

President's Message



Randy Schmitt, President *Rugby*



Greetings from the Schmitt Ranch! It's been a very busy and exciting past few weeks.

In early July, my fellow NDSA Executive Committee members and I attended the Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting in Aurora, Colo. It doesn't take long at an event like this before your "information overload" warning light starts flashing. I'm happy to report, though, that it's much more enjoyable to have that light flashing than a "code red" light.

This meeting is less about headline announcements and more about setting policy direction, discussing industry challenges and identifying the issues that will shape the year ahead. Sitting down with cattle producers and other industry leaders from across the country provides valuable perspective on where our industry is headed and the work that lies ahead. For more information about the Summer Business Meeting, see pages 38-39.

July 21 was marked on my calendar as a day to volunteer my time helping serve at the Beef Industry Military Appreciation Day at the

North Dakota State Fair in Minot. It is an opportunity to thank the men and women who serve our nation and protect the freedoms we enjoy every day. The NDSA is proud to partner with the North Dakota Beef Commission and the North Dakota CattleWomen to promote beef and to provide this meal as a small way to show our appreciation for those who have made such a significant commitment on behalf of all of us.

At 4 a.m. that morning, however, my plans took an exciting turn. My wife and I received a call from our son-in-law letting us know he and our daughter Grace were headed to the hospital as she was going into labor with their second child — and our second grandchild.

Right on cue, as the first people were making their way through the serving line at the fair, I received word that we had welcomed a new granddaughter into the family.

Rainy Ann Swartzentruber arrived weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces, and measuring 21 inches long. Another new member of our cir-

*Testing livestock water during a drought is essential because evaporation concentrates minerals, salts, and toxins that can reduce animal performance, cause abortions or prove fatal.
Photo by Bailey Dally of Montpelier.*

PAST PRESIDENTS

1988-90:

Roger Stuber • Bowman • (701) 523-5371

1992-94:

Dean Meyer • Dickinson • (701) 225-2736

1998-2000:

Richard C. Tokach • St. Anthony
(701) 445-7390

2000-02:

Gene Harris • Killdeer • (701) 863-6695

2002-04:

Jeff Dahl • Gackle • (701) 485-3762

2004-06:

Melvin Leland • Sidney, Mont.
(701) 565-2347

2006-08:

Mark Huseth • McLeod • (701) 439-2385

2012-14:

Jason Zahn • Towner • (701) 720-7247

2014-16:

Steve Brooks • Bowman • (701) 523-6732

2016-18:

Warren Zenker • Gackle • (701) 320-2585

2018-20:

Dan Rorvig • McVie • (701) 797-7338

2020-22:

Jeff Schafer • New Rockford • (701) 947-2568

2022-24:

Jason Leiseth • Arnegard • (701) 770-1129

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