

INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Your state wide voice in the cattle industry!

PO Box 2

Sterling, ND 58572

www.i-band.org

2024-4

Presidents Message



Hello Fellow Cattlemen and Cattlewomen:

What a beautiful fall it is on the Silent Butte Ranch. And with the recent rains and mild temperatures we've had, it's getting better with every day that passes. Not all of us have had such a great fall. And my heart goes out to all those affected by fires. We've set up assistance, and that assistance is on the way. And just as importantly, we've got next spring turnout on our radar, ready for the assistance needing to be done then. Preg check is done, opens are sold, calves are weaned, shipping is done (not without a hitch though). This ranch is ready for winter. No..... wait..... I've got projects started needing to be done before freeze-up, freeze- branding to be done, bred heifers to market, cattle to move to winter pasture, more hay to lay in, more meetings to attend and grandkids that need attention. So I'm far behind again as usual. Work is never done on the ranch. NEVER.

The election is over!! Whether or not the candidates you voted for won or not, it's time to hold the elected officials' feet to the fire. We as individuals need to first make the elected aware of your beliefs and wants. Make them aware of our policies. Contact and follow-up is next. What we shouldn't do (which is a huge detriment of mine) is to procrastinate!

The IBAND board has developed legislation for the upcoming legislative session. We have bills, sponsors, and support for what we've submitted. Now it's up to us, all of us, to lobby by our newly elected officials to pass into law what we believe in. It's gonna be an uphill battle the whole way. It's not gonna be easy. But with the right testimony, integrity, determination and of course political correctness (which I lack) we can achieve what we have in our policy.

So when you get a call to come to Bismarck during the legislative session, please don't make excuses. Please come help support our policies. Come testify how our bills will help ALL the producers of the state. We've been told in the past by legislators and cattle producers alike, our policies and ideas align with righteousness. But we need to lobby those efforts to ALL legislators. Kinda like the radio ads I listen to and magazines I read. They're all bought and

paid for by the advertisers. Our legislators are bought and paid for by lobbyists. Well..... I hope that's all they're bought and paid for by, lobbying and not monetary donations!!! And our checkoff dollars are still being used against us promoting membership to the NCBA! : (

Frank Tomac, Pres of IBAND

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Annual Meeting Recap



Wheel Award

Mike Heaton presents Corey Hart of Chasely, ND the Wheel Award

This is a great Livestock Assoc. I Certainly appreciate this award! Everyone helps when they can as state and federal issues arise.

Thanks again,

Corey



Ballot Results

Resolution COP-2024-1

~~Resolution mRNA 2023-1~~

Resolution MRNA 2024-1

Resolution OSA 2024-1

~~Resolution AIDP 2023-1~~

Resolution AID 2024-1

Resolution AIDF 20~~13~~24-1

ALL RESOLUTIONS PASSED



Welcome to the board!

Hello I-BAND Members!

I'm Rus Makelky. I was raised on and now run a commercial cow-calf operation near Sentinel Butte with my wife, Hillary, our two boys, Dane and Jensen, and my parents, Bob and Cindy.

After being away from the ranch for a few years getting an Ag Studies degree at DSU and taking other jobs, I realized the ranch was the only place I felt at home and that agriculture was my passion.

I'm very involved in my local community as a volunteer firefighter, chairman of the local township board, and part of the youth ministry team at my church.

Advocacy groups, like I-BAND, are one of the best ways we can reach the consumer with the truth about ranching and the health benefits of beef, which is why I am happy to serve on the board.

I look forward to meeting many of you and working with the Board to advance the beef industry.



Cattle group, ranchers sue USDA over animal id rule

Written by Carrie Stadheim

A national cattle organization is the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rule to require the use of electronic/radio frequency identification (RFID) in cattle and bison.

The New Civil Liberties Alliance filed the complaint on behalf of lead plaintiff R-CALF USA and co-plaintiffs South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance along with ranchers Kenny and Roxie Fox, of Belvidere, South Dakota, Tracy and Donna Hunt of Newcastle, Wyoming and Rick and Theresa Fox of Hermosa, South Dakota.

Rick Fox said he hopes to see elected officials "step up to the plate" and put a stop to this mandate that "does nothing that isn't already being accomplished."

USDA had "no foresight" in their rulemaking said Fox. "The U.S. cattle industry doesn't need this, they are making a solution to a problem that doesn't exist," he said.

"Why should groups and individuals have to bring a lawsuit against government bureaucrats (unelected employees)?" He asked.

R-CALF CEO Bill Bullard said the plaintiffs allege that USDA's Animal and Plant Health Services (APHIS) did not have the authority to mandate the use of RFID tags.

"Congress didn't authorize USDA to enforce the Animal Health Production Act with penalties," said Bullard.

The plaintiffs also allege that USDA has "failed to calculate the true costs of the program," said Bullard, which violates the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

NCLA said this in its news release: In 2013, APHIS promulgated a final rule regulating traceability for interstate livestock movements, a regulation that permitted several forms of "official identification" for certain cattle and bison moving across state lines, including both visual-only and electronically readable eartags and providing producers with flexibility to choose among options. Over the past decade, the agency ad-

vanced and abandoned less formal measures for mandating radio frequency identification (RFID) eartags. In May 2024, however, APHIS issued its new rule to end the use of visual-only eartags as a form of official identification for certain cattle and bison moving between states, requiring visually readable EID eartags in their place. This illegal move was also unnecessary, as the existing Animal Disease Traceability framework is already proven effective.

NCLA also said USDA did not prove how its requirement for electronic identification “is *necessary* to prevent the introduction or dissemination of any pest or disease of livestock.”

“These agencies have identified no reason the current tagging system is inadequate. They cannot issue a rule just because they want it,” said John Vecchione, Senior Litigation Counsel, NCLA, in the alliance’s official news release.

<https://www.tsln.com/news/cattle-group-ranchers-sue-usda-over-animal-id-rule/>

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has allocated \$1 million in special funding to support practices lost to the fires.

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has allocated \$1 million in special funding to support landowners and operators in rebuilding essential conservation practices lost to the fires.

Bismarck, N.D. — In response to devastating wildfires across parts of North Dakota in October, the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has allocated \$1 million in special funding to support landowners and operators in rebuilding essential conservation practices lost to the fires. Through an expedited approval process called ACT NOW, NRCS will provide timely assistance to restore impacted areas.

The ACT NOW process allows applications to be preapproved and funded quickly, with eligible projects advancing in the order received. To qualify for this one-time funding opportunity, applicants must submit a separate application and meet all eligibility requirements prior to advancing in the NRCS Protracts system. Field offices will conduct verification of fire-impacted fields, and eligible applications will be promptly ranked for funding consideration.

“NRCS North Dakota is committed to helping producers rebuild and restore the land affected by these severe wildfires,” said State Conservationist Dan Hovland. “This special funding will allow us to deliver immediate support to impacted communities and aid in the recovery of critical conservation practices.”

All applications must meet eligibility standards before they are ranked. If eligibility is not met, the application status will remain as pending or ineligible until requirements are fulfilled. The submission deadline for reviewed applications is January 31, 2025, and ranking will continue through that date.

Approved conservation practices include conservation cover, windbreak/shelterbelt establishment, fencing, pasture and hay planting, range planting, and watering facilities.

For more information, landowners, ranchers, and producers in the affected areas are encouraged to contact their local NRCS Field Office.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/nrcs-north-dakota-offers-1-million-in-emergency-conservation-funding-for-fire-affected>



Working on legislation



Social Media



All of our links in one place!

(We have added a few new ones)

<https://linktr.ee/independentbeefnd>

USCA Meeting in Texas to Set Policy for the Year Ahead

Annual Meeting Dec. 5 – 7 Features Industry Issue Panels

SAN ANTONIO, TX – The United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) will host their 2024 Annual Meeting December 5 – 7 in San Antonio, Texas at the InterContinental Hotel. Each year, USCA brings together its members and leaders in the industry to discuss current policy and issues facing the industry. This year, USCA will host panels on animal ID, marketing and competition, Livestock Risk Protection, and new and emerging technologies within the industry.

The Annual Meeting will kick off with a "Meet the Officers and Staff" event on Thursday evening. Friday, December 6 will feature two panels, the Annual USCA Board of Directors and Members Meeting, and a hosted dinner and fundraising auction. The meeting will conclude on Saturday with a full day of panels from industry experts. USCA's Annual Meeting also serves as the time in which the Association reviews its official policy and receives nominations for Regional Directors.

"The USCA Annual Meeting is an opportunity for producers and our members to come together and discuss the issues that will guide the organization for the year ahead," USCA President Justin Tupper said. "Each year this meeting serves as the guidepost for how and what USCA will focus on in terms of policy and issue priorities. I encourage every USCA member to attend and let your voice be heard."

Affiliates

For more information and to register and book hotel rooms in the meeting

block,

visit uscattlemen.org/annual-meeting-2024/.



Let's Put an End to the EID Mandate

Commentary by Bill Bullard, CEO, R-CALF USA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) broke its promise to our nation's cattle producers. After pushing back against the agency's persistent efforts to mandate electronic identification (EID) eartags on all cattle of all ages for 13 years, the agency offered a compromise to the cattle industry in 2013. The agency promised to implement a system of disease traceability that gave cattle producers flexibility in determining which type of individual animal identification device would best fit their operations. Producers could choose a low-cost metal or plastic eartag or they could choose the highest-cost eartag – the EID eartag. The agency's promise to cattle producers was that they would be given the right to choose.

But the USDA soon reneged on its promise when, in 2019, it issued a policy paper mandating the exclusive use of EID eartags beginning January 1, 2023. When the agency did this, and with the help of the New Civil Liberties Alliance, we sued the USDA over that broken promise. And within a matter of weeks, the agency withdrew its mandate.

But the agency came right back with a notice the very next year stating it was still going to mandate the exclusive use of EID eartags, again by January 1, 2023. Again, we pushed back, not in the courts this time but within the Administration, and we succeeded again – the agency withdrew its mandate.

Now, and despite overwhelming opposition from cattle producers, the USDA has bowed its neck and issued a final rule to mandate the exclusive use of EID eartags for certain adult cattle shipped across state lines.

The agency states that EID eartags will improve its disease traceback capabilities. But this is just a pre-text for its true objective of appeasing multinational beef packers and eartag manufacturers, both of whom expect to benefit from the mandate. The final rule does not accomplish the USDA's disease traceback goals because, as the USDA itself admits, the infrastructure for reading EID tags and digitally recording tag numbers must also be in place in order to achieve the benefits of the EID technology. But that costly infrastructure is not in place and the final rule doesn't even require it to be.

So, the only mandate within the rule is to require cows to wear EID eartags. There's no requirement that the eartags be electronically read, and no requirement that the electronic data contained in the eartag be exported electronically to a database. In other words, the new rule will function just like the 2013 rule, except that cattle producers will no longer be afforded the right to choose what type of animal identification device best fits their operations.

And so, for that reason – that the rule can't accomplish what the USDA said it would, and because Congress never authorized the USDA to burden U.S. cattle producers with an EID mandate, we're challenging this final rule in court, again with the New Civil Liberties Alliance as our legal representative.

R-CALF USA is the lead plaintiff in the legal challenge against the final rule and the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association and the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance have joined us as co-organizational plaintiffs. There are also three husband and wife co-individual plaintiffs.

The lawsuit was filed in the federal district court in Rapid City, South Dakota, on October 30, but the date the final rule begins having the force and effect of law is November 5.

In an effort to postpone the November 5 effective date of the final rule, the New Civil Liberties Alliance, on our behalf, has formally requested the Secretary of Agriculture to postpone the effective date of the final rule while it is under judicial review. In the alternative, the NCLA asks the USDA to delay the final rule for 180 days.

And here's where we would appreciate your help, and I'm going to give you two phone numbers in just a bit. First, it would be great if you'd call Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to urge him to postpone the EID rule until the lawsuit is finished. You can reach Secretary Vilsack's office by calling [202-720-3631](tel:202-720-3631).

Next, it would be great if you called your two Senators and your Representative to tell them a lawsuit has been filed against the USDA's unlawful EID mandate and that you want them to contact the Secretary of Agriculture's office to urge the Secretary to postpone the mandate until the lawsuit is finished. You can reach your members of Congress by calling the Capitol Switchboard and asking for them by name. The number is [202-224-3121](tel:202-224-3121).

And if you're in another occupation, It would be great if you'd make calls too because this draconian rule is a classic example of unlawful government overreach, which is bad government, and everyone should want it to stop.

Mission Statement

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.'



I-BAND

PO BOX 2

STERLING, ND 58572



new address!

NOTICE

January 1, 2025, our membership fees will be going up.

1 Year....\$75

2 Years....\$150

3 Years....\$200

I-BAND

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



ND Beef to School



Brokaw Ranch

delivering their beef to the
Ashley School.

(Their beef was purchased by the school)

Thank you Ryan & Marcie!

Home to nearly 40 million acres

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

Livestock Producers Freedom Rally highlights concerns on USDA EID mandate



Hundreds of people in opposition to the USDA EID mandate gathered in Rapid City, South Dakota, to voice their concerns on how it will impact the cattle industry.

The Livestock Producers Freedom Rally was hosted in Rapid City, South Dakota, on Oct. 7, 2024.

By [Ariana Schumacher](#) Ag Week

October 10, 2024 at 5:30 AM

RAPID CITY, S.D. — Calling the mandated use of electronic identification tags an "unnecessary burden" on cattle producers, R-CALF USA and the United States Cattlemen's Association hosted a Livestock Producers Freedom Rally on

Oct. 7 that focused on their issues about the tags soon to be mandated for use in cattle and bison sold across state lines.

"This is a completely unnecessary burden upon the independent U.S. cattle producers to essentially begin control of this industry," said Bill Bullard, CEO of R-Calf USA.

This rule was adopted by the USDA earlier this year and is set to go into effect on Nov. 5.

"It is, in my opinion, illegal. It is a violation of the law," said U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.). "The USDA does not have the authority to do this. But there are so many serious negative consequences associated with the USDA imposing an EID mandate against our cattle and bison producers."

Bullard said that if the USDA does enforce a rule like this, it would have the same effects on the cattle and bison industries as it has had on branches of the ag industry.

"We've seen what's happened already with our sister industries, particularly the hog industry, because the U.S. Department of Agriculture did not take any action to preserve the independence of those producers and that entire industry is not vertically integrated," he said. "We wiped out about 90% of all the hog producers that were in business just four decades ago are gone today. Cattle industry is the last frontier. One of the reasons it is, is because of the independent-minded U.S. cattle producers."

Hageman said enforcing the mandate of electronic ear tags would be expensive. She said according to the USDA, this rule would apply to 11% of the nation's cattle and bison producers and is estimated to cost \$26.1 million.

"That is for nothing more than the ear tag itself, a little button. That doesn't include the wands, that doesn't include the software or the hardware. It doesn't include any of the compliance costs, cattle handling, anything else," she said. "Then when you think about it only applying to roughly 10% of the industry, if they eventually enforce it against the entire industry, that's a roughly \$250 million rule right there, according to the USDA."

Privacy is also a concern.

Poem

I'm sure there are quite a few of you reading this that know the iconic, "So God Made a Farmer" poem by Paul Harvey. But have you ever heard of its counterpart?

*And on the 9th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "That farmer needs help."
So God made a farmer's wife.*

*God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, weed the garden, cook breakfast and dinner, then go to town and work her full-time job, come home to work alongside her farmer, make supper, and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board."
So God made a farmer's wife.*

*"I need somebody with arms strong enough to carry a basket of wet coveralls up the basement stairs and out to the clothesline and yet gentle enough to rock a newborn baby. Somebody to run for parts, help in the fields, move trucks, deliver meals, look the farmer in the eyes and tell him 'I love you and the life we've built' – and mean it."
So God made a farmer's wife.*

*God said, "I need somebody willing to hem pants, wash windows, varnish floors, bake cookies and casseroles, snap green beans and clean sweetcorn, make apple sauce and jams for the years to come. To be a caregiver to her mother, brother, sister, husband, sons, daughter in laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren and tell them all to call whenever they need something, and mean it."
So God made a farmer's wife.*

*"I need somebody who can host family reunions, serve on her board of elections, schedule the tooth fairy, keep Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas traditions alive across the generations. Who can use a wrench and know where to find it, doesn't mind getting dirty, who can remove stains, and keep a house clean and at planting time and harvest season, will finish her forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then put it another seventy-two hours."
So God made a farmer's wife.*

*God needed "somebody strong enough to clean out bins and heave bails, who will drive the tractor and pray to God about the weather. It had to be someone willing to go it alone at euchre, play catch, beat everyone at bridge, run the bases, weed, seed, feed, breed, and to race to keep a toddler from wandering out into the barnyard during harvest season. Then drive the 5 mile drive to Catholic Church where she would help feed the hungry, help decorate for holidays, pray for her loved ones and serve her Lord Almighty."
So God made a farmer's wife.*

*"Somebody who'd stitch a family together with the soft strong bonds of family meals, sharing, and caring. Who would smile to see her kids doing what mom and dad did, and to hear family say there is no better way to grow up than on a farm. To sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes when her grandchildren say they want to spend their lives 'doing what grandma does.'"
So God made a farmer's wife.*

By April Ellis Sheldon, granddaughter of Catherine Ellis, 1925-2019

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 19 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 \$50 ___ 1 Year Associate \$50
___ 2 Year Voting \$100 ___ 2 Year Associate \$100
___ 3 Year Voting \$125 ___ 3 Year Associate \$125

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** _____

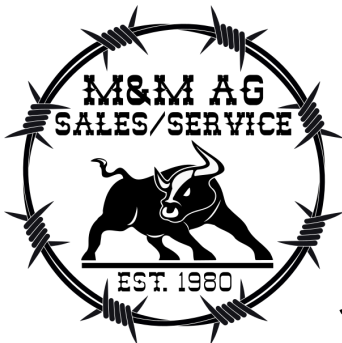
- Voting Members must own cattle. Annual dues are \$50.00 per year per member (one member/one vote).
- Associate Members do not own cattle and do not have voting rights. Annual dues \$50.00.

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 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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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

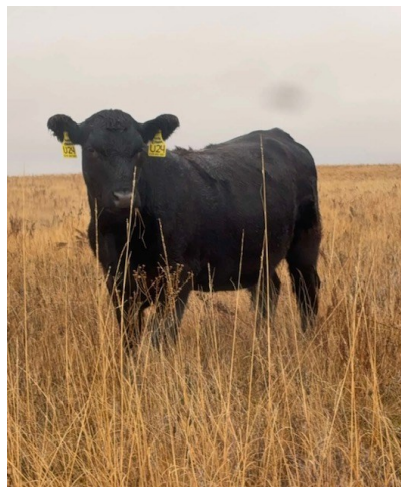


Photo by Travis Heaton

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