

FARRMS Invites Local Food Producers To A Free Webinar On Growing Your Business With Commercial Kitchens

The Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resources Management and Sustainability (FARRMS) is inviting local food producers to a free webinar, "Grow Your Farm Business with Commercial Kitchens" on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CT. Register at <https://www.farrms.org/event-details/commercialkitchen>. This webinar is designed specifically for farmers and food producers interested in expanding their business, diversifying their product offerings, and exploring new markets. Attendees will learn practical ways to leverage commercial kitchens to create value-added products. "Building a sustainable farm business often means thinking beyond the field. Shared-use kitchens give producers the tools and the space to diversify and connect with their communities in a new way. Commercial kitchens allow producers to turn their harvest into a product, reach new customers, and extend

their season. This session is about making that next step feel achievable," says Jake Callander, Farmer Educator. Featured speaker, Casey Steele of Square One Kitchens, will share her experience and lessons learned running a shared-use commercial kitchen in Fargo. She will provide insights on how these facilities operate, the opportunities they create for small and local producers, and strategies to avoid common pitfalls. Steele founded Square One Kitchens in 2012 with the vision of creating a professional commercial kitchen space where emerging food businesses could launch and grow. It has since evolved into a vibrant culinary hub offering cooking classes, team-building events, and entrepreneurial education. Steele also leads the Food Business Lab, a program built specifically to help food entrepreneurs launch and grow. Learn more about programming at [farrms.org](https://www.farrms.org).

USDA, DOI Move To Boost Support For American Ranchers

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum recently announced new actions aimed at boosting the supply of American born, raised, and harvested beef by supporting American ranchers with the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will strengthen coordination, cut bureaucratic red tape, and deliver immediate, tangible support for America's farmers and ranchers who rely on public lands. Building on the USDA's recently released Grazing Action Plan, the agreement formalizes collaboration between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to ensure more efficient, transparent and responsive grazing management across federal lands.

"Today's signing sends a clear message: the Trump Administration is putting America's farmers and ranchers first," said Secretary Rollins. "Building on our action plan for American ranchers announced in the fall, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are already delivering. This is another example of President Trump eliminating costly bureaucracy in order to lower consumer prices. Our public lands are there for the people, and this action demonstrates the commitment at USDA and the Department of the Interior to improve our services so farmers and ranchers who use public lands can run more efficient operations." "The Grazing Action Plan is built on a collaborative partnership dedicated to strengthening ranching operations while safeguarding our public lands," said Secretary Burgum. "By working closely with American ranchers, we are enhancing communication, investing in innovation, and modernizing our approach to land management practices to deliver real results for the people who feed and sustain this country. In coordination with the Department of Agriculture, the Trump administration is advancing actions designed to support farmers and ranchers - securing a more resilient future for grazing on public lands and protecting America's ranching heritage for generations to come."

For generations, ranchers have played a vital role in feeding the nation, supporting rural economies, and stewarding public lands. The MOU recognizes permittees as es-

sential partners and directs federal agencies to engage directly with those who live and work on the land. **Key actions under the agreement:**

- Cutting red tape and improving efficiency. The MOU streamlines permitting and processes and encourages agencies to use existing authorities more effectively, reducing delays for grazing permits, infrastructure improvements, and emergency response actions.
- Strengthening rancher partnerships. Agencies will expand collaboration with permittees through structured engagement, including learning roundtables and enhanced communication channels.
- Ranch immersion programs for federal employees. New initiatives will place agency staff on working ranches to build firsthand understanding of operational challenges and realities on the ground.
- Enhancing transparency and data access. Improved data systems will make grazing allotment information more accessible and predictable, giving producers greater certainty to plan and invest.
- Expanding practical land management tools. The agreement promotes targeted grazing to reduce wildfire risk, supports reopening vacant allotments, and encourages adoption of innovative technologies such as virtual fencing.
- Wildfire coordination and response. The creation of Grazing Permittee Wildfire Liaisons will ensure ranchers have clear points of contact and a voice during wildfire response and recovery efforts.
- Maintaining grazing capacity. The MOU affirms a goal of maintaining grazing capacity wherever possible, including no net loss of Animal Unit Months within allotments, consistent with applicable law.

Officials emphasized the agreement supports not only producers, but also American families by strengthening the domestic food supply chain. By lowering costs and improving efficiency for ranchers, the initiative helps keep food affordable and reduces reliance on foreign imports. The signing marks an important step forward in modernizing federal grazing management and reflects a broader commitment to rural prosperity by fortifying the American beef industry as directed by President Trump's order Ensuring Affordable Beef for the American Consumer.

Put The Phone Away Or Pay: Extra Enforcement In April Focuses On Preventing Distracted Driving

Law enforcement agencies across North Dakota will increase patrols throughout April to enforce the state's distracted driving law as part of the national distracted driving enforcement campaign Put the Phone Away or Pay. Distracted driving is both dangerous and illegal. It includes any activity that takes your eyes off the road, hands off the wheel or mind off driving. While distractions come in many forms, texting and cell phone use remain the most common. Although distracted driving is significantly underreported in North Dakota crashes, the consequences of inattention behind the wheel are clear. In 2024, lane departure crashes occurred about every two hours in North Dakota. These crashes of-

ten happen when drivers take their attention off the road. "Even a quick glance at your phone can have serious consequences," said Watford City Police Department Chief Jesse Wellen. "When drivers take their attention off the road, even for a few seconds, they put themselves and everyone around them at risk." In conjunction with the distracted driving campaign, Vision Zero is encouraging all North Dakotans to take the Buck Up Phone Down pledge, committing to wearing a seat belt and driving distraction-free every trip, every time. This campaign is part of the Vision Zero strategy to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on North Dakota roads.

Movement Documents Needed For Rodeo And Show Animals

As fair and rodeo season begins, participants are reminded that any animals coming into North Dakota from out of state require a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) to enter the state. A CVI documents that an animal has been checked by a veterinarian to ensure it is free of signs of infectious, contagious disease and has met health requirements to enter North Dakota. "If you have already brought an animal in without a CVI, please contact our office and we will work with you to get the proper paperwork before your event," State Veterinarian Dr. Ethan Andress said. "Co-mingling animals together at events is the primary driver for the rapid spread of infectious diseases, so even late health checks will help stop disease." "Proper documents help to

quickly identify and isolate infected animals, trace their movements and stop further spread," Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said. "We rely on the cooperation of owners to help safeguard the health of animals and livestock." Horse owners traveling during rodeo season have an option that is good for six months from the date of the veterinary inspection. "I encourage equine owners traveling across state lines to consider using the Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection," Andress said. "Utilizing the EECVI and its associated travel itinerary allows us to notify you immediately if your horse has been in contact with another sick animal." The state veterinarian's office may be reached at 701-328-2655 or doa-bah@nd.gov.

P&A Releases Report On Poll Site Accessibility

In the United States, one in six eligible voters have a disability. Federal law mandates that voters with disabilities have the same opportunity to vote as people without disabilities. This includes ensuring physical accessibility at poll sites. The North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A) partnered with the North Dakota Centers for Independent Living to examine poll site accessibility leading up to the 2026 election cycle. The purpose of this project was to assess and identify improvements for poll site accessibility. Eighty-seven (87) voting sites, spanning twenty-nine (29) counties were surveyed across North Dakota. Accessibility surveys were considered at municipal, county, and privately

owned locations used for voting. A public report released recently identifies that many sites had at least one barrier that could limit access for voters with disabilities. Overall, parking was identified as the biggest accessibility challenge, with an average compliance rate of 66 percent. Photos and surveys for each location are available upon request. The full report is available at <https://www.ndpanda.org/resources/voting>. The right to vote for all citizens, especially those with disabilities, is critical, with every ballot cast being an opportunity to shape our communities. P&A recognizes the North Dakota Secretary of State's Office and county auditors who diligently work each day to ensure North Dakotans can participate in the electoral process. The North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project is a federally mandated, independent state agency established in 1977 to advance the human and legal rights of people with disabilities. P&A's mission is to champion the equality and inclusion of people with disabilities where we live, work, and play.

Area Player Named To Shrine Bowl

The 2026 Shrine Bowl football rosters were released last week. Players will report for practice on Tuesday, June 16. Games will be played on Saturday, June 30. The 9-man game is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. and the 11-man game for 6:00 p.m. All practices and games will take place at Mayville State University. Sheldon Walker of Ray-Powers Lake has been named to the 11-man west team. Ray-Powers Lake's coach Seth Wisthoff has also been named as one of the 11-man west coaches.

Bowling

CITY LEAGUE		
	Won	Lost
Gray's	36	12
Mike's Plumbing	26.5	21.5
Red Angus	25	23
Larson Tire	22	26
Oliver & Crew	18.5	29.5
Prairie Home Furnish.	16	32
High Scratch Team Game: Red Angus 708; High Scratch Team Series: Skarsgard 568; High Handicap Team Game: Oliver & Crew 882; High Handicap Team Series: Oliver & Crew 2574; High Ind. Game: Billy Joe Hess 263; High Ind. Series: Billy Joe Hess 647; High Ind. Handicap Series: Kris Halvorson 690		
Errorless Game: Billy Joe Hess 263, Jim Enge 208		

SUGAR AND SPICE		
	Won	Lost
Gooseneck	27	17
Skarsgard	24	20
Meiers Oil	23	21
Thrivent	19	25
Tioga Drug	15	29
High Scratch Team Game: Gooseneck 568; High Scratch Team Series: Skarsgard 1606; High Team Handicap Game: Skarsgard 866; High Team Handicap Series: Skarsgard 2530; High Ind. Game: Nikki Heinle & Holly Kaiser 175; High Ind. Series: Nikki Heinle 497; High Ind. Handicap Series: Nikki Heinle 689		
Splits: Sara Evans 5-6, Jacqui Snyder 5-6, Mariah Heuschler 2-7, Miranda Webster 3-10, Emily Donabauer 2-6, Tara Uran 5-6		

North Dakota Game And Fish News

Record Count of Bighorn Sheep
The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's 2025 bighorn sheep survey, completed by recounting lambs in March, revealed a record 378 bighorn sheep in the badlands of western North Dakota, up 8 percent from 2024 and 10 percent above the five-year average. The 2025 survey was the fifth record count in the past six years. Brett Wiedmann, Department big game biologist, said 104 rams, 234 ewes and 40 lambs were counted. Not included are approximately 40 bighorn sheep in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and bighorns introduced to the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in 2020. A bighorn sheep hunting season is tentatively scheduled for 2026.

The status of the season will be determined September 1, following the 2026 summer population survey. **2025 Deer Season Summarized**
A total of 36,353 North Dakota deer hunters took approximately 20,877 deer during the 2025 deer gun hunting season, according to a post-season survey conducted by the state Game and Fish Department. Game and Fish made available 42,300 deer gun licenses last year. Overall hunter success was 57 percent, with each hunter spending an average of 4.9 days in the field. Hunter success for white-tailed deer was 53 percent for antlered and 45 percent for antlerless whitetails. Mule deer license holder success was 82 percent for antlered and 82 percent for antlerless mule deer.

AARP Fraud Alert: Product Recall Scams Are On The Rise

The AARP Fraud Watch Network™ Helpline (877-908-3360) has seen a spike in "recall scams." In these schemes, perpetrators send a message claiming that a product you purchased has been recalled because of a safety issue. The message looks official and urgent, often appearing to come from a trusted retailer like Amazon, Costco, or Walmart. It may include language such as, "To ensure your safety and process your full refund without delay, please sign in to your account through the official website and review your order below." The link provided, however, is fake and designed to steal your personal information. If you receive a message like this, don't click. Instead, go directly to the company's official website or app and check your account there. You can also confirm real recall information through the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls). Most legitimate recalls advise consumers to stop using the product rather than asking them to take im-

mediate action. Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call the free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of AARP's fraud specialists about what to do next.

Facts Matter
Our founding fathers knew knowledge was power when they made "Freedom of Speech" our first amendment. Now more than ever journalism matters. Facts matter. Real news matters. For facts and real news, read your local newspaper. **NDNA** NORTH DAKOTA NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION

FOR SALE ON BIDS

The Mountrail County Weed Control Board has 3 John Deere Gators 825's and 1 Kubota XG850 for sale on bids. All 4 side by sides can be seen at the Mountrail County Weed Control Shop in Stanley at the South Complex. The JD 825 models are 2018, 2019 and 2020 models. Bids should be sealed bids, sent to the Mountrail County Weed Control Office at P.O. Box 40, Stanley ND 58784. Bid Deadline is April 18th, 2026. For more information please contact the Mountrail County Weed Control Office at 628-2835 or Jim at 629-1858.

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