

Registration open for 2026 Field to Fork webinar series

NDSU Extension's Field to Fork webinar series provides information about growing, preserving and preparing specialty-crop fruits and vegetables.

North Dakota State University Extension will again host the Field to Fork webinar series starting in February 2026.

Experts from across the region will provide information about growing, preserving and preparing specialty-crop fruits and vegetables safely in this 11th annual webinar series.

The Field to Fork Wednesday webinars will begin Feb. 11. The webinars will be held online from 2 to 3 p.m. CDT through April 15. The webinars are archived for later viewing, but participating in the live webinar allows participants to interact with the presenter.

The webinars are free of charge, but registration is required. Register at ag.ndsu.edu/fieldtofork. The webinars will be held on Zoom. Participants will receive reminders and a link to participate, along with a link to the recording if they are unable to attend.

Julie Garden-Robinson, NDSU Extension food and nutrition specialist, said that when the first Field to Fork webinar series started 11 years ago, online webinars were still relatively new. Now the series reaches thousands of people annually, both live and through the recordings.

Topics that will be covered:

Feb. 11: Planting techniques make all the difference: From tomatoes to apple trees – Don Kinzler, NDSU Extension horticulture agent

Feb. 18: New and promising vegetable varieties for 2026 – Tom Kalb, NDSU Extension area horticulture specialist

Feb. 25: The prepared consumer: From grocery aisle to emergency plan – Cindy Brison, University of Nebraska Extension educator

March 4: Food preservation all year - Fruit leathers, apple chips, jerky and more! – Julie Garden-Robinson, NDSU Extension food and nutrition specialist and professor

March 11: Debunking common



NDSU Extension's Field to Fork webinars will provide information about growing, preserving and preparing specialty-crop fruits and vegetables. (Pixabay photo)

vegetable gardening myths – Esther McGinnis, NDSU Extension horticulturist and associate professor

March 18: To sous vide or not sour vide: Safety of long-term, low-temperature cooking for vegetables – Byron Chaves, Rutgers University (New Jersey) associate professor

March 25: Roots, fruits, and shoots: Edible plant parts – Susie Thompson, NDSU Department of Plant Sciences associate professor and potato breeder

April 1: Safe home canning: Start with the recipe, finish with confidence – Karen Blakeslee, Kansas State University Extension associate

April 8: Safer solutions: Natural insecticides to manage garden insects – Janet Knodel, NDSU professor and entomologist

April 15: Does soil health make a difference in producing healthy food? – Carlos Pires, NDSU Extension soil health specialist and assistant professor

“Our Field to Fork website has a wealth of information from growing, preparing and preserving foods from apples to zucchini, plus all the archived Field to Fork webinars from 2016 to present,” said Julie Garden-Robinson, NDSU Extension food and nutrition specialist and coordinator of the program.

This project is made possible with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

To register, visit NDSU Extension's website at ag.ndsu.edu/fieldtofork or contact Garden-Robinson at 701-231-7187 or julie.garden-robinson@ndsu.edu.

Flu cases quadrupled in N.D. after Christmas

By The Borderland News Center

North Dakota's Health and Human Services Department released its most recent respiratory pathogen report two days after Christmas, with data collected showing flu cases have nearly quadrupled in the two weeks prior to the holiday.

Numbers for the week ending Dec. 27 shows North Dakota had 1,725 confirmed cases of influenza. Previously on December 13, that number was 452. Alongside influenza, this week also has 322 active cases of COVID-19 and 21 cases of RSV.

In a more regional sense, northeast North Dakota - including the counties of Cavalier, Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Towner, Ramsey, and Walsh - accounted for 302 flu cases, 34 COVID-19 cases, and 5 RSV cases in the latest report.

The Health and Human Services Department stated that vaccines remain the best defense against these types of seasonal viruses.

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Drayton Volunteer Ambulance Assn. is now accepting dues for 2026.

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Job Service North Dakota to host Virtual Job Fair

By Mary Houdek, Job Service North Dakota

Happy Holidays from Job Service North Dakota! We are so excited to be kicking off 2026 with our 5th Annual Virtual Job Fair on Jan. 29, 2026!

Five Years Strong, Find Where You Belong, is our theme this year to attract workers from North Dakota and across the country! Last year's virtual job fair attracted over 500 job seekers from 24 states and various countries!

A virtual job fair is a great opportunity to showcase your company and build visibility for your employer brand! With our Platform, Easy Virtual Fair, you can build and customize your booth to meet your needs, and you can add a webinar/video to further promote your organization! We know how busy employers are at this time of year, so you will love how easy the platform is to use and the convenience of joining from anywhere.

Whether you have one job to fill or 200, our Virtual Job Fair will allow you to post your open positions for job seekers to browse through, interact directly with job seekers through the private chat feature, and review resumes that have been uploaded by job seekers. Past employers who have attended our events have said the candidate pool is strong, the virtual platform is easy to use, and the overall experience has been well worth their time.

While this event is promoted nationwide to help our North Dakota employers tap into a wider talent pool, we also send a special invitation to the students in colleges and universities in North Dakota and all surrounding states. We also promote our

event on Handshake for college students, and we share information through our partners and at other local events. We don't stop there, though! Once the event is over, we continue working to connect employers and job seekers by following up with all those who attended to provide information about our services, how to search and apply for jobs, and information about living and working in North Dakota!

There is no cost to you, so if you haven't yet signed up, you can contact our office for more information!

If you can't attend, be sure to list your open jobs on our website. Our website is the State Job Board where job seekers can create resumes and search and apply for jobs. Last year, we had 4.5M views on our site!! We also had over 227,000 active job seekers registered in our system with 150,400 new users. We can post your jobs, make referrals, or be your virtual recruiter—All at no cost to you!

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events and wish you the best in 2026!

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