

Five Buckles



Scott Ressler,
Environmental Services Director
Mandan



The NDSA has long advocated for and supported cattle feeders in North Dakota. The NDSA Feeder Council is a group of cattle feeders whose mission is "to promote the feeding and backgrounding industry and to assist in planning programming, developing educational publications, directing legislation and providing any other assistance that will enhance the cattle industry in North Dakota." The purpose of the Feeder Council is to provide a means for North Dakota's feeding and backgrounding industry to offer input and help guide efforts that address the needs of the industry and livelihood.

The Feeder Council was established within the NDSA in 1961. In 1965, the North Dakota Cattle Feeders Association was organized and represented the interests of cattle feeders until 1985. That year, the association merged with the NDSA, and the Feeder Council was reestablished under the NDSA umbrella. Since the merger, the NDSA Feeder Council has continued to carry out its mission and purpose.

Today, the Feeder Council is made up of six directors representing all areas of the state. One of the educational events the Council oversees is the Feedlot Tour, which showcases existing operations that have taken important steps to address environmental concerns, while updating and improving their feeding facilities. Highlights from this year's tour can be found on pages 8-10.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Feeder Council, feel free to contact me or one of our leaders, NDSA President Randy Schmitt at (701) 537-3440, Vice President Tim Erbele at (701) 269-3045, Feeder Council Chairman Brooks Zenker at (701) 659-0829 or Feeder Council Vice Chairman Joe Matehs at (701) 263-7148.

Most people don't know this about Randy Schmitt, but he used to get animated at his kids' high school basketball games. His reaction as a fan must stem from his high school playing days. As the story goes, he once told his coach that he runs better without the basketball. His coach agreed and benched him! 🏀



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HOW THE SERVICE WORKS

- Members contact the NDSA.
- A site visit is scheduled.
- A site visit and evaluation are conducted.
- NDSA recommendations are prepared and delivered to members.
- The NDSA helps members file appropriate paperwork, seek cost-share assistance and identify qualified resource people, if applicable.