INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Your state wide voice in the cattle industry!

PO Box 123

Menoken, ND 58558

www.i-band.org

2024-1

Presidents Message

Greetings from IBAND!

WOW, what a beautiful February in North Dakota. But we all know that can change in a heartbeat. Just ask anyone familiar with March of '66. I can't because I was only 2 ½.

My LRP contracts are about to expire, and it looks like I'm gonna have to pay my premium. I did talk to a producer who took my advice, bought LRP, and capitalized on it. Good for them! It worked for them. And in all reality, it worked for me too, the price of the calves exceeded the guaranteed coverage.

I want to thank all of you who stopped by our booth at the KFYR Agri-International. It was a great pleasure talking with like-minded people; and arguing with less informed individuals. Now…… if ya believe in what we're doing, there should be nothing stopping you from sending in $50 to help our organization get the word out; THE CORRECT WORD!!!

It baffles me how cattle producers can be so uninformed about everything in their industry. Let me rephrase that: how cattle producers can be so MISINFORMED!

The way we cattlemen and women are misinformed is the same way the mainstream media misinforms the public about what's happening in our world. If you only watch or listen to mainstream media, you're not seeing the whole picture, and a lot of times, you're being lied to about what's really going on. I get most of my news from the radio. But I'll also watch TV like NewsMax. Plus I'll look things up on the Web, especially if I wanna confirm what I've heard. So many times, we only read the headlines and make a determination about that particular story. Or maybe we'll read the first paragraph. Very seldom does the reader, read the whole story. And very often the headline misinter-

Inside this Issue:

Presidents message
Animal ID
I-BAND in DC
Lab Grown Meat in schools
Say NO to Mandatory EID
2023 Annual Meeting
Neosporosis
Photos
Affiliates
Membership
Sponsors

Letter Continued

prets the story. +

That's what's happening in the cattle industry. The mainstream media of the cattle industry has painted a bleak picture of what IBAND is all about. Fabricated lies without even reading our policies. Not understanding what we're really trying to accomplish. And more importantly not correcting themselves when they have made a mistake.

And it's not just the media I'm talking about. It's coffee shop talk. It's board meetings of many different organizations. It's legislators and lobbyists! And it's sad. Sad, they don't come to the source for the real stories. Good people sit on boards and commissions. GREAT people sit on boards and commissions and ask questions, do fact checking, question EVERYTHING!! And stand up to the manager!

When I was on the school board, one of the first things the superintendent told me; "your first answer should always be NO. You can always change your mind to yes later, but you can never say yes and change your mind to no."

We board members at IBAND are GREAT board members. We don't always follow the leader. We don't always agree. We all have different agendas. All have different ranches and ways of doing things. But at the end of the day, we all agree, sometimes totally and sometimes to disagree.

On a brighter note, there's more and more people, some with significant stature, that see our side of the stories and stand up for what's right. We're making headway.

Now, if we could just quit wasting our checkoff dollars on recruitment, and apply it to more useful situations, like informing the consumer that beef with the USDA stamp doesn't necessarily mean it's USA bred, born and raised in the USA.

Thank You members for your support. Non-members, send in your money and support our cause, 'cause it's all the same. Bring on the calving!!!!

USCA SUPPORTS ANIMAL ID SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR ALL PRODUCERS

(JANUARY 24, 2024) – The U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) reiterates its call to strengthen and establish a national animal identification system that works for, and is accountable to, all producers.

There should be no private control of data, or access to the data, without the prior approval of who the owner of the cattle was at the time of application of the official tags. All official USDA tag information should be held in state animal health databases and shared with federal animal health officials only as needed. *Under no circumstances should a national cattlemen's group coordinate or control producer data.*

Producers should never be responsible for more than the cost of the tags.

Premises identification numbers (PINs) should not be required to acquire and apply EID tags. The same information can be gathered on health certificates and test charts and other animal health documents.

Official ID should only be required on breeding cattle and only as they move into interstate commerce, or as determined by each state's importation requirements.

The use of USDA metal NEUS tags and electronic tags should continue for all classes of cattle. The industry requires more time to adapt and transfer to an all-electronic system; time will determine whether multiple systems can be used.

Only 840 series EID tags should be used as official EID on U.S. born and raised cattle (*900 series tags are not unique in their official identification*).

As the industry looks to adopt EIDs, financial assistance from USDA will be required to supply reader equipment, both low frequency (LF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF). As any future transition is made to EIDs, the process will eventually needs to move to UHF in order to improve read range and the ability to read animals and groups at speed of commerce.

USCA President Justin Tupper issued the following statement:

"USCA supports a voluntary national animal identification program and opposes the establishment of a national mandate. Our members believe that each individual producer knows what's best for their herd as it relates to animal husbandry practices. We stand with a majority of state and national producer organizations that believe the same."

https://uscattlemen.org/usca-supports-animal-id-system-that-works-for-all-producers/

The Independent Beef Association of North Dakota has long been fighting for the rights of independent cattle producers in North Dakota. With the recent legal actions involving Agridime, being accused of defrauding cattle producers of $190 million nationwide and $40 million in North Dakota alone, I-BAND urges both state and federal agencies to investigate this matter to expedite its findings and provide producers transparency along with a plan of action. Producers need to have trust and confidence with buyers with which they do business. I-BAND will be leading the push to make sure justice for the affected producers is achieved and confidence is restored by staying on top of the investigative agencies. I-BAND will continue to keep producers updated on the findings in this case.

Social Media

All of our links in one place!

https://linktr.ee/independentbeefnd

I-BAND takes DC - By Ron Volk

In January, board member Ron Volk, and I-BAND member Cory Hart, were invited to Billings, MT to work on cattle issue policies with the Western Organizations of Resource Councils (WORC). Issues included getting MCOOL into the new farm bill, USDA rulemaking and enforcing the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S), beef checkoff reform, and opposing a mandated Electronic Identification (EID) in domestic cattle.

February 5-8, Ron Volk and Cory Hart went to DC on an invite from the National Family Farmers Coalition. We met up with Sam Wagner of the Dakota Resource Council (DRC) and Blake Naze, a young farmer/rancher from Montpelier ND. The purpose was to lobby on cattle issues affecting ND and US cattle producers, MCOOL in the farm bill, P&S enforcement, beef checkoff reform, and the proposed EID mandate.

While there, we had scheduled meetings set up with several Senators and Representatives, including ND's Sen Hoeven and Cramer and Rep Armstrong. While voting times conflicted with our schedule, we were able to spend extended time with their agriculture aids.

Between scheduled meetings, we decided to cold knock on the doors of House and Senate Ag. Committee members. We walked a lot of miles and managed to hit over 20 member offices. Surprisingly, we were able to meet with a lot of their agriculture aids, even a couple of Representatives themselves. We were also able to spend a lot of time with the aid of Senate Ag Committee Chair Stabenow D (MI), and minority chair Boozman R (AR). Conversations went on all topics, with obviously, MCOOL being a touchy subject. Overall, I feel we made an impact with most of the Representatives, Senators, and/or their staff we met with, and could tell we left them more educated on cattle issues. We learned that 100 phone calls on an issue will get their attention, so while it doesn't seem like it, the more people we get to contact them the better.

We also had a meeting with Andy Green of the USDA, who oversees the rulemaking of the Packers and Stockyards division. The first two phases of the rules of the PSA are complete or near completion. The third proposed rule titled "*Unfair Practices, Undue Preferences, and Harm to Competition under the Packers and Stockyard Act"* went to the Office of Management and Budget for its initial review before it's headed to the Federal Register for public comment. However, we had heard from ally organizations that the title has changed and that the rule will not include fixes to Undo Preferences. The current proposed rule will likely come out in the spring of this year. As of now, we do not know what we should expect in terms of the length or depth of a public comment period. (Whether or not they will do in-person hearings or virtual listening sessions.)

> *Harm to competition: We expect USDA will send a signal to the courts that individual plaintiffs won't need to prove market-wide harm to sue under the authority of the PSA.*
> *Unfair Practices: This is fairly unknown, they will likely define certain contracting, auction protocol etc., as unfair and therefore, unlawful under the PSA, but we are not sure.*
> *Of note, despite its current name, this rule will not address undo preference (for example granting contracts, or sweetheart deals based on size when two producers are offering essentially the same product.*

We touched on the bonding process and how the bonds for the buyers, sale barns, and packers are formulated. It was our view that the bonds need to be increased substantially. The wheel moves pretty slowly, unfortunately, and Andy Green and his staff agree with us as to the fact that these rules need to be implemented and funded as soon as possible. The typical D.C. bureaucracy and big-money lobbying slows progress.

In conclusion, the commonsense issues that I-BAND supports MCOOL, enforcement of PSA, beef checkoff reform, and keeping EID as an individual producer choice, not mandated, are being fought by the NCBA and their big corporate packing industry. There is a lot of support for these issues but getting them to the front of the line is challenging and slow. Add in the fact that the big lobbying money talks loudest and it becomes extremely frustrating. All is not doom and gloom, we learned voices can bring attention to issues. Remember, it was stated numerous times that '100 phone calls in a week on any subject, can move the needle.' I-BAND is willing to lead the charge, but we need producers to make calls and let your voices be heard. The farm bill needs to contain MCOOL and the farm bill needs to get passed, not just extending the outdated one.

Pushing Back Against Lab Grown Meat In Schools and More

(WASHINGTON D.C.)– One U.S. Senator is leading the charge to remove lab grown meat in schools in favor of the real thing.

In a sit down interview late last week with Agriculture of America (AOA) host Jesse Allen, Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) shared his reasoning behind new bipartisan legislation that would ban lab grown meat being served in schools. The School Lunch Integrity Act, introduced with Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD), would ban cell-cultivated meat from being provided through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

"There aren't any standards around lab grown meat right now," says Senator Tester. "And quite honestly, so this is, this is trying to get ahead of the curve on this because I think our kids need to get the highest quality nutrition. And you know what? We raise the best quality of beef in the world. And that's not brag, that's fact. Our kids ought to be eating that, they shouldn't be eating something that's developed in a lab. And so, we dropped this in as a common sense piece of legislation, that's going to make sure our kids can serve real meat that our ranchers grow and not some fake substitute that's made in a lab."

This legislation has been endorsed by all the major cattle groups in the United States including the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, R-CALF USA, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Tester adds that this is simply commonsense legislation to protect our kids.

"This lab grown stuff, we don't know. And quite honestly, we're talking about kids here," says Senator Tester. "And if kids can't get good nutrition in school, then we ought to just ensure that that happens. And that's what Rounds and I are doing with this bill. Fake meat is something that I wouldn't want my kids eating and I wouldn't want your kids eating and so we're going to get ahead of it and if they come up with standards on it and people want to eat this stuff, then, once the standards are there we can have that debate, but right now there's not even any standards and so this bill gets ahead of that problem.

Senator Tester also discussed his recently introduced legislation from December with Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) that would ban beef imports to the U.S. from Paraguay, a country with a long history of foot and mouth disease. He explains why banning these imports is important.

"This makes so little sense that every major cattle group in America is on the same page. That doesn't happen very often," says Senator Tester. "And the reason they're on the same page is because of foot and mouth disease, because people understand that we raise the best beef, and this Paraguyan beef may not meet the same standards. USDA has relied on outdated, incomplete data to make this decision. And so what Rounds and I have done, once again my friend Mike Rounds from South Dakota, we are in process of doing a Congressional Review Act, what that will do is overturn this decision by the Biden administration, because quite honestly, I think it's a bad decision."

During the interview, Senator Tester also shared the latest he has heard in terms of ongoing Farm Bill negotiations on Capitol Hill.

"So right now I can tell you that the ag committee in the Senate is working hard on getting things through," says Senator Tester. "There's some debate around where the reference price needs to be and how we're going to pay for that. Look, my perspective, things have changed since 2018. Input costs are higher and significantly higher. It costs more to raise a bushel of wheat than it did in 2018. That reference price needs to reflect that and hopefully the ag committee can can come together and bump that stuff up so it's reflective of 2024 challenges. And keep in mind, this Farm Bill is not only for 2024, it's for the next five years. We need something that's going to work, work as good as the 2018 Farm Bill did, because I think it worked pretty darn good. And if we're able to get that done, and I think there's a bipartisan effort to do exactly that, then hopefully we'll have a bill we can vote on in short order, get it passed and get it to the President's desk."

Say "No" Now to Stop Mandatory EID

Commentary by Bill Bullard, CEO, R-CALF USA

It took us a while to figure out the endgame for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) persistence in trying to force U.S. cattlemen and cattlewomen to affix an electronic identification (EID) eartag on all their cattle and to include their cattle in a national database.

The USDA said it's all about disease traceability – that EID eartags and their associated databases are needed to prevent the spread of disease. No, they're not! The United States has successfully prevented disease spread for many livestock diseases for decades.

In fact, the USDA finalized a rule in 2013 and proclaimed that it wasn't the EID eartag or national database that was needed. The Agency said they could improve disease tracebacks and prevent disease spread with several types of identification devices, including brands, tattoos, metal ear clips, backtags, and group lot identification. And while they said EID tags could be used as well, they weren't essential.

So there had to be something else driving USDA to try and force a costly EID mandate upon producers.

Think global!

The World Organization for Animal Health, a global governance organization headquartered in Paris, France, has long encouraged countries to adopt a mandatory animal identification scheme controlled by the government.

The USDA wants to be a team player in the global arena, so it's incentivized to carry out the global organization's recommendation for a government mandated EID program in the United States. After all, the United States is the largest beef producer in the world, and it hasn't set well with the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health that the United States hasn't dutifully complied with its EID recommendation.

But there's more.

The Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and the global environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards pushed by global financial institutions have both found the need for forcing EID upon cattle producers worldwide.

You see, they all want to control industries that they believe are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Now, to actually gain control over such industries, two preliminary steps are needed: First, they have to have a means of measuring an industry's emissions. Second, they need a means of reporting those emissions.

This is where EID ear tags and the associated database come in. When all cattle are EID tagged and entered into the database, it's an easy task to measure total emissions by multiplying the number of head by some emissions factor. And then, using the database, those emissions can be reported.

Now once those emissions are measured and reported, they can then be managed and controlled.

Here's a real-life example. Ireland set goals for reducing emissions. Its EID database informed government officials as to the volume of emissions attributed to its cattle herd, they knew where in Ireland those emissions were being generated, and they knew they could reduce emissions by targeting the areas where emissions were high.

And what did Ireland do? It decided to reduce emissions by culling tens of thousands of cattle. And it knew who owned the cattle it wanted to cull, and it knew where the cattle owners lived, just by looking at the database.

Now you know what the EID mandate is all about. It's not about disease traceability – that's just a pretext. It is all about control. It's all about managing and controlling an industry that's impossible to control unless you have the cattle industry's nearly 100 million cows individually identified and categorized in an electronic spreadsheet.

This is not some far-off concern. The USDA is fighting right now to implement phase 1 of its ultimate plan to control the U.S. cattle herd – for the same reasons as Ireland – by forcing EID eartags on American cattle and establishing an associated database.

On Jan. 24, the USDA sent its mandatory EID rule to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for final review before it becomes an enforceable law. We are literally days away from the USDA's implementation and enforcement of its EID rule.

We have to stop it now.

Here's what you can do: First, call your members of Congress and tell them they must stop USDA from issuing its EID eartag mandate on American cattlemen and cattlewomen. Second, call any farm organization that you know about or are a member of and tell them to fight to stop this EID mandate. Third, call your neighbors and tell them you need their help to stop the USDA from imposing a costly EID mandate on your industry.

And don't think that you can't stop this. Remember, R-CALF USA stopped this in 2019. Do you remember the globalists' rallying cry back then? Their cry was "EID by 2023." That didn't happen because we said "No." We need your help in saying "No" right now.

###

2023 Annual Meeting Ballot Results

Resolution EDR 20~~11~~ 23-1

Eminent Domain Reform

~~Resolution FB 2016-1~~

~~Farm Bill~~

Resolution PC 20~~16~~ 23-1

Predator control

Resolution BCBM 20~~19~~ 23-1

North Dakota Beef Commission Board Member Positions

Resolution mRNA 2023-1

mRNA

Resolution AIDP 20~~18~~ 23-1

Animal ID Policy

All Resolutions Passed

Resolution IM 2023-1
Initiative measures

Resolution EDR 20~~11~~ 23-1

Eminent Domain Reform

~~Resolution FB 2016-1~~

~~Farm Bill~~

Resolution PC 20~~16~~ 23-1

Predator control

Resolution BCBM 20~~19~~ 23-1

North Dakota Beef Commission Board Member Positions

Resolution mRNA 2023-1

mRNA

Resolution AIDP 20~~18~~ 23-1

Animal ID Policy

Resolution IM 2023-1
Initiative measures

Welcome Back Allen!

District 1

Annual Meeting Photos

Neosporosis

College of Veterinary Medicine

BASICS

Neospora is a cyst-forming coccidian protozoan parasite (*Neospora caninum*) which is in the family Sarcocystidae. It is structurally and biologically similar to *Toxoplasma gondii* and, until 1988, was commonly misdiagnosed as such.

Dogs and **COYOTES** are definitive hosts for *Neospora caninum*, and cattle and **WHITE-TAILED DEER** are intermediate hosts. Only the definitive host will shed the infective form, called an oocyst, in the feces. Ingested oocysts will develop into the infective form of the parasite and form cysts in the many tissues.

CLINICAL SIGNS develop because of inflammation related to the tissue cysts and are primarily related to muscular and neurologic systems. These can include hind leg paralysis and hyperextension, weakened or wasting muscles, weakness in the neck, and difficulty swallowing. Disease in deer and cattle can result in fetal abortion, stillbirths or systemic disease in very young animals.

The **NEUROLOGIC SIGNS** may include head tilt, seizures, loss of control of body movements, incontinence, and eye abnormalities.

Environmentally-resistant oocysts are shed in the feces of infected dogs or coyotes and form spores that can contaminate water, soil, or food sources. **TRANSMISSION** occurs from the ingestion of these environmental oocysts or the cysts that form in the tissues of infected intermediate hosts. Pregnant cattle can also transmit the parasite through the placenta to the unborn calf.

Knowledge of the clinical history (when possible), a necropsy which includes submitting tissue samples for the identification of lesions, and detecting the parasite antigen and DNA through specific testing are all useful in **DIAGNOSING** neosporosis.

There are **NO TREATMENTS** or vaccine available.

DETAILS

Coyotes and domestic dogs have been confirmed as definitive hosts and, because of their similar diets and close relationship to these other canids, it is very likely that gray wolves can serve as definitive hosts as well. Research has been ongoing to determine other carnivores that can serve as definitive hosts and antibodies have been detected in other wolf species, as well as multiple fox species and raccoons.

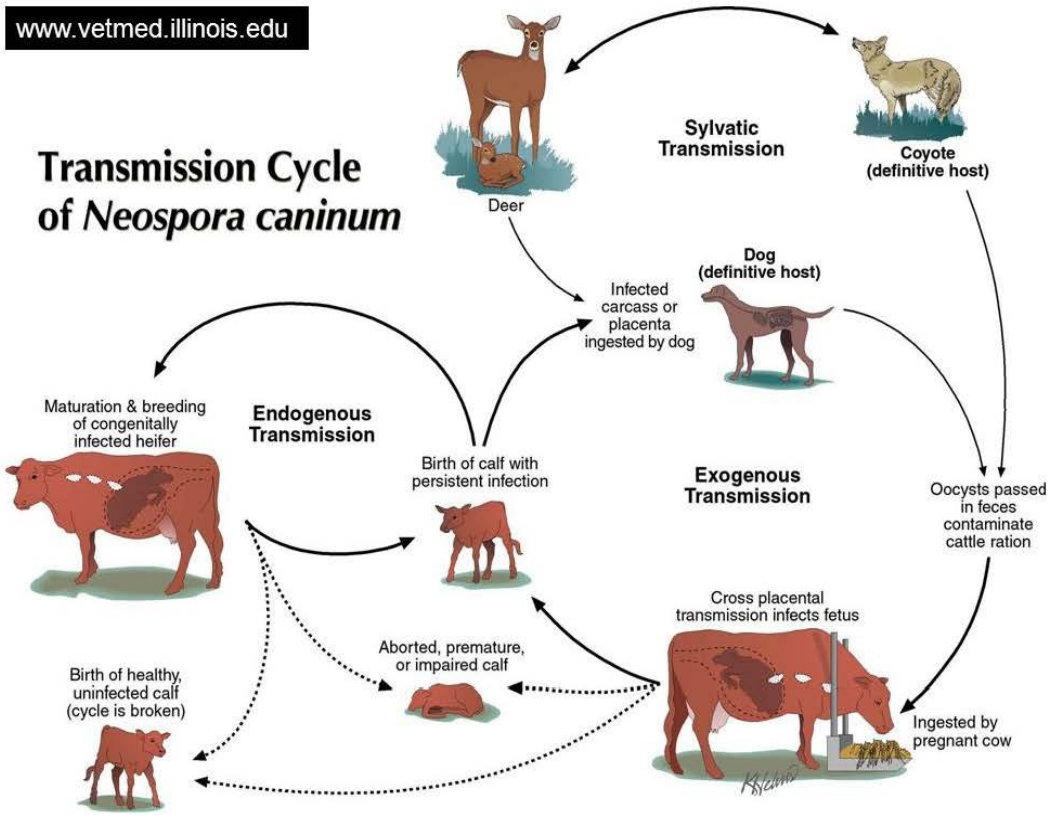
White-tailed deer have been confirmed in recent years to be natural intermediate hosts and many other species of herbivores have tested positive for antibodies to *N. caninum*, indicating they could serve as intermediate hosts. These include moose, bison, caribou, and musk ox. Neospora caninum has also been identified in brown rats and antibodies have been detected in seven species of marine mammals.

TRANSMISSION The oocysts containing the zygote stage of *N. caninum* are passed in the feces of the definitive host (dog or coyotes) and then produce spores once in the environment. Once ingested, they then become tachyzoites or bradyzoites which are both asexually reproductive stages of *N. caninum*.

Tachyzoites rapidly reproduce in the cells and may travel through the placenta of a pregnant cow to infect an unborn calf. Bradyzoites reproduce slowly and form cysts in the tissues of the intermediate hosts. These are then consumed by a definitive host feeding on the tissues and reproduce sexually in the definitive host to form the oocysts.

Laboratory testing to **DIAGNOSE** *Neospora* infection includes immunohistochemistry, serology, PCR, genotyping, and isolation. Histopathology can be used to identify parasites and lesions in the brain, spinal cord, heart, skeletal muscle, liver, and placenta.

PRECAUTION AND PREVENTION Separation of domestic and wild animals may help to reduce the transmission between domestic dogs, cattle, and wildlife.



Thank you to everyone who stopped by our KFYR Agri-International Booth

Producer Meeting held by Kerry Dockter

Affiliates

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UNITED STATES CATTLEMEN'S association

Registration Open

2024 R-CALF USA Convention & Trade Show

in Deadwood, S.D. June 19 - 21

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 cattlemen'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

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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

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