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Contact:

[Jack Reich](#), president

[Julie Ellingson](#), executive vice president

[Sheyna Strommen](#), communications director

(701) 223-2522

www.<http://www.ndstockmen.org>ndstockmen.org

## **Stockmen's Association deemed the state's 'best place to work'**

Cattle producers take great pride in being responsible stewards of their animals and the natural resources entrusted in their care. Today, some of those producers were also recognized for their efforts in attracting and retaining young professionals in the field of beef cattle production.

The North Dakota Young Professionals (NDYP) selected the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) as the best place in North Dakota to work for young professionals. The award was presented to the association – not only for the benefits it provides its employees, like flexible scheduling and professional development opportunities, but also for the opportunities it extends to its membership, at a ceremony held at the headquarters office in Bismarck, N.D., today.

“Advancement opportunities, along with a strong mentorship program and opportunities for young professionals to be involved in state and national associations are just a few of the aspects that make the Stockmen's Association a great place to work for young professionals,” said Jerry Haas, chairman of the Bismarck-Mandan Young Professionals Network, as he presented the award.

Several of the NDSA programs highlighted by the NDYP – the Young Cattlemen's Legislative Conference, the Young Cattlemen's College and the Mentoring Program – have been offered to NDSA members and employees for 10 or more years. “That's a testament to the vision and leadership of our predecessors, who understood the importance of engaging young people in the discussion helping them develop their leadership skills,” said NDSA President and Zap, N.D., cattle producer, Jack Reich.

“For us, the cattle business is more than just an occupation, but, rather, a vocation and a way of life,” said NDSA Executive Vice President Julie Ellingson. “Like our predecessors, we want the next generation to be able to continue living the beef industry legacy – and supporting young professionals as they get started is the first step in that.”

According to Haas, the NDYPN began in 2006 as a means to connect urban and rural young professionals throughout North Dakota. The Best Place Awards were created in 2008 to recognize businesses that provide high quality jobs and internships with significant opportunities for young professionals in North Dakota.

The NDSA was formed in 1929 on a mission to protect and promote the state's beef industry. Today the state's 80-year-old cattle trade organization continues to be a grassroots-driven organization that unites, protects, promotes, educates and serves the state's cattle producers.

“The Stockmen's Association benefits from a diverse and dedicated staff and membership, where the unique perspectives, skills and talents of men and women, young and old, help us make the best decisions for the state's cattle industry,” said Reich.

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