

INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Your state wide voice in the cattle industry!

PO Box 2

Sterling, ND 58572

www.i-band.org

2026-2

President Message

Hello everyone.

Spring has mostly come and gone, and we are a few days into June as I write this. Hopefully, calving went well for everyone, and you all are turning out happy, healthy cattle to abundant grass! Let's get right into it.

New World Screwworm is here. This wasn't a subject I was anticipating writing about just a few days ago. As I write this, the first confirmed case was reported on June 3rd. I was optimistic that it would not cross the border, but it was probably inevitable. Who knows

what the storyline on the screwworm will be once this reaches your mailbox? A few things I do know. The southern border **MUST REMAIN CLOSED**. I believe this screwworm problem can be handled quickly and effectively, and there is absolutely no reason to compound the problem by opening the border and potentially causing more cases. I also believe that while this is serious, it is not something to let get "out of hand" in the media or in our markets. The board was limited up today, a day after the confirmed case. I don't claim to be a market expert whatsoever, but I guess that move puzzled me a little. Maybe the screwworm story was already built into the board, given that May was a tougher month for the board.

Speaking of "Limit Up". Our futures price limits have expanded. New limits are as follows: Live Cattle \$8.50/cwt, and the expanded limit is \$12.75/cwt. Feeder cattle are now \$10.75/cwt, and the expanded limit is \$16/cwt. This is way out of line, and I have no idea how one can stomach those types of swings. This is serious money changing hands, with giant swings up and down when the market is volatile. These limits need to be reined in and not widened.

I-BAND has been working on trying to straighten out the CME. The only group in the state taking action, as far as I can tell. We have put together a letter requesting an investigation into the extraordinary way the market dropped last fall for no fundamental reason. We would like answers as to why the market reacted the way it did. Most importantly, though, is trying



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to prevent such a thing from happening again. I am very proud of the way this board has stepped up and of its commitment to getting to the bottom of this. Special thanks to Kerry, Ron, and all of the other heavy-hitting individuals who contributed time and knowledge to get this put together. The letter is in this issue of the newsletter. Please take time to read it, share it, and pass it along to anyone you think needs to read it.

Hopefully, summer treats us all well with timely moisture, good grass, and an abundant hay crop. Please, whenever something is on your mind, give any one of us a call. We would love to discuss these issues. Also, consider coming to the convention in October. The resolutions meeting is on October 23, and the convention is on the 24th. We would love to see you all there. More details will be coming out as we get closer. Thank you all for what you do. Have a safe and productive summer.

August Heupel

President

Annual Meeting

2026 Annual Meeting

October 23-24, 2026



**Plan to attend the 2026 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

Rancher's Rights Initiative:

Advocating for rancher's rights through legal means and industry and policy reform.

Established in 2025 by North Dakota ranchers Kenny Graner, Jeremy Maher, and Mike Heaton, RRI is at work fighting to protect the rights and legacies of hardworking ranchers across the state. The first bold step in that mission came when on July 16, 2025, RRI filed suit against the North Dakota Beef Commission, Governor Kelly Armstrong and Attorney General Drew Wrigley challenging the constitutionality of North Dakota's Beef Checkoff on four counts.

The four charges are related to the state's facial and as-applied violations of Section 21's Privileges and Immunities Clause. Plaintiffs claim there is no legally legitimate reason for granting the ND Stockman's Association special privileges over cattle ranchers in North Dakota who choose not to pay dues to the organization. (A facial challenge is a constitutional challenge arguing a law is unconstitutional in its entirety, meaning it is invalid in all circumstances and contexts, not just applied to a specific individual. An as-applied challenge argues the law is unconstitutional only in its specific application to the person or situation.)

The plaintiffs are represented by Robby Dube, Eckland and Blando, Minneapolis, MN. The case is assigned to South Central Judicial District Judge Jackson Lofgren.

Plaintiffs claim the ND Stockman's Association, under the ND Century Code, controls a majority of the nine appointments to the checkoff's governing board; in other words, the majority of voting members who decide where and how checkoff funds will be expended. It also punishes producers who seek a refund of their state checkoff by prohibiting their eligibility to serve on the ND Beef Commission, which is also the Qualified State Beef Council for the federal beef checkoff. This thereby precludes those refund-seeking producers from serving on governing bodies of the federal checkoff they are required by federal law to pay simply because they seek a legal refund of their state checkoff.

Beyond this lawsuit there is more work ahead to bring about the change our industry sorely needs. RRI is funded with private money; we answer to no financial masters or bureaucracy. Your donations help us defend all of our livelihoods, advocate for fair and effective policy, and preserve a way of life that's under threat. Every dollar makes a difference.

Join us and back the cause.

If you wish to donate to our cause, checks can be sent to:

Ranchers' Rights Initiative

Po Box 12

Sterling, ND 58572



Letter

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche, Secretary Rollins, Chairman Selig:

In October 2025, the U.S. government announced that it would roughly double the tariff-free quota for Argentine beef. That doubling would have amounted to an additional .5 percent of total beef sold in the United States and should not have affected cattle prices. The cattle futures market on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), however, collapsed and recovered for contracts that were due long before any increase in imported beef would occur. Worse, the collapse occurred during the holiday season, when feeder and fat cattle prices should have risen, driven by consumer demand.¹ The collapse devastated producers and independent feedlots, costing us hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost profits.

The CME should be a tool for price protection. Extreme market swings, unrelated to underlying supply and demand, make that impossible. Instead, large investors appear to sway the market in their own benefit and that of large meat packers and large feedlots. Our question is, who is playing these markets to cause these drastic swings? To us, it sure seems that the big corporate feedlots had a prime opportunity to fill their lots. There was no lack of buyers, but prices in those markets followed the collapse on the CME. On live cattle we can sure see the major packers driving down the supply to ensure more profit when all along there was no fundamental reason for such activity. We ask that your agencies investigate whether market manipulation or other illegal acts caused prices to fall as much as they did.

Cattle prices crashed in October 2025. On the 16th, cattle futures prices peaked.² Retail beef prices were also at record highs.³ President Trump announced that his administration was working on a plan to lower the price of beef.⁴ A week later, President Trump would increase the quota, or cap, on beef entering the U.S. from Argentina, tariff-free, from 20,000 metric tons to 80,000 metric tons per year.⁵ Cattle prices in both the CME and in the cash market crashed. By Nov. 6, live cattle futures fell \$30 per hundred weight (cwt), and feeder cattle futures fell \$70 cwt.⁶

Producers withstood the worst of that short but devastating crash. Cash market prices for fed cattle fell by 13-19 percent between the announcements. Those prices had rebounded by 15% based on the regional markets by late December. Using conservative assumptions that (a) the October 19 pre-crash price was the high for the season and (b) average slaughter weight was 1500 lbs., total losses due to the crash were over \$104 million.

Independent feeders of the live-cattle market suffered a similar blow. For example, one feeder lost \$196,808 due to the market swing. Before October 16th, fat cattle were bid at \$2.38 per pound live weight. By the time this feeder received a bid on October 24th, the market had declined to \$2.35 per pound. He was only able to move four hundred of his 1100 head, weighing 1434 pounds. On November 9th, the bid was down to \$2.16 per pound. He moved another 400 head of cattle, and they weighed 1,578 pounds. The final bid for the remaining three hundred head of cattle came on December 11th for \$229 and weighed 1511 pounds.

Another member feeder sold two loads of fat steers after the market crash. Prior to the market fluctuation, these steers were worth \$3.68 per pound hanging weight; 2 weeks later, the seller accepted a bid of \$3.43 per pound hanging weight, and the bid fell as low as \$3.37 per pound during that time. The feeder lost

an estimated \$23,160. That amounts to \$1.3 million a day on 4,000 head of cattle. In both cases of the feeder cattle and the live cattle markets, they slowly rebounded by late December and into the New Year, until there was a rumor of opening the border to Mexican feeder cattle, which again caused several days of market volatility.

However wise or unwise this action is – and we have significant concerns about the effects on American food security – the action should not have caused cattle futures and cash markets to fall by 10 percent and stay depressed for months. The four-fold increase appears likely to increase Argentina's beef imports from its reported 2 percent of total imports⁷ closer to 8 percent. That amount would increase total beef supplies by only .5 percent over 2024,⁸ hardly enough to trigger a crash in the CME. Further, the impact on futures occurred before President Trump increased the tariff-free quota on February 6, 2026, and affected futures due before any increase in imported beef. Finally, the retail prices for beef – the justification for importing more beef from Argentina – increased while cattle prices collapsed.

The announced increase in Argentine imports did not cause the volatility that cost producers, helped packers, and provided no relief to consumers. Instead, illegal market manipulation may be the culprit. A few firms dominate the fed cattle markets. Four packers control 85% of the fed cattle market; the big four contract with a handful of large corporate feedlots; together, they can control both the cash and futures markets. That concentration makes it both easier and more profitable to manipulate futures market prices.

The volatility has provided no relief to consumers. As the attached photos show, recently the price of ground beef is \$7.97 per pound, and a rib-eye is \$23.47 per pound at

Walmart. Meanwhile, boxed beef prices in the area (a proxy for the wholesale price) for these products are \$6.13 per pound and \$14.46 per pound. That suggests Walmart is earning a 30-60 percent markup while consumers have seen little to no relief.

We appreciate your recognition of these concerns and your efforts to investigate the market for collusion, price fixing, and price manipulation.⁹ We believe the events of last fall merit investigation. A joint investigation across agencies would be the most effective. Many forms of market manipulation could have occurred:

- Packers, feedlots, or other parties may have known about the announcement before it occurred and taken a large short position.
- Parties may have engaged in spoofing or algorithmic exploitation to trigger the collapse in futures markets.
- Wash-trading may have occurred, or

Packers may have withdrawn from the cash market in the days after the announcement to artificially trigger a collapse in the futures market.

Any of these or a combination of these strategies could violate the Commodities Exchange Act,¹⁰ the Packers' and Stockyards Act, 7 USC § 192, or the antitrust laws.

Any investigation should begin by looking for unusual short positions in the CME before the announcement. Your agencies should further obtain documents from those parties, the big four packers, and the members of the beef alliance that relate to the futures markets and the announcement. This targeted approach would efficiently determine whether illegal conduct occurred.

In short, the CME was designed as a risk-protection tool. But with no fundamental reason for the market movement, these unfounded swings will continue and have done so recently -- just not to the same extent as in October. If the government refuses to enforce its authority, this manipulation and the damage it causes will continue.

The cattle industry is a vital pillar of rural economies. Its health depends on a fair and transparent futures market. Market manipulation devastates not just the direct victims and consumers but the entire rural ecosystem. We appreciate your attention to this matter. We are happy to provide any additional information that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Kerry L. Dochter

Raffle Tickets

\$20

RAFFLE PRIZES

\$20



2026 POLARIS 450

(APROX \$8000 VALUE)

(DONATED IN PART BY DAKOTA SPORTS)

¼ BEEF BUNDLE

(\$1000 VALUE)

(BEEF DONATED BY PRAIRIE HILLS RANCH & PROCESSING DONATED BY LUND RANCH)

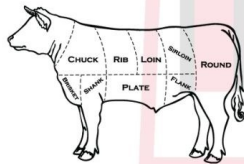
\$500 CASH

(DONATED BY ROTH FARM & RANCH)

DRAWING TO BE HELD

OCTOBER 24, 2026

DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN



PERMIT #2026-055

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:



venmo



**INDEPENDENT BEEF
ASSOC OF ND**



TERMS & CONDITIONS

Prize 1. Prize to be picked up at Dakota Sports in Dickinson, ND.
The winner is responsible for applicable taxes.

Prize 2. The winner is responsible for picking up the bundle at
Schweitzer's Gourmet Meats in Moffit, ND.

Prize 3. The prize will be given as cash or a cashier's check

PERMIT #2026-055

Contact Kari or any of the board members for tickets!

New World screwworm in US, veterinary certificates needed to move animals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2026

MEDIA:

Dr. Ethan Andress,
Dr. Beth Carlson, or
Dr. Margo Kunz
701-328-2655

BISMARCK, N.D. – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed the detection of New World screwworm (NWS) on June 3 in Texas cattle. Animal owners are reminded that Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) are needed to import animals into North Dakota, and additional requirements are in place for states with an active NWS quarantine in place. Since the first announcement, there have been more cases in Texas and a dog in New Mexico.

NWS is a parasitic fly whose larvae can affect all warm-blooded animals, including but not limited to cattle, sheep, goats, horses, dogs, cats, birds, poultry, deer and elk. Animals coming to North Dakota from any state which has an active NWS quarantine in place, are required to be accompanied by a pre-entry permit number prior to import into North Dakota. The permit number is to be listed on the CVI.

USDA and Texas officials are taking immediate action to contain and eradicate NWS from the United States, and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture's animal health division is working closely with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) veterinary staff and other state veterinary offices, including Texas, to maintain open communication and prompt coordination in any necessary responses.

"If you are bringing animals in from, or traveling into high-risk areas, monitor your animals for wounds. If you notice any suspicious wounds on your animal, have a veterinarian look at it," State Veterinarian Dr. Ethan Andress said. "Horse owners traveling with an Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI) should be aware the EECVI will not be accepted from infested states and will require an inspection and CVI with permit."

Individuals planning to travel to Mexico with pets should visit the USDA-APHIS [Pet Travel Website](#) for the latest guidelines.

"Proper documents help to quickly identify and isolate infected animals, trace their movements and stop further spread," Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said. "We rely on the cooperation of owners to help safeguard the health of animals and livestock."

"When NWS infestations are found, infestations can be treated with several FDA-approved products," Andress said. "A prompt diagnosis and treatment can prevent significant losses."

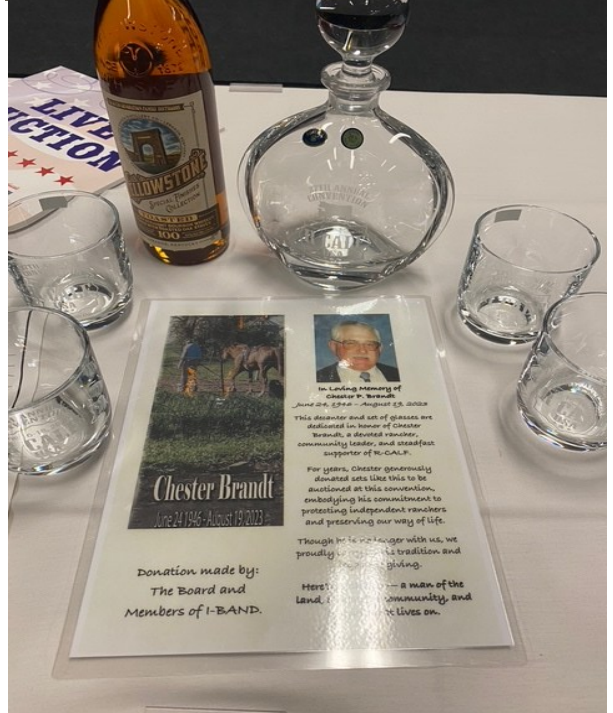
Full details on animal movement and importation requirements may be found on the [North Dakota Department of Agriculture's website](#).

Those with questions may contact the North Dakota Department of Agriculture's animal health division at 701-328-2655 or doa-bah@nd.gov.



Above: Board member Ron Volk received an award from R-CALF. Right: President August Heupel, Board member Ron Volk, Corey Hart, Friend of I-BAND and Past President, Pat Becker attended the R-CALF Convention in Rapid City, SD. Not Pictured: Vice President, Allen Lund also attended.

Bottom right: Decanter set in memory of Chester Brandt.



I-BAND (Independent Beef Assn of ND) President August Heupel, Medina ND and Carrie Roth, I-BAND board member, Mott ND attended the ND Animal Health meeting at the State Capitol in Bismarck on June 10. The meeting was led by ND State Veterinarian, Dr. Ethan Andress. It was an interesting update, with the hottest topics being the New World Screwworm and Mandatory EID tags.



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 ★ DESIGN CONTEST ★



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WHO CAN ENTER?

ANYONE!
 All ages welcome!



SUBMISSION DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Email your design to
independent.beef.assoc.nd@gmail.com



WINNER RECEIVES

- 1-Year I-BAND Membership
- 2 Meals at the Annual Meeting
- 2 I-BAND T-Shirts

HONOR OUR PAST ★ CELEBRATE OUR PRESENT ★ PROTECT OUR FUTURE

Be Creative. Be Proud. Be I-Band.

Beef vs. Energy Drink

Think About It Thursday

⇒ One serving of beef provides:

High-quality protein

Iron

Zinc

Vitamin B12

Selenium

⇒ An energy drink provides:

A temporary boost of caffeine

Sugar or artificial sweeteners

Which one is fueling your body, and which one is just keeping your eyes open?



Affiliates



Social Media



All of our links in one place!

(We have added a few new ones)

<https://linktr.ee/independentbeefnd>

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:

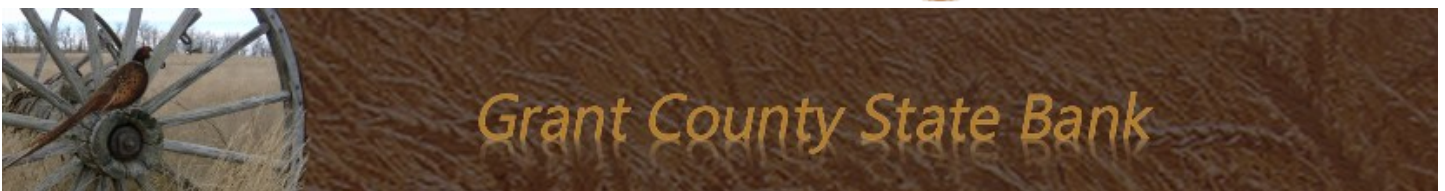
District One _____ District Two _____

- 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

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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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Electric number branding irons 0-9. Also have 2 chin-ball paint marking halter used for heat detecting
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****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.****

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- 🔔 Great exposure
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To get started or learn more, message us here on Facebook or email us at kari@i-band.org. Let's help each other grow, connect, and support rural businesses!



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Dakota Balance Bookkeeping

Kari Goldade
701-214-0639

dakota.balance.bookkeeping@gmail.com

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Business Card Size 1

Issue \$ 30

Full year \$ 100

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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

Allen Lund
Vice President
701-471-3747

Ron Volk
701-872-2172

Rus Makelky
701-690-1726

Carrie Roth
605-645-9353

Derek Olson
701-471-0819

Directors

Frank Tomac
Director at Large
701-522-3430



Kari Goldade
Secretary/Treasurer
kari@i-band.org

DISTRICT TWO

August Heupel
President
701-320-9818

Kerry Dockter
701-884-2754

Kyle Shively
701-208-0398

Medora Kologi
701-516-0087

Brian Larson
701-471-5672