

RED RIVER FARM NETWORK

Reporting Agriculture's Business

Smallest wheat crop since '72

Total Farm Marketing Senior Market Advisor Naomi Blohm said wheat was the big story from the USDA supply and demand report. "The USDA for the new crop wheat came in at 1.561 billion bushels, down from 1.9 a year ago." That would be the lowest wheat production total since 1972. "Due to lower acres and lower yield, that winter wheat crop just zapped, and so that's why the production number was so low."

NAWG urges action on inputs, farm bill after USDA report

Citing the dramatic wheat numbers in the USDA supply and demand report, the National Association of Wheat Growers said it is time for Congress to finalize the farm bill and address rising farm input costs. The USDA report cut wheat production by more than 20 percent from the 2025-2026 crop year. NAWG CEO Sam Kieffer said wheat growers aren't surprised by the report. A statement released by NAWG said farmers are planting less wheat due to uncertain global markets and high input costs.

Soybean aphid threat rising

The latest North Dakota State University Crop and Pest Report is warning soybean growers to closely monitor soybean aphid activity this season, particularly across eastern North Dakota. Researchers said winter survival rates for soybean aphids were excep-

tionally high throughout the Red River Valley, southeastern North Dakota, and parts of central North Dakota. Despite temperatures falling near 20 below zero this winter, cold-related aphid mortality remained below 5 percent in many areas. Agronomists are encouraging producers to begin weekly field scouting from late June through mid-August to help catch infestations before yield losses occur.

A reroute for Summit Pipeline

Summit Carbon Solutions has announced a new route for its pipeline, bypassing Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The scaled-down version will capture carbon from 27 ethanol plants in Iowa and move it through Nebraska to a storage site in Wyoming. The original project would have impacted nearly 60 ethanol plants in five states, with the carbon sequestration happening in North Dakota. Summit was unable to secure a pipeline permit in South Dakota and faced legal challenges in North Dakota. American Carbon Alliance CEO Tom Buis said the mileage is reduced with the new route, but it should not slow down progress with the pipeline. The market and supply remain. "There's one thing we always need in agriculture, and that's more demand. Demand is what gets you the price, and we're sitting here right now with excess supply and not enough demand."

NDSU Extension sets free suicide prevention webinar for May 28

Research indicates that the suicide rate is significantly higher for those working in agriculture. Research also shows that stress levels and suicide rates drop significantly when people receive support and helpful resources from those around them.

North Dakota State University Extension will address ways to extend support and helpful resources for stressed individuals in agriculture in the upcoming "Question. Persuade. Refer." suicide prevention webinar, held May 28 at 1:30 p.m.

The 90-minute webinar will address concerns of high stress levels in agriculture-related jobs and the toll they take on mental and emotional well-being.

Just as CPR training helps community members respond with help in a physical health crisis, the QPR suicide prevention training focuses on equipping participants with knowledge to recognize signs of mental health stresses or suicidal thinking. The training is also aimed to help participants learn simple, practical skills to respond with support and empathy.

"A consistent message we want folks in farming to understand is that it's OK to not be OK and that help is available," says Sean Brotherson, NDSU Extension family science specialist. "Your health is your most important resource for daily well-being, and this training helps us put health first."

Katie Henry and Jill Sokness, NDSU Extension agents for Cavalier and



Addressing the wellness needs of those working in agriculture or related areas will be the focus of the upcoming "Question. Persuade. Refer." suicide prevention webinars. (Pexels photo)

Cass counties, respectively, will facilitate the webinar.

Although the training will focus on people working in and around agriculture, anyone interested in the topic can register. The free training is supported by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant.

Registration is limited to the first 30 participants. Registration is available at ndsugov.org/QPR-May-2026.

For additional information, contact Adriana Drusini at adriana.drusini@ndsugov.org or Brotherson at sean.brotherson@ndsugov.org.

NDSU Agriculture Communication - May 12, 2026

NDSU Extension to host June webinar about dry bean nutrients

North Dakota State University Extension will host "Bean There, Cooked That: Unpacking the Nutritional Power of Dry Beans," an educational webinar about dry beans and nutrition, on June 2 at 9 a.m.

This second edition of "Bean There, Cooked That," which has been co-developed with the Northharvest Bean Growers Association, will be held via Zoom.

"After the strong response last year, we are excited to go even deeper into the nutritional value and health benefits of dry beans," says Ana Carcedo, NDSU Extension broadleaf crops agronomist.

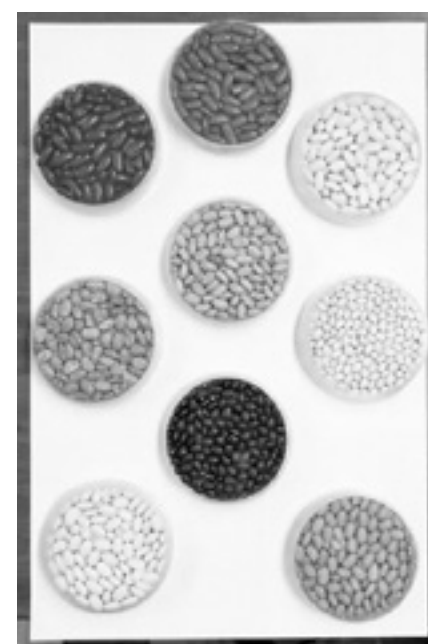
The webinar will feature a team of experts covering a range of dry bean topics. Julie Garden-Robinson, NDSU Extension food and nutrition specialist, will discuss how beans

can replace allergenic ingredients in recipes. Carcedo will explore how different farming practices influence everyday food. B. Pam Ismail, professor at the University of Minnesota, will examine how dry beans can be transformed into high-quality protein ingredients and what that means for nutrition and food innovation.

The event will conclude with a live Q&A, allowing participants to ask questions and interact directly with the presenters.

There is no participation fee, but registration is required. For more information and to register, visit ndsugov.org/bean-there-26, or contact Carcedo at 701-831-5796 or a.carcedo@ndsugov.org.

NDSU Agriculture Communication - May 11, 2026



The webinar will feature experts discussing a range of topics about dry beans and nutrition. (NDSU photo)

Northern Plains Railroad recognizes North Prairie Ag in Nekoma for outstanding safety performance

Nekoma, N.D. — Northern Plains Railroad (NPR) has recognized the North Prairie Ag's Nekoma elevator as the recipient of the 2025 Safety Audit Award following a year of quarterly safety audits conducted across NPR grain shipper properties.

The Safety Culture Team evaluates facilities throughout the year to promote strong safety practices across the rail network and ensure safe, efficient grain handling operations. Based on the results of these audits, the Nekoma facility stood out for its commitment to maintaining a safe working environment and upholding high operational standards.

"Operating safely around rail infrastructure requires constant awareness, discipline, and teamwork," said Ryan Risky, superintendent of safety for Northern Plains Railroad. "The team at North Prairie Ag in Nekoma demonstrated an outstanding commitment to safety throughout the year, and their attention to detail made them a clear standout during our audits."

To recognize this achievement, NPR presented the Nekoma team with a commemorative plaque and will make a charitable contribution to a community organization of the recipient's choice. The Nekoma team se-



Pictured, from left, are Northern Plains Railroad representatives Ben Liden, Ryan Risky, Derek Muir, Ben Chalich, Jessica Tennison and Jody Wilson; and North Prairie Ag Nekoma team members Chris Lee, Robbie Lorenz, Clint Arens, Paul Medbery, Josh Schaefer, Jeff Orminston, Chris Schaefer and Josh Overby, representing the Cardinal Sports Boosters.

lected the Cardinal Sports Boosters, supporting youth athletics in the local community.

"The most important thing to us is knowing our employees go home safely at the end of every day," said Josh Schaefer, general manager of the Nekoma elevator. "We're proud our commitment to safety was recognized and that our local community gets to share in that recognition."

North Prairie Ag has served area growers since 1925, providing agricultural services across northeast North Da-

kota and northwest Minnesota. With locations in Osabrock, Nekoma, Hampden, Edmore, Langdon, Munich, Hallock, and Starkweather, the cooperative supports regional producers through grain handling and marketing, crop inputs, energy products, and a range of agricultural services.

Through partnerships with customers like North Prairie Ag, Northern Plains Railroad continues to reinforce its commitment to safe rail operations and strong community partnerships across the region.

NDFU welcomes U.S. House passage of year-round E15

JAMESTOWN, N.D. — North Dakota Farmers Union President Matt Perdue said the passage of year-round E15 legislation in the U.S. House is a win for family farmers. "We've been on the 1-yard line for years, trying to get this common-sense legislation passed. Growing domestic demand for renewable fuels is not only important for agriculture, it's important for America's energy security and for consumers, who will pay lower prices at the pump."

The Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act of 2025 will allow year-round E15 (gasoline with 15% ethanol). Current law limits its sum-

mer-time use due to outdated volatility standards. For the past five years, EPA has issued summertime E15 waivers.

Perdue said the legislation also reforms Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) exemptions for small oil refineries, which have lowered the overall production of ethanol and other renewable fuels. By law, the RFS requires oil refiners to blend specific volumes of renewable fuels into the U.S. fuel supply. The Act will limit exemptions to companies and their affiliates that produce less than 75,000 barrels of oil per day.

While retailers would not be required to sell E15, the expected increase in ethanol demand could require an additional 2.4 billion bushels of corn annually.

"This legislation provides market certainty for farmers, retailers, ethanol producers and consumers," said Perdue. "We can use what we produce here at home to grow renewable fuels markets, expand use of higher-level blends of ethanol and sustainable aviation fuel. It's time now for the Senate to pick up the ball and get it over the line."

NDSU Extension urges public input for EPA fungicide strategy

On May 1, the Environmental Protection Agency released its draft fungicide strategy for public comment. The strategy document can be found at www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2026-2973.

The fungicide strategy outlines how the EPA plans to mitigate potential harmful effects to federally listed endangered and threatened species or their critical habitat from off-target pesticide exposure in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

"Providing a wide range of perspectives to the EPA through the public comment process allows for development of a more practical and comprehensive final strategy," says

Madeleine Smith, North Dakota State University Extension pesticide specialist.

Smith says mitigations from the release of the EPA's final insecticide and herbicide strategies are already making their way onto pesticide labels, the most recent of which included the new labels for Engenia, Tavium and Stryax, all used for weed control in soybeans and cotton.

The public comment period is open until June 29, and comments can be submitted at <https://www.regulations.gov/>.

For more information, the EPA will host a public webinar on May 20 at 1 p.m. CT to provide an overview of the

strategy and discuss the aspects of implementation. Registration for the webinar is required and is available at <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/96ee8669-31bb-4904-af77-4b790c6186b0@88b378b3-6748-4867-acf9-76aacbeca6a7>.

The final fungicide strategy is expected to be released by the EPA by November 2026.

For more information about pesticide use, contact Smith or visit ndsugov.org/pesticides-26.

NDSU Agriculture Communication - May 14, 2026

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