

## NDSU Extension sets free suicide prevention webinar for May 28

Research indicates that the suicide rate is significantly higher for those working in agriculture. Research also shows that stress levels and suicide rates drop significantly when people receive support and helpful resources from those around them.

North Dakota State University Extension will address ways to extend support and helpful resources for stressed individuals in agriculture in the upcoming "Question. Persuade. Refer." suicide prevention webinar, held May 28 at 1:30 p.m.

The 90-minute webinar will address concerns of high stress levels in agriculture-related jobs and the toll they take on mental and emotional well-being.

Just as CPR training helps community members respond with help in a physical health crisis, the QPR suicide prevention training focuses on equipping participants with knowledge to recognize signs of mental health stresses or suicidal thinking. The training is also aims to help participants learn simple, practical skills to respond

with support and empathy.

"A consistent message we want folks in farming to understand is that it's OK to not be OK and that help is available," says Sean Brotherson, NDSU Extension family science specialist. "Your health is your most important resource for daily well-being, and this training helps us put health first."

Katie Henry and Jill Sokness, NDSU Extension agents for Cavalier and Cass counties, respectively, will facilitate the webinar.

Although the training will focus on people working in and around agriculture, anyone interested in the topic can register. The free training is supported by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant.

Registration is limited to the first 30 participants. Registration is available at [ndsuhq.com/Registration/Registration.aspx?RegistrationID=20260528](https://ndsuhq.com/Registration/Registration.aspx?RegistrationID=20260528).

For additional information, contact Adriana Drusini at [adriana.drusini@ndsuhq.com](mailto:adriana.drusini@ndsuhq.com) or Brotherson at [sean.brotherson@ndsuhq.com](mailto:sean.brotherson@ndsuhq.com).



Addressing the wellness needs of those working in agriculture or related areas will be the focus of the upcoming "Question, Persuade, Refer." suicide prevention webinars. Pexels photo

## NDSU Extension urges public input for EPA fungicide strategy

On May 1, the Environmental Protection Agency released its draft fungicide strategy for public comment. The strategy document can be found at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2026-2973>.

The fungicide strategy outlines how the EPA plans to mitigate potential harmful effects to federally listed endangered and threatened species or their critical habitat from off-target pesticide exposure in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

"Providing a wide range of perspectives to the EPA through the public comment process allows for development of a more practical and comprehensive final strategy," said Madeleine Smith, North Dakota State University Extension pesticide specialist.

Smith said mitigations from the release of the EPA's final insecticide and herbicide strategies are already making their way onto pesticide labels, the most recent of which included the new labels for Engenia, Tavium and Stryx, all used for weed



The public comment period provides an opportunity for anyone to review the draft and help shape the final EPA strategy. Photo courtesy of the University of Nebraska

control in soybeans and cotton.

The public comment period is open until June 29, and comments can be submitted at <https://www.regulations.gov/>.

The final fungicide strategy is expected to be released by the EPA by November 2026.

For more information about pesticide use, contact Smith or visit [ndsuhq.com/pesticides-26](https://ndsuhq.com/pesticides-26).

## Emerald Ash Borer awareness

Native to Asia, the emerald ash borer (EAB) attacks true ash trees (Fraxinus spp.). The larvae feed under the bark, disrupting the movement of water and nutrients and killing the tree within several years. EAB has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in the United States over the past decade.

EAB has been found in LaMoure and Cass counties and is also found in 37 additional states and six Canadian provinces, including our neighbors, Minnesota, South Dakota and Manitoba. North Dakota has more than 90 million ash trees. Based on tree inventories in more than 100 North Dakota communities, ash trees make up between 20 percent to 80 percent of trees along streets and in city parks.

"EAB spreads slowly on its own, but it can be moved long distances in firewood and ash nursery stock," State Forester Tom Claeys said. "Please buy your firewood from local sources, and if you are coming from out of the state, please don't bring firewood with you."

The North Dakota Department of Ag, NDFS and city foresters will be placing surveillance traps around the state in the next couple weeks. Nearly 300 EAB traps will be placed in cities, state parks, recreation areas, campgrounds, rest stops and other areas of high risk to survey for EAB.

The two-foot-long, three-sided, purple traps are baited with a lure attractive to emerald ash borers. The traps will be monitored through the summer during the adult flight period.

Treatments are available to prevent EAB from establishing in an ash tree that a homeowner desires to save. Treatments are not recommended until EAB has been found within 15 miles of the tree's location.

It is prohibited to move firewood or other ash articles outside of a regulated area. LaMoure and Cass counties are currently regulated for EAB.

To report a suspect ash tree, go to the NDDA suspect ash tree page online.

## RED RIVER FARM NETWORK

Reporting Agriculture's Business

**Smallest wheat crop since '72** – Total Farm Marketing Senior Market Advisor Naomi Blohm said wheat was the big story from the USDA supply/demand report. "The USDA for the new crop wheat came in at 1.561 billion bushels, down from 1.9 a year ago." That would be the lowest wheat production total since 1972. "Due to lower acres and lower yield, that winter wheat crop just zapped, and so that's why the production number was so low."

**NAWG urges action on inputs, farm bill after USDA report** – Citing the dramatic wheat numbers in the USDA supply/demand report, the National Association of Wheat Growers said it is time for Congress to finalize the farm bill and address rising farm input costs. The USDA report cut wheat production by more than 20 percent from the 2025-2026 crop year. NAWG CEO Sam Kieffer said wheat growers aren't surprised by the report. A statement released by NAWG said farmers are planting less wheat due to uncertain global markets and high input costs.

**Soybean aphid threat rising** – The latest North Dakota State University Crop and Pest Report is warning soybean growers to closely monitor soybean aphid activity this season, particularly across eastern North Dakota. Researchers say winter survival rates for soybean aphids were exceptionally high throughout the Red River Valley,

southeastern North Dakota and parts of central North Dakota. Despite temperatures falling near 20 below zero this winter, cold-related aphid mortality remained below five percent in many areas. Agronomists are encouraging producers to begin weekly field scouting from late June through mid-August to help catch infestations before yield losses occur.

**A reroute for Summit Pipeline** – Summit Carbon Solutions has announced a new route for its pipeline, and it bypasses Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The scaled-down version will capture carbon from 27 ethanol plants in Iowa and move it through Nebraska to a storage site in Wyoming. The original project would have impacted nearly 60 ethanol plants in five states, with the carbon sequestration happening in North Dakota. Summit was unable to secure a pipeline permit in South Dakota and faced legal challenges in North Dakota. American Carbon Alliance CEO Tom Buis says the mileage is reduced with the new route, but it should not slow down progress with the pipeline. The market and supply remains. "There's one thing we always need in agriculture and that's more demand. Demand is what gets you the price, and we're sitting here right now with excess supply and not enough demand."

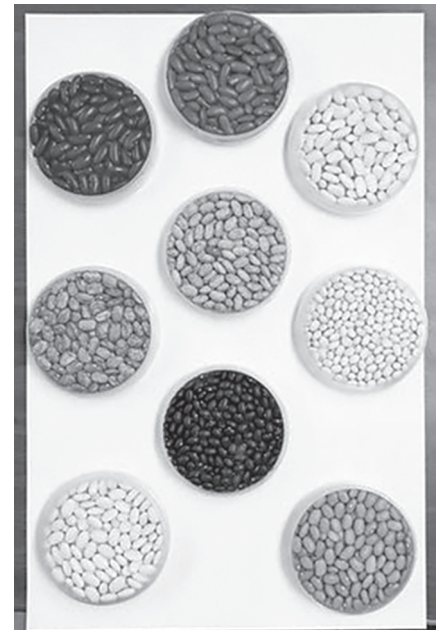
## NDSU Extension to host June webinar about dry bean nutrients

North Dakota State University Extension will host "Bean There, Cooked That: Unpacking the Nutritional Power of Dry Beans," an educational webinar about dry beans and nutrition, on June 2 at 9 a.m.

This second edition of "Bean There, Cooked That," which has been co-developed with the Northharvest Bean Growers Association, will be held via Zoom.

"After the strong response last year, we are excited to go even deeper into the nutritional value and health benefits of dry beans," says Ana Carcedo, NDSU Extension broadleaf crops agronomist.

The webinar will feature a team of experts covering a range of dry bean topics. Julie Garden-Robinson, NDSU Extension food and nutrition specialist, will discuss how beans can replace allergenic ingredients in recipes. Carcedo will explore how different farming practices influence everyday food. B. Pam Ismail, professor at the University of Minnesota, will examine how dry beans can be transformed into high-quality protein ingredients and what that means for nutrition and food innovation.



The webinar will feature experts discussing a range of topics about dry beans and nutrition. (NDSU photo), (NDSU photo)

The event will conclude with a live Q&A, allowing participants to ask questions and interact directly with the presenters.

There is no participation fee, but registration is required. For more information and to register, visit [ndsuhq.com/bean-there-26](https://ndsuhq.com/bean-there-26), or contact Carcedo at 701-831-5796 or [a.carcedo@ndsuhq.com](mailto:a.carcedo@ndsuhq.com).

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