

Factsheet: North Dakota Beef to School Pilot Program

The purpose of this program is to give pilot schools in North Dakota a taste of beef that has been raised and processed fully in the State. The school will be able to compare the cooking, packaging and taste of locally sourced beef to the USDA Foods commodity or a commercially available ground beef that they are currently using.

The pilot school will consider the procurement of North Dakota beef for use in School Year 2023 meal programs. Contact information for the nearest source of locally raised and processed in an inspected facility will be provided.

The cost of USDA Foods commodity ground beef in School Year 2022 averaged \$3.71, now \$4.09. The school must consider this price along with the value of other benefits received by using locally sourced beef including:

- increased participation from fresher tasting beef,
- custom packaging to make preparation more efficient and possibly less waste,
- the economics of supporting a community business that may have the opportunity to increase employment, and
- potentially adding a new nutrition education component to the meal program.

Can schools purchase local beef?

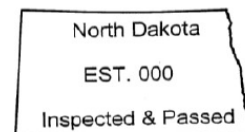
Yes! Using locally sourced beef is a win for your students – it may be nutritionally superior and taste better than some of the products found in the commercial market. Using locally sourced beef is a win for your local farmers and a win for your community. One well quoted study found that for every dollar spent in a community, it turns over (is re-spent) 7 times before leaving.



What type of meat and poultry products can be donated or sold to schools in the state of North Dakota?

The regulations allow:

- State officially inspected product-product bears ND “inspected and passed” inspection legend.
- State officially inspected product produced under the Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) Program-product bears USDA “inspected and passed” SEND legend.
- Federally inspected product-product bears USDA “inspected and passed”.



Your health inspector will be looking for an inspection seal on your meat. Make sure you are purchasing meat for your school nutrition program that has been inspected.

The North Dakota Beef to School Pilot Program is funded through a generous donation of the I-BAND organization. I-BAND is the acronym for Independent Beef Association of North Dakota. Find more about this organization at <https://i-band.org>.

The program is also a partnership with two North Dakota State departments – the Agriculture Department and the Department of Public Instruction’s Child Nutrition and Food Distribution.

Along with your beef, you have the contact information of your closest I-BAND Director, circled below. In return for this donation of ground beef, please contact the IBAND rancher either by phone or email to report on how the students liked the beef, any packaging or other issues.

When you serve this beef, consider inviting the local press to promote the program.



The Board of Directors for I-BAND include:

I-Band District 1

Directors: South & West ND

Frank Tomac

fktomac@gmail.com
701-426-5015

Watauga, SD (Ranch is on the ND side)

Kenny Graner

granerangus@gmail.com
701-471-8879 Mandan

Pat Becker

bkrranch@westriv.com
701-226-6698 Selfridge

Ron Volk

Ronvolk1873@gmail.com
701-218-0352 Sentinel Butte

Jeremy Maher

maherjmangus@hotmail.com
605-314-4760

Morristown, SD (Ranch is on the ND side)

JW Froelich

jwfroelich@yahoo.com
701-522-3430 Selfridge

I-Band District 2

Directors: North & East ND

Kerry Dockter

dockterranch@hotmail.com
701-220-7941 McClusky

Mike Heaton

xhranch@bektel.com
701-220-0496 McKenzie

Larry Kinev

lkdawson@bektel.com
701-220-6102 Dawson

Jack Nagel

rynnagel@bektel.com
701-321-0910 Linton

August Heupel

Ajh_09@hotmail.com
701-320-9818 Medina

I-BAND Office contact:

Kari Goldade

Independent.beef.assoc.nd@gmail.com

For questions or concerns about the program please contact:

Deb Egeland, NDDPI

degeland@nd.gov/701-328-3718

Kara Haff or Kristine Kostuck, ND Ag Dept

khaff@nd.gov/701-328-2308 or

krkostuck@nd.gov/701-328-2659

Your I-BAND contact is circled but feel free to connect with any of these ranchers with questions or comments. They will have advice on other beef producers in your area, reviews of local meat processors, may be willing to visit your school on a ‘Meet your Farmer’ day or provide insight into cattle production in ND.