

## News Brief

### News from the North Dakota Game & Fish

PROVIDED BY NDGF

#### Elk, Moose, Bighorn Sheep Apps Due

Elk, moose and bighorn sheep applications must be submitted online before midnight, March 25.

Applicants can apply by visiting My Account at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

Elk, moose and bighorn sheep lottery licenses are issued as once-in-a-lifetime licenses in North Dakota. Hunters who have received a license through the lottery in the past are not eligible to apply for that species again.

#### Spring Mule Deer Survey Begins

The state Game and Fish Department's annual spring aerial mule deer survey is scheduled for April 1-24 in western North Dakota and typically takes about two weeks to complete, weather permitting.

During the survey period, people could notice low-flying small airplanes over some parts of the badlands.

Game and Fish biologists have completed aerial surveys of the same 24 badlands study areas since the 1950s. The purpose of the survey is to determine a population index to assess mule deer abundance in the badlands.

#### 2026 Waterfowl Hunting Season

North Dakota's waterfowl season opens for residents Sept. 26, while nonresidents may begin hunting waterfowl Oct. 5.

The resident-only portion of the season has been extended from seven days in previous years to nine days in 2026. This change, which was first presented to the public starting summer 2025, provides additional early season opportunities for resident hunters.

The zones and overall season structure for non-resident hunters will remain the same as the 2025 hunting season.

The North Dakota 2026-27 Hunting and Trap-

ping Guide will be available this summer and will provide further details on the waterfowl hunting season.

#### 2026-28 Fishing Regulations Set

North Dakota's 2026-28 fishing proclamation is set, with regulations effective April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2028. New fishing licenses are required April 1.

Anglers can find the North Dakota 2026-28 Fishing Guide online at the state Game and Fish Department website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), or at Game and Fish Department offices and license vendors throughout the state.

Noteworthy regulation changes include:

Allows for the use of white sucker as legal live baitfish on the Missouri River System, Lake Audubon, Devils Lake and Stump Lake. Suckers remain legal in the Red and Bois de Sioux rivers.

Allows for the harvest of chinook salmon with the reinitiation of a snagging season. Also, allows for the harvest of salmon with archery and spearing equipment during the new snagging season.

Requirement to register before participating in darkhouse spearfishing eliminated.

White bass daily and possession limits increased to 30 and 60, respectively.

#### 2026-27 Licenses Needed April 1

North Dakota anglers, hunters and trappers should note that new licenses are required beginning April 1.

Licenses can be purchased online by visiting the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). Once the license is processed, hunters and anglers will have the option to print a hard copy and/or download the license to a smart phone or mobile device, which is helpful when asked by a game warden to show proof while hunting or fishing in rural areas that lack cellular service.

Licenses can also be purchased at more than 80 vendor locations throughout the state. The 2026-27 small game, fishing and furbearer licenses are effective April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.



Rocky Acres 4-H member **Afton Ost** gave a speech on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy during the March 8 meeting. (Photo by Julie Brandvold)

## Rocky Acres 4-H members demonstrate skills

BY LAINEY ROCKWELL,  
Rocky Acres Secretary

On Sunday, March 8, Rocky Acres 4-H members met in Douglas.

The club discussed things such as how archery and hippology were going, the next council meeting and who will be attending, and the monthly bake sale for those who didn't see raffle

tickets.

After the meeting, members continued their demonstrations. Some demonstrations included how to make a beaded flower, how to make a smoothie, how to medicate cattle using darts, and a speech on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 12, in Ryder.

## McLean County has five board appointments open

*Those interested have until March 31 to give interest*

BY KELLI AMELING  
Associate Publisher

McLean County Commissioners are looking to fill five positions by appointment in the coming weeks.

According to a notice published March 19, the county is seeking people of interest for the following positions:

Planning and zoning commission: one three-year unexpired term expiring Dec. 31, 2028 for the Underwood area.

McLean County school reorganization committee: one three-year unexpired term expiring Dec. 31, 2028.

McLean County special assessment district board: one six-year unexpired term expiring the first commission meeting in April 2027; one six-year unexpired term expiring the first commis-

sion meeting in April 2029; and one six-year term expiring the first commission meeting April 2031.

In the notice, Auditor Beth Knutson said to be eligible for consideration for appointment to any of the positions, interested individuals must submit a letter of interest for the position that includes a short background statement.

"All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and in some instances must reside in a specific commission district or geographical area of the county," the notice stated.

Letters of interest can be sent or delivered to the auditor before 4:30 p.m. March 31 at:

P.O. Box 1108

Washburn, ND, 58577

Or emailed to [baknutson@nd.gov](mailto:baknutson@nd.gov) or by fax at 701-462-3542.

### SNAP and FDPIR NDS

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 1320 Braddock Place, Room 334 Alexandria, VA 22314; or Email: [FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov](mailto:FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov).

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Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;  
Fax: (202) 690-7442; or  
Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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