

## North Dakota Game And Fish News

### Deer Season Set, Apply Online

North Dakota's 2026 deer season is set, with 39,100 licenses available to hunters, down 3,200 from last year, the lowest total in over a half century. Muzzleloader licenses were also reduced, and antlerless deer gun licenses are not available in several units.

A total of 240 nonresident any deer archery licenses are available, a decrease of 60 from last year. Additionally, nonresidents may only hunt on private land, excluding Private Land Open To Sportsmen, during the first 9 1/2 days of the deer bow season.

The statewide deer herd continues to recover from the lingering effects of the 2022-23 winter and epizootic hemorrhagic disease outbreaks across a landscape with increasingly limited habitat. Additional measures to help encourage population growth were discussed at spring advisory board meetings. The Department will continue to engage stakeholders on these measures including limiting adult archery tags to antlered only in the upcoming year.

Conservative license allocations are intended to maintain hunting opportunities while encouraging population growth in the state, said Bill Haase, North Dakota Game and Fish Department wildlife division chief.

High quality deer habitat is not as abundant as in the past, particularly quality cover for fawn rearing and recruitment, limiting the potential for population recovery. This has been particularly evident in the eastern third of the state, where most gun license allocation reductions occurred for the upcoming season. In some parts of the state, deer gun harvest is down 90 percent from what was harvested in 2005, during the peak CRP years.

The department continues to emphasize habitat through existing voluntary landowner programs, new partnerships and innovative solutions, such as the Governor's Legacy Soil Health and Habitat Program, to bolster deer populations.

The spring mule deer survey

showed western North Dakota's population is 31% higher than last year, which is attributed to high over-winter survival. Conservative license allocations remain to support continued population rebound.

North Dakota's 2026 deer gun season opens November 6 and continues through November 22.

Applicants for regular deer gun, gratis, youth and muzzleloader can apply online through the Game and Fish Department's website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). The deadline for applying is midnight June 3.

State law allows residents age 11, 12 and 13 to obtain any antlerless licenses, except in units 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F where mule deer doe licenses are issued through lottery.

In addition, regular deer gun hunters who turn 14 or 15 and who have never received a youth season deer gun license (a license at age 11, 12 or 13 does not apply) are eligible to receive a youth any deer license, except in units 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F where mule deer licenses are issued through lottery.

Total deer licenses are determined by harvest rates, aerial surveys, depredation reports, hunter observations, input at advisory board meetings, and comments from the public, landowners and department field staff.

### Governor's Legacy Program Adds Habitat and Access

The North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts has completed the first enrollment cycle for the Governor's Legacy Soil Health and Habitat Program. The program was launched through a \$6.5 million Outdoor Heritage Fund grant awarded in December 2025, with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department serving as a co-applicant. The program was developed with input from agricultural and conservation partners and is designed to support grassland restoration, soil health, and wildlife habitat across the state.

The program provides five-year agreements that include annual rental payments, cost-share for grass establishment, and a first-of-its-kind

\$10 per acre crop insurance credit for unproductive cropland converted to grassland habitat. Producers who enroll acres into the department's Private Land Open To Sportsmen program receive additional incentives.

Demand for the program was strong, with 458 applications submitted and nearly 20,000 acres offered for consideration, totaling approximately \$10.5 million in requests, well above the available grant funding. Interest in PLOTS was also high, with nearly 6,000 acres offered for walk-in public access. Following review and ranking, the highest scoring applications were selected, fully obligating all grant funds through more than 9,000 acres of habitat and access projects for 2026.

The response demonstrates significant producer interest in grassland restoration and soil health practices, as well as strong support for a state-led program. The Governor's Legacy Soil Health and Habitat Program was developed following recommendations from the Game and Fish Department's 2024 Habitat and Access Summit, which identified the need for a state program to help offset ongoing losses in the federal Conservation Reserve Program.

The North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the department are working with partners to explore long-term funding options to continue and expand the program.

### Zebra Mussel Eradication Plan for Smishek Lake Continues

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with state and federal partners and local stakeholders, plan to retreat Smishek Lake in May and June to eradicate the remaining zebra mussel population in the lake.

"This spring, at ice-out, we surveyed the mussel population in Smishek Lake to evaluate the effectiveness of last fall's treatment," said Ben Holen, department aquatic nuisance species coordinator. "While the treatment significantly suppressed the zebra mussel population at the lake, live mussels capable of reproduction remain. This population poses a threat to the downstream waters of Lake Sakakawea and other lakes in the northwestern part of North Dakota, so we are doing what we can to achieve a full eradication."

When weather conditions are suitable, department staff will apply an EPA-registered copper-based molluscicide called EarthTecQZ. Three treatment applications are anticipated starting mid-May and continuing into June. The lake will remain open for public recreation, but the ramp will be signed and closed on application days.

Additional information will be provided on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's ANS webpage [gf.nd.gov/ans](http://gf.nd.gov/ans).

**Register for Game Warden Exam**  
Individuals interested in taking the exam to select candidates for district game warden positions must register by May 27.

Exams are scheduled for 9 a.m. Central time at the following locations:

- June 2, Minot Job Service Building, Minot.
- June 3, West Fargo Police Department, West Fargo.
- June 5, Game and Fish office, Bismarck.

Exam is scheduled for 9 a.m. Mountain time at the following location:  
• June 4, Game and Fish office, Dickinson.

Applicants must register by submitting an online application through the North Dakota State Job Openings website.

Applicants must be at least 21, have a bachelor's degree at time of hire or an associate degree with either 2 years of law enforcement or wildlife experience, have a valid driver's license and a current North Dakota peace officer license, or eligible to be licensed. Candidates must successfully complete a comprehensive background check and must not have a record of any felony convictions.

For more information, see the district game warden testing announcement on the Game and Fish website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

## Prairie Fare: Nostalgia Is Sweet, But So Is Moderation

By Julie Garden-Robinson, Food and Nutrition Specialist, NDSU Extension

"Do you remember the packs of candy cigarettes?" a dining companion asked.

"Oh, yes. What about the pink bubblegum cigars?" another added. "Of course. How about the little wax pop bottles with colored syrup?" a third mentioned.

I remembered all of these. I recall thinking it was cool to puff on candy cigarettes and cigars. Fortunately, I didn't take up smoking the real things.

We were practically bathing our teeth in sugar. The bubblegum cigars alone could have taken out a filling or two.

I also enjoyed wearing red wax candy lips to the dinner table. Of course, I was always reminded to remove them before eating.

Candy has been around for centuries. Early civilizations in Rome, Egypt, Greece and China used honey to coat fruits and flowers. Sweet foods were typically safe foods.

However, over the course of history, some candy makers added ingredients to enhance color and flavor that are now known to be hazardous. Eventually, regulations were put in place to prevent the addition of substances such as lead and mercury.

As time progressed, people experimented by heating sugar to make hard candy and taffy. Others added nuts and other ingredients.

Candy evolved into a major industry that continues to this day. In fact, the National Confectioners Association reports that nearly every household (99.8 percent) purchased candy in 2025, with sales topping \$55 billion.

Too much added sugar is not good for our health. Many health experts advise us to limit our added sugar intake to no more than ten percent of total calories, 200 calories a day (50 grams), on a 2,000-calorie-per-day diet.

The American Heart Association advises no more than 100 calories (25 grams) of added sugar per day.

Why all the emphasis on sugar? Too much sugar is not only linked to tooth decay but also obesity, heart disease, liver disease, diabetes and high blood pressure.

On a positive side, sugar adds desirable flavor, helps preserve foods and helps bread rise.

Added sugar comes from a variety of sources, ranging from granola bars to pasta sauce, salad dressing and ketchup. The majority (32 percent) of our added sugar consumption comes from sweetened beverages such as pop and other soft drinks. One can of regular pop can have upwards of 16 teaspoons of sugar.

If you drink "regular" soda and want to cut back, try the small cans. Even better, swap to plain water or add a splash of juice.

Candy (chocolate or otherwise) is another popular source of added sugar. We can all have a little chocolate as a sweet treat. Instead of a full bar of candy, have a snack-size piece and savor it. Feel the texture as it melts in your mouth.

Along with downsizing your

sweet treats, try these tips:

- Trim the sugar in recipes such as brownies by one-third. Most recipes will still work with less sugar.
- Use naturally sweet applesauce in place of half of the fat for texture. That swap will also sweeten the recipe.
- Make mini muffins instead of full-sized muffins.
- Cut desserts into smaller pieces.
- Read and compare labels.
- Add some flavor with spices.

Add a sprinkle of cinnamon to your coffee to give the illusion of sweetness.

- Sweeten cereal, such as oatmeal, with fresh fruit.
- Choose fruit canned in juice instead of syrup.

Have fun with sweet memories, but make choices that promote good health.

Here's an easy recipe that also provides calcium from the yogurt. Honey is a natural sweetener with a distinctive flavor. It is high in fructose, which is naturally sweeter than other forms of sugar.

### Honey Yogurt Fruit Dip

1 cup nonfat or low-fat plain yo-

gurt  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
2 tablespoons honey (or to taste)  
Red and green apple slices (or fruit of choice)  
Mix yogurt with cinnamon and honey. Rinse and slice apples right before serving. To help prevent browning, dip in orange juice.  
Makes four servings. Each serving of dip has 70 calories, 0 grams (g) fat, 3 g protein, 13 g carbohydrate, 0 g fiber and 45 milligrams sodium.

**CAN THEY DO THAT?**

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
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### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 8:44 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of discussing a conditional use request filed by Teresa Burgess-Applint in concurrence with Bixby Global Trust-Landowner, for the purpose of placing a modular home on land zoned agricultural, a tract of land 40.00 acres more or less, in the SE1/4NW1/4 of Section 7, Township 158 North, Range 92 West (**Powers Township**).

The provision regarding a conditional use is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at [www.co.mountrail.nd.us](http://www.co.mountrail.nd.us) under the Planning & Zoning section.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments can be mailed to Mountrail County Planning & Zoning, PO Box 248, Stanley ND 58784-0248 and will be accepted until **Noon** on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Phone: 701-628-2909 or Email: [melissav@co.mountrail.nd.us](mailto:melissav@co.mountrail.nd.us).

Mountrail County complies with Title VI Nondiscrimination Standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act. These policies can be viewed at the Mountrail County Human Resources Office. If any special accommodations are required, please contact: Mountrail County Title VI Compliance & ADA Coordinator, Randi Schumaier, P.O. Box 69, Stanley, ND 58784-0069, phone: 701-628-8980, Fax: 701-628-2276, email: [rschumaier@co.mountrail.nd.us](mailto:rschumaier@co.mountrail.nd.us).

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 P&Z meeting  
Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM (America/Chicago)

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

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Dated at Stanley, North Dakota this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2026.

Charlie Sorenson, Chairman

Planning & Zoning Commission

ATTEST:  
Melissa Vachal  
Planning & Zoning Administrator

May 6, 13, 2026

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The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 8:47 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of discussing a Variance request filed by Kelly Hanson-Applint/Landowner; to place 4 grain bins 60' from the section line rather than the required 150' from the section line, located in Outlot 4 of the NW1/4 of Section 27, Township 158 North, Range 91 West (**Lostwood Township**).

The provision regarding a variance is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at [www.co.mountrail.nd.us](http://www.co.mountrail.nd.us) under the Planning & Zoning section.

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## ND Stockmen's Association To Host Spring Roundups In June

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) will be bringing its 2026 Spring Roundup series, "The Story Continues," to Hannaford, Woodworth, Napoleon, Carson, Belfield and Berthold, in June. The Spring Roundups serve as the organization's district meetings and will include socials, suppers, informational speakers and NDSA Nominating Committee and local brand inspector meetings.

"The Spring Roundups are highlights for the North Dakota Stockmen's Association each year," said NDSA President Randy Schmitt, who ranches near Rugby. "They're a way to bring the organization to its members, share information and gather valuable feedback and ideas."

Each Spring Roundup begins with a 5 p.m. social, which will be followed by a local brand inspector meeting at 5:30 p.m. and a supper at 6 p.m., with the informational program and Nominating Committee meeting after that. All times are local.

The NDSA Nominating Committees will be making recommendations for board candidates to be voted on at the NDSA Annual Convention & Trade Show September 24-26 in Bismarck, ND. NDSA members who are interested in running or who have ideas for candidates should contact their respective Nominating Committee members.

The details of each of the Spring Roundups are as follows:

### District 1

The District 1 Spring Roundup will be June 4 at the Hannaford Mercantile Company at 271 Wheat Street in Hannaford.

The program will include Schmitt and NDSA Executive Vice President Julie Ellingson, who will discuss the NDSA's recent work and give organizational updates, as well as Dr. Karl Hoppe, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension livestock systems specialist, who will talk about feeding North Dakota calves to finish.

The District 1 Spring Roundup is being hosted by District Chairman Ryan Ressler of Cooperstown, ND.

### District 2

The District 2 Spring Roundup will be June 3 at the Woodworth Fire Hall at 111 Main Street in Woodworth.

In addition to Schmitt, the program will include Dr. Ethan Andres, North Dakota state veterinarian, who will discuss import/export regulations for North Dakota, and Randy Martinson, Martinson Risk Management owner, who will discuss Livestock Risk Protection insurance.

The District 2 Spring Roundup is being hosted by District Chairman Jared Higgins of Woodworth.

### District 3

The District 3 Spring Roundup will be June 2 at the American Legion Barry-Hoof Post 72 at 69 Broadway Street in Napoleon.

In addition to Schmitt, Ellingson and Andres, the program will include Nicole Wardner, North Dakota Beef Commission executive director, who will discuss the Commission's beef promotion and education work.

The District 3 Spring Roundup is being hosted by District Chairman Randy Weigel of Kintyre, ND.

### District 4

The District 4 Spring Roundup will be June 9 at the Grant County Fair Building at 310 N Main Street in Carson.

In addition to Schmitt, Ellingson and Andres, the program will include a presentation from Lisa Pederson, NDSU livestock specialist, who will give attendees easy to use management tips to build resilient cows and ranches.

The District 4 Spring Roundup is being hosted by District Chairman Scott Katus of Watauga, SD.

### District 5

The District 5 Spring Roundup will be June 10 at the American Legion Post 144 at 107 2nd Ave. NE in Belfield.

The program will include Schmitt, Andres and Wardner.

The District 5 Spring Roundup is being hosted by District Chairman Cody Reis of Fairfield, ND.

### District 6

The District 6 Spring Roundup will be June 8 at the Berthold Sportsmen's Club at 210 Main Street in Berthold.

The program will include Schmitt, as well as Lucas Anderson, Riverview LLP., beef production team member, who will discuss modern Expected Progeny Difference data and application to commercial production.

The District 6 Spring Roundup is being hosted by District Chairman Ian Hall of Minot, ND.

The Spring Roundups are free and open to all. All times are local. Pre-registration is not required, but is helpful for planning purposes. To pre-register, visit [www.ndstockmen.org](http://www.ndstockmen.org) and click on the Spring Roundup image or call (701) 223-2522.

## OFFICIAL BALLOT

PARSHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT #3  
JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

Two (2) School board members from the rural area (outside city limits).

- ANISSA HOVE
- SHAUN PACKINEAU
- ADAM NAATZ
- BANDI POITRA
- NATHANIEL PACKINEAU
- WRITE-IN \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* CANDIDATES ARE PLACED IN THE ORDER OF RANDOM DRAW \*\*

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