

Trump administration tags \$700 million in federal funding for regenerative farming

By SHAUNEEN MIRAND
STATES NEWSROOM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will spend \$700 million to support regenerative agriculture as part of the Make America Healthy Again agenda, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced Wednesday.

The USDA pilot program for regenerative agriculture — a conservation management approach centered on improving the health of soil and increasing biodiversity — enacts part of President Donald Trump’s administration’s September “Make Our Children Healthy Again Strategy,” which offered more than 120 recommendations for addressing childhood chronic diseases.

The pilot program will take funding from existing USDA conservation programs, which provide financial and technical assistance to farmers, with the aim of improving soil health.

“Protecting and improving the health of our soil is critical, not only for the future viability

of farmland, but to the future success of American farmers,” Rollins said at a press conference alongside Kennedy and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz.

“In order to continue to be the most productive and most efficient growers in the world, we must protect our topsoil from unnecessary erosion and boost the microbiome of the soil,” Rollins said.

Kennedy said a September report from the administration’s Make America Healthy Again Commission, which the health secretary chairs, included “the promise to make it easier for farmers in this country, to give them an off-ramp — farmers who are dependent on ... chemical and fertilizer inputs — to give them an off-ramp where they can transition to a model that emphasizes soil health.”

Kennedy has long advocated against use of chemicals in farming.

Repurposing funding
The department will dedicate

\$400 million to the initiative through the department’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program and \$300 million from its Conservation Stewardship Program, according to a USDA press release.

“It’s baseline funding that we received through our budget, so we have the ability to tag that funding specifically for this pilot, and that’s what we’re doing,” Aubrey J.D. Bettencourt, chief of USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, or NRCS, said.

Rollins also said she would seek corporate partners for the program using a 2022 law that authorizes USDA to channel private contributions to conservation programs.

The move “will bring corporate label and supply chain partners directly into partnership” with NRCS, Rollins said.

The pilot program “connects the producer and the work that they’re doing on the farm, granting them the credit for that voluntary action of change in practice on their farm that then can

transition into the supply chain, into the marketplace and directly back to the consumer,” Bettencourt said.

SNAP waivers
Meanwhile, Rollins and Kennedy also announced Wednesday six more states whose waivers were approved to prohibit Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits from being used to purchase certain non-nutritious items beginning in 2026.

The effort, also part of the Make America Healthy Again agenda, adds Hawaii, Missouri, North Dakota, South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee to the list of states that will have such bans.

The bans restrict which items recipients of the federal food assistance program that helps 42 million Americans afford groceries can buy with their SNAP benefits.

Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and West Virginia already have similar incoming bans.

Columnist Neil O. Nelson’s holiday quiz answers revealed

By NEIL O. NELSON

For all you Christmas trivia experts — there’s generally at least one in the household, right -- here are the answers to the Neil O. Nelson 2025 Christmas Trivia quiz:

1 – Mariah Carey. 2 – Clarence Odbody. 3 – White Christmas. 4 – Home Alone. 5 – Wet Bandits. 6 – Phyllis Diller. 7 – Seven. 8 – Old silk hat. 9 – Under the mistletoe. 10 – Italy. 11 – Winnetka, Illinois. 12 – The

cattle are lowing. 13 – Cindy Lou Who and Max. 14 – 1818 in Oberndorf, Austria. 15 – False, there are 364. 16 – False, you’re a Capricorn. 17 – False, it was 1843. 18 – Clement-Clarke Moore. 19 – Six. 20 – Jacob Marley.

In the tie-breaker questions, the suggested correct answers are up to the trivia players. In the event of a tie, the youngest participant wins.



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ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT, AMEND, AND REPEAL ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RELATING TO N.D.A.C. ARTICLES 71-02, 71-03, 71-04, 71-05, 71-06, & 71-08 REGARDING THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM, UNIFORM GROUP INSURANCE PROGRAM, DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, HIGHWAY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM, RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE CREDIT, AND DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

TAKE NOTICE that the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to the N.D. Admin. Code at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 1600 East Century Avenue Suite 2, Bismarck, North Dakota. The proposed rules relate to the Public Employees Retirement System, Uniform Group Insurance Program, Deferred Compensation Plan for Public Employees, Highway Patrol Retirement System, Retiree Health Insurance Credit, and Defined Contribution Plan. The proposed rules implement statutory changes made during the 2025 legislative session, clarify current administrative processes, and ensure consistency in administration within the various plans administered by NDPERS.

A copy of the proposed rules may be requested by writing to PO Box 1657, Bismarck, ND 58502, e-mailing NDPERS-info@nd.gov, or calling 701-328-3900. Written comments on the proposed rules can be mailed to PO Box 1657, Bismarck, ND 58502 or emailed to NDPERS-info@nd.gov. Oral comments can be submitted by calling 701-328-3900. Comments received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 2, 2026, will be fully considered. If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System at the above telephone number or address at least seven days prior to the public hearing.

Dated this 9th day of December, 2025.
Rebecca Fricke
Executive Director

Legal Notice

PROBATE NO. 49-2019-PR-00022 EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT COURT, TRAILL COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Estate of Harris O. Woell, Deceased

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing will be held regarding the Petition for Court Authorization of Settlement of Controversy at the Traill County Courthouse, 114 W Caledonia Ave, Hillsboro, ND 58045 on January 7, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. before the Honorable Reid Brady.

Dated: November 11, 2025.

Cassie J. Tostenson ND #07915
Nilson Brand Law Office 36 Main St W
Mayville, ND 58257
P: (701) 786-6040
E: cassie@nilsonbrandlaw.com
Attorney for Special Administrator & Petitioner

Publish Dec. 12, 19 & 26, 2025

STAY INFORMED

Read the news generated at the Traill County Courthouse in the Hillsboro Banner

CEMETERY CARETAKING BIDS

The City of Mayville will accept bids for caretaking of the Mayville cemetery for one-year, 2026 season, contract. Bids will be received until January 5th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. and will be opened at the city council meeting that night. All bids must be sealed and clearly marked Cemetery Caretaking Bids 2026 Season.

For full details regarding the contract contact the Mayville city auditor's office at 701-788-2166. The city of Mayville reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Gail Olstad, City Auditor
Publish: December 19th, 26th 2025, and January 2nd 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR REPLAT PURSUANT TO NDCC § 40-50.1-06

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Mayville, North Dakota, on Monday 01/05/2026 at 4pm, at Mayville City Hall to consider an application for approval of a replat of Eastvold 3rd Addition to the City of Mayville, Traill County, North Dakota, an existing plat, pursuant to North Dakota Century Code§ 40-50.1-06.

The applicant, Venture Investments, Inc. has submitted an application to replat the property legally described as follows:

Legal Description:
Lots 1 Through 5, Block 4, Eastvold 3rd Addition to the City of Mayville, Traill County, North Dakota

The proposed replat generally consists of the owner is requesting to split the twinhome lots for future individual lot sales which was agreed to when the lots were initially purchased for development. No change to the existing zoning classification is proposed unless otherwise stated.

At the public hearing, all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed replat. Written comments may be submitted prior to the hearing to the City Auditor at Mayville City Hall.

A copy of the proposed rep lat is available for inspection during regular business hours at City Hall.

Dated this 16th day of December, 2025.
CITY OF MAYVILLE, NORTH DAKOTA

Gail Olstad, Auditor
Publish Dec. 19, 2025 & Jan. 2, 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

APPLICATION FOR APPROPRIATION OF WATER FROM GROUND WATER

TAKE NOTICE that EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT, THOMPSON, ND, has submitted Water Permit Application No. 7441 to the North Dakota Department of Water Resources for a permit to divert and appropriate water from ground water.

The application requests an annual appropriation of 1,100.0 acre-feet of water for Rural Water use at a pumping rate of 1,000 gallons per minute, utilizing point(s) of diversion located in the SW1/4 and SE1/4 of Sec. 29 and NE1/4 of Sec. 32, all of T. 146 N., R. 053 W., Traill County.

TAKE NOTICE that written comments regarding the proposed appropriation must be filed in the Department of Water Resources, 1200 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, North Dakota 58504-5262, by 5 o'clock p.m., on the 12 day of January 2026. The Department of Water Resources shall consider all written comments received and prepare a recommended decision which will be provided to the applicant and any person who filed written comments. Those persons may file additional comments with the Department of Water Resources, request an adjudicative proceeding on the application, or both.

Dated at Bismarck, North Dakota, on November 25, 2025.

/S/ John Paczkowski, P.E.
State Engineer
Department of Water Resources
1200 Memorial Highway
Bismarck, ND 58504-5262

Publish December 12 & 19, 2025

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News from the Village



Ronda Hanson

Hello everyone, it's Ronda with the weekly Hatton Prairie Village News.

Happy news: we got out of the "deep freeze," at least for the time being. I know it is winter in North Dakota but uff-da for cold this past weekend. Let's hope the weather will stay calmed down for the upcoming Christmas Holiday. I asked TJ last week if he felt like he was living in his boots and winter gear. Many days of snow removal and shoveling for our maintenance guys. I will tell you that we so do appreciate them keeping us shoveled and blown out. Thanks TJ and Brad! Your work doesn't go unnoticed.

As I am typing today the residents are having a little Christmas sing-along. We have some pretty good singers here at Hatton Prairie Village. Their leader of course is Joan Bahr; she keeps them all singing. Every week, I marvel at the fact that they sing everything from memory. Such a cheerful time of the season! We are blessed.

What's going on the week of Dec. 21-27:
Sunday, Dec. 21 – 10 a.m. worship. Dessert and coffee in the coffee shop from 1 to 3 p.m. Everyone welcome.
Monday, Dec. 22 – Room visits, Christmas activity, trivia, word games and we'll celebrate Peder Mikkelson's Birthday at 2 p.m. Happy birthday! We'll also have blessings in caring and sharing and one-to-ones.
Tuesday, Dec. 23 – Room visits, Christmas activities, trivia, create, Joan's popcorn balls, beverage cart, choir, book club and one-to-one visits. The coffee shop will be closed today. Merry Christmas!
Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Room visits, 10 a.m. Christmas Eve services, Christmas trivia, beverage cart and one-to-ones.
Thursday, Dec. 25 – Have the most blessed Christmas! Merry Christmas!
Friday, Dec. 26 – Room visits, manicures/sing-along video, trivia, beverage cart and one-to-ones.
Saturday, Dec. 27 – GAMES, trivia, one-to-ones, beverage cart with games and one-to-one visits
Happy birthday this week goes out to Alicia Suarez, Jodi Sundeen, Curt Huus, Marilyn Bye and Peder Mikkelson. Happy birthday!

Christmas Blessings to ALL of our Friends and Family
May your Christmas be Blessed with the true meaning of the season.
May your home be filled with warmth, laughter, and the Love of Family and Friends.
May the Peace and Joy of the Holiday Season remain with you throughout the coming year and may the spirit of Christmas bring you hope and renewed strength.
Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

We are getting very close to Christmas. The countdown is about at the end. All of us at the Village wish you all the happiest and most blessed Christmas. My hope is that you are surrounded by all that you hold dear, your family and friends and the joy of God's blessings.

When we count our blessings, we count you all twice. Many thanks for the things that you do for us during the year, the treats, the thoughts, kind deeds, and prayers. We enter this Christmas season in the knowledge that we are most definitely blessed with the best! A million thanks! Merry Christmas! Have a great week!

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