

# INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

*Your state wide voice in the cattle industry!*

PO Box 123

Menoken, ND 58558

2020-1

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## A message from our president

Greetings Cattlemen and Women,

2020 has started out as a very interesting year. Markets came back a little, only to fall like crazy due to coronavirus. Trade deals are being done that are supposed to help our prices; not so yet. Looks like it will take a little time for this to sort itself out.

The USMCA did not help the cattle ranchers at all, same as NAFTA. We import about 4 billion dollars worth of product and export approximately 2 billion dollars worth of product. In recent years, the value of our strong dollar makes our US market a magnet for beef from countries with lower dollar values, like Brazil. The opening of the Brazilian trade deal is something we are pushing back on. Allowing cheap trim products to flood our markets so packers can purchase our high end US products cheaper and sell them to other countries for a premium. This only ensures increased profits for the packers. Making the situation even worse is the fact that two of our US packing plants are owned by Brazilian based companies. It tends to be a one way movement of beef into the US, no matter what the regulations may allow for as far as exports of US beef to countries we trade with, just as it is with Australia and New Zealand.

We were asked by producer members to hold several meetings in different places around the state. It was good to hear all the concerns out there among other producers. The one that made the biggest impression was an individual who sold his calves in 2014 for \$1800/head and only \$900 /head in 2019. We have a lot of work to do to try and fix this issue and we are going to need all producers and all livestock organizations to be lobbying our representatives for the same actions.

We sent a letter to the President and our Representatives on packer concentration which is one of the main problems with our markets along with mandatory price reporting and captive supplies. Again, it will take all of us working together to try and solve these issues.

I-BAND is becoming more involved with our Senators and Representatives to make some changes. We need your help with phone calls, texts and emails.



## A message from our president cont

We need to remind each other that Spring is coming and it always brings hope and optimism. The sun will come out and kill coronavirus and life will be good again. Hope you all have a great calving season and 2020. Things will look better when the grass is green.

Tell your friends and relatives to eat some beef, because it's good for their immune systems.



Dwight Keller, President of I-BAND

## Take steps to protect yourself and others (cdc.gov)

### Clean your hands often

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

**Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

### Avoid close contact

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick

**Put distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

### Stay home if you're sick

**Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care.

### Cover coughs and sneezes

**Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.

- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.

**Immediately wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

### Wear a facemask if you are sick

**If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

**If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

### Clean and disinfect

**Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

**If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

# COVID-19

Health officials across the U.S. and all over the world are on high alert due to COVID-19, a disease that causes flu-like symptoms in people, including mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Veterinary professionals are receiving questions from their clients and their teams, and the AVMA is pleased to be able to provide credible information and resources to assist with responses to those questions.

To ensure the resources we provide you are as accurate and up-to-date as possible in this continuously evolving environment, the AVMA is in regular contact with CDC, FDA, and USDA; other state, national, and international veterinary and public health expert groups; and intergovernmental organizations (such as the WHO and OIE) to learn the latest developments and their potential impacts on veterinarians, patients, and clients.

## Here's some key information about COVID-19:

- The betacoronavirus that causes COVID-19 is SARS-CoV-2 (formerly 2019-nCoV).
- Person-to-person and community spread has been reported in numerous countries, including the United States.
- Transmission primarily occurs when there is contact with an infected person's bodily secretions, such as saliva or mucus droplets in a cough or sneeze. Transmission via touching a contaminated surface or object (i.e., a fomite) and then touching the mouth, nose, or possibly eyes is also possible, but appears to be a secondary route. Smooth (non-porous) surfaces (e.g., countertops, door knobs) transmit viruses better than porous materials (e.g., paper money, pet fur) because porous, especially fibrous, materials absorb and trap the pathogen (virus), making it harder to contract through simple touch.
- There are currently no antiviral drugs recommended or licensed by FDA to treat COVID-19, and there is no immunization available.
- Cases of COVID-19 and community spread are being reported in most states.
- The best way to avoid becoming ill is to avoid exposure to the virus. Taking typical preventive actions is key.
- Infectious disease experts and multiple international and domestic human and animal health organizations agree there is no evidence at this point to indicate that pets become ill with COVID-19 or that they spread it to other animals, including people.
- If you are not ill with COVID-19, you can interact with your pet as you normally would, including walking, feeding, and playing. You should continue to practice good hygiene during those interactions (e.g., wash hands before and after interacting with your pet; ensure your pet is kept well-groomed; regularly clean your pet's food and water bowls, bedding material, and toys).
- Out of an abundance of caution, it is recommended that those ill with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus. Have another member of your household take care of walking, feeding, and playing with your pet. If you have a service animal or you must care for your pet, then wear a facemask; don't share food, kiss, or hug them; and wash your hands before and after any contact with them.

As always, careful handwashing and other infection control practices can greatly reduce the chance of spreading any disease. The [National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians' \(NASPHV\) compendium of standard precautions](#) is a good reference for appropriate infection control in veterinary practices.

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>



## Independent Beef Association of North Dakota

*Your statewide voice in the cattle industry.*

President Donald J. Trump

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20500

February 22, 2020

Dear President Donald Trump,

As president of the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota (I-BAND) I write today on behalf of the organization to urge you and the U.S. Department of Justice to address meat packer concentration in the beef industry. My hope is that you are personally reading this letter and will be able to carefully consider the information provided.

In December 2019, I-BAND members overwhelmingly voted to support a resolution regarding the matter of meat packer concentration:

*“Whereas, the U.S. meat packing industry is concentrated in the hands of four major corporations thereby creating monopoly powers over their suppliers; and whereas the Packers and a Stockyards Act contains provisions to regulate the packing industry; therefore, be it resolved that I-BAND calls on the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA), a division of the Department of Agriculture, to enforce the current regulations. Therefore, be it further resolved, I-BAND calls on the President of the United States to address packer concentration.”*

The basis for adoption of this policy directive is the decaying competition in cattle markets due to an unrestricted and unregulated concentration of meat packers who we believe engage in market manipulation and abuse their market power within the industry. As ranchers, we are left vulnerable to market abuse when anticompetitive practices and market concentration is not addressed and the law is not enforced. There is no elasticity in agricultural markets where perishable and cyclical products like cattle are intentionally underdemanded by the monopoly who knows the seller must sell. This lack of normal demand is due to the packers' ability to drive down prices on products with limited “shelf life.” This is classic abuse of market power. It is something American ranchers are regularly experiencing and it is the direct result of meat packer concentration. All we ask is to be able to compete in fair, competitive markets where antitrust laws are enforced to the fullest extent. Mr. President, something needs to be done.

When Theodore Roosevelt became U.S. President in 1901 four firms held more than 55 percent of the market. Alarmed, President Roosevelt launched a sustained campaign to rein in and regulate the associated market dominance culminating in President Roosevelt directing his Attorney General Philander Knox to bring a victorious lawsuit against what was known as the “Beef Trust” on antitrust grounds using the Sherman Antitrust Act of

1890. Yet by 1975, four packers again held just 28 percent of the beef market.

**Today, only four major meat packers control more than 85 percent of the beef market, having tripled their share of the slaughter market while gaining control of three-fourths of the boxed beef business. Even more alarming, is the fact that two of those four meat packing conglomerates are Brazilian companies, JBS SA and Marfrig Global Foods. In the latest acquisition, Sao Paulo-based Marfrig Global Foods completed purchase of controlling interest in National Beef in December 2019. Marfrig now owns 82% of National Beef. In the transaction, Marfrig acquired all of National Beef's business segments, including beef processing plants in Dodge City and Liberal, Kansas, consumer-ready operations in Pennsylvania and Georgia, Iowa Premium, LLC, a beef packing company in Iowa, and a leather tannery in Missouri. As this is written, JBS has announced its intention to acquire Tennessee-based Empire Packing.**

While our domestic markets are being flooded with foreign beef, the four firms controlling more than 85 percent of the beef market are allowed to import foreign beef into the U.S. and with very minimal alteration apply a "Product of the USA" label to it. There is no longer a law requiring that beef products be labeled accurately and truthfully as to their origin. This means our domestic consumers are buying foreign beef under the guise of the U.S. label, riding on the coat tails of the reputation and integrity that U.S. beef - and U.S. beef alone - built. This is not a level playing field for American cattle ranchers. Requiring accurate labeling of products only makes common sense for consumers to be able to choose U.S. born, raised and processed product if they wish to and this would allow U.S. producers to share in more of the profits companies are making on products valued by purchasers who want U.S. born, raised and processed meat products.

The Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 prohibits anticompetitive behavior and unfair trade practices in the marketing and procurement of livestock and poultry and provides financial protections for livestock sellers. The law only provides those protections if it is appropriately enforced. High levels of concentration lead to a high level of market power among a few firms. What follows is sheer market manipulation and abuse when packers leverage their power to drive down meat packer costs and drives meat packer prices up. This means prices go down for ranchers and costs go up for consumers and all the while the packing industry reaps monumental profits.

Examples of the continuing consolidation of the U.S. meat packing industry and its impact on markets include the cattle price collapse during the latter half of 2015 when prices for live cattle plummeted more than 15 percent, falling farther and faster than any time in history. A Government Accountability Office report on the price collapse found that cattle prices dropped 40 percent from late 2014 through 2016. In August 2019, a fire at a Tyson meat packing plant in Kansas resulted in a profound drop in the price of cattle and a significant rise in the price of wholesale beef, increasing packer margins (the difference between cattle prices and beef prices), which rose to more than \$400, doubling in just one week. Meanwhile, cattle prices on cash markets crashed to \$1.0865 per pound, the lowest for that particular time of year in nearly a decade.

"Efficiency" is a term often used to justify allowing monopolies to exist. In reality, today's "efficient" food supply system employs fewer people, furnishes fewer pensions and provides less competition in the marketplace. At the same time, the nation's slaughter plants generate more profit per animal than the independent cattle feeder can make in six months, or the rancher, who owns the mother cow, can make in two years. There is something very, very wrong in America when the head of the People's Agency - USDA - suggests that pro-

ducers must “get big or get out.”

Unchecked concentration in any agricultural sector is a clear and present danger to America’s economic well-being and national security. With just four meat packers controlling more than 85 percent of U.S. cattle slaughter, the loss or destruction of one of those companies could leave the nation with a woefully inadequate meat supply, likely resulting in mass panic by the public. A nation that cannot raise its own food and feed itself puts national security at the highest fundamental risk. **The U.S. is currently a “net importer” of beef and the U.S. is the largest beef importing nation in the world.** The excuses you will hear espoused are not true. Lean meat does not need to be imported to be used for blending it with our fatter meat products. This is simply not true. On a daily basis, cheaper and poorer quality meat is being imported to drive down domestic prices and drive up meat packer profits.

The currency value of our dollar (30% to 60% differences in the exchange rate have been identified) compared to countries that are major importers in the U.S. puts us at a competitive disadvantage. The four major packers are also in control of the meat packing business in those countries so they are taking advantage of currency manipulation to import meat from those countries to the U.S. furthering their profit margins. They source products from countries with low currency rates and bring it here to flood our market, drive down domestic prices and are then able to buy our high value end products cheap. If this practice continues it will put more U.S. family farmers and ranchers out of business.

**Meat packers are also working hard to open importation of boxed beef to the U.S. from Brazil, which was banned when a shipment of the product was discovered to contain blood clots, bone chips and abscesses. Remember that JBS and Marfrig Global Foods are Brazilian companies. Yes, it may be good business for them but it is NOT for U.S. ranchers.**

We support that you are re-evaluating trade agreements. NAFTA was not good for cattle producers and we hope you will be able to further address needs of the livestock industries in future negotiations as part of the USMCA trade agreement, which did help some dairy farmers and some grain farmers who use Canadian seed varieties. **Country of origin labeling and a provision for “perishable and cyclical” agricultural products needs to be an additional part of the USMCA agreement and must be part of any trade agreement the U.S. cattle industry is subjected to in order for our U.S. livestock producers to remain viable.**

Today, farm and ranch bankruptcies are increasing at an alarming rate; in some areas of America these bankruptcies have increased by nearly 25%. Independent ranches and cattle feedlots that once dotted the American landscape are being erased, forced out of business because they are not financially viable when their input costs are above the price received for their live cattle and they are forced to compete with cheaper, poorer quality foreign product. Mr. President, we need your help.

It is our sincere hope that you will continue to work for us to give the cattle producers in the United States a competitive playing field when it comes to marketing a U.S. commodity that we work hard to produce for U.S. consumers and consumers around the world. The majority of U.S. grassroots livestock producers cannot compete when they are at a marketing disadvantage with the packing industry controlling and manipulating our market. With respect for the difficult work you are doing and the many issues faced on a daily basis, we are asking for swift attention and actions to help address the marketing challenges we are facing. **We firmly believe that part of making America great again means proudly labeling our great American beef.**

Mr. President, we welcome your questions and would appreciate some time to meet with you to share additional information and examples of our losses and challenges from true grassroots cattle producers from North Dakota. We do not want to have to live on taxpayer subsidies, but we do need a level playing field.

May God Bless your work, keep you and your family safe and give you wisdom beyond measure in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Dwight Keller, Independent Beef Association of North Dakota, president  
Keller Broken Heart Ranch- Mandan, North Dakota

cc: Governor Doug Burgum

Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring

Senator John Hoeven

Senator Kevin Cramer

Representative Kelly Armstrong

## Photos from our membership meeting in Rugby, ND

Photos submitted by Scott Shively



Photo by Jared Arlien

## Press Release from Rep Kelly Armstrong

Congressman Kelly Armstrong Pushes USDA for Justification on Lifting Brazilian Beef Ban  
February 26, 2020 - Press Release

WASHINGTON – Congressman Kelly Armstrong asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture today for “substantive justification” on its decision to lift the import ban on Brazilian beef and expressed concerns that Brazilian beef cannot meet the United States’ rigorous food safety standards.

“Brazilian beef imports have routinely failed to meet acceptable standards in the United States,” Armstrong wrote to Mindy M. Brashears, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety. “From pasture to plate, consumers should have confidence in knowing that their beef has passed rigorous inspection and met various health standards.”

Armstrong added that Brazilian beef imports could threaten the safety of our food supply and undermine the integrity of the domestic beef market that is already experiencing low cattle prices.

*Dear Deputy Undersecretary Brashears:*

*North Dakota's ranchers produce some of the best beef in the world. From pasture to plate, consumers should have confidence in knowing that their beef has passed rigorous inspection and met various health standards.*

*On June 22, 2017, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) suspended the import of fresh beef from Brazil due to repeated concerns about product safety. Prior to the suspension, FSIS was inspecting 100 percent of all Brazilian meat imports and refused entry to 11 percent of beef products, which was a substantially higher rate of rejection compared to other countries. While I support international trade, our partners must meet the same standards as domestic producers. Anything less is unacceptable.*

*Consumers should have confidence that the beef products they are feeding their families come from healthy animals that are processed in a sanitary facility. I have concerns that Brazilian beef imports cannot meet that standard and that Brazil will not be able to monitor and enforce adequate food standards. Lifting the ban on Brazilian beef imports would unfairly undermine the integrity of our domestic beef market and the safety of our food supply. With low cattle prices threatening the livelihood of our ranchers, now is not the time to further undermine these American producers with the import of questionable Brazilian beef.*

*Brazilian beef imports have routinely failed to meet acceptable standards in the United States. What substantive justification can FSIS provide as to why it lifted the ban on imported beef and how will inspectors conduct oversight of Brazil's beef imports?*

*I appreciate your attention to this issue.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress*

Armstrong is serving his first term representing the state of North Dakota in the U.S. House of Representatives. He sits on the House Judiciary Committee, the House Oversight and Reform Committee, and the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

# Your Bucks Better Spent

If you want to see your state checkoff dollar go to work for you, consider requesting your refund and donating it back to I-BAND. Log onto [www.i-band.org](http://www.i-band.org) for an electronic donation or send your donation to:

I-BAND PO Box 123, Menoken, ND 58558.

--- Here's how to get your refund back

<https://www.ndbeef.org/cattlemens-corner/checkoff>

A producer may request a refund application *within 60 days after the date of the sale of cattle* upon which the ND state beef checkoff was collected.

This request may be made:

1. Orally, including a phone request or personal office visit (701) 328-5120
2. In writing and mailed [4023 STATE STREET, BISMARCK, ND 58503](mailto:4023 STATE STREET, BISMARCK, ND 58503)
3. Electronically via email [ndbeef@ndbeef.org](mailto:ndbeef@ndbeef.org)



## Twitter & Facebook



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@indbeefassoc\_ND



## **I-BAND Press Release**

**I-BAND Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Dwight Keller, President, kbhr@westriv.com**

### **I-BAND Applauds Rep. Kelly Armstrong's Push Back on USDA's Lifting of Brazilian Beef Ban**

February 28, 2020 ~ The Independent Beef Association of North Dakota (I-BAND) is expressing support for Congressman Kelly Armstrong's (R-ND) request to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) for "substantive justification" on the agency's decision to lift the import ban on Brazilian beef. "Brazilian beef imports have routinely failed to meet acceptable standards in the U.S.," Armstrong wrote to Mindy M. Brashears, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety. "From pasture to plate, consumers should have confidence in knowing where their beef comes from and that their beef has passed rigorous inspection and met various U.S. health standards."

I-BAND President Dwight Keller concurred saying members of his organization were stunned when USDA administrators released their decision to begin accepting Brazilian beef imports after the ban was imposed a little over two years ago when a shipment of Brazilian beef was discovered to contain blood clots, abscesses and bone chips. "U.S. beef producers know full well the risks associated with this flawed decision," said Keller. "Brazil has a long-standing reputation of being corrupt when it comes to food safety issues. Brazil also has a historic problem with Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), which could easily be imported into the U.S. These imports of Brazilian beef threatened the safety of the U.S. food supply in the past and may again in the future, which will undermine the reputation and integrity of domestic markets that are already under considerable pressure from low cattle prices."

"Prior to the 2017 ban of Brazilian beef, we know that USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) was inspecting 100 percent of all Brazilian meat imports and refused entry to 11 percent of beef products, a substantially higher percentage of rejection compared to other nations. With this sort of routine inspection failure, how can USDA substantiate this decision and the risks it presents to domestic producers and our markets," Keller asked.

"Unfortunately, imports of Brazilian beef can be minimally altered on arrival and then be labeled as a product of the U.S. since there is no law preventing such deceptive and false labeling practices," noted Keller. This is an insult to American cattle ranchers and consumers of our wholesome product and it's very discouraging. We are sending a clear message to USDA, President Trump and his Administration that this decision is unacceptable."

"A 2015 Kansas State University study demonstrated the billions of dollars in losses and the damaging impact to the U.S. economy if FMD is imported into the country. An outbreak of the disease would result in catastrophic circumstances that would likely break the back of

## I-BAND Press Release cont

the entire American cattle industry. The risks involved with this decision are extremely serious on many levels,” said Keller. “We’re asking USDA to immediately reverse this decision in order to properly protect the U.S. cattle industry and we are grateful for Rep. Armstrong’s work to bring this issue the attention it deserves.”

## USDA announces appointments to the Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Board



In November 2019, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the appointment of 40 members to serve on the Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Board. Thirty-nine members will serve three-year terms and one appointee will serve the remaining one-year portion of a vacant position. For a complete listing of members visit...

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/2020CattlemensBeefPromotionandResearchBoard.pdf>

**Mary Graner, of Huff ND,  
was one of the 40!**

**CONGRATULATIONS MARY!**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!**

## Photos from our membership meeting in Sheyenne, ND

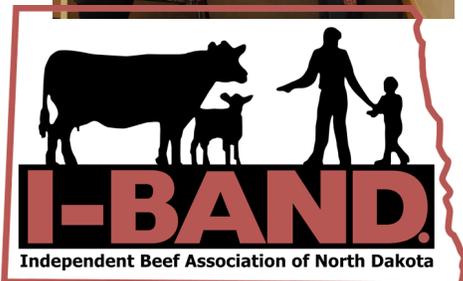
Photos submitted by Shelly Ziesch



## I-BAND Board Members met with Gov Burgum's office

Board Members met with Reice Haase with Gov. Burgum's office. Pictured (L-R) Larry Kinev, Kerry Dockter, Reice Haase, Dwight Keller, Kenny Graner

'It is up to us to live up to the legacy that was left for us, and to leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations.' - Christine Gregoire



# Court Satisfied that USDA's RFID Mandate Is Completely Withdrawn

R-CALF Press release

**February 17, 2020 ~ Billings, Mont.** - Last week the Wyoming federal district court dismissed the lawsuit filed in October by R-CALF USA, and ranchers Tracy and Donna Hunt and Kenny and Roxy Fox, against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The court concluded that there was no longer any "case or controversy" as the agencies had officially and completely withdrawn their April mandate to require U.S. cattle ranchers to begin using radio frequency identification (RFID) eartags and register their premises as a condition for shipping adult cattle across state lines. The court based its decision on the fact that the agencies have "clearly" decided not to implement such RFID requirements as outlined in an April 2019 "Factsheet" that had been posted to their website

Harriet Hageman, Senior Litigation Counsel for the New Civil Liberties Alliance, filed the lawsuit on behalf of the plaintiffs to protect the livestock industry from the government's overreach and unlawful actions. Plaintiffs had alleged in their complaint that the government had no legal authority to prohibit their right to continue using metal eartags and other animal identification devices (such as brands, tattoos, and group identification numbers) authorized by the traceability regulations implemented in 2013. Plaintiffs had also challenged the agencies' effort to force ranchers to register their premises with the federal government.

Within just weeks after the Plaintiffs filed their lawsuit, the agencies removed the RFID mandate from their official website and subsequently asked the court to dismiss the case as a result of their "change in policy." Hageman objected to their request for dismissal based on a lack of certainty that the agencies' withdrawal represented an official governmental action and change in policy. Hageman sought an assurance from the agencies that the 2013 Final Rule remains in place, that livestock producers can use a variety of identification techniques, that no premises registration is required, and that the agencies will follow the law.

The court based its decision to dismiss the case on the agencies assurance that they do not recognize the April RFID mandate as official policy. The court also found that the agencies had "unambiguously stated that the requirements of the 2019 Factsheet will not be implemented." The court relied upon the agencies' commitment that any new proposal will afford ample opportunity for all stakeholders to comment and participate in the process. The court concluded that these assurances meant that the agencies would not reverse course or revert to the same process which resulted in the RFID mandate.

The court further concluded that the government's corrective actions "completely and irrevocably eradicated the effects of the alleged violations" associated with the government's issuance of the 2019 RFID mandate.

Hageman explained that "in our lawsuit we were seeking a declaration that the 2019 Factsheet was illegal and an injunction prohibiting it from being implemented. The agencies have essentially admitted the former - that the RFID-only mandate violated the law - and the court's decision provided us with the certainty needed so that this does not happen again." She added, "We are pleased with this win and the outcome of the case."

"We are pleased the court has clarified the government's actions and are now confident that the mandate to exclusively use RFID technology and associated premises registration is no longer an impending threat to independent cattle producers," said R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard adding, "We must continue our vigilance to ensure that the interests of cattle producers are not trampled in the future as USDA pursues a new course regarding animal disease traceability."

## 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!

Pahlke Steel, Inc.

Sheridan Animal Hospital

RG Manufacturing, Welding and Repair, Inc

Stockmen's Supply West ~ Mandan, ND

Farm and Home Supply, Inc ~ Bismarck

Kist Livestock Auction~ Mandan, ND

Choice Bank

Farmers Union Oil Co of Selfridge, ND

B&K Trucking - Sterling, ND

Maher Ranch ~ Menoken, ND

J L Fabricating ~ Regan, ND

Herreid Livestock ~ Herreid, SD

First Community Credit Union ~ Bismarck, ND

Range Mate America, LLC John Dixon

Bis Man Autoworx

Dakota Land Feeds

Heupel Ranch

Ideal Tires DBA Big O Tires

Dakota Community Bank Dale Pahlke~ Mandan, ND

Burleigh County Farm Bureau~ Bismarck, ND

Farm Credit Services of North Dakota

Hubbard Feeds

Bowerman Insurance~ Steele & Gateway Insurance~ Bis.

RDO Equipment Company ~ Bismarck

Grant County State Bank ~Carson, ND

CO-OP Elevator of McClusky, ND

Becker Ranch ~ Selfridge, ND

REA Hybrids, Tony Baumgartner ~ Braddock, ND

Leedstone Veterinarian Supplies

M&M Ag Sales and Service, LLC

Southwest Ag. Inc.

Direct Ag. ~ Mandan

Sayler Implement - Linton

Lund Ranch - Selfridge, ND

Farmers Union Insurance - Mandan, ND

MultiMin 90 - Al Schoenfeld

## Our Affiliates



# 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 15 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.



\_\_\_ One Year Voting \$50    \_\_\_ One Year Associate \$50

Do you own cattle?    \_\_\_yes    \_\_\_no

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

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

County\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Fax\_\_\_\_\_

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



Independent Beef Association of  
North Dakota

PO Box 123

Menoken, ND 58558

## DISTRICT ONE

**Dwight Keller**

**President**

701-445-7350

**Frank Tomac**

**Secretary**

**Director at Large**

701-522-3430

**Kenny Graner**

701-663-3805

**Patrick L. Becker**

701-422-3396

**Ron Volk**

701-872-2172

**Jeremy Maher**

701-522-3696

## Directors



Courage is being scared to death  
but saddling up anyway.

..John Wayne & I-BAND

## DISTRICT TWO

**Kerry Dockter**

**Vice President**

701-884-2754

**Mike Heaton**

**Treasurer**

701-220-0496

**Jack Nagel**

701-782-4250

**Robin Ziesch**

701-220-4820

**Larry Kinev**

701-327-8205