

Logan County Family &
Community Wellness Agent

NDSU

EXTENSION
LOGAN COUNTY

By Dustin Hammond



Cleaning up the Air in your Home

With the warm days of the past week, I opened a couple of doors and let my house breathe for the first time in 2026. It felt good to 'replace' some of the old air in the house with fresher air. We don't hear much about air quality in North Dakota. Our Air Quality Index (AQI) numbers are among the lowest in the nation. Today, the number was 10. For reference, it was often well over 150, and sometimes over 300, when I lived in Shanghai. I'd like to focus on two simple factors: humidity and dust. What are some things you can do to improve the air quality in your house?

Indoor air is often more polluted because most particulates are generated within the living space, such as airborne dust from vacuuming and duct cleaning. Some particulates enter the house in another form and become airborne. Dirt tracked in on shoes or pets is ground into small particles on the floor as people walk. The smallest particles are suspended in the air, while the larger ones settle back on the floor, only to be ground again. The outside dirt can carry pesticides, pollen, fungi, bacteria, animal feces, and insect parts.

Cleaning the floor with a broom or vacuum disturbs particles, causing the smallest ones to become airborne. In perfectly still air, particles smaller than 20 microns (about one-half the diameter of the finest human hair) remain suspended in the air. Vacuum cleaning turns floor dirt into an air pollutant in two ways.

If the air from the vacuum discharges down, it disturbs settled dirt particles and causes them to become airborne. When the cleaner discharges down over a dirty carpet, research shows a 98-percent increase in household airborne dust concentration in the following two-hour period. Using a vacuum cleaner that discharges upward can result in a 35-percent increase in airborne dust. As a result, the

floor is cleaner, but the air is dirtier.

How can we get clean without creating more problems? Wet-cleaning hard-surfaced flooring is less likely to make particles airborne than vacuuming or sweeping. However, using proper cleaning techniques can help reduce the number of fine particles discharged by the vacuum cleaner. Begin at an edge of the carpet (in a doorway) with the wand of a canister vacuum. Always work toward uncleared carpet, keeping the canister behind on cleaned carpet. An upright cleaner or a horizontally discharging canister cleaner does not disturb settled dirt particles in the air discharge.

Some vacuum cleaners are designed with blowers that handle high-efficiency (HEPA) filters. The filters capture at least 99.97 percent of the smallest particles in the discharge air. Keep in mind, however, that improved filtration efficiency comes at the expense of airflow, and good vacuum cleaning requires both vacuum and airflow.

Mold grows in the presence of moisture or high humidity. If you have condensation on your windows, it might indicate high humidity. Common mold spots include walls, floors, carpeting, and damp areas such as basements and crawl spaces. Mold can also appear in bathrooms without exhaust fans, in laundry areas without vented dryers or clotheslines, in homes with new construction materials, and in homes with spills or leaks. Humidifiers and unvented heaters also promote mold. Some simple things you can do to reduce growth include improving airflow, using vapor barriers in crawl spaces, and keeping surfaces clean and dry. If you find mold on a hard surface, clean and disinfect it with a bleach solution. Regularly clean appliances such as dehumidifiers, humidifiers, air conditioners, and refrigerator drip pans to prevent mold growth.

Questions? Contact me at 701-754-2504 or dustin.hammond@ndsu.edu.

PUBLIC NOTICES YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

NOTICE OF BIDS (Sec. 11-11-26 and 24-05-04 NDCC)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Logan County Commissioners will accept bids for the following materials until Monday, March 11, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. at which time the bids will be opened and read in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor of the Logan County Courthouse in Napoleon, ND.

FURNISHING CONCRETE, METAL AND PLASTIC CUL-VERTS: Provide supplier furnished forms and include connecting bands, arches and end sections, in sizes ranging from eighteen inches to no larger than sixty inches in diameter. Bid bond in the amount of \$100.00 shall accompany bid in separate envelope as liquidated damages in the event that bidder is awarded contract and fails to enter into contract. Please use supplier furnished form—each bid must be placed in a separate sealed envelope plainly marked on the outside. The mailing address is Logan County Auditor, 301 Broadway, Napoleon, ND 58561.

GRAVEL CRUSHING: Provide supplier furnished forms and include separate prices for crushing gravel at one (1) location within the county with either a cone or impact crusher, minimum quantity of 25,000 cubic yards with gravel not to exceed three quarters inch (3/4") in diameter, and work completion deadline of September 1, 2026.

GRAVEL LOADING & HAULING: Submit bids on a per cubic yard basis for loads not to exceed 20 cubic yards, showing the cost for the first five miles, and the rate thereafter per cubic yard, with trucker also responsible for loading the gravel. Gravel shall be hauled with dual rear-wheeled trucks and/or trailers within ten (10) days after notification by County; if unable to perform within 10 days, County will offer next low bidder the contract. Work to be performed during regular business hours between 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM.

When applicable, a copy of a current Contractors License must accompany each bid. Said license shall be submitted in an envelope separate from the bid information. Each successful bidder must submit evidence of general liability insurance coverage prior to award of bid.

A Bidders Bond will not be required of all Bidders. Instead, successful Bidders will be required to post a Performance Bond immediately after award of the Bid. The amount of this Bond will vary, according to item, as specified above. The purpose of the Bond is to assure that the Bidder will honor his unit price commitment for the specified time period. Should a Bidder default on their Contract, the Logan County Board of Commissioners will retain the amount of Bond as liquidated damages.

Awarded Bids will be considered valid until April 1, 2027.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids; to waive technicalities or to accept such as may be determined to be in the best interest of the County.

**BY ORDER OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LOGAN COUNTY,
NORTH DAKOTA**

Dated this 9th day of February, 2026.

JODY KRISTIANSEN,
Logan County Auditor
(Feb. 18 & 25)

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surrounding
areas!



TREE SERVICES
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Logan County Agriculture and
Natural Resources (ANR) Agent

NDSU

EXTENSION
LOGAN COUNTY

By Josh Becker



More on Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)

Last week we did an overview of the Beef Quality Assurance program. Maybe you did some research, asked around and decided to look into getting certified. So, what practices must be followed to operate under that certification? The following information is a summary of some of those guidelines. (Some information edited for space.)

Cattle sold as North Dakota Beef Quality Assurance (NDBQA) certified must be processed or treated by NDBQA certified personnel or under the supervision of a person who is NDBQA certified. Additionally, the following guidelines may also be required depending on your type of operation.

Injectable animal health products: Shall be administered in the neck. NO EXCEPTIONS! • If possible, use less reactive animal health products that will cause less injection site tissue damage.

Processing and Treatments: All animals not kept for breeding stock will be dehorned. • All male animals not kept for breeding stock will be castrated. • All animal health products must be used according to label directions. • Extra-label drug use shall be used only when prescribed by a veterinarian working under a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR).

Records Treatment: For each individual animal or group identification--- Date treated • Product administered and manufacturer's lot/serial number • Dosage used • Route and location of administration • Withdrawal period and earliest date animal will have cleared the withdrawal period

Feedstuffs: Ruminant-derived protein sources cannot be fed according to FDA regulations.

Feed Additives and Medications: Only FDA approved medicated feed additives will be

used in rations. • Extra-label use of feed additives is illegal and strictly prohibited. • Complete records must be kept when formulating or feeding medicated feed rations. • Records are to be kept a minimum of two years. • Operator will assure that all additives are withdrawn at the proper time to avoid violative residues.

Care and Husbandry Practices: Cattle will be handled and transported to minimize stress, injury • Keep feed and water handling equipment clean. • Facilities (fences, corrals, load-outs, etc.) should be inspected regularly to ensure proper care and ease of handling. • Biosecurity measures should include:

- Proper sanitation - Isolation and acclimation of new animals
- Disease testing - Vaccination - Good record keeping

Feedstuffs: Record any pesticide/ herbicide use on pasture or crops that could potentially lead to violative residues in grazing cattle or feedlot cattle.

• Adequate quality control program(s) are in place for incoming feedstuffs. Program(s) should be designed to eliminate contamination from molds, mycotoxins or chemicals of incoming feed ingredients. Supplier assurance of feed ingredient quality is recommended.

Feed Additives and Medications: Medicated feed additives will be used in accordance with the FDA Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) regulation. • Follow Judicious Antibiotic Use Guidelines.

There is some potential to receive some premium prices for your livestock with a BQA certification, but as you can see it comes with a few strings attached. To learn more about the program and if a certification is right for your operations, consider attending the upcoming BQA training at Napoleon Livestock on February 24th. See the announcement in this week's Napoleon Homestead or go to the NDSU Extension-Logan County website.

Dawson Recreation's Pancake and Sausage Supper



Dawson City Hall
February 28th
4:30 pm - 8:00 pm
\$10 all you can eat

Free Will
Donations
Accepted!
All Proceeds
Go Towards
Dawson's 3rd
of July
Fireworks!