterling, ND 58572.

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 \$75 ☐ 1 Year Associate \$75
☐ 2 Year Voting \$150 ☐ 2 Year Associate \$150
☐ 3 Year Voting \$ 200 ☐ 3 Year Associate \$200

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:

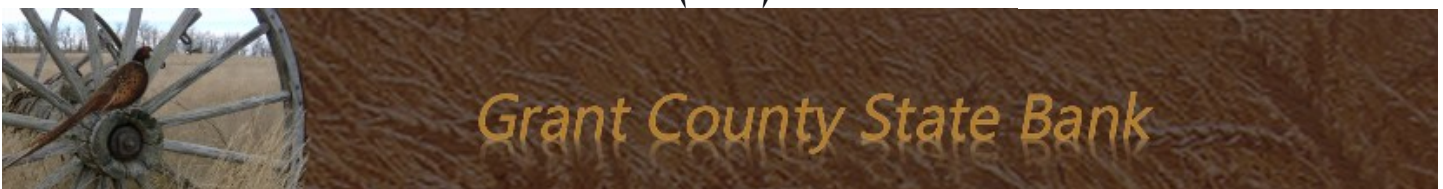
District One _____ **District Two** _____

- Voting Members must own cattle (one member/one vote).
- Associate Members do not own cattle and do not have voting rights.
- 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 2, Sterling, ND 58572

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!





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Vice President
701-471-3747

Ron Volk
701-872-2172

Rus Makelky
701-690-1726

Carrie Roth
605-645-9353

Derek Olson
701-471-0819

Directors

Frank Tomac
Director at Large
701-522-3430



Kari Goldade
Secretary/Treasurer
kari@i-band.org

DISTRICT TWO

August Heupel
President
701-320-9818

Kerry Dockter
701-884-2754

Kyle Shively
701-208-0398

Medora Kologi
701-516-0087

Brian Larson
701-471-5672