

# INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

*Your state wide voice in the cattle industry!*

PO Box 2

Sterling, ND 58572

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

# Celebrating 20 Years!

2025-3

*New date &  
location!*

2025 Annual Meeting

October 3-4, 2025

Plan to attend the 2025 Convention  
to be held at the

Radisson Hotel Bismarck, ND.



We have an excellent lineup of speakers. Come on out for a day to discuss the issues regarding our cattle industry. Grab your friends and neighbors and come help make a difference!

Contact us if you would like to sponsor the event or feel free to bring an item for the live and silent auctions.

More information is available on our webpage

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

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# President Message

Well, the summer of 2025 certainly has flown by at mach speed. I do hope that everyone's summer was a great one, lots of hay put up, calves growing, cows bred up good and putting on extra weight for the upcoming winter. And now as we get ready for the marketing time of year, we can't help but have a big grin all the way from the sale barn to the bank. It amazes me the price of cattle, and the upward trend that seem to never have a bad day.



Ya gotta question how much profit the packers made on our cattle just a couple years ago, cause the price of hamburger in the grocery store doesn't seem to have the same increase (percentage-wise) as the price of live cattle. Now the small packing plants that have to go to the sale barn and fill their quota's for resale, they're the ones hurting. They have to raise their prices to compensate for the higher cattle prices, especially cull cattle. There ain't nothing fair in the cattle business.

I will tell ya, I definitely bought my LRP wayyyyy too early and wayyy too cheap. But you're not gonna out-guess the markets. I honestly thought I bought at the right time, maybe a week early. Now that it's jumped \$40/cwt, I'm convinced I'll be paying a premium, which if I sell right and the market holds right, won't be a bad thing at all. We'll have to wait and see; cattle business takes patience. Waiting on your check at the sale barn takes patience. Waiting on the markets and LRP takes patience. Waiting 18-20 months to see what your sires performance takes a helluva lot of patience. I've always said: "I've got patience, I've got kids and cattle, I've got patience".

On another note; The Ranchers Rights Initiative has the lawsuit against the Governors office and the ND Beef Commission. One thing I want to stress is, this is not a lawsuit to eliminate the beef checkoff. What this lawsuit is about to change the way the ND Beef Commission is seated. There have been bills the past 2 sessions to change the makeup of the ND Beef Commission, all to no avail. Please consider contributing to this cause.

Our 20th Annual Meeting is coming up October 3rd-4th at the Radisson in Bismarck.

Resolutions the evening of the 3rd, and business meeting and speakers, round-table discussion & banquet on the 4th. I would encourage all of you to attend. You'll learn a lot, have great discussions, meet new people and maybe some disagreements but all in all, it'll be a learning experience, which is what we need to do everyday; learn something new.

What's old is listening to the same NCBA membership ads on the radio using our checkoff dollars.

Have a GREAT fall and we'll see ya all in October.

Frank Tomac  
President

## Affiliates



## Social Media



All of our links in one place!

( We have added a few new ones)

<https://linktr.ee/independentbeefnd>

## Gun Raffle

**GUN \$20  
RAFFLE**

**HENRY 3030  
HENRY 22  
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY 22**

**OCTOBER 4, 2025**

Drawing to be held at our annual meeting

[www.I-BAND.org](http://www.I-BAND.org)



Permit # 2025-014



Contact any of your board members to purchase a ticket or call or email Kari G.

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.

**Jeff Clark**, Co-owner of Ranch Family Resources based in Whitewood, South Dakota, utilizes his experience operating large-scale purebred and commercial ranch/feedlot operations to advise both industry partners and livestock producers looking to build brands, genetic selection tools, and craft long-term strategic plans. Due to the global footprint of Jeff's business, it has provided him with insider knowledge surrounding the climate agenda as it pertains to livestock production. Connecting the dots between conspiracy and reality, Jeff hopes to not only educate but to empower livestock producers with the tools needed to strategically take hold of their family's future.



## Spencer Waege

From the farm field to the football field—and back again—that's the path South Dakota native Spencer Waege has taken. The former defensive lineman suited up for the Green Bay Packers and the San Francisco 49ers. On June 9, 2025, Waege announced his retirement from professional football.



Before his time in the NFL, Waege carved out a standout career at North Dakota State University. A two-time All-American, he etched his name into Bison history, ranking sixth all-time with 42 tackles for loss across 57 career games.





## Representative Dori Hauck

Dori is an American farmer, teacher, and politician currently serving in the North Dakota House of Representatives from North Dakota's 36th district. Hauck was sworn in on March 16, 2022, and she won re-election in the general election on November 5, 2024. Her career experience includes working as a rancher, a writer, and a music teacher.

**Shad Sullivan - R-CALF** is a fifth-generation rancher from Colorado and Texas, dedicated to independent beef and cattle production. Raised in his family's operations across Crowley and Pueblo Counties, CO, and Archer County, TX, he grew up with a deep respect for land, food production, and private property rights.

Shad manages a diverse operation that includes a commercial cow/calf herd, stocker cattle, and farming enterprises, balancing production with conservation and resource management. His experience spans production, market analysis, ag policy, and consumer protection.

After facing government overreach threatening private property, Shad became a national advocate for agricultural freedom. A constitutional conservative, he warns against global agendas, corporate consolidation, and policies undermining farmers, ranchers, and property rights.

Shad works closely with policymakers, legislators, and trade groups while also educating consumers on the link between food production and liberty. His advocacy has earned national and international recognition, with features in Fox News, The Blaze, The Epoch Times, Breitbart, and more.

Shad Sullivan's mission: **"Beef and Liberty! Where there is Beef, there is FREEDOM!"**



## Round table

I-BAND

R-CALF USA

USCA

Livestock Market



Round Table



Time to start scheduling  
town hall meetings  
in your area.

Call Kari to schedule

701-214-0639

## Schedule of events

### October 3 ~

4:00 ~ Resolutions

### October 4 ~

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

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

**10:45 - 11:45** ~ Dr. Ethan Andress, DVM, North Dakota State Veterinarian

**11:45 - 12:00** - Matt Perdue - NDFU Presidential Candidate

**12:00** ~ Lunch - All American Burger Bar -

**12:30-** Shelly Ziesch, NDFU Presidential Candidate

**12:45** - Representative Julie Fedorchak (staff)

**1:00 - 2:00** - Jeffery Clarke

**2:00- 3:00** - Zoom with Shad Sullivan

**3:00 - 3:15** ~ Break – (Sponsored by Rugby Livestock )

**Be sure to check out the silent auction items!**

**3:15** ~ Round Table - Dave Hyde, Frank Tomac,  
Leo McDonnell, Kim Ulmer

**5:15** ~ Representative Dori Hauck

**6:15** ~ Social

**6:45** ~ President's Message

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

**7:15** ~ Spencer Waege -

**8:00** - Wheel Award

Trade Show & Silent Auction Closes

**8:15** ~ Live Auction

~ 50/50 Raffle

**Feel Free to stay and visit afterwards!**

## Ranchers sue to revamp North Dakota Beef Commission appointment process

A new lawsuit filed by a group of independent North Dakota ranchers alleges that Gov. Kelly Armstrong and private associations have too much power over who serves on the North Dakota Beef Commission's board.

The primary role of the Beef Commission is to decide how to use the money the state raises through checkoffs. Checkoffs are a small fee that ranchers pay on cattle sales. The proceeds are used for promoting beef consumption and research and education.

Beef producers pay \$1 to the state and \$1 to the federal government in checkoffs for each head of cattle they sell. These fees raised about \$1.67 million in revenue for the Beef Commission last year, according to the commission's [2024 annual report](#).

The Beef Commission's nine-member board comprises three beef producers, one cattle feeder, one dairy farmer, one public livestock market representative and three at-large members.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Burleigh County, claims the governor and a few ag associations — the Stockmen's Association, the Stockmen's Association Feeder Council, the Milk Producers Association of North Dakota and the North Dakota Livestock Marketing Association — wield virtually complete control over who ends up on the board.

The plaintiffs include the Ranchers Rights Initiative and three of its directors: Kenneth Graner, Jeremy Maher and Michael Heaton. The Ranchers Rights Initiative describes itself as a group for independent North Dakota ranchers who don't belong to any of the leading professional associations for cattle producers.

The complaint names the Beef Commission, state of North Dakota, Armstrong and Attorney General Drew Wrigley as defendants.

The Beef Commission said as a state agency, it does not comment on pending litigation.

Under North Dakota's Beef Commission Act, adopted in 2009, members of the Beef Commission's board aren't democratically elected but are, for the most part, nominated by private organizations and then selected by the governor, the complaint says.

When the commission needs a new cattle feeder representative, for example, the Feeder Council of the Stockmen's Association gets to nominate at least two people. The governor then chooses who to appoint from the candidate pool, according to the lawsuit.

Anyone can submit nominations for the three at-large positions, but the governor has only ever chosen members and affiliates of the Stockmen's Association for these seats, the plaintiffs claim.

That means in practice, independent ranchers have no representation on the board, according to the complaint. The plaintiffs say this process unconstitutionally favors association members at the expense of others in the industry.

"The government shouldn't be picking winners and losers," said Robby Dube, the lead attorney representing the plaintiffs.

The lawsuit asks a state district court judge to find the Beef Commission Act unconstitutional and to strike it down. As an alternative, the complaint suggests that the court order that the governor cannot select new commission members based on the nominations of private associations.

Checkoffs are commonly applied to the sale of other agricultural products, who have groups of their own to decide how to spend the revenue. But the plaintiffs allege that the Beef Commission's process for picking



board members stands out as being particularly unrepresentative of its industry.

“The Beef Commission is the only North Dakota commodity checkoff group that does not use an election process,” the plaintiffs state in the complaint. “All board members of the barley, corn, dry bean, dry pea and lentil, and soybean checkoff groups are elected.”

Dube said the Beef Commission’s process for selecting board members has been controversial for decades. The North Dakota state Legislature earlier this year [considered legislation](#) to have board members elected rather than appointed, but it died in the House.

The North Dakota Beef Commission opposed the legislation. In testimony, a representative of the commission disputed the notion that the selection process for board seats is not fair.

Having the governor appoint board members “ensures balanced representation from diverse sectors of the beef industry while maintaining impartiality and strategic oversight,” the commission said in [written testimony](#) to lawmakers. The commission also argued that administering elections for board seats would be financially burdensome and could open up the commission to political polarization.

“While a couple of individuals may feel overlooked in the current system, the process works,” the commission said in the testimony.

The plaintiffs in their complaint also allege that the Beef Commission Act unfairly discriminates against beef producers who request refunds on the checkoffs they pay to the state. To be eligible for eight of the nine positions on the board, producers cannot have obtained a state checkoff refund for at least three years. The statute describes this requirement as ensuring that board members are active participants in the beef checkoff process.

Some ranchers may seek these refunds for financial reasons, or they may disagree with how the Beef Commission uses the money, Dube said.

The plaintiffs propose in their complaint that the court suspend the eligibility requirement that says board members cannot have received any state checkoff refunds for the past three years.

The case has been assigned to South Central Judicial District Judge Jackson Lofgren. The state as of Thursday had not filed any response, but is expected to in the coming weeks, Dube said.

<https://northdakotamonitor.com/2025/07/17/ranchers-sue-to-revamp-north-dakota-beef-commission-appointment->

### **Support the Cause — Stand with Ranchers**

We're fighting to protect the rights and legacy of hardworking ranchers across North Dakota. Your donation helps us defend rural livelihoods, advocate for fair policy, and preserve a way of life that's under threat.

Every dollar makes a difference.  
Join us. Back the cause. Buck 'em.

[linktr.ee/ranchersrightsinitiative](https://linktr.ee/ranchersrightsinitiative)

OR Checks can be mailed to  
Ranchers' Rights Initiative  
Po Box 12  
Sterling, ND 58572





## A Buck Better Spent

If you want to see your state check off dollar go to work for you, consider requesting your refund and donating it back to I-BAND.

Your support and contributions are greatly appreciated.



Dear Members,

We would like to inform you that the Board has set an interim policy to address updates to our mission statement. This policy will remain in effect until further notice and is designed to align our goals with our evolving priorities.

Please take a moment to review the policy details below to familiarize yourself with the changes. If you have any questions or need further clarification, do not hesitate to reach out to Kari G.

Thank you for your attention to this important update.

'The Independent Beef Association of North Dakota (I-BAND) is dedicated to supporting the market interests of North Dakota cattle producers. Its primary goal is to combat threats to the domestic cattle industry, particularly those stemming from unfair and illegal trade practices and imports. I-BAND focuses on addressing any other issues that impact the profitability of North Dakota beef producers, ensuring a sustainable and competitive beef market in the state, additionally, promoting local producers on social media, collaborative events, local partnerships, online directories, and educational programs to show support to the community and foster sustainable practices. By implementing these strategies, I-BAND can help strengthen the local economy and promote a sense of community.'



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

Dist 1 & Dist 2

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

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



## Independent Beef Association of North Dakota

### 2025 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 20 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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COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELED  
Source Verified U.S. Beef  
[WWW.USBEEFPRODUCERS.COM](http://WWW.USBEEFPRODUCERS.COM)



**KIST**

## Farm and Ranch Classifieds

**Pearson Squeeze chute**, self-catching headgate, palpation cage, brisket bar, right-hand opening door on the side, steel floor. Good shape. Asking \$4000 OBO. **Kerry Dockter Home # 701-884-2754 Cell # 701-220-7941 (5-19)**

**FOR SALE** Ranch Gelding Prospect. 2yr old Blue Roan. Halter Broke and Gentle. 1/2 draft Suffolk. Mother was quarter horse.  
**Call Russell Gietzen 701-301-1644 or Write to 6780 Ro Rd 140 Glen Ullin, ND 58631 (6-3)**




**\$30 Issue**  
**Newsletter and online**






# ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS!

## \*\*New Opportunity for Our Community!\*\*

We're excited to announce that we are now offering \*\*Classified Listings\*\* and \*\*Business/Ranch Advertisements\*\*!

-  Got something to sell?
-  Looking to promote your livestock, hay, equipment, or services?
-  Want to get your ranch or business in front of the right audience?

Now's your chance! Whether you're buying, selling, or just spreading the word, our new classifieds and advertising options are designed to help \*\*rural folks connect with rural folks.\*\*

-  Affordable rates
-  Great exposure
-  Easy to submit!

To get started or learn more, message us here on Facebook or email us at [kari@i-band.org](mailto:kari@i-band.org). Let's help each other grow, connect, and support rural businesses!



Keeping Dakota  
Businesses in Perfect  
Balance.

Dakota Balance Bookkeeping

**Kari Goldade**  
**701-214-0639**

[dakota.balance.bookkeeping@gmail.com](mailto:dakota.balance.bookkeeping@gmail.com)

Newsletter and online

### **Business Card Size 1**

Issue \$ 30

Full year \$ 100

### **Business Card Size 2**

Issue \$ 60

Full year \$ 200

### **1/4 page**

Issue \$75

Full Year \$380

### **1/2 page**

Issue \$150

Full Year \$580



I-BAND  
PO Box 2  
Sterling, ND 58572

## DISTRICT ONE

**Frank Tomac**

**President/Director at Large**

701-522-3430

**Allen Lund**

701-471-3747

**Ron Volk**

701-872-2172

**Jay Berg**

701-391-3126

**Rusty Makelky**

701-690-1726

**Open Seat**

## Directors

**Kari Goldade**

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**kari@i-band.org**

## DISTRICT TWO

**August Heupel**

**Vice President**

701-320-9818

**Kerry Dockter**

701-884-2754

**Larry Kinev**

701-327-8205

**Kyle Shively**

701-208-0398

**Medora Kologi**

701-516-0087

