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On the cover

Whether you are looking for the latest in market information, research updates or you just relish the opportunity to talk with fellow farmers and agriculture industry leaders, the Northern Corn and Soybean Expo is for you. There is a lot of value packed into this one-day event, so make plans to attend February 14 at the Fargodome. A full listing of sessions and speakers is featured in this issue.

—Photos by staff



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40th Anniversary Celebration: Come Tell Your Story

Forty years ago, a group of visionary soybean farmers worked together to create the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA). Looking back, it must have been a forward-thinking group of people who planted a lot of wheat.

In 1982, there were 10.3 million acres of wheat harvested along with 3.35 million acres of sunflowers and 1.95 million acres of barley. Only 415,000 acres of soybeans were harvested; they were sold for an average price of \$5.42 per bushel. About 75% of the acres were in Richland, Cass and Traill counties while farmers in 18 other counties planted the crop.

According to the “North Dakota Soybean Council: The First Decade,” that early group contacted the American Soybean Association (ASA) in November of 1982, seeking information about becoming an affiliate. The farmers learned that an association needed to have 200 members to become an ASA affiliate. The NDSGA was

incorporated on March 9, 1983.

By the time the first North Dakota Soybean Expo was held on March 28, 1983, there were 140 members, and 40 additional people joined during the Expo. By August 1, 1983, the NDSGA had 211 members, allowing the NDSGA to become the 26th state organization as an ASA affiliate.

To celebrate successes such as helping to establish the North Dakota Soybean Council and the soybean checkoff, the NDSGA will hold a 40th anniversary celebration in August of 2023.

If you were one of the early organizers or helped guide the association along the way, please consider telling your story while you are at the 2023 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo. Plan to stop by the interview room where we hope you'll share your story to help preserve the association's history. The video produced from those interviews will be a highlight during the 40th anniversary celebration.

—Story by staff, archive photo



The first NDSGA Board of Directors. Left to right, David Holter, Curt Hagert, Wayne Colberg, Duane Berglund, Gary Friskop, Gary Woodbury, Maynard Burchill, Paul Schroeder, Bruce Fadness, Tom Dolan and Robert Sinner.

Tasks of the Season

During the growing season, there's no shortage of things for us to do on our farms. There's always work to be done, whether it's tilling, seeding, spraying or repairing equipment. During the winter months, some of those tasks can be set aside as we turn our attention elsewhere.

The North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) is active year-round, but during the winter months, the activity often moves from the field to the conference room or legislative office. We swap our boots and sweatshirts for a tie and sport coat to meet with state legislators, state agency representatives and our congressional delegation. NDSGA directors take those advocacy tasks as seriously as we do the management of our own farms because there can be a lot at stake.

We invite you to learn more about what issues North Dakota farmers are facing by attending the 2023 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo. As

part of the Expo, the NDSGA holds its annual meeting, which gives attendees a look at the issues that the NDSGA is addressing and why those topics are important to farmers in the state.

You'll receive an update on the issues we're watching in North Dakota as the legislature is in session. Former U.S. Representative Collin Peterson will give his insights about the process of writing the 2023 Farm Bill, which is one of the most influential pieces of legislation that affects us as farmers. Peterson chaired the House Agriculture Committee and was involved with writing five farm bills. He'll provide a unique perspective about what we, as farmers, can expect and what we should watch as the process moves forward.

Our fields may be frozen and snow covered, but the farmer leaders on the NDSGA board are actively working to benefit North Dakota agriculture. We are committed to yielding positive results on behalf of North Dakota farmers.



Kasey Bitz
President, North Dakota
Soybean Growers Association



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PROSEED

Covering New Territory

Valley City farmer and former United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC)

Chairman Monte Peterson was part of a recent groundbreaking effort to reach markets in Europe. Peterson was a member of a delegation, led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), that participated in the first-ever agricultural trade mission to Madrid, Spain.

Peterson was among more than 70 participants who represented various sectors of U.S. food and agriculture, including businesses, trade associations and state government, that joined the December trade mission to explore export opportunities for U.S. agricultural products in Spain.

Delegates had the opportunity to connect with potential customers and to learn the mechanics of exporting to Spain. In addition, importers from neighboring Portugal also participated, allowing U.S. exporters to learn about opportunities in that country.

"The goal is to line up buyers and sellers," Peterson says. "I went as a representative of USSEC, and USSEC through the American Soybean Association is a major cooperator of record with the Foreign Ag Service."

With multiple ports of entry, including Lisbon and Valencia, the FAS describes how the Iberian Peninsula is a major gateway to Europe for U.S. agricultural products. Spanish companies cover the Iberian Peninsula as a

single market, and products are frequently imported into Spain and transported to Portugal.

According to the FAS, Spain is the third-largest destination for U.S. agricultural products in the European Union (EU). Portugal ranks 11th. In 2021, the U.S. exported \$1.6 billion of agricultural products to Spain, or 15% of the total U.S. agricultural exports to the EU. The U.S. held a 4% market share of Spain's agricultural imports and a 2% market share in Portugal, behind other EU member states as a group and Brazil.

"Europe is a mature market for us, but it's a very good market for us," Peterson explains. "We would like to gain additional market share, and it's always important to maintain the relationships that

we already have."

In 2021, exports of consumer-oriented products to Spain increased by 3%, driven by distilled spirits, food preparations and fresh vegetables. Bulk products were also up 33%, led by more soybean and sorghum shipments. During the last 20 years, U.S. bulk exports to the Iberian Peninsula were inconsistent, depending on commodity prices and global market dynamics, according to the FAS.

"Primarily, we are a whole soybean supplier to the crushers in Spain and Portugal. They're a large user of meal in feed rations, and they have a mature swine industry," Peterson states. "So absolutely, they are good customers, and we want to maintain our relationship with them."

Additional global, agribusiness trade missions are expected as more of the world opens following the COVID-19 pandemic. Peterson contends that those missions and other outreach efforts are indicative of the commitment that organizations such as the USSEC and the FAS have to support agriculture around the world.

"I don't think the average farmer realizes the number of people that are working on their behalf all around the world to maintain access to markets for the products that they grow," Peterson asserts. "I continue to be impressed by the number of people that work on our behalf and the conviction that they have for securing markets for U.S. agricultural products and helping us with our livelihoods on the farm."

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photo by USSEC staff



Monte Peterson conversing with Karisha Kuypers, Ag Attaché during the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Trade Mission to Madrid.

ND Farmer Elected ASA Vice President

Kulm, North Dakota, farmer Josh Gackle has been elected by the American Soybean Association (ASA) to be the organization's vice president, which puts him in line to serve as the association's president in 2024.

Gackle is in his sixth year on the ASA board and his fourth year on the executive committee, having previously served as the ASA treasurer.

"It's humbling when you stand in front of a group of farmer leaders like the ASA board to ask for their support," Gackle says. "I appreciate that they see something in me."

Gackle has a background in public policy. He worked in Washington, D.C., and in Minnesota as an environment and agriculture policy adviser to the governor before returning to North Dakota and the family farm in 2012.

Gackle states that the 2023 Farm Bill will be a priority for the ASA in the coming year. More than a year ago, the organization held lis-

tening sessions to obtain feedback from farmers, agri-businesses and others in order to help establish its priority issues for the farm bill. That information has been shared with policymakers.

Connecting with new congressional members will be a major emphasis, Gackle explains, because a large number of members have never voted on a farm bill.

"It's going to take a lot of education," Gackle contends. "That will be crucial to getting a farm bill that's good for farmers and rural America."

In addition to the farm bill, Gackle describes how ASA will also be pushing for increased support of biofuels such as biodiesel and renewable diesel. The Environmental Protection Agency recently released proposed renewable volume obligations for the Renewable Fuel Standard; the amounts were disappointing for biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel.

Protecting the availability of needed crop protection products

is another area of emphasis for the ASA during the year ahead, according to Gackle. He also encourages farmers to get involved through membership and personal outreach.

"The more farmers we have involved, the better," Gackle explains. "The voice farmers bring to the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association and the ASA is really powerful when talking to legislators. Organizations like ASA and the NDSGA can build momentum and build a case on important

issues, but a call or visit from a farmer is key to getting issues over the finish line. There is power in numbers because it is coming from the grass roots."

Gackle was elected at the ASA meeting in December. At that same meeting, Justin Sherlock of Dazey was added to the ASA board, giving North Dakota three ASA directors. Sherlock joins Gackle and Monte Peterson as the state's representatives at the national level.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photo by Brad Doyle



Josh Gackle of Kulm now serves as ASA vice president.



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Welcome to the 2023 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo!



This year's Northern Corn and Soybean Expo is, once again, packed with great speakers; information; and, as always, a large trade show. We hope that you'll make the time to take it all in. Thanks, in part, to the soybean checkoff, our team was able to identify timely topics that are important to North Dakota agriculture and to deliver the resources to help answer some of the most pressing current questions.

Once again, decision time has come for all farmers concerning their marketing plans, input purchases, capital investments and the global issues that influence these decisions. The agenda for this year's Expo features experts who will

provide information about these topics and more.

Expo attendees will get the latest updates on fertilizer cost and availability as well as information about weeds, weather patterns and ag policy issues that could affect farmers. The day's activities will also highlight emerging opportunities for North Dakota's agriculture sector. New soybean processing capacity offers the potential for the state's farmers to expand animal agriculture while also having a bigger role in providing low carbon fuels such as biodiesel and renewable diesel. You'll be able to learn more about these opportunities because panel discussions are planned to address both animal agriculture and biofuels.

Last year, the weather put a damper on attendance. Even so, we had a respectable crowd, which was a testament to the quality of the program that was planned. We're optimistic that our weather will cooperate because we have planned another Expo that is full of timely and helpful information.

Beyond the quality of the day's sessions, for me personally, events like the Expo are a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and gain new friends. We encourage you to bring your friends, family and your farm crew to the Expo because there is something for everyone. Once again, we hope to see you there for a day of information, networking, and fun!



Rob Rose
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General Sessions

The 2023 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo includes a range of compelling speakers and informative presentations to help farmers with their journey to increased productivity and profitability. The general sessions feature



Mike Pearson

leading experts and topics that affect North Dakota farmers.

Mike Pearson, host of the Agriculture of America radio show, will serve as the day's emcee and will provide the closing keynote address. Pearson was born and raised in south-central Iowa, where he worked on his family's hog and cattle farm. After graduating from Simpson College, Pearson moved to Grinnell, Iowa, where he had the chance to build his own cow herd in addition to working as an agricultural lender. Pearson left the world of finance and entered the world of media. He's previously hosted "Market to Market" on public television, the Ag News Daily

podcast. He's currently part of the "This Week in Agribusiness" team; that show can be found on RFD-TV or hundreds of local stations each weekend.

Fertilizer Market Outlook

SkYROCKETING fertilizer costs hit farmers hard in 2022, and prices for nutrients continue to trend higher than the historical average



Joshua Linville

ahead of the next growing season. StoneX Director of Fertilizer Joshua Linville will provide a perspective about fertilizer prices and availability as farmers prepare for the 2023 crop.

Global Economic Ag Outlook

Professor Emeritus David M. Kohl, Ph.D., served in the Virginia Tech Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics from 1978 until his retirement in 2003. He taught more than 10,000 students in his courses: Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship, Agricultural Financial Management, Farm Business Management, Agribusiness Management, and

—Story continued on page 10

—Story continued from page 9

Agricultural Management and Problem Solving. Kohl's recent work has focused on analyzing the best management practices for optimum agricultural business performance.

Kohl has published more than 1,500 articles in academic journals; in the popular press; and through Extension. Kohl is a two-time recipient of the prestigious American Agricultural Economics Association's Outstanding Teaching Award; he is one of only five professors to receive the award twice.



David Kohl, Ph.D.

Diversification Through Animal Agriculture

North Dakota has many of the key ingredients needed for a vibrant animal agriculture industry. The state's wide-open farmland; ample supplies of corn; and, soon, a large supply of soybean meal for feed combine to make North Dakota an attractive place for livestock production. A panel of animal agriculture experts will help attendees better understand the opportunities that may exist for farmers to incorporate livestock on their farms. Panelists include the following individuals:

Harold Stanislawski, business and



Harold Stanislawski

industry development director for the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI). AURI is a Minnesota nonprofit corporation that works to foster long-term economic development by creating value-added agriculture opportunities.

Ty Eschenbaum, managing partner, A1 Development Solutions. A1 Solutions is a full-service firm that supports opportunities for family farms and for building rural communities through the responsible growth of livestock, grain, processing and agri-industrial projects.



Ty Eschenbaum

Steve Rommerein is a pork producer from Alcester, South Dakota. He served on the National Pork Board for six years, including serving one term as the board's president.



Steve Rommerein

The Wild Side of Weather

During the past several growing seasons, North Dakota farmers have dealt with saturated soils from too much spring rain, early snow and severe drought. Few things affect farming like the weather. Expo attendees will obtain insights from one of the nation's leading weather experts.

Eric Snodgrass, senior science fellow and principal atmospheric scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions, will discuss the factors that have

affected the weather in the Upper Midwest and what farmers should watch for in 2023.



Eric Snodgrass

North Dakota's Energy Future: Biofuels

North Dakota's energy industry is not limited to oil production. Corn based ethanol and soy based fuels such as biodiesel and renewable diesel are increasingly attractive as the nation moves toward lower carbon fuels. A panel of biofuel industry experts will help attendees understand the opportunities which biofuels present. Panelists include the following individuals:

Floyd Vergara, director of state governmental affairs for Clean Fuels Alliance America. Vergara manages a team of professionals who are responsible for government affairs in all 50 states. Prior to joining Clean Fuels Alliance America, Vergara worked for the California Air Resources Board. He has extensive expertise with the Low Carbon Fuels Standard, climate change and air quality programs, renewable and conventional fuels, environmental justice, and other environmental issues.



Floyd Vergara

Joe Kakesh, general counsel and corporate secretary for Growth

Checkoff Investment



Energy. Kakesh has significant experience with the Clean Air Act, the Renewable Fuel Standard and other regulatory programs, including ones administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and others, relating to biofuels, mobile and stationary source emissions, endangered species, natural resources, agricultural pesticides, and a wide range of industrial and consumer products.



Joe Kakesh

Ag Policy 2023 and What's Driving Agriculture Now

As a farm broadcaster, Mike Pearson talks with many people who help shape today's agriculture. Pearson will provide his unique perspective for the issues facing agriculture and what's moving the industry forward.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photos provided by speakers

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Mini Sessions

In addition to the general sessions, the 2023 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo will feature mini sessions that participants can attend.

Increasing Awareness About and Risk of Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp

Weed management is an annual challenge for many North Dakota farmers. The task of controlling weeds has been made even more challenging by herbicide resistance. Some of North Dakota's most challenging weeds can no longer be controlled with some herbicides.

North Dakota State University



Joe Ikley, Ph.D.

Extension Weed Specialist Joe Ikley, Ph.D., will provide insights about two problem weeds: Palmer amaranth and waterhemp.

"Palmer amaranth is not that widespread in North Dakota, but we do have a couple of isolated pockets with some severe infestations, in some cases infestations with resistance to multiple modes of action," Ikley says. "We'll share research results that show Palmer amaranth is a very big deal and a game changer as far as how to manage it and the cost of management."

Ikley explains that, from an acreage standpoint, waterhemp affects more people in the region than Palmer amaranth. Waterhemp also presents a multitude of resistance problems. Without as many herbicide options at their disposal, farmers need a sound weed management plan to control weeds such as waterhemp and Palmer amaranth.

"If you have field wide infestations, you know how expensive programs can get to control these

weeds," Ikley states. "Farmers who do not have those two big weeds, hopefully, come away with an appreciation of how expensive it can be to manage and find additional reasons to want to prevent those two weeds from getting a foothold on your operations."

Perspectives on the 2023 Farm Bill

There's no piece of legislation that has as much influence on farmers as the farm bill. The act covers many aspects of agriculture, from farm programs and crop insurance to nutrition and agriculture marketing efforts. Former U.S. Representative Collin Peterson will provide his analysis about what's happening



Collin Peterson

with the creation of the 2023 Farm Bill and what factors are likely to influence the bill.

Peterson, who served in Congress for 30 years, had a hand in writing the past five federal farm bills, dating back to 1996. Peterson is the former chair of the House Agriculture Committee, and he remains engaged with agriculture and activities in Washington, D.C.

"A big question will be how willing are the Democrats and Republicans going to be willing to work together," Peterson says. "The main sticking point is likely to be the same as it has been for the past two bills, and that's the food and nutrition program."

Committee makeup will influence how the 2023 Farm Bill comes together because very few of the House Agriculture Committee's new members will have any experience with crafting a farm bill.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photos provided by speakers



Research Pavilion

Few things help farmers to improve their productivity and profitability like information. The 2023 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo will, again, feature a section of the trade show that is dedicated to research.

The Research Pavilion will offer Expo attendees the opportunity to talk directly with North Dakota State University (NDSU) researchers about agronomic and production questions. Many studies conducted by NDSU researchers are supported by checkoff funds.

"The Research Pavilion certainly offers a chance for anyone who's walking through the displays to interact with scientists, in my case, with a weed scientist," says Joe Ikley, Ph.D., NDSU Extension weed scientist. "People can ask

really any questions that they want about issues that may be going on in their farm."

Because weed management is a major concern for many North Dakota farmers, the Research Pavilion will have an emphasis on weed related issues.

"Our focus this year will primarily be the pigweeds, like Palmer amaranth and waterhemp," Ikley explains. "But the Research Pavilion is really a chance just to interact and ask questions about whatever is on your mind. There's a lot of value in having a conversation more so than a structured presentation around one or two topics."

The Research Pavilion will be located on the trade show floor.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photo by staff



Joe Ikley, Ph.D., will be on hand at the Research Pavilion to talk with farmers about weed issues, including Palmer amaranth.



Soy Transportation Coalition Elects Chris Brossart of Wolford as Chairman

The Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) elected its officers during the organization's annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia, on December 12, 2022.

During the annual meeting, Chris Brossart of Wolford, North Dakota, was elected as the chairman. Brossart previously served as the STC vice chairman from 2021-2022. He and his wife, Jennie, have three children. Brossart is also currently serving as the chairman of the North Dakota Soybean Council.

"I appreciate the opportunity



Chris Brossart

to serve as chairman of the Soy Transportation Coalition," Brossart says. "This past year, we have experienced a number of supply chain challenges and concerns, especially the low water conditions along the Mississippi River and the potential for a nationwide railroad strike. Throughout this time, I have been proud of how the Soy Transportation Coalition has been an effective resource and advocate on behalf of the U.S. soybean farmer. The work of this organization has never been more relevant. I look forward to continuing to serve my fellow soybean farmers through this important organization."

Tim Gottman, a soybean and corn farmer from Monroe City, Missouri, was elected as the vice chairman. Mike Koehne, a soybean and corn farmer from Greensburg, Indiana, was elected as the secretary-treasurer.

During the meeting, the STC board discussed and emphasized various strategies and initiatives that the organization seeks to continue to advance in 2023. These

initiatives include:

- Continuing to monitor and be responsive to the challenges with the low-water conditions along the Mississippi River and the inland waterway system.
- Advocating for and promoting greater reliability of the U.S. freight rail system.
- Continuing to support and to encourage the project that is underway to deepen the lower Mississippi River.
- Continuing the implementation of innovative and economical methods for repairing and replacing rural bridges.
- Promoting greater use of soy based concrete and asphalt sealants and enhancers throughout the soybean supply chain.
- Continuing to explore and to promote new infrastructure investments to accommodate the increased production of soybean meal.
- Continuing to promote higher utilization of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway for soybean and soy product exports.

"One of the key reasons the Soy Transportation Coalition is such a successful organization is due to the dedication, thoughtfulness and professionalism of our farmer leaders," explains Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the STC. "I look forward to working with Chairman Brossart, Vice Chairman Gottman and Secretary-Treasurer Koehne in continuing to promote a transportation system that enables farmers to be successful."

Established in 2007, the Soy Transportation Coalition is comprised of 13 state soybean boards, including the North Dakota Soybean Council; the American Soybean Association; and the United Soybean Board. The organization's goal is to position the soybean industry to benefit from a transportation system that delivers cost effective, reliable and competitive service.

To learn more about the STC, visit SoyTransportation.org

—Story by Soy Transportation Coalition, photo by Scherling Photography

Three North Dakota Soybean Farmers Reappointed to the United Soybean Board

On November 25, 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the appointments and reappointments of soybean farmers to serve on the United Soybean

Board (USB), including three North Dakota soybean farmers.

Pisek, North Dakota, soybean farmer Darren Kadlec was reappointed to serve on the USB for another 3-year term. Kadlec sat on the North Dakota Soybean Coun-

cil (NDSC) from 2001 to 2008, including time as the chairman. Kadlec has served on the USB since 2016.

Matt Gast, a soybean farmer from Valley City, was also reappointed to serve another 3-year

term on the USB. Gast was on the NDSC from 2016 to 2019, including time as the secretary. Gast has been serving on the USB since 2019 and is currently on the USB's Executive Committee.

Soybean farmer Ryan Richard from Horace was also reappointed. Richard sat on the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association board from 2011 to 2018, including time as the vice president. Richard has served on the USB since 2019.

Also representing North Dakota on the USB is Cindy Pulskamp, a soybean farmer from Hillsboro. Pulskamp is currently completing her first 3-year term on the USB.

"We congratulate Darren, Matt and Ryan on their reappointments to (the) USB," says Stephanie



Darren Kadlec



Matt Gast



Ryan Richard

Sinner, executive director of the NDSC. “All three bring many years of industry experience and leadership to the board, and we know they will continue to represent North Dakota and all U.S. soybean farmers exceptionally well. We respect and admire their dedication to enhancing and strengthening our industry on a state, national and international level.”

The soybean checkoff is

supported entirely by soybean producers who contribute one-half of one percent of the market price for each bushel of soybeans sold. The NDSC supports the USB by submitting 50% of North Dakota’s soybean checkoff revenue to the USB’s national checkoff program. The NDSC oversees the investment of the remaining 50% of North Dakota’s soybean checkoff dollars.

The United Soybean Board’s 77

volunteer farmer leaders work on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers to achieve maximum value for the soy checkoff investments. These volunteers create value by investing in research, education and promotion with the vision to deliver sustainable soy solutions to every life, every day across the three priority areas of infrastructure and connectivity, health and nutrition, and innovation and technology. As stipulated

in the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for the USB and the soy checkoff. For more information about the United Soybean Board, visit unitedsoybean.org.

—Story by staff, photos courtesy of USB



2023 Northern Corn and Soy Expo Tentative Agenda



7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. | Lobby

Registration

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. | Arena Floor

Continental Breakfast

Visit Trade Show and Research Pavilion

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. | Main Stage

Welcome

Mike Pearson, Emcee

Rob Rose, North Dakota Soybean Council

Tysen Rosenau, North Dakota Corn Utilization Council

8:15 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. | Main Stage

Fertilizer Market Outlook

Josh Linville, Director of Fertilizer, StoneX

9:05 a.m. – 9:55 a.m. | Main Stage

Global Economic Ag Outlook

David Kohl, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Main Stage

Break / Visit Trade Show and Research Pavilion

Mini Session: Increasing Awareness About and Risk of Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp in North Dakota

Joe Ikley, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Extension Weed Specialist, NDSU

10:50 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Main Stage

Diversification Through Animal Agriculture

Ty Eschenbaum, Managing Partner, A1 Development Solutions

Steve Rommereim, Past President, National Pork Board

Harold Stanislawski, Director of Business and Industry

Development, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute

11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Arena Floor

Lunch / Association Meetings

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Arena Floor

Mini Session: Perspectives on the 2023 Farm Bill

Former U.S. Representative Collin C. Peterson

1:35 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. | Main Stage

The Wild Side of Weather

Eric Snodgrass, Senior Science Fellow and Principal Atmospheric

Scientist, Nutrien Ag Solutions

2:25 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. | Main Stage

North Dakota’s Energy Future: Biofuels

Joe Kakesh, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Growth Energy

Floyd Vergara, Director of State Governmental Affairs, Clean Fuels

Alliance America

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. | Arena Floor

Break / Visit Trade Show and Research Pavilion

3:50 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. | Main Stage

Ag Policy 2023 and What’s Driving Agriculture Now

Mike Pearson, Host, Agriculture of America Radio Show

Agenda Subject to Change

2023 Annual Meeting Agenda

February 14, 2023 • 12:25 p.m. CST • Arena Floor • Fargodome

1. Welcome and Introduction of Board Members:
NDSGA President Kasey Bitz
2. Secretary's Report: Greg Gussiaas
3. Treasurer's Report: Spencer Endrud
4. American Soybean Association Update:
ASA Vice President Josh Gackle
5. U.S. Soybean Export Council Update:
USSEC Board Member Monte Peterson
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - a. Bylaw Revisions
 - b. Election of Directors

District 1: Dickey, Ransom, Richland, and Sargent Counties;
2-year term

District 2: Adams, Bowman, Emmons, Grant, Hettinger, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Sioux, and Slope Counties; *1-year term*

District 3: Cass, Griggs, Steele, and Traill Counties;
1-year term

District 4: Barnes, Kidder, and Stutsman Counties;
3-year term

District 5: Benson, Eddy, Foster, Nelson, and Wells Counties;
3-year term

District 6: Cavalier, Grand Forks, Pembina, Towner, Ramsey, and Walsh Counties; *3-year term*

District 7: Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Pierce, Rolette, Renville and Ward Counties; *2-year term*

District 8: Billings, Burleigh, Divide, Dunn, Sheridan, Golden Valley, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Stark, and Williams Counties; *2-year term*
 - b. Other New Business
8. Adjourn

Proposed Bylaws Revisions

The North Dakota Soybean Growers Association's Board of Directors has recommended the following revisions. The changes will be discussed during the association's annual meeting on February 14, 2023, at the Fargodome.

The association is redistricting due to the movement of soybean acres across the state. The appointment and term information for the ASA board members was added because that role was not previously addressed in the bylaws. The association has added a

third ASA director, effective Oct. 1, 2022. If adopted, elections held on February 14, 2023, will be for these districts. These district changes take effect July 1, 2023.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by its board of directors. At least ~~fourteen-fifteen~~ (145) members of the board shall be, at the time of election or appointment an actual producer of soybeans, either as a farm operator, owner or manager.

Section 2. Eight (8) directors shall be elected from the districts described in Section 3 of this Article. Up to three (3) directors-at-large and the current year Corteva Young Leader (1) shall be appointed by the board of directors. The ~~two three~~ (3-2) ASA National Directors are full members of the NDSGA Board of Directors and have full voting rights.

Section 3. The districts to be represented by the eight (8) directors shall comprise the following areas:

District 1.		
Dickey , Ransom, Richland, Sargent Counties		One Director
District 2.		
Dickey , Adams, Bowman, Emmons, Grant, Hettinger, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Sioux, Slope Counties		One Director
District 3.		
Cass, Griggs, Steele , Traill Counties		One Director
District 4.		
Barnes, Kidder , Stutsman, Foster, Eddy , Benson Counties		One Director
District 5.		
Benson, Eddy, Foster, Nelson, Wells Griggs, Steele , Barnes Counties		One Director

District 6.
Cavalier, Grand Forks, ~~Nelson~~, Pembina, ~~Towner~~,
Ramsey, Walsh Counties One Director

District 7.
Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Pierce, Rolette, Renville, ~~Towner~~,
~~Mountrail~~, ~~Divide~~, Ward, ~~Williams~~ Counties One Director

District 8.
~~Wells~~, ~~Kidder~~, ~~Hettinger~~, ~~Adams~~, ~~Bowman~~, ~~Slope~~,
~~Sioux~~, ~~Emmons~~, Billings, Burleigh, Divide,
Dunn, Sheridan, Golden Valley, ~~Grant~~, McKenzie,
McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Stark,
Williams Counties One Director

At the ~~first~~ annual meeting of the Association ~~where these bylaws~~
~~are adopted~~, two (2) directors shall be elected for a one-year term;

three (3) directors for two-year terms and ~~three (3) four (4)~~ di-
rectors for three-year terms. The grower-director at-large and the
non-grower director shall be appointed by the board of directors
for a one-year term. District directors shall serve more than two
consecutive terms. ASA Directors shall be appointed to a three-
year term, the number of terms not to exceed the term limit stated
in the ASA bylaws. ~~A director elected or appointed for less than~~
~~one-half year of a full term to fill a vacancy or a new directorship~~
~~by an increase in the number of directors shall be eligible to serve~~
~~two subsequent consecutive three-year terms.~~ Following the ~~first~~
annual meeting of the Association ~~where these bylaw changes are~~
~~adopted~~, all directors shall be elected for a three-year term, except
the directors-at-large (See note below.) who shall be appointed for
three-year terms.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section 7. The secretary ~~is responsible for shall~~ keeping the
minutes of the meetings of any ~~the members and of the board or~~
~~member meetings of directors~~; the secretary will ~~place meeting~~
notices ~~are duly given~~ in accordance with the provisions of these
bylaws or as required by law. The secretary ~~be is the designated~~
custodian of the corporate records; ~~and shall keep a register of~~
~~post office address~~ of each member's ~~contact information~~; ~~which~~
~~shall be furnished to the secretary by such member~~; and ~~such~~
~~other~~ The board may assign the secretary additional duties to
meet the needs of the organization. ~~as from time to time may be~~

~~assigned to him by the president or by the board of directors.~~

Section 8. The treasurer shall have charge ~~and custody~~ of and be
responsible for all funds and securities of the Association, receive
and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the Association
from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such moneys in the
name of the Association in such banks or other depositories as
shall be selected in accordance with these bylaws. ~~He shall give~~
~~bond~~; ~~at the expense of the Association~~; ~~in such amount~~; ~~for and~~
~~with such surety as may be required by the board of directors.~~

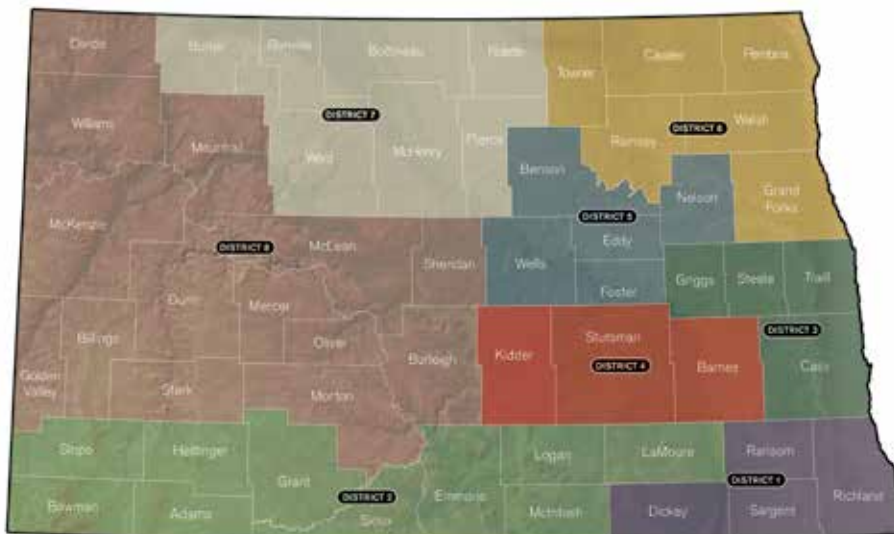
ARTICLE VII

OFFICES

Section 1. The ~~principle~~ ~~principal~~ office of the Association in
the State of North Dakota shall be located in the town of Fargo,
county of Cass. The Association may have such other offices, either

within or without the State of North Dakota; as the board of direc-
tors may determine or as the affairs of the Association may require
from time to time.

Proposed District Map



Current District Map



Third North Dakota Soybean Crush Facility Planned

Epitome Energy, LLC has selected Grand Forks to be the location of a \$400 million soybean crushing plant that is intended to help create new market opportunities for area farmers who lack access to a nearby processing facility.

The Epitome Energy plant will have the capacity to process up to 42 million bushels of soybeans annually.

“This project will put more money in the pockets of hardworking farmers in the Red River Valley region by helping them reach more markets to meet the growing demand for soybeans,” says Dennis Egan, founder and CEO of Epitome Energy. “We are excited to be moving forward with our project in Grand Forks, which is truly becoming an epicenter for agribusiness.”

Epitome Energy estimates that the soy crushing facility will strengthen farmers’ basis for soybeans by 20-25 cents per bushel.

When fully operational, the crush facility is expected to create 50-60 new permanent jobs while indirectly supporting an additional 800 jobs in and around Grand Forks.

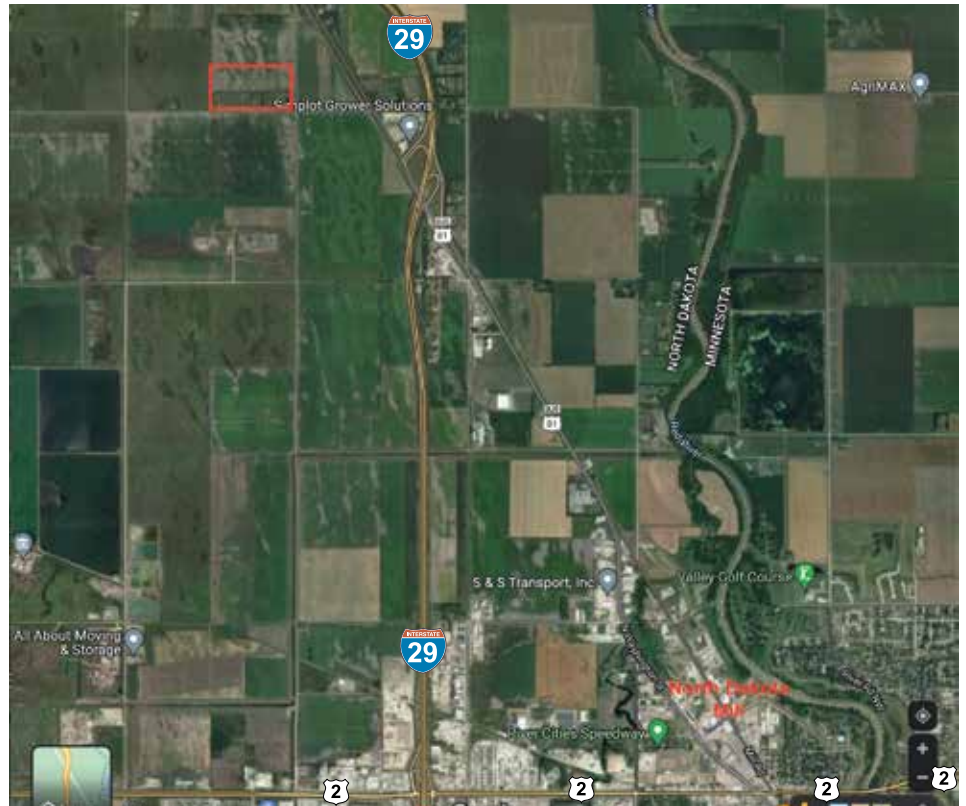
Epitome Energy considered other locations, including working with local leaders and selecting a site in Crookston, Minnesota, but after a protracted wait for a review of the permit application, the company explored Grand Forks as an alternative.

Epitome Energy has executed a letter of intent for a greenfield site just north of Grand Forks; the area features access to rail, freeways and all necessary utilities. Fagen, Inc. has been selected as the engineering, procurement and

construction (EPC) partner for the project. Fagen, Inc. is a leading EPC contractor for soybean processing plant construction, with three soybean processing plants currently under construction.

The Epitome Energy, LLC project is expected to break ground in the summer of 2023, with operations to begin in the fall of 2025.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
image from Google Maps



NDSGA Scholarship Opens

The 2021-2022 North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) Scholarship winner and North Dakota State University (NDSU) student Claire Moffet was recognized during a recent Scholarship Recognition luncheon at the NDSU campus.

Applications are open for the 2022-2023 NDSGA Scholarship. Requirements for the application are as follows:

- Be enrolled in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and

Natural Resources at North Dakota State University at the time of application and disbursement.

- Have completed 90 or more credits at the time of fall semester disbursement and maintain enrollment through the end of the spring semester.
- Be a child or grandchild of an NDSGA member.

For more information and to apply for the scholarship, go to: bit.ly/NDSGAScholarship22

—Story and photo by staff



NDSGA 2021-22 Scholarship winner, Claire Moffet

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WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association and is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.




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Whether shipping by river, road or rail, the soy checkoff is committed to ensuring America's infrastructure is a significant advantage for U.S. soybean farmers. We're looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it's helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.

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Legislative Activity Picks Up Steam

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a division with which many of you are familiar; it is the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In late 2022, the NRCS' Technical Committee met face to face for the first time since the pandemic began in 2020. Mary Podoll is the head of the NRCS in North Dakota. Podoll has held that position for the last 11 years and is retiring soon. The daughter of a farmer and married to one, she is staying in our state after retirement. She spoke of always wanting to help farmers and working to do that while acknowledging, in her goodbye, that, at times, not all experiences have been happy for her. (I would presume that this situation is probably true of anyone's career.) We wish you the best going forward, Mary.

The Technical Committee's meeting featured a presentation by a self-professed nerd, Mike Strobel, Ph.D. of the NRCS, about a big effort to meet the challenges of our changing climate. Called the Climate Change Adaption Plan, the effort's intent is to keep the agency responsive and helpful going forward. A second presentation was given by two North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation District (NDASCD) representatives who outlined a new format that is intended to inform and to serve producers and landowners as a sort of one-stop shop which equips producers and landowners with timely information. The NDASCD is working to be available online by mid-2023. Rhonda Kelsch and Sarah Tunge stated that, with the many government agencies, it can be frustrating, to say the least, for farmers who want to know what they can and cannot do around, for instance, a wetland. This large educational and coordinating effort along with the resulting online portal, which have been branded the Dakota Legacy Initiative, are now sporting an official logo. Many groups have supported this work, including your North Dakota Soybean Growers Association, and there will be much to follow with this initiative in the upcoming year. A website should be up and running by the time you read this article, and the site will be fully serviceable by mid-2023. If you would like to see how this site may help your operation, the web address is DakotaLegacyInitiative.com.

The Organizational Session for the 68th session of the North Dakota legislature is over,

and committees have been chosen. Senator David Hogue of Minot is the new majority leader with Senator Kathy Hogan as the minority leader. Senator Larry Luick will, again, chair the Agriculture Committee with a new wrinkle. That committee has been combined with the Veterans Affairs Committee, and Senators Janne Myrdal, Randy Lemm, Mark Weber, Kent Weston and Kathy Hogan will join the chairman to do that work. If you are looking for those committees in a booklet or online, don't give up if they are not at the head of the lineup because the name could start with a "V" for Veterans. It has been decades since there were the traditional 11 standing committees, and this move made room for a new committee which is a challenge for nearly all businesses: Workforce Development. For the Big Money (Appropriations) committee, long-time chairman Ray Holmberg has been replaced by Senator Brad Bekkedahl of Williston. On the House side, the leader is Representative Mike LeFor of Dickinson. He has appointed two farmers to be the chair and vice chair: Paul Thomas and Mike Beltz, respectively. Don Vigessa of Cooperstown will chair Appropriations on the House side. The House has no Workforce Development Committee, so it's unclear where a bill from that Senate committee will go; legislators will figure it out.

At this writing, fertilizer plants are being discussed along with a third soybean crush plant; one of each plant type is potentially in the works for the Grand Forks area with a fertilizer plant near Spiritwood. The cost of fertilizer plants is a much bigger ticket item—over \$3 billion for the Grand Forks facility—with the Grand Forks plant needing a natural gas pipeline across the northern tier to supply it. One legislator with whom I spoke is certain that the pipeline will happen; during the last session, the legislature set aside \$150 million to incentivize someone to build the pipeline, and no one submitted a bid. The total cost of a pipeline would be over a billion dollars, so we will see. As our lieutenant governor stated at a recent Farm Credit Services meeting, the completion timeline for both a fertilizer plant and the pipeline would be in the five-year timeframe. At that same meeting, farmers/legislators Terry Wanzek and Paul Thomas were talking about what they see coming for agriculture in the upcoming



Veteran lawmaker and educator Phil Murphy is the NDSGA liaison between legislators and farmers.

session, which is now underway. They agreed that there would be some tax relief—property, income or both—and bridge funding. They also discussed the importance of the pathology buildings being built at North Dakota State University Research and Extension (called the Field Lab, aka the Waldron Hall replacement) as well as the importance of building fertilizer plants. The legislators also spoke about possibly taking the motor-vehicle excise tax back to the Highway fund, from the General Fund where it has been going lately, and then taking half of that money for county and township roads.

There are too many topics to cover here because I don't get the entire magazine, but please stay up with my blog, which I write every other day or so during session and try to get in touch with your legislators. Thanks for caring about your state and local governments as well as the industry.

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Add your voice to the hundreds of fellow producers. Together we bolster agriculture in our state and influence policy decisions. Make a personal commitment to the health of the soybean industry by joining the NDSGA today.

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Pederson Re-Elected to Clean Fuels Governing Board

Rollette farmer and North Dakota Soybean Growers Association Director Ryan Pederson has been re-elected to the Clean Fuels Alliance America (Clean Fuels) governing board. Clean Fuels was formerly known as the National Biodiesel Board.

Pederson has served several terms as treasurer and secretary. Now, he continues as the Clean Fuels board as the treasurer.

"It's definitely an exciting time to be in the industry," Pederson says.

Clean Fuels is the leading trade association for biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel. The organization works to advance the interests of its members by supporting industry growth for sustainable biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel. Clean Fuels also serves as the industry's central coordinating entity for technical, environmental, quality assurance and advocacy programs.

Clean Fuels is comprised of a range of agricultural organizations, biofuel producers and marketers. Pederson states that the spectrum of industry perspectives is an important quality of the Clean Fuels board because the biofuel industry has become increasingly complex.

Despite the growth with biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel, a challenge for the industry moving forward is the lower-than-expected renewable volume obligations (RVO) for biomass-based biodiesel that were announced by

the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The RVO sets annual biofuel blending targets under the Renewable Fuel Standard for 2023, 2024 and 2025. The EPA's proposed volume obligations were lower than the current production capacity. Even with the disappointing EPA action, Pederson describes how the demand for biobased fuels, such as biodiesel and renewable diesel, remains very strong.

"The RVO that came out surprised and disappointed us, but still, there is a lot of growth in the industry," Pederson contends. "When we look at the low-carbon fuel standards that many states are implementing or are developing, they're certainly complementary programs to what's happening at the federal level."

For example, Pederson asserts that more than 40% of California's diesel pool is now either biodiesel or renewable diesel. In terms of low-carbon fuel credits, the ones derived from biodiesel or renewable diesel equal the next largest three sources combined.

"While some states are wanting to go to electric vehicles, biodiesel and renewable diesel are providing the low-carbon fuel credits that are being demanded right now," Pederson says.

Moving forward, pressing the EPA to revise the volumes upward will be a priority issue for Clean Fuels.

"The RVO that came out weren't the final rules; they were the proposed volumes," Pederson



Ryan Pederson

explains. "It is difficult to get huge changes into the final rule, but certainly, we're going to do everything we can because we just don't feel the EPA looked at the right data or acknowledged the domestic growth within our industry."

Biodiesel and renewable diesel production are becoming increasingly important to North Dakota farmers as the state's soybean processing capacity grows. A high percentage of the soybean oil produced by soy crushing is expected to be used for biofuel production.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
photo by staff

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March 14-15, 2023

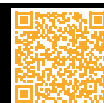
NDSU Barry Hall Commodity Trading Room – Fargo

Seminar led by Bill Wilson, Ph.D., and Frayne Olson, Ph.D., of NDSU Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics.

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Connecting Hunters, Farmers and Habitat

For more than 30 years, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) has operated a program that compensates farmers and landowners for allowing hunters to access the land. The Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program is an agreement between private landowners and the NDGF that allows walk-in, public hunting access.

“One of the goals is to provide hunters with access and opportunities for hunting, but along with that access goal, there’s a goal of habitat as well,” says Kevin Kading, NDGF private lands section leader. “We want to try to have acres in the program, but we want them to be decent quality habitat, too.”

Kading describes how the NDGF has worked on private land programs since the 1970s. The PLOTS program has been in place since the late 1990s, with the goal of enrolling one million acres. Kading states that there has been around 800,000 acres in PLOTS for the past several years.

Ideal acres are deer and pheasant habitat with a mix of grasslands

and cover, but Kading asserts that eligible acres can vary widely. The PLOTS program is available to farmers who agree to allow access to habitat that is already in place. Kading says that the NDGF can also help landowners to determine if other options, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation programs, might be appropriate.

“It can be a small planting in the corner, or it could be some wetlands within a crop field. It could be a quarter section of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP),” Kading explains. “If there’s no habitat on the land, we also have options to help establish that habitat and provide payments, incentives and cost share to help the producer establish habitat through our own program. We have the technical experts to do that type of work and help landowners get those things done.”

If a landowner is interested in participating in the PLOTS program, Kading says that the NDGF can review the Farm Service Agency maps to give the landowner an

idea about what kind of agreement and payment could be possible.

Kading states that landowners, sometimes, mistakenly believe the NDGF wants to take all farmland from production and put it into wildlife habitat or pheasant cover. He stresses that’s not the case.

“Where it could benefit a lot of producers is if they have some oddball areas, squaring something off, maybe something around a wetland or maybe some lower-quality areas that don’t produce every year. It might be worth looking at stacking a couple of programs together to make those acres pencil out a little bit better and then getting some additional incentive for allowing public access on it,” Kading asserts.

The majority of program contracts are short term, so farmers aren’t locked into a long term contract, and if farmers want to get out of the program at the end of the calendar year, they can, Kading contends.

The PLOTS program is funded by hunting-license revenue and the federal excise taxes on firearms and ammunition that get apportioned

back to the state. Kading describes how the program’s success depends on willing landowners.

“We’ve got over 2,500 landowners in the program across the state, and it wouldn’t exist if it wasn’t for private landowners,” Kading says. “We really do cherish their involvement. They didn’t have to do this; it’s something they did on their own.”

Landowners who are interested in enrolling some land in the PLOTS program are encouraged to call the Game and Fish office in Bismarck or to contact the NDGF district office. The NDGF has eight private land biologists at its district offices. Private land staff members are knowledgeable about other conservation programs, so if landowners are looking for technical assistance or other habitat programs that do not require public access, the department can provide guidance to landowners. More information about PLOTS is available on the NDGF website: <https://gf.nd.gov/private-lands>.

—Story by Daniel Lemke,
stock photo



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WISHH is a program of the American Soybean Association and is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.

NORTH DAKOTA SOYBEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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