

Bakken Boom Left Lasting Impacts

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Braun argues that one of the clearest lessons is the need for deliberate planning, not just for growth, but for what comes after. Booms, he says, are inherently temporary, and communities must prepare for the inevitable downturn.

For him, the book is less about offering definitive answers than providing communities with the information needed to make their own decisions.

"I wrote it for the people in the Bakken, because they should have the opportunity to reflect on it and think it through, and see some of the consequences," Braun said.

Wealth and division

One of the most enduring legacies is the way oil wealth reshaped social dynamics, particularly within the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribal lands where oil was tapped.

While some tribal members benefited from royalties and rapid income gains, others were left out, creating divides between haves and have-nots.

In communities where equality and shared identity were long-standing norms, sudden wealth disrupted social cohesion, Braun said.

Rising costs and changing conditions pushed some families off the reservation, often to larger regional cities like Bismarck and Minot, altering cultural ties and kinship networks.

For younger generations, that shift carries lasting consequences.

"Some people moved their families away because they didn't want their children there (during the boom)," Braun said. "If you move your children away from the tribal community, that means they will inevitably grow up differently, with different cultural influences and things like that."

The influx of oil revenue also intensified longstanding political and economic questions within tribal governance. Decisions about how to distribute wealth, whether among oil-producing areas or across the entire tribe, became more contentious as the stakes grew.

At the same time, new opportunities emerged. Investments in housing, healthcare and infrastructure improved living conditions for many residents.

Dr. Birgit Hans, Chester Fitz Distinguished Professor Emerita from UND, said the book captures the complexity of the boom and how it was a mixed blessing for native people in the area.

"We don't have much about the boom, so I think it was something that was needed," she said.

"What I think is unique, and what this book does, is it looks at the history of (the boom) and tries to address stereotypical perceptions of native people and native communities," Hans said. "I think it is really valuable in that regard."

The book is the third in a series from The Digital Press at UND focused on the Bakken oil boom.

Risks beneath the surface

Among the book's urgent concerns is one that has received relatively little public attention, Braun said. What will be the long-term impacts on water from the Bakken boom?

Hydraulic fracturing has produced billions of gallons of wastewater, much of it injected deep underground into geological formations.

While spills at the surface have drawn scrutiny, Braun says the greater risk may lie below ground where impacts remain uncertain.

"There hasn't been a comprehensive study done on whether these layers that this water is being pumped into will actually keep the water down," Braun said.

If contaminants migrate into aquifers used for drinking water or livestock, the damage could be irreversible.

"If that water comes up into the next water level... if that happens, you cannot use it anymore," Braun said.

The timeline for such risks is unclear, but Braun warns that by the time problems emerge, the companies responsible may no longer exist.

The North Dakota News Cooperative is a non-profit news organization providing reliable and independent reporting on issues and events that impact the lives of North Dakotans. The organization increases the public's access to quality journalism and advances news literacy across the state. For more information about NDNC or to make a charitable contribution, please visit newscoopnd.org.

Hoeven Secures Commitment From FMCSA Administrator To Promptly Review State CDL Program

Senator John Hoeven secured a commitment from Derek Barrs, Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), to promptly complete its audit of North Dakota's commercial driver's license (CDL) program. In a recent meeting with Barrs, Hoeven stressed the need to provide certainty for North Dakota industries, including farmers, who are facing an early spring planting this year, and the need to provide assurances that sufficient CDL operators are available to move equipment, seed and fertilizer. In response, Barrs committed to:

- Conduct an expedited review of North Dakota's CDL program.

- o FMCSA has been reviewing non-domiciled CDL programs across the country to ensure drivers meet federal safety standards and have the proper legal status.

- o Barrs indicated North Dakota's audit has made good progress and should be completed within the next two weeks.

- o Once completed, North Dakota would be able to resume issuing non-domiciled CDLs.

- Visit North Dakota with Hoeven to meet with local business leaders, providing them the opportunity to give direct feedback on a range of issues affecting commercial trucking and transportation in the state.

"As a leading energy and agriculture state, North Dakota needs reliable commercial truck drivers. Our farmers rely on workers with CDLs to support their operations, and this is particularly important as we move into the spring planting season. That's why we're working with FMCSA to ensure this audit of the state's CDL program is completed as soon as possible, and I welcome Administrator Barrs' commitment to do just that. Once the review is completed in the next two weeks, the state can begin issuing non-domiciled CDLs again, supporting access to the trucking services our ag producers need," said Hoeven. "We also look forward to hosting Barrs in the state in the near future to discuss this and other issues impacting our trucking industry, and appreciate his willingness to receive this input firsthand."

Simple Food Safety Steps For Spring Holiday Meals

Spring holidays bring families and friends together for Easter ham, Passover brisket, and Mother's Day egg-based brunch dishes. As consumers across America prepare these traditional meals for large gatherings, following basic food safety practices can help reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

"Spring holidays are about cherished traditions, sharing Easter ham, Passover brisket, or a Mother's Day brunch with those you love," said Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Mindy Brashears. "Don't let foodborne illness spoil these special moments. Keep your loved ones safe by following the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Four Steps to Food Safety when preparing your favorite holiday meal."

USDA encourages consumers to follow these food safety tips during Easter, Passover, and Mother's Day:

The Danger Zone

- Bacteria multiply rapidly between 40 degrees F and 140 degrees F. This temperature range is called the Danger Zone.

- Food should not be left in the Danger Zone for more than two hours (called the two-hour rule). After two hours, bacteria can reach dangerous levels that can cause foodborne illness.

- Perishable foods, such as ham slices, brisket, and deviled eggs, should be discarded if left out for longer than two hours in the Danger Zone.

Ham

Ham is a popular choice for Easter meals. There are many different types of hams available and knowing ham is ready to eat or requires cooking before consumption matters.

- Ready-to-eat hams are fully cooked at the processing plant and can be reheated or safely eaten cold without additional cooking. Look for the USDA mark of inspection and "Fully Cooked" on the packaging. Reheat these hams to 140 degrees F and follow the manufacturer's instructions when available.

- Cook raw, fresh, and uncooked hams to a safe minimum internal temperature of 145 degrees F, as measured with a food thermometer. Remove from heat and let rest for three minutes before carving.

- If a ham says "Cook Thoroughly" on the packaging, follow all manufacturer's instructions and use a food thermometer to ensure the ham has reached a safe minimum

internal temperature of 145 degrees F with a three-minute rest.

Brisket

- Allow enough time to thaw frozen brisket safely in the refrigerator. Thawing can take about 24 hours for a trimmed, first-cut brisket, while a whole brisket weighing about 10 pounds can take several days.

- Bake the brisket, fat side up in a baking dish, in an oven set no lower than 325 degrees F. Brisket is safe to eat when it reaches an internal temperature of 145 degrees F and is allowed to rest at that temperature for three minutes.

Lamb

Lamb is another traditional spring holiday dish.

- Cook a leg of lamb and other cuts to a safe minimum internal temperature of 145 degrees F as measured with a food thermometer.

- Cook ground lamb to a safe minimum internal temperature of 160 degrees F.

Consumers are also reminded to refrigerate leftovers within two hours to help prevent harmful bacteria from multiplying.

Eggs and Egg Dishes

Eggs and egg dishes are commonly served during spring holidays and brunch gatherings.

- All egg dishes should reach a safe minimum internal temperature of 160 degrees F, as measured by a food thermometer.

- Eggs intended for eating should not sit out at room temperature for more than two hours. Keep hard-cooked eggs in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

- If you plan to eat decorated Easter eggs, use only food-grade dye. Consider making two sets of eggs, one for decorating and hiding and another for eating. For egg hunts, use non-food decorative eggs instead of eggs intended for consumption.

Explore resources on the Spring Holiday Food Safety Guide, a one-stop guide to cooking, serving, and storing a safe holiday meal.

Contact the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) or email MPHotline@usda.gov from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Access news releases and other information on FSIS' website at www.fsis.usda.gov/newsroom. Follow FSIS on X at [@usdafoodsafety](https://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety) and USDA on Instagram [@usdagov](https://www.instagram.com/usdagov) and Facebook.

Construction Resumes On I-94 Business Loop And Chateau Road In Medora

Construction continues on the Interstate 94 Business Loop and Chateau Road projects in Medora, with completion by the end of June, ahead of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library grand opening on July 4.

Motorists should expect changing traffic patterns and flaggers present on the business loop and in the city center during the paving operations beginning in mid-April. On Chateau Road, traffic will remain open in both directions, with only minor lane shifts and little delay expected.

Remaining work includes:

- I-94 Business Loop: Sidewalks and ADA ramps, lighting, signage, landscaping, roundabout completion, final bridge work, paving and

striping.

- Chateau Road: Final roadway and sidewalk paving, fencing, lighting, striping, minor grading, and landscaping.

This project represents a significant investment in Medora's infrastructure, helping prepare the community for increased visitors in the years ahead.

Motorists are encouraged to slow down, follow posted signs and use caution when traveling through construction zones.

For project updates and more information, visit the project website: dot.nd.gov/MedoraBusinessLoop. Up-to-date road conditions and construction information can be found by calling 511 or visiting the ND Roads map at travel.dot.nd.gov.

USDA Offers Disaster Assistance To Agricultural Producers Impacted By Winter Storms

Agricultural operations in North Dakota have been significantly impacted by recent winter storms. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has technical and financial assistance available to help farmers and livestock producers recover from these adverse weather events.

"USDA has a suite of programs to support farmers and ranchers as they recover from disasters," said Farm Production and Conservation Under Secretary Richard Fordyce. "I encourage impacted producers to contact their local USDA Service Center to report losses and learn more about program options available to assist in their recovery from crop, land, infrastructure, and livestock losses and damages."

Producers who experience livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality or sell injured livestock at a reduced price may be eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). To participate in LIP, producers will have to provide acceptable documentation of death losses or evidence of reduced sales resulting from an eligible adverse event, including an adverse weather event, and must submit a notice of loss to the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) no later than March 1, 2027, for 2026 calendar year losses.

Meanwhile, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides eligible producers with compensation for feed and grazing losses. ELAP also includes costs associated with equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal. For ELAP, producers are required to complete a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office no later than March 1, 2027, for 2026 calendar year losses.

Additionally, eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers may be eligible for cost-share assistance through the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes or vines. TAP complements the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or crop insurance coverage, which covers the crop but not the plants or trees in all cases. For TAP, a program application must be filed within 90 days of the disaster event or the date when the loss of the trees, bushes or vines is apparent.

"Once you are able to evaluate the impact on your operation, be sure to contact your local FSA county office to timely report all crop, livestock and farm infrastructure damages and losses," said Brad Thykeson, State Executive Director for FSA in North Dakota. "To expedite FSA disaster assistance, you may need to provide documents, such as farm records, herd inventory, receipts and pictures of damages or losses."

FSA also offers a variety of direct and guaranteed farm loans, including operating and emergency farm loans, to producers unable to secure commercial financing. Producers in counties with a primary or contiguous disaster designation may be eligible for low interest emergency loans to help them recover from production and physical losses. Loans can help producers replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, cover family living expenses or refinance farm-related debts and other needs.

Additionally, FSA offers several loan servicing options available for borrowers who are unable to make scheduled payments on their farm loan programs debt to the agency because of reasons beyond their control.

Producers with NAP coverage should report crop damage to their local FSA office and must file a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) within 15 days of the loss becoming apparent, except for hand-harvested crops, which should be reported within 72 hours.

Producers insured under Federal Crop Insurance are reminded that crop damage must be reported to their insurance agent within 72 hours of discovery, followed by written confirmation within 15 days. Additionally, if producers experience a natural disaster event that prevents marketing milk, they must provide written notice to their insurance provider within 72 hours.

"Crop insurance and other USDA risk management options are offered to help producers manage risk because we never know what nature has in store for the future," said Alexa Talkington, Acting Director of USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) Regional Office that covers North Dakota. "Disasters can be trying for producers, and they should stay in close contact with their crop insurance agent. Producers can be assured that the Approved Insurance Providers, loss adjusters and agents are experienced and well-trained in handling these types of events."

FSA's Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) can assist landowners and forest stewards with financial assistance to restore damaged farmland and conservation structures or forests.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is always available to provide technical assistance during the recovery process by assisting producers to plan and implement conservation practices on farms and working forests impacted by natural disasters. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) can help producers plan and implement conservation practices on land impacted by natural disasters.

"At USDA, we serve as a partner to help landowners with their resiliency and recovery efforts," said Dan Hovland, NRCS State Conservationist in North Dakota. "Our staff will work one-on-one with landowners to make assessments of the damages and develop methods that focus on effective recovery of the land."

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including USDA resources specifically for producers impacted by winter weather. Those resources include the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet, Loan Assistance Tool, and Natural Disasters and Crop Insurance fact sheet. Additionally, Farm Raise offers an

FSA educational hub with LIP and ELAP decision tools as well as farm loan resource videos. For FSA and NRCS programs, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent.

Dakota Datebook: American Farmer

By Carole Butcher

North Dakota Agricultural College opened on January 3, 1892, with 123 students. Farmers were initially skeptical that "college boys" could help them improve their farms. However, they were pleasantly surprised as professors took students out into the field to consult with farmers through the extension service, offering in-person courses and consultations.

Even before the college's extension service, farmers were receiving help from another source. On April 2nd in 1819, American Farmer magazine published its first issue. This was followed by other publications, including Power Farming, Farm Mechanization Magazine, and Farmer and Stock Breeder. These magazines were once essential resources for farmers, offering advice on mechanizing farms, new planting techniques, breeding tips, and products that would revolutionize farming. They kept rural farmers connected with the latest agricultural developments happening around the world.

The idea of farming magazines also caught the attention of manufacturers. In 1895, John Deere began publishing The Furrow, which is now considered legendary in

publishing circles. It started as an advertisement for John Deere products, focusing on quality over price with the slogan, "Not the Cheapest, But the Best." By the early 1900s, The Furrow began to include informational articles, and by 1912, it had a circulation of four million subscribers.

Early farmers in North Dakota faced many challenges. Breaking ground and planting crops was hard work, with threats posed by grasshoppers, hail, frost, too much rain, or not enough. Over time, the soil quality declined. Farms were often isolated, and farm families had to rely on themselves. Farming magazines helped keep farmers connected with the outside world and informed about the latest farming innovations. Magazines also featured articles for farm wives, including recipes, new home appliance advancements, and tips for making their work easier.

Farming magazines remain popular today, with many available online. Agriculture has undergone massive changes since American Farmer was first published, but vintage farming magazines are still available for collectors. They offer a fascinating glimpse into the world of farming and the evolving landscape of agriculture.

City of New Town Tax Equalization Meeting

The City of New Town Tax Equalization Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at 945 Eagle Dr., Suite #105 (north end of Subway). Please note New Location.

Eileen Zaun, City Auditor

City of Ross Tax Equalization Meeting

The City of Ross Tax Equalization meeting will be held on Wednesday, Apr. 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ross Community Building, as well as the regular City Council Meeting.

Celeste Moody, City Auditor

City of Palermo Tax Equalization Meeting

The City of Palermo will hold their Tax Equalization Meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the City building located at 339 Broadway St., Palermo, North Dakota. The regular City Council meeting will take place immediately after the Tax Equalization meeting.

Kathryne Meckle, City Auditor

Notice of Stanley Tax Equalization & City Council Meeting

The City of Stanley Board of Tax Equalization and the Regular meeting of the Stanley City Council will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stanley City Hall, 221 S Main, Stanley, North Dakota.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2026
Ada Arneson, City Auditor

Notice Of Tax Equalization Meeting City of Plaza

The Annual Tax Equalization meeting for the City of Plaza will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Office at 305 Main Street. In-person attendance is not required, and appeals can be provided by email or letter.

Pemina Yellowbird, City Auditor

City of White Earth Tax Equalization Meeting

The City of White Earth Tax Equalization meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the White Earth City Hall, followed by a regular meeting.

Tami LaBar, City Auditor

FOR SALE ON BIDS

The Mountrail County Weed Control Board has 3 John Deere Gators 825's and 1 Kubota XG850 for sale on bids.

All 4 side by sides can be seen at the Mountrail County Weed Control Shop in Stanley at the South Complex. The JD 825 models are 2018, 2019 and 2020 models.

Bids should be sealed bids, sent to the Mountrail County Weed Control Office at P.O. Box 40, Stanley ND 58784.

Bid Deadline is April 18th, 2026. For more information please contact the Mountrail County Weed Control Office at 628-2835 or Jim at 629-1858.

