

President's Message



Randy Schmitt, President
Rugby



Greetings from the Schmitt Ranch!

It's hard to believe how fast 2026 is flying by. It's been a cool and windy first half of the year, which may be why it doesn't seem possible that it's already July and our days are starting to get shorter again.

Our Spring Roundups are now behind us, and I want to sincerely thank everyone who attended, helped organize and sponsored these events across the state. We heard from many outstanding speakers during our six district meetings, with several joining us at multiple locations.

North Dakota State Veterinarian Dr. Ethan Andress provided updates on the New World screwworm, interstate cattle movement issues and other animal health concerns that continue to be on producers' minds. North Dakota Beef Commission Executive Director Nicole Wardner shared how beef checkoff dollars are being invested and the strategies being used to maximize their impact with consumers. And, as always, NDSA Executive Vice President Julie Ellingson did an excellent job providing organizational updates and legislative recaps, including provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill that impact our industry.

These gatherings are an important part of what makes our association strong. They give us the opportunity to visit face to face, share ideas, discuss

challenges and, just as importantly, enjoy a great beef dinner together. The conversations that happen at these Roundups — whether about markets, policy or simply comparing notes on how the calving season went — are what keep our association grounded and feeling more like family than an organization.

As I traveled across the state, it was evident that some areas were in much greater need of moisture than others, particularly the western part of North Dakota. Thankfully, many of those areas have since received some much-needed precipitation. Let's all continue to pray for timely rains and favorable conditions for our farmers and ranchers.

The NDSA's Feeder Council also hosted another successful Feedlot Tour in the Drake area last month. We had great weather as we toured two modern, up-to-date feeding facilities. If you've never attended one of these tours — or if it's been several years since you have — I encourage you to put it on your radar. There's always something to learn, whether it's cattle processing setups, feeding techniques or even visiting with fellow producers about what works best for them. It's time well spent.

This year, the NDSA celebrated its 97th birthday, and the North Dakota CattleWomen (NDCW) celebrated its milestone 75th anniversary. I was honored to speak at the NDCW's annual meeting as they celebrated. I'd like to share a portion of that message:

"The Stockmen and CattleWomen

PAST PRESIDENTS

1988-90:

Roger Stüber • 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 • McVile • (701) 797-7338

2020-22:

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

2022-24:

Jason Leiseth • Arnegard • (701) 770-1129

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Haying equipment rests at sunset.
Photo by Jonni Kramlich of Tappen.