

INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Your state wide voice in the cattle industry!

PO Box 2

Sterling, ND 58572

www.i-band.org

2025-1

Presidents Message



We are experiencing a typical North Dakota winter, a little bit of snow, a little bit of ice, a little bit of cold, a little bit of warmth, and a whole lot of BS. Oh what fun it is to be ranching now. The election is over meaning no more ads, BUT, there's still a lot of BS on social media! The new year has started, the new congress has started, the new ND Legislature has started, for some calving has started, and there's still a whole lotta BS started.

As I write this, I might've waited too long to market my '24 steers. I was holding out to sell them direct, but that didn't work, so now it's off to the salebarn. The market has been steady to STRONG! What a great time to be ranching. Bull sales have been STRONG, a great time for the purebred producers.

This is the ONLY time where I believe there is actually a return on investment of our beef checkoff dollars. Let me explain my stance on this: In the past, the un-regulated study from some high tech University claims there was a \$8-\$13 return on investment of our checkoff dollars. Now..... there might've been a positive return, but it's never been that high in my opinion. And because that investment was never returned to the producers that actually paid it, it's not an accurate Return On Investment! Did the major packers and retail outlets pay into it? Maybe a little, but for the most part, the majority of investments was made by ranchers, stocker and feedlot operators like ourselves. And in the past the majority of the returns have been to the packers and retailers. This year however, we have seen a huge uptick in OUR markets (meaning feeder sales in the fall and winter) So maybe our checkoff dollars did work this year! What a great time to be ranching.

I've never been against a checkoff, but I've never been in favor of THIS checkoff.

There needs to be more input from actual producers. More diversity of the board on our ND Beef Commission. There needs to be different guidelines to follow. We should be able to promote North Dakota Beef (or at least Northern Great Plains beef) not just generic beef which includes imports. Maybe even partnering with neighboring states.

There needs to be more retaliation. What's wrong with having Dr's and nutritionists counter-acting against naysayers denouncing beef! How about working to invert the food pyramid! How about working with RFK Jr! Maybe even Dr Shawn Baker, or a host of others that promote beef. In all reality, our checkoff dollars might be doing that, but that report doesn't come back to the producers who are actually paying the majority of the checkoff. Well, there's a novel idea; giving an actual report of what our checkoff dollars are doing instead of forcing us to look for it, only to find a balance sheet that doesn't tell us anything except what's collected and what's spent.

Our North Dakota Legislature has started, I ask, (actually I beg), each and every one of you seek out our bills presented, contact your legislators and ask them why they vote the way they do, on any bills. Ask them for information not readily available. They are elected officials, it is their obligation to answer questions from their constituents of their district, the people they represent.

And our checkoff dollars are still being used against us, to promote an organization very few of us are members of.

Enjoy the rest of your winter and welcome Spring with open arms!

Inside this Issue:

President's Message
R-CALF USA Message
Brucellosis Vaccination
Farm to school grant
Affiliates
Mission Statement
Working on Legislation
Social Media
Gun Raffle
Bangs Vaccination
USCA Message
LMA Scholarship
Town Hall Meetings
33rd US Secretary of Ag
Membership
Sponsors
Insert - CBB Redirect

Cattle Group Praises Multi-Sponsored, Bipartisan Reintroduction of MCOOL Legislation for Beef

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 6, 2025 – Yesterday, U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) and Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) reintroduced the American Beef Labeling Act to reinstate mandatory country of origin labeling (MCOOL) for beef.

The legislation will insert “beef” and “ground beef” back into the existing MCOOL law that requires country-of-origin labels on many food commodities, including meat from chickens, sheep and goats.

The legislation, however, delays the implementation of MCOOL for beef for up to one year, allowing the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) six months to develop the means of reinstating MCOOL for beef in a way that complies with the applicable rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The initial six-month period is then followed by a second six-month period during which the USTR and Secretary may implement MCOOL by the means they have developed.

If the USTR and the Secretary have not already implemented MCOOL for beef one year after the legislation’s enactment, then the legislation shall take effect on that one-year anniversary.

R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard said Majority Leader Thune and Sen. Booker’s reintroduction of the bipartisan MCOOL bill for beef demonstrates their responsiveness to U.S. cattle producers and consumers alike who have urged Congress to reinstate labels on beef that inform consumers as to where the animal from which the beef was derived was born, raised, and harvested.

“This multi-sponsored, bipartisan Thune/Booker MCOOL bill is critically needed to restore competition to the nation’s broken cattle and beef markets marked by inflated beef prices paid by consumers and depressed cattle prices paid to U.S. cattle producers.

“Only with MCOOL for beef can cattle producers compete in their own domestic market where packers and importers – and not cattle producers and consumers – currently decide how much foreign beef they will import into the U.S. market to displace domestic beef production and reduce demand for cattle exclusively born and raised in the United States.

“We are profoundly appreciative of Majority Leader Thune and Senator Booker for taking the lead in representing the interests of their respective cattle-producing and beef-consuming constituents by reintroducing this critically important MCOOL bill,” Bullard said.

U.S. Sens. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), John Fetterman (D-Pa.) and John Hoeven (R-N.D.) cosponsored the American Beef Labeling Act.



Brucellosis vaccination waiver extends age to 14 months for heifers

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

BISMARCK, N.D. – At a special meeting of the State Board of Animal Health (BOAH), the board issued a waiver of rule allowing the age of brucellosis vaccination to be extended from 12 months to 14 months for heifers.

“With a shortage of brucellosis vaccine and tags available, the board is temporarily extending the age requirement for heifer brucellosis vaccination to 14 months,” State Veterinarian Dr. Ethan Andress said.

“USDA was consulted and did not have any concerns with the extension.”

“After taking all information into consideration, the board determined that these changes presented negligible risk to animal health in North Dakota,” Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said.

The waiver will be revisited at the next regularly scheduled BOAH meeting on March 12, 2025.

Goehring announces availability of Farm to School equipment grants

Thursday, January 23, 2025

BISMARCK – Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has announced that applications are now being accepted for Farm to School equipment grants.

Farm to School equipment grants will allow eligible recipients to purchase equipment that will further their participation in the Farm to School program, which allows schools to purchase food from local producers for their school lunch menus.

To be eligible for grant funds, an applicant must be a North Dakota producer, North Dakota K-12 school district participating in the National School Lunch Program, or North Dakota Early Childhood Education Center participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

“After holding meetings across the state, schools and producers indicated that they need more equipment to help ease the process of getting local foods to students,” Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said.

“This grant will assist in that process.”

North Dakota received funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Award for the program. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) will distribute the \$204,500 available for grants through a competitive process.

Goehring said an information manual with eligibility criteria, application instructions, scoring criteria and important dates can be found on NDDA’s website: <https://www.ndda.nd.gov/farm-school-equipment-grant>. Applications must be submitted in electronic form by March 31, 2025. Applications will then be reviewed, scored, ranked and provided to Agriculture Commissioner Goehring for final approval.

Goehring said persons needing more information should contact Jenna Nieters at (701) 328-2659 or jnieters@nd.gov.

FARM TO SCHOOL EQUIPMENT GRANT

WHO CAN APPLY?

Agricultural Producers
K-12 School Districts
Early Childhood Education Centers

WHAT CAN BE PURCHASED?


Food Processors, Refrigerators,
Processing Equipment, Value-Added
Production Improvements,
and more!



APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 31, 2025

This is a fantastic opportunity to bring more farm-fresh produce to kids in North Dakota.

 Application Deadline: March 31st

 Apply Now: www.ndda.nd.gov/farm-school-equipment-grant

Affiliates



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.'



Working on legislation



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



Permit # 2025-014



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

Kari Goldade
@I-BAND



venmo

Bangs vaccine in short supply

North Dakota State Veterinarian Ethan Andress said a shortage of both EID tags and brucellosis (bangs) vaccine is creating a challenge, but the two are unrelated.

Andress said he e-mailed a production company with his concerns about the limited amount of vaccine, and he was told that a production problem, coupled with holiday shipping struggles has made for difficulty in meeting demand for the vaccine nationwide.

Andress said one of the vats of vaccine wasn't immediately approved for sale, and this held up delivery for those who needed it.

"They only have so many vats to produce the vaccine. When you have something fail, there isn't a backup plan until a new batch comes online. And they may not have the equipment, facilities and capability to respond to demand if a large batch isn't approved."

Andress said the batch was eventually approved for sale, which should help get the product back in the pipeline fairly soon.

He thinks in the next couple of weeks, sufficient vaccine will be made available to most or all veterinarians.

He said a lot of vets and vet clinics order vaccine twice in the season – once in the fall and again mid-winter to re-stock their supply.

"Supposedly this is a short term problem," he said. But Dr. Andress did acknowledge that some veterinarians have been without the vaccine and have had to re-schedule appointments to vaccinate heifers. Everyone was kind of running out around the time they needed their second order. We can't blame the veterinarians, it was a widespread problem outside of their control," he said.

Andress said the short vaccine supply was unrelated to the ongoing problem of mandatory electronic identification tags being inaccessible to some veterinarians.

In his office, Andress said he was conservative from the get-go in filling orders from vets for EI tags, so he didn't run out. However, he told TSLN a few weeks ago that many states had run out of EID tags because USDA had not garnered enough funding for the amount of EID tags needed.

The new animal ID rule, which went into effect Nov. 5, calls for all sexually intact cattle 18 months of age and older that move interstate AND all heifers that are bangs vaccinated to be fitted with a new EID tag. Congress only provided enough funding to USDA for the interstate movement tags needed, but did not provide funding for the bangs tags needed.

Traditionally, the orange metal tag was used to identify heifers that were bangs vaccinated, and the white metal clip tag identified sexually intact cattle that moved interstate.



The new EID tags also come in orange and white but the new rule doesn't specify a certain use for either color.

Some veterinarians in TSLN's readership area have had to postpone scheduled bangs vaccinations because EID tags were unavailable to them. In the rule, USDA says the tags will be free to producers as long as the funding remains available.

Andress said his office is conserving the white tags, as he only has enough to fill a few orders at this point. He has more orange ones on order, that he expects to be in soon.

[Carrie Stadheim](#)

cstadheim@tsln-fre.com

**United States Cattlemen's Association
Reiterates Dire Concerns of Forced and Child Labor in Meat Processing**

Calls on Congress and Customs to Further Investigate Practices in Brazil

WASHINGTON, DC – In light of the Department of Labor's [agreement](#) with JBS USA Food Co. to address child labor, the United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) reiterated their commitment to challenging exploitation and fighting for a level playing field for American producers.

USCA Director Emeritus Leo McDonnell [testified](#) on June 22, 2023 during the Legislative Hearing on "Cattle Supply Chains and Deforestation of the Amazon" noting USCA's ongoing concerns regarding the beef industry in Brazil, specifically related to deforestation and concerns over links to forced and child labor.

McDonnell's [testimony](#) specifically referenced this point in that, "Beef" and 'cattle' are both listed next to Brazil's name on the most recent report issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (DOL ILAB) of goods produced by child or forced labor."

"USCA opposes forced labor/child labor as evidenced in our testimony during the Senate hearing and we continue to relay to Congress and Customs the need to address this among meat processors," USCA President Justin Tupper said. "It's extremely concerning that JBS continues these activities and the situation in Colorado heightens the risk that this could be happening in Brazil."

Following USCA's Annual Meeting in December, new policy resolutions were circulated to the membership, including one regarding Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 which specifically prohibits importing any product that was mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part by forced labor, including forced or indentured child labor.

It is on this note that USCA is renewing their call to Congress and Customs to look deeper into forced labor practices in Brazil and will be remaining a part of ongoing conversations regarding these concerns, and in the interim, supports prohibiting importing from any country that violates these measures.

CONTACT

Kalina Reini

USCA Director of Policy and Public Affairs

kalina@wssdc.com

(202) 870-0156



I-BAND

PO BOX 2

STERLING, ND 58572



new address!



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.



Livestock Marketing Association Opens Applications for 2025 Scholarships

Applications will be accepted through Friday, March 14, 2025, at 4 p.m. CST

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — The Livestock Marketing Association, or LMA, is proud to announce the opening of its 2025 scholarship program application period, beginning Friday, January 31. This annual program is designed to support students who understand the vital role of agriculture and its supporting industries, including the auction method of livestock marketing.

The program invites applicants to share how they plan to use their education and future careers to advocate for or advance the livestock marketing industry. Nine deserving students will each be awarded a one-time \$2,500 scholarship to assist with their academic pursuits.

Eligible applicants must be graduating high school seniors or currently enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution. Additional requirements include a minimum GPA of 2.0 and sponsorship by an LMA member livestock marketing business.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, March 14, 2025, at 4 p.m. Central.

For more information or to apply, visit lmaweb.com.

Independent Beef Association of ND

will be taking donations to help with fire relief, whether it be monetary, fencing supplies, hay, or trucking..



for more information or to donate,
please scan the QR code or visit
www.i-band.org//nd-fire-information





Time to start scheduling
town hall meetings
in your area.
Call Kari to schedule
701-214-0639

President, Frank Tomac addressing a crowd in Lemmon, SD

Vice President, August Heupel and Board Member Ron Volk in Belfield, ND.

Both Meeting held in conjunction with R-CALF USA



Brooke L. Rollins Sworn in as 33rd U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

WASHINGTON — Brooke Rollins was sworn in as the 33rd U.S. Secretary of Agriculture by Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Clarence Thomas in a private ceremony today at the Supreme Court building. The U.S. Senate confirmed Rollins by a vote of 72-to-28.

“It is the honor of a lifetime to serve as the nation’s thirty-third Secretary of Agriculture — and a privilege beyond description to have the trust of President Donald J. Trump, and the opportunity to advance his agenda. I am thrilled to lead the United

States Department of Agriculture and to serve the people of this country,” said **U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins**. “Every day, I will fight for American farmers, ranchers, and the agriculture community. Together, we have an historic opportunity to revitalize rural America and to ensure that U.S. Agriculture remains the best in the world for generations to come.”

Upon nominating Brooke Rollins in November, President Donald J. Trump said, “Brooke’s commitment to support the American Farmer, defense of American Food Self-Sufficiency, and the restoration of Agriculture-dependent American Small Towns is second to none.”

Today, USDA also launched Secretary Rollins’ official [X](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts: @SecRollins.

About Secretary Rollins:

Brooke Leslie Rollins is originally from Glen Rose, Texas. Most recently, Rollins served as the Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the America First Policy Institute (AFPI). During President Trump’s first administration, she was the Director of the Domestic Policy Council and Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives in the White House. She also previously served as Director of the Office of American Innovation. In these roles, she developed and managed the transformational domestic policy agenda of the Trump Administration, [leading](#) to historic achievements for the American people.

Rollins graduated with honors from Texas A&M University with a degree in agricultural development and was the first female to be elected student body president. After earning her Juris Doctor with honors at the University of Texas School of Law, she served as Governor Rick Perry’s policy director before running the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) for 15 years. At TPPF, Rollins elevated a small policy organization to a national force and redefined the possibilities for a state-based think tank — setting the model and aspiration for AFPI. Rollins and her husband, Mark, call Fort Worth, Texas home, and spend a large majority of their free time taxiing their four very active children to baseball games, cattle shows, piano lessons, and Aggie football games.

—USDA

<https://www.morningagclips.com/brooke-l-rollins-sworn-in-as-33rd-u-s-secretary-of-agriculture/>



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!



LAZY H RANCH



Maher ^{JM} Angus



BIG TIRES.



"Your locally owned service station"



Grant County State Bank



BRAVERA



Farm & Home Supply

WALD FENCING
AND SUPPLIES LLC



Sheridan Animal Hospital



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

Jeremy Maher

701-522-3696

Jay Berg

701-391-3126

Rusty Makelky

701-690-1726

Directors

Kari Goldade

Secretary/Treasurer

kari@i-band.org



I-BAND was set up at the KFYP Agri International in Bismarck on February 11-12.

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