

During National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, HHS Raises Awareness of Risks And Shares Prevention And Screening Details

Lead is a toxic metal found in the environment and in homes. Even in small amounts, lead is harmful to young children and pregnant women.

During National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 19-25, North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) and some local public health partners are raising awareness about lead and sharing information about ways to prevent and address lead exposure and poisoning.

Children younger than age six are most vulnerable to the effects of lead exposure, especially infants and toddlers who often put their hands or other objects in their mouths. Lead exposure can impact a child's growth and development and contribute to long-term learning issues, behavioral problems and lowered IQ.

HHS has developed a lead exposure webpage containing information, including a data brief, and other resources on lead poisoning and ways to prevent it. The department is also piloting curriculum for elementary-age children about lead and healthy habits to prevent lead poisoning.

People living in homes built before the 1978 lead-based paint

ban are at higher risk. According to North Dakota Housing Finance Agency's 2024 housing study, 46 percent of the houses in the state were built before the 1970s. Children can be exposed to lead from swallowing or breathing in paint particles or dust from peeling or damaged painted surfaces inside and outside of homes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that other common sources of lead include contaminated soil and drinking water contaminated by lead pipes or plumbing fixtures. Some imported foods, spices and foreign-made products including some toys may contain lead. Parents can watch for recalls on the Consumer Product Safety Commission website.

People may also accidentally bring lead into their homes due to exposure from hobbies or jobs where materials containing lead are present.

Simple Ways to Prevent Lead Exposure

- Washing children's hands, toys, bottles, and pacifiers often
- Wet-mopping floors and wiping windowsills and doors regularly
- Using lead-safe certified contractors for home repairs or renovations

- Removing shoes when entering the home
 - Changing clothes before going home, showering after work and washing work clothes separately if work involves construction, plumbing, auto repair, mining or other professions involving work with materials containing lead
 - Eating a nutritious diet high in vitamin C, iron, and calcium to help limit the body's absorption of lead.
- See WIC sample meal ideas from our partners at U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Testing
A blood test, often involving a fingertip prick, is the best way to know if a child has been exposed to lead. For this reason, HHS encourages parents to talk to their child's health care provider about getting their child tested during routine wellness visits. Based on blood lead test results, health care providers can recommend follow-up actions and care.

To prevent lifelong impact of lead poisoning, North Dakota Medicaid covers lead screening for children at 12 months and 24 months of age as part of their regular wellness visit. Children between 36 and 72 months of age who are Medicaid members and have not previously been screened for lead are required to have a blood lead test. Learn more about Medicaid wellness visits at hhs.nd.gov/health-tracks.

To find more facts on lead poisoning, prevention and testing and to support bright beginnings for all North Dakota children by keeping them lead free, visit hhs.nd.gov/health/lead or call 701-328-2378, 711 (TTY).

ND Stockmen's Association Issues Statement In Response To President's Statement

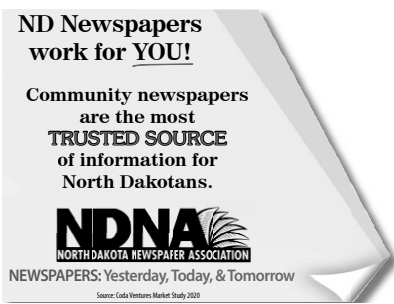
Last week, North Dakota Stockmen's Association President Randy Schmitt, a Rugby, cow-calf producer, issued the following statement after President Donald Trump's social media post about the beef industry:

"The North Dakota Stockmen's Association maintains its position that the president's plan to increase the volume of Argentine beef exports in an effort to drive down domestic retail prices is a faulty one that will have little to no impact on U.S. consumers, but do considerable damage to our markets during this peak cattle marketing period and beyond. Our organization has stood steadfast against policies that attempt to artificially manipulate the market. Supply and demand, not the government, should be what sets the market.

Cattle markets, of course, are complex, but the strength in the markets we have seen certainly has stemmed from one of the lowest cattle inventories in modern history and off-the-chart consumer demand for our beef.

That's thanks to the dedication, hard work, and innovation of cattle-ranching families here in North Dakota and around this great nation, who are committed to producing the safest, highest quality beef in the world. Consumers recognize its value.

We implore President Trump to back away from his plan, as it risks damaging the livelihoods of American ranchers and would exacerbate the incredible trade imbalance that already exists between our countries."



--Beulah Beacon

LAND FOR SALE ON BIDS

The Kuder Family ("Seller") will receive bids delivered to the law firm of Pringle & Herigstad, P.C., Minot, ND on the following described real estate (156.7 Acres M/L) situated in Mountrail County, North Dakota:

Township 151 N., Range 90 W. Section 35: SE¼

1. Seller is reserving all oil, gas, and other mineral interests. Land is sold subject to all easements, rights-of-way, restrictions, prior mineral reservations, if any, and reservations of record. Land is sold where-is and as-is. Land is subject to a lease through 2025.
2. **Bids:** Bids must be submitted to Attorney Matthew H. Olson, Pringle & Herigstad, P.C., 2525 Elk Drive, PO Box 1000, Minot, ND 58702-1000, telephone (701) 852-0381. **All bids must be submitted in writing by 4:00 p.m. on November 10, 2025.** Bids must be signed by the bidder, and must include the bidder's mailing address, email address, and telephone number. Written bids must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check payable to Pringle & Herigstad Trust Account in the amount of \$3,000.00.
3. Inquiries regarding the land should be made to the attorney. A bidder's packet with information on the property is available and will be given out upon request. Call Kristi at (701) 858-1367 to request a packet.
4. **Date of Sale:** Bid-off: The top eight (8) bidders will be allowed to raise their bids at an oral bid-off to take place on **November 12, 2025** at 1:30 p.m. at Pringle & Herigstad, P.C., 2525 Elk Drive, 58701 (next to Homesteaders Restaurant), Minot, North Dakota. These top eight (8) bidders will be notified on or before November 11, 2025. All other bidders will have their checks returned to them promptly via US mail.
5. **Terms:** Five percent (5%) down on the date the bid is accepted by Seller, by certified or cashier's check as earnest money. Closing anticipated on or before December 12, 2025. The date the bid is accepted by the seller may not be the same date as the date of the sale. Seller shall furnish up-to-date abstract of title and a Warranty Deed. 2025 real estate taxes to be prorated. Closing agent's costs will be split between Buyer and Seller.
6. Seller reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive irregularities in bids, and to modify the manner of the sale in any particular whatsoever.

PSC Receives High Marks On Federal Review Of Coal Regulatory And Abandoned Mine Lands Program

The North Dakota Public Service Commission's Coal Regulatory and Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program recently received results from its annual federal evaluation. The evaluation conducted by the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) concluded that no issues or concerns were raised and that the PSC "has efficient coal regulatory and AML programs."

"This outside evaluation verifies the excellent work of the PSC staff," said Chair Randy Christmann who holds the coal mining, reclamation, and abandoned mine lands portfolio. "They assure that North Dakota's landscape will be safe, productive, and beautiful for future generations, while our mines produce coal for the energy Americans rely on, whether it is windy or not."

Coal Regulatory Program:

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) is the state agency charged with the responsibility for the permitting and regulation of the coal mining industry in North Dakota. North Dakota's reclamation law is based on the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). North Dakota currently has six active mining operations (4 lignite and 2 leonardite mines). More than 136,000 acres are currently permitted for mining. To date, approximately 18,842 acres have received final bond release where Commission jurisdiction has ended.

In OSMRE's report, they report-

ed that "The NDPSC staff continues to implement the program in a professional, cooperative, and fair manner. The Reclamation Division uses new technology to become more efficient and make information more readily available to the public. The NDPSC has the necessary technical expertise for carrying out its functions to ensure that all requirements of SMCRA are met."

The report also noted the "very good working relationship with their customers that include industry, landowners, citizen groups, and other governmental agencies, including the OSMRE. The Reclamation Division carries out its duties using the appropriate technical expertise and with a high level of professionalism."

Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program:

The goal of this program is to eliminate hazards related to coal mining that was conducted prior to the enactment of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977. PSC staff in the AML program design and manage the reclamation projects, and then the actual reclamation work is done by contractors. Since the state program began in 1982, the North Dakota AML program has conducted more than 194 primary reclamation projects, 34 emergency projects and numerous construction maintenance and sinkhole filling projects. Almost 39 miles of dangerous surface mine pits and highwalls, and more than 1,546 acres of underground mine

subsidence have been reclaimed. The report noted that "these projects have reduced the likelihood of death or injury to property owners and the public."

OSMRE states in the report that "the state administers an excellent program in full compliance with their approved plan." Additionally, statements in the review include "the NDPSC continues to administer an efficient and successful program. The NDPSC met the goals of abating hazards and improving site conditions at all projects conducted during the evaluation year."

The Commission receives funds from OSMRE for the AML program from the collection of a federal reclamation fee that is collected on all coal that has been mined since the late 1970s. The North Dakota AML program received approximately \$2.8 million this year. Additionally, approximately \$3.1 million was received from a grant as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The report highlights the efficient use of those funds in North Dakota stating "The NDPSC maintains a very cost effective program with only fourteen percent of the grant dedicated to administrative costs."

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or www.psc.nd.gov.

Oil Production Drops Slightly In August

Division of Mineral Resources Director Nathan Anderson released the Director's Cut for October on Tuesday, Oct. 24. The report shows that oil production dropped slightly again in August. Gas production also dropped slightly.

Oil production in August was 35,757,872 barrels or 1,153,480 barrels per day, down .87% from July's production of 36,071,068 barrels or 1,163,583 barrels per day. Production in August was still just slightly above the revised revenue forecast based on 1,150,000 million barrels per day. 1,123,627 barrels per day, or 97.4% came from Bakken and Three Forks wells, and 29,853 barrels per day, or 2.6%, came from legacy pools.

Oil production in Mountrail County went from 6,210,184 barrels in July to 6,283,405 barrels in August. There were 3,659 wells producing in July, dropping to 3,621 in August with 4,107 wells capable of producing in June. Production in Mountrail County was fourth behind McKenzie, Williams and

Dunn Counties, respectively. 31% of the state's production comes from McKenzie County with the top five counties accounting for 96.2% of the state's production.

The price of ND Light Sweet Crude on the North Dakota Market averaged \$61.75 in July, dropping to \$58.08 in August. The revenue forecast was adjusted and lowered to an average of \$59.00 per barrel, meaning that the August price was 1.6% below that revised forecast.

Gas production in July was 110,278,431 MCF, dropping .21% to 110,044,671 in August.

Gas production in Mountrail County went from 14,918,645 MCF in July to 15,957,708 in August. Production in Mountrail County was third behind McKenzie and Williams, respectively.

There were 99 wells permitted in July, 90 in August and 95 in September. 77 wells were completed in July, 83 in August and 56 in September. There are 351 wells waiting on completion.

The rig count was at 29 in July and August, dropping to 27 in September. It rose one to 28 on Friday, Oct. 24.

There were 19,547 producing wells in July, rising to 19,607 in August. The total number of producing wells is up 60, month over month, while the number of inactive wells increased by 12, month over month. The number of producing wells hit an all-time high again in August.

Looking at Fort Berthold Reservation activity, oil production was at 153,503 barrels per day in July, dropping 4.5% to 146,596 barrels per day in August. The rig count stayed steady at three. Of the 3,005 active wells, 707 are on fee land and 2,298 are on trust land. There are currently 127 active permits, 114 on trust land and 13 on fee land.

Gas capture details are as follows: Statewide, 95.4%; Statewide Bakken, 95.7%; Non-FBIR Bakken, 95.5%; FBIR Bakken, 96.7%; Trust FBIR Bakken, 96.5%; and Fee FBIR, 96.8%.

Divide JDA hires director

Isaac Bangura has been hired as Divide County's new community development director.

Bangura, a recent transplant to Crosby from Massachusetts, started work for the Divide County Job Development Authority on Oct. 14.

Bangura earned a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and has another master's degree in economics and finance from a school in the United Kingdom.

Bangura is originally from Sierra Leone, in West Africa, and was most recently living in Massachusetts before moving to Crosby with his wife, Augusta, and two of their daughters.

"I really see Crosby as an exceptional place that stands out," Bangura said, "not only because it's peaceful, but the people are willing to help. They are willing. They are welcoming."

--The Journal, Crosby

New Stanley ambulance bay

Crews have completed a new emergency room entrance and ambulance bay at Mountrail County Health Center in Stanley as part of a larger series of construction projects.

The ambulance bay by the emergency room was extended to accommodate the larger sizes of the newer ambulances. The new bay has heated floors, and the concrete outside is also heated to avoid ice buildup. A new waiting room by the emergency room was added as well.

Work continues to progress on the new 36-bed nursing home, including 10 basic-care rooms.

That work is now getting closer to completion, as crews are on track to complete the construction phase for the start of the new year.

The rooms will be 20 to 30 square feet larger than the original nursing home's rooms.

--Mountrail County Promoter, Stanley

Williston to add soccer fields

Four soccer fields are anticipated to be built in Williston on almost 10 acres of land donated to the Williston Parks and Recreation District.

At a city commission meeting Oct. 14, Planning and Zoning Director Kent Jarcik explained that a 9.89-acre parcel of land in eastern Williston was proposed for rezoning, which the commission later voted to approve.

According to the proposal, a majority of the property, 9.75 acres, located just east of the Williston Area Recreation Center would be donated to the district and rezoned as parks open space. (The remainder, which includes a house, would be rezoned as a single-family residential.)

With this land, the parks and recreation district anticipates creating four soccer fields, a concessions plaza and 84 parking spaces.

--Williston Herald

Giant Minot mural complete

An Australian artist's giant mural on a former downtown Minot grain elevator is officially complete, but fundraising for the project continues.

Chelsea Gleich, a spokesperson for the Union Silos project, said artist Guido van Helten concluded his work at the end of September. He entertained the idea of touch-ups or new elements, but after consideration, he informed the group recently that the work was, indeed, finalized.

She said the images portray legacy, hard work, resilience and com-

IT'S PASTA TIME!

Twirl, taste and enjoy your favorite pasta dish during National Pasta Month in October! Find your favorite pasta shapes, sauces, ingredients and cooking utensils in the word search below! Send in your completed puzzle for a chance to win a pasta prize package!

S Q R A V I O L I T E C S B S N P Z S Q
R E M B H Q K N Z T U K Y P A S T A E
D G Q R I G A T O N I R B Y J Q I A V R
E B C O L A N D E R N M W N L D G F U M
M C E R P Z D R I A H L E G N A E Q E F
T W N A L F R E D O G Y Z G F T M Q B C
B G N L Q M T S P V I M A A T E P A V C
D Z E W F E A U P T I R U U N L Z A W X
T Q P A F A T O G A L N C R S G T F T J
N J G Y F T C I O I N C O E U P A U O T
H C M J S B Y C C Y I J M R X D S S M O
H Q A U P A X I B N H O O W A Z T J A P
I P R I A L C L E Z L V K L S C E A T L
C V I G G L J E D I M B I Y Q V A Q O Z
I G N Q H S C D N L K O G O X J V M E U
C S A T E F M A O L I V E O I L J R S D
H W R F T B X N P Q T W J M S L I A U A
E S A I T I U W J C K B N G P A T L A S
A M G S I W D P A R M E S A N V S G S I
I Q A L I N G U I N E J E R K R O F S N

Word List:

ALFREDO
ANGEL HAIR
COLANDER
DELICIOUS
DURUM
FETTUCCINE
FORK

GARLIC
LASAGNA
LINGUINE
MACARONI
MARINARA
MEATBALLS
OLIVE OIL

PARMESAN
PASTA
PENNE
POT
RAVIOLI
RIGATONI
SALT

SEMOLINA
SPAGHETTI
TASTE
TOMATOES

Proudly sponsored by:



Your Local Newspaper,
Dakota Growers Pasta Co.,
U.S. Durum Growers
Association

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email address: _____

Send your completed word find by October 31, 2025 to: Mountrail County Promoter, PO Box 99, Stanley, ND 58784. Winners will be published in the November 5, 2025 issue of this newspaper