

## Goehring Announces Availability Of Orchard Grants

Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has announced that grants are available to support the creation of permanent community orchards in underserved areas to increase community access to and consumer education of specialty crops.

"I encourage community development groups, economic councils, schools, nonprofits, 4-H and FFA chapters to apply," Goehring said. "Funds can be used to purchase plants, trees, planting supplies, soil amendments, irrigation and fencing supplies."

There is \$120,000 available for the grants and organizations can ask for \$40,000 or more. The grants are available on a competitive basis and will be scored on community impact, location priorities, community participation and support, education and outreach, funding priorities, long-term sustainability and budget. Applicants will need at least one letter of support from a community partner or organization.

Grant funds cannot be used to purchase land, permanent structures or for capital expenditures. Grant funds are for new projects and not the continuation of existing projects.

Application forms for the grants are available on the NDDA website. Applications are due by Friday, June 5, 2026, at 4 p.m. Selected applications will be notified by June 19, 2026. Project periods will start July 1, 2026, and organizations will have until June 30, 2027, to make purchases for reimbursement.

Questions about the grant program should be directed to Jenna Nieters, local foods marketing specialist at jnieters@nd.gov or 701-328-2659.

The Specialty Crop Community Orchard Grant is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 8:35 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of discussing a conditional use request filed by Todd & Toni Marmon-Applcant/Landowners, for the purpose of placing a manufactured home on land zoned agricultural, a tract of land 80.00 acres more or less, in the E1/2NW1/4 of Section 8, Township 157 North, Range 94 West (**White Earth Township**).

The provision regarding a conditional use is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at [www.co.mountrail.nd.us](http://www.co.mountrail.nd.us) under the Planning & Zoning section.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments can be mailed to Mountrail County Planning & Zoning, PO Box 248, Stanley ND 58784-0248 and will be accepted until **Noon** on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Phone: 701-628-2909 or Email: [melissav@co.mountrail.nd.us](mailto:melissav@co.mountrail.nd.us)

Mountrail County complies with Title VI Nondiscrimination Standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act. These policies can be viewed at the Mountrail County Human Resources Office. If any special accommodations are required, please contact: Mountrail County Title VI Compliance & ADA Coordinator, Randi Schumaier, P.O. Box 69, Stanley, ND 58784-0069, phone: 701-628-8980, Fax: 701-628-2276, email: [rschumaier@co.mountrail.nd.us](mailto:rschumaier@co.mountrail.nd.us)

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 P&Z meeting  
Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM (America/Chicago)

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Dated at Stanley, North Dakota this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2026.

Charlie Sorenson, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

ATTEST:

Melissa Vachal  
Planning & Zoning Administrator  
May 6, 13, 2026

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 8:38 A.M.** over via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments on an amendment to zoning request filed by Ross City, on the proposed Official Zoning Map of Ross City. Ross City will no longer exercising their authority to zone and has made a formal request to fall under the authority of the Mountrail County Zoning Ordinance.

The provision regarding an amendment to zoning is contained within the Mountrail County Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at [www.co.mountrail.nd.us](http://www.co.mountrail.nd.us) under the Planning & Zoning section. The proposed Official Zoning Map of Ross City can also be viewed at the Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Office during office hours.

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## ND Food Expert: High Prices Are Motivator To Cut Waste

By Mike Moen,  
Prairie News Service

Food prices in the U.S. are forecast to rise by nearly three percent by the end of the year and a North Dakota professor specializing in nutrition said despite elevated grocery bills, there is still too much food waste.

Julie Garden-Robinson, food and nutrition specialist for North Dakota State University Extension, has tips on protecting your budget and the environment. April 30 was Stop Food Waste Day, and Garden-Robinson said it was a good reminder to maximize the value of your grocery haul. At home, people sometimes throw out food before they need to, noting lingering confusion about "use by" dates.

"That milk that might be in your refrigerator that has a 'best by' today or 'sell by' today, that doesn't necessarily mean that you can't drink that milk for a few days," Garden-Robinson pointed out.

Garden-Robinson noted safety is important but consumers should use common sense to determine if a product has a little extra shelf life. She recommended better meal planning and going through your cupboards before restocking.

Awareness day organizers say 45 percent of root crops, fruits and vegetables produced globally are lost or wasted each year, contributing to eight percent of total greenhouse gas emissions.

Researchers said it does not all fall on consumers, with a significant amount of waste occurring through supply chains. Garden-Robinson added certain industries like hospitality are getting the message by doing things like donating surplus food to hunger relief organizations.

She stressed consumers can do it too, or if your grocery budget is limited, think about preserving what you have.

"If you bought too much, you can freeze it," Garden-Robinson suggested. "If you have the skills, you can also safely can food. It's an important balancing act not to overbuy and to throw out that money that you worked hard to have."

On the environmental side, Garden-Robinson emphasized composting food waste in your backyard is another solution. When done properly, it can enrich the soil without using chemical pesticides, keep food waste out of landfills and help to reduce methane emissions.

## National Wellness Leader Joins ND's Rural Health Transformation Effort

North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced Dr. David Hunnicutt, as a Rural Health Transformation Program strategist.

Hunnicutt brings more than two decades of nationally recognized leadership to this role, having served 20 years as CEO of WELCOA, one of the largest and most influential corporate health and wellness organizations in the U.S.

As principal of his own consulting firm, he spent seven years partnering with Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF) and the Impact Institute to design and launch initiatives that elevate leaders across North Dakota and strengthen the state's capacity for long-term community well-being.

In his new role, he will guide strategic planning for the Rural Health Transformation Program, bringing clarity, alignment and a systems-level perspective to ensure North Dakota maximizes the impact of its funding and accelerates meaningful change in rural communities.

"David is known for his rare ability to cut through and lead complex initiatives," said HHS Commissioner Pat Traynor. "I describe him as a brilliant communicator and an expert strategist who brings clarity where it's needed most as we build a sustainable system for RHPT."

Hunnicutt's research and insights have benefited organizations including the United Nations, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente, John Deere, and many others.

"This unprecedented opportunity that the RHPT brings to North Dakota is truly inspiring, and collaborating with the HHS team to build this program for the state has been fantastic," Hunnicutt said.

Hunnicutt received degrees from Concordia College, North Dakota State University, and holds a Ph.D. with a concentration in the areas of Health and Business from the University of New Mexico.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services awarded North Dakota \$199 million for the first year of the Rural Health Transformation Program, a significant investment to strengthen rural health systems, expand access to care and improve health outcomes for residents in rural communities. Future funding amounts will be determined by CMS based on the state's progress in implementing the program.

The Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$198,936,969.55, with 100 percent funded by CMS. The contents are those of North Dakota Health and Human Services and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or the U.S. government.

Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 8:47 A.M.** over via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of discussing a Variance request filed by Kelly Hanson-Applcant/Landowner, to place 4 grain bins 60' from the section line rather than the required 150' from the section line, located in Outlot 4 of the NW¼ of Section 27, Township 158 North, Range 91 West (**Lostwood Township**).

The provision regarding a variance is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at [www.co.mountrail.nd.us](http://www.co.mountrail.nd.us) under the Planning & Zoning section.

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## Blue Jay Golf Season Underway

Weather has played a big factor for boys' golfers as their season got underway in April.

The Blue Jays have been in action at several meets.

The first was at the DLB Invite on April 14, where the team took home first place with a team score of 316.

Individually, Colter Fladeland was first overall with a score of 75; Coda Fladeland, 2nd with 77; Tyke Barstad, third with 77; Chase Brown, 6th with 81; Kane Reep, 10th with 83; Eli Brewer, 12th with 86; Jake Germundson, 18th with 88; and Ashton Peterson, 28th with 97.

On April 23, the Blue Jays returned to DLB for another invite, with the team taking second place with 347, behind Powers lake with 324.

Individually, Tyke Barstad was 5th overall with a score of 83; Jake Germundson, 8th with 85; Coda Fladeland, 14th with 88; Chase Brown, 24th with 91; Kane Reep, 25th with 91; and Colter Fladeland,

35th with 97.

The Blue Jays were at the Linton/HMB Invite on April 28. Linton/HMB was first with a team score of 336 while the Blue Jays were third with 353.

Individually, Tyke Barstad was 14th with 87; Jake Germundson, 15th with 87; Chase Brown, 20th with 89; Colter Fladeland, 22nd with 90; Coda Fladeland, 23rd with 90; Kane Reep, 34th with 96; Ashton Peterson, 45th with 99; and Eli Brewer, 48th with 99.

On May 1 and 2, the Blue Jays were at the Northern Tier Classic at DLB. Shiloh Christian took home first place as a team with a score of 622. The Blue Jays were thirteenth with a score of 701.

Individual scores for the Blue Jays were as follows:

Tyke Barstad . . . . . 80 92 - 172  
Chase Brown . . . . . 84 89 - 173  
Germundson, 8th with 85; Coda Fladeland, 14th with 88; Chase Brown, 24th with 91; Kane Reep, 25th with 91; and Colter Fladeland,

## State Park Visitors Urged To Help Protect Parks From Invasive Species

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, is highlighting the importance of stopping the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) during the week of May 3-9. ANS Awareness Week in North Dakota is intended to further educate visitors on the potential risk to public health, property and the economy from the negative impacts associated with ANS to ultimately stop the introduction and spread of ANS in the state's waterways.

Nuisance, or invasive, species are aggressive species that pose serious threats to local ecosystems and water quality. Park visitors play a vital role in helping prevent the spread of invasive species across North Dakota through some quick and easy tasks:

- Clean gear: Before leaving a body of water, thoroughly clean all equipment such as boats, kayaks, fishing gear, and any other gear that comes into contact with water. Remove all plants, mud and debris.
- Drain water: Drain all water from boats, motors, bilges and live wells before leaving the area.
- Dry gear: Allow all gear to completely dry before using it in another body of water.
- Dispose of bait properly: Never release unused bait into the water.
- Stay informed: Learn about the ANS species in the park you're visiting and follow any guidelines or regulations provided by park staff.

With most state parks offering water access across North Dakota, visitors are reminded to help protect

all waterways by practicing responsible watercraft use. To support these efforts, some state parks have tools to help reduce risks of spreading invasive species:

- Lake Metigoshe State Park features a convenient watercraft cleaning station, developed in partnership with the ND Game and Fish Department. This Clean, Drain, Dry and Dispose (CD3) station allows anglers and boaters to easily rinse off equipment.
- Grahams Island State Park boat ramps include an innovative Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor (ILIDS) to detect incoming watercraft and play a helpful reminder: remove all aquatic plants and animals before and after launching.

- Fort Stevenson State Park also has an ILIDS at its de Trobriand Marina and a CD3 cleaning station at the Garrison Marina.

This equipment is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Lake users should properly drain water from boats and gear that can lead to the accidental spread of ANS.

"Preventing the spread of invasive species starts with every water user making clean, drain and dry part of every outing," said Kathy Duttonhefner, Natural Resource Division Chief at NDRPD. "These simple steps play a critical role in protecting North Dakota's waters, forests and wildlife."

The mission of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is to enrich generations through experiences that connect people and places.

## 911 DISPATCHER POSITION

The Mountrail County Sheriff's Department is currently accepting applications for a 911 Dispatcher. A 911 Dispatcher performs specialized work in receiving emergency calls for service and dispatching appropriate police, fire, EMS, or Emergency Management agencies to the incident. Using computer aided dispatch systems (CAD) and multi-channel radio/paging consoles, 911 Dispatchers must act quickly, efficiently, calmly, and accurately to process incoming emergency calls and dispatch and coordinate emergency responder resources. A 911 Dispatcher is required to know how to read maps and use the CAD mapping system.

Salary range of \$25.75-\$30.96 per hour based on experience. Excellent benefits including paid full family health insurance, NDPers Public Safety Retirement plan, dental & vision and life insurance.

Applications can be obtained at the Mountrail County Human Resources office or by calling 701-628-8980. Completed applications will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, 2026 at the Mountrail County Human Resources Department at the Mountrail County Courthouse, 101 N Main St., PO Box 69, Stanley, ND 58784. Position is considered open until filled.

Mountrail County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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