

North Dakota crop budget regions (NDSU graphic)

## NDSU crop budget projections show low returns for 2026

NDSU Extension has released projected crop budgets for 2026. These budget projections serve as guides for farmers in the state and are organized by multicounty region.

Returns and costs can vary considerably between producers within a region, and projected profits vary by region and crop. The budgets estimate returns to labor and management, with no consideration of price and yield variability or risk.

"There is no perfect comparison of crops because there are different levels of labor, management and risk to consider," says Ron Haugen, NDSU Extension farm management specialist.

A warm, wet fall in 2025 contributed to higher-than-average soil fertility levels, explains Haugen.

"As a result, fertilizer ap-

plication rates should be lower in most regions," says Haugen. "However, fertilizer prices are up, so the overall fertilizer cost per acre will be higher than 2025."

"This year, in most regions and for most crops, the projected profitability is low or negative," continues Haugen. "Inputs and ownership costs are flat to somewhat higher, but lower commodity prices are the main contributor to the lower profitability. It's a revenue problem."

Chemical expenses are generally flat, fuel costs are down, interest costs are down, and ownership and repair costs are up. Some specialty crops may show a positive return but usually have limited contracts and acreages, and they may also carry a higher risk.

Individual farmers are encouraged to develop their own budgets with their specific estimates.

The NDSU Extension budgets are available online at [ndsu.ag/cropbudgets26](http://ndsu.ag/cropbudgets26). A PDF version is also available, along with spreadsheets for producers to input their own estimates.

Printed copies are available at NDSU Extension county offices.

## Lighting for every room in the home

Lighting in a home is easily overlooked. But power outages serve as a stark reminder of the importance of lighting, which adds to the safety, functionality and aesthetic appeal of a space.

When homeowners go room to room, they can consider various types of lighting to add a unique feel to each space.

### Kitchen

Kitchens are heavily trafficked rooms in many homes. A combination of overhead lighting that will illuminate the entire space and focused task lighting, like under-cabinet lights for meal prep, can help in the kitchen. Separate task lighting for a bill-paying area or homework station also can be a useful touch.

### Bedroom

Bedrooms are cozy retreats where homeowners spend most of their time resting and relaxing. Harsh lighting may not be applicable here, so consider side lamps fitted with warm-hued bulbs placed beside a bed. Lighting can be more stark and targeted in closets to help homeowners see clothing and other belongings.

### Bathroom

Bathroom lighting amenities can include a combination of features to fully optimize this space. Most homeowners will want some sort of overhead lighting to shed light on most of the space.

Task lighting by the mirror can offer more visibility while shaving or applying makeup. Lighting in a bathing area can keep such spaces safer by improving visibility in a generally slippery area. In bathrooms with spa-like settings, mood lighting paired with features like steam capabilities can enhance the space even further.

### Garage and basement

Utility areas like garages, basements and crawl spaces need high-wattage bright lighting for safety. Installation of bright LEDs in these areas can make work projects easier and safer.



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Well-lit areas also are generally less inviting to pests like insects and rodents, so bright lighting may deter these creatures in areas where they tend to enter a home.

### Living room/great room

Living areas can benefit from a combination of ambient lighting sources. Table lamps alongside sofas and chairs will provide enough light, but will not compete with televisions or home theater setups. Lighting that highlights artwork or home accents also can add a cozy appeal to the space.

### Additional lighting

Homeowners may want to consider a few additional lighting scenarios to improve their spaces. Lighting in a foyer or above coat racks or shoe cubbies can keep the space functional but attractive. A combination of overhead lighting and accent lighting can make a laundry room less utilitarian. And dining spaces can be intimate or grandiose depending on the fixtures featured in the room.

Homeowners also can utilize smart devices and bulbs to easily control the lights while at home or away.

-metrocreativeconnection

## Beef Cattle Update set for Feb. 20 in McVille

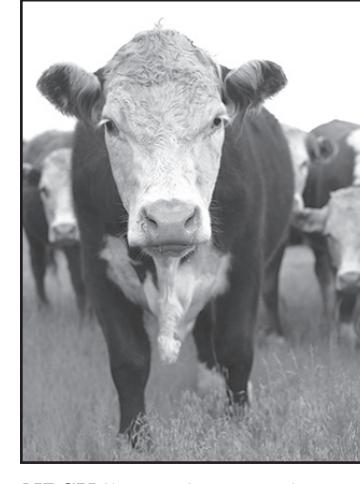
Livestock producers in Nelson, Griggs, Grand Forks and Steele counties are invited to the 11th annual Beef Cattle Update hosted by NDSU Extension on Friday, Feb. 20 at the McVille Auditorium.

The event begins with a free lunch at noon provided by sponsors and served by Sissy's Bakery, followed by an afternoon of timely, producer-focused sessions.

"Every year we try to bring topics producers can put to work right away," said Traci Trostad, NDSU Extension agriculture and natural resources agent in Nelson County. "Whether it's herd health, market outlook or planning for what's next in the operation and the family, this update is about practical information you can take home and use."

The agenda and presenters for the program are as follows:

- 12:30 p.m. -- Meet the new Extension Veterinarian: Dr. Jake Galbreath, NDSU Extension veterinarian
- 1 p.m. -- Veterinary Diagnostic Lab: Megan Vig, NDSU Extension agriculture and natural resources agent in Steele County, and Traci Trostad
- 1:20 p.m. -- Livestock Marketing Outlook: Tim Petry,



NDSU livestock economist

- 2:30 p.m. -- Succession Planning 101: Kelly Swenseth, attorney at Swenseth Law Office

This event is made possible with support from First United Bank, Haugen Cattle Company, Lakota Feed Inc., Ressler Land and Cattle, Ressler Ranch, Steele County Soil Conservation District, ND Livestock Alliance, Grassy Meadows Ranch and Cooperstown Veterinary Clinic.

Event information can be found at [ndsu.ag/BCU-26](http://ndsu.ag/BCU-26).

For more information, contact Trostad at 701-247-2521 or [traci.trostad@ndsu.edu](mailto:traci.trostad@ndsu.edu) or Vig at 701-524-2253 or [megan.vig@ndsu.edu](mailto:megan.vig@ndsu.edu).



North Dakota farmers and ranchers are invited to attend a SARE workshop and webinar series offering practical guidance on farm labor and business decisions. (NDSU photo)

## Labor, business guidance seminars for ND producers

timelines.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Aaron Mork with the following commissioners also present: Doug Flaagan, Mike Haugland and Cameron Swenson. Commissioner Cody Johnson was also present via Microsoft Teams.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the minutes from the January 6 and 14 meetings. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Additional to Agenda -- Landfill quarter lease and Red River Regional Council appointments.

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Secretary

Haugland and seconded by Park Board member Swenson to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes."

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Secretary

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION

January 20, 2026 - 9 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Aaron Mork with the following commissioners also present: Doug Flaagan, Mike Haugland and Cameron Swenson. Commissioner Cody Johnson was also present via Microsoft Teams.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the minutes from the January 6 and 14 meetings. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Additional to Agenda -- Landfill quarter lease and Red River Regional Council appointments.

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Secretary

### MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION

January 14, 2026 - 12 p.m.

The commissioners joined the highway department for a demonstration of the new motor grader from RDO Equipment. The following members were present: Commissioners Cody Johnson, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork. Also present was Nathan Parks, auditor. No other county business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Secretary

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NELSON COUNTY PARK BOARD

January 20, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Aaron Mork with the following Park Board members also present: Doug Flaagan, Mike Haugland, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None.

Nathan Parks, auditor, presented the 2026 veteran service officer joint powers agreement.

Moved by Commissioner Flaagan and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve signing the 2026 veteran service officer joint powers agreement. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Motion carried.

Discussion was had on advertising for the leasing of the quarter of land in Central Township formerly used as the Nelson County landfill (NE1/4 Sec 12 Twp 151 Rge 59).

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to advertise for the lease of the former Nelson County landfill quarter with bids due February 13 at 4 p.m. with bid opening at the regular meeting on February 17 at 10 a.m. Bidders who submit bids will have the right to raise bids at the bid opening. On a roll call all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

On a roll call all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Three candidates for the Nelson County Job Development Authority Board were reviewed.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve Andi Wohlers, Taylor Schaley and Faye Brosy Nelson as candidates to the Nelson County Job Development Authority Board. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Motion carried.

The commissioners gave updates on their portfolios.

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Secretary

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NELSON COUNTY PARK BOARD

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Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None.

Campground business was discussed.

Bar and cafe business was discussed.

There being no further business, moved by Park Board member

Nathan Parks, auditor, presented the 2026 veteran service officer joint powers agreement.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the agenda as presented. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

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