

North Dakota Corn Utilization Council Election In Mountrail County

Corn growers in Mountrail County are being urged to participate in the election of a county representative for the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council. All corn growers have a definite interest in the membership of the Council and are encouraged to participate in the election. The election for Mountrail County will take place on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. (CT)** at the Mountrail County South Complex, 8103 61st St NW, Stanley, ND. Election will be held during the Mountrail County Farm and Ranch Day.

A Voting Producer is a person who plants, or causes to be planted a Corn crop in which the person has an ownership interest, with the intent that upon maturity the crop will be harvested in the next available or immediately preceding growing

season. Producers have to reside in Mountrail County, and have not requested a Corn refund during the preceding year.

The election will be conducted under the supervision of Lynnette Vachal, County Extension Agent, NDSU Extension, Mountrail County.

Newly elected county Corn representatives from District 3 will assemble REMOTELY via ZOOM <https://ndsu.zoom.us/j/91917432423?pwd=Wy8geFIM80usQ59IM50nWj403Vg5bl.1> on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. (CT) to elect the district's member of the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council.

The North Dakota Corn Utilization Council was created in 1991 by legislative enactment to facilitate the production, development, marketing and promotion of corn.

Seventeen Graduate From Electric Trades Apprenticeships

Seventeen North Dakotans recently completed years long apprenticeships requiring thousands of hours of on-the-job training in the electric trades. They join more than 800 people who have graduated from the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) apprenticeship programs over the past 56 years. Graduates were recognized at a January 15 awards ceremony at the NDAREC Apprenticeship, Training and Safety Conference in Mandan.

“North Dakota’s electric cooperatives require a skilled workforce to keep the power flowing 24/7/365,” says Josh Kramer, NDAREC executive vice president and general manager. “These graduates have completed the intensive requirements to achieve journeyman status, demonstrating a commitment to their trade, a desire to learn from others in the field and a safety-above-all-else attitude. Now, they join a special group of workers, who together power the lives of the more than 250,000 North Dakotans served by the state’s electric cooperatives.”

Eleven individuals completed lineworker apprenticeships, two completed meter technician apprenticeships and four became the first to complete relay technician apprenticeships since the program was added in 2025.

The relay technician program trains apprentices to install, maintain and test protective relay systems used in electric power grids. These relays are essential for detecting faults and ensuring the safe and efficient operation of electrical systems, helping protect people and equipment.

The demand for relay technicians is high, but there is a shortage of skilled professionals to fill these positions, says Christina Roemmich, NDAREC safety services director.

Among the graduates, Duncan Marquart, a journeyman lineworker for Burke-Divide Electric Coop-

erative headquartered in Columbus, was recognized with this year’s Outstanding Apprentice Award. Marquart earned high marks for his job performance and academic achievement in the 576 hours of required coursework. His integrity, reliability and positive attitude have earned the respect of his co-workers, says Eric Sieg, operations manager for Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative.

“Duncan exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding lineworker; technical competence, safety awareness and teamwork. He consistently upholds high standards, whether working under challenging conditions, responding to outages or contributing to complex installations,” says Sieg.

The following journeyman lineworkers completed apprenticeships in 2025:

- Duncan Marquart, Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative
- Jared Crutchfield, Capital Electric Cooperative
- Cody Homes, Capital Electric Cooperative
- Teight Madler, McKenzie Electric Cooperative
- Brian Bonnet, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative
- Benson Huber, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative
- Dawson Hall, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative
- Conner Kuntz, Roughrider Electric Cooperative
- Shay Olson, Slope Electric Cooperative
- Grant Meyer, Verendrye Electric Cooperative
- Luke David, BT Mills

The following journeyman meter technicians completed apprenticeships in 2025:

- Kyle Helmers, Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative
 - Daniel Alberts, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative
- The following journeyman relay technicians completed apprenticeships in 2025:
- Brandon Blomberg, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative
 - Todd Bustad, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative
 - Lukas Dahl, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative
 - Shawn Erickson, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative

Mountrail Community Food Pantry February Hours

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry, located at the Memorial Building, 18 2nd Ave SE, is open Mondays, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Our door is in the southeast corner of the building. Please come no later than 2:30 p.m. so that the volunteers can go home at 3:00 p.m. Mountrail County residents are welcome to visit once a month. The Food Pantry will be CLOSED Monday, February 16th, in observance of President’s Day. Please PLAN AHEAD! Please check out our Facebook page at Mountrail Community Food Pantry for closings due to weather this winter.

North Dakota Weekly Gas Price Update

Average gasoline prices in North Dakota have risen 1 cent per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.48/g Monday, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 493 stations in North Dakota. Prices in North Dakota are 1.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 39.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 7.8 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$3.543 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the least expensive station in North Dakota was priced at \$2.09/g Sunday while the most expensive was \$2.97/g, a difference of 88.0 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 7.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.84/g on Monday. The national average is down 3.6 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 23.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in North Dakota and the national average going back five years:

January 26, 2025: \$2.87/g (U.S. Average: \$3.08/g)
January 26, 2024: \$2.73/g (U.S. Average: \$3.10/g)
January 26, 2023: \$3.32/g (U.S. Average: \$3.48/g)
January 26, 2022: \$3.20/g (U.S. Average: \$3.34/g)

Memorials Received By Veterans Park

In memory of Henry Strobeck from Kris Strobeck.

In memory of Ron Lewis from Dale and Dolly Ellis.

Donation received from Marshall and Jane Craft.

Memorials are greatly appreciated and may be mailed to Box 743, Stanley, ND 58784.

University Of Mary Announces Dean’s List For Fall Semester 2025

Area residents are among the 1,237 students named to the 2025 Fall Semester Dean’s List at the University of Mary, in Bismarck. This number includes students in Mary’s undergraduate program and in adult education (University of Mary Online).

To qualify for the honor, traditional under students must earn a 3.50 or better grade point average while carrying at least twelve credit hours.

Students enrolled in the UMary Online program must earn a 3.50 or better grade point average while at a full-time adult learner status.

Congratulations to Emily Grote, Battleview; Evelyn Lebrun, Berthold; Kaylee Bear, Corra Bell, and Marlana Lewis, all of New Town; Caleb Mortensen and Ella Mortensen, both of Stanley; and Sara Iverson, Tioga.

January 26, 2021: \$2.27/g (U.S. Average: \$2.41/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices: Sioux Falls- \$2.44/g, up 5.3 cents from last week’s \$2.39/g, Fargo- \$2.33/g, up 6.9 cents from last week’s \$2.26/g, South Dakota- \$2.56/g, up 2.8 cents per gallon from last week’s \$2.53/g.

“Average gasoline prices have jumped for a second straight week as oil prices have climbed back above the \$60-per-barrel mark amid ongoing geopolitical tensions,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “New sanctions on Iran’s oil are making it more difficult for those barrels to reach the market, tightening supply, while the major winter storm that sent temperatures plunging is also likely to impact refineries, causing disruptions and reduced output. Diesel prices have jumped as colder weather boosts demand for heating oil, a combination that could keep both gasoline and diesel prices moving higher in the week ahead.”

GasBuddy®, a PDI Technologies company, is North America’s trusted fuel savings platform, helping consumers fuel up for less for over twenty-five years. With over 100 million app downloads, GasBuddy delivers real-time prices at 150,000+ stations and tangible savings through Pay with GasBuddy+™. It is the most authoritative source of station-level fuel pricing data, updating averages 288 times daily from the broadest mix of inputs - spotter reports, direct station integrations, and transactional data. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.

Stanley Picnic To Be Held In Mesa, AZ

The annual Stanley Picnic is scheduled for February 17, 2026 starting at 12:00 p.m. The picnic will be held at Apache Wells, 2223 N. 56th St. in Mesa. (Balloons at light of McKillips & N. 56th St., between Higley and Recker).

Chicken, plates, silverware, bottled water and coffee will be provided. Please bring a side dish.

Donations are accepted. For more information, contact HelenAnn at 480-326-3237.

VCSU Announces Students Named To Fall 2025 Honor Roll

Valley City State University has released its President’s Honor Roll, Dean’s Honor Roll and Honor Roll for the Fall 2025 semester. The President’s Honor Roll recognizes students who completed twelve semester hours or more of VCSU classes for which grade points are earned with a 4.0 grade point average.

Students from the area listed to the President’s Honor Roll include Gretchen Deaver, Berthold; Larissa Tallmadge, New Town; Alyssa Haakenson, Parshall; Rebecca Bohrer, Stanley; and Kasey Odegaard, White Earth.

ND To Participate In Federal Tax Credit For Donations To Scholarship Granting Organizations

North Dakota will participate in a new federal program that offers a tax credit for certain donations to organizations that provide K-12 education scholarships and services, Governor Kelly Armstrong announced recently.

The tax credit applies to cash contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations, or SGOs, which are nonprofits that award scholarships to help students pay for elementary and secondary education. Taxpayers may be able to claim the federal tax credit beginning January 1, 2027.

“This program incentivizes charitable giving to support our state’s most precious resource, its students,” Armstrong said. “We look forward to implementing the program with additional federal guidance to empower school choice and support North Dakota students in their education.”

The program was established in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed by Congress and signed by President Trump last year. Before the tax credit can be claimed, the state must choose to participate in the program and submit a list of approved SGOs to the U.S. Treasury Department. To qualify, an SGO must be recognized as a 501(c)(3) public charity and may not be a private foundation. Eligible covered expenses include tuition, tutoring, special needs supports, technology costs and public education supplemental services for students enrolled in public or private schools. Income limits apply, and the maxi-

mum annual credit is \$1,700 per taxpayer, per year.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Levi Bachmeier encouraged parents with children in school to familiarize themselves with the tax credit, calling it an exciting opportunity.

“Thousands of students attending public and private schools will benefit from the funds enabled by this tax credit,” Bachmeier said. “I appreciate Governor Armstrong’s leadership to unleash more resources to support our students as North Dakota works to lead the nation with America’s best schools.”

Additional program guidance from Treasury is pending, and more information about the program, including a list of eligible SGOs in North Dakota, will be released as it becomes available. The tax credit is non-refundable, which means it can reduce federal income tax liability but won’t result in a refund if the credit is larger than what the individual owes.

Golden Age Club News

Friday, January 30th: Dinner of pork roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, salad, fruit and birthday cake served at 12:00 p.m. Happy birthday to our January friends!

Notice Of Filing Deadline for New Town City Election

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing to have a candidate’s name printed on the ballot for the City of **New Town** is **Monday, April 6, 2026 by 4:00 P.M.** The following city offices are up for election:

- City Mayor, 1 position 4-year term
- City Council Member, 2 positions, 4-year term
- City Park Board, 3 positions, 4-year term
- Municipal Judge, 1 position 4-year term

A Candidate for a city office must turn in a completed SFN 2704 Petition/Certificate of Nomination and a completed SFN 10172 Statement of Interests to the **City of New Town Auditors Office**, 945 Eagle Dr., Suite #106 by the above deadline date and time. Forms can also be obtained online at <http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/elections/forms.html>.

Rolling Plains Sportsman’s Club will be hosting their ANNUAL MEETING on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 8 p.m. at the Rolling Plains Sportsman’s Clubhouse, 8094 62nd Ave. NW in Stanley

Big Bend Township Meeting Notice

Big Bend Township Board of Supervisors will meet on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the New Town City Council Meeting Room.

Special agenda to include:

- * Minutes approval
 - * Treasurer’s report and financial actions
 - * Public discussion opportunity
 - * Legal counsel retention discussion
 - * Pipeline and oilfield access road issues
 - * John Sauber discussion on opening bid requests for reconstruction of 30th Street and 94th Avenue.
- Matt Bangen, Township Clerk*

Mountrail County Medical Center Clinic is starting to give the annual flu vaccine.

Everyone ages 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine. A flu vaccine is especially important if you have a chronic health condition such as heart disease or diabetes

Please call today to get your annual flu vaccine - 701-628-2505.

The regular flu vaccine will be \$35 and High Dose will be \$90 at time of visit or billed to your insurance at the same rate.

We have the higher-dose flu vaccine specifically designed for ages 65 and older.

Mountrail County Health Center
Many Avenues - One Goal...Your Health



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