

# Two Bits



**Julie Ellingson,**  
Executive Vice President  
*St. Anthony*



As America celebrates its 250th birthday this month, it is worth reflecting on another remarkable story that has unfolded alongside our nation's history — the story of the American beef industry.

For two-and-a-half centuries, cattle producers have helped shape the economic, cultural and agricultural foundation of the United States, not to mention this state. From the first cattle brought to North America by early explorers and settlers to today's highly sophisticated beef production systems, generations of ranching families have demonstrated resilience, innovation and a steadfast commitment to caring for the land and the livestock and feeding the world.

The history of the beef industry really mirrors the history of America itself. Producers have endured droughts, floods, blizzards, disease, economic downturns and changing consumer

demands. Through it all, they have adapted and moved forward. Advances in genetics, nutrition, animal health, grazing management and technology have allowed today's producers to raise more beef with fewer resources while maintaining the highest animal care and environmental stewardship standards in the world. That is something we can all be proud of.

As we celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial, it is also fitting to recognize another important milestone closer to home. This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the North Dakota CattleWomen (NDCW). It was an honor to host the organization's diamond anniversary convention here at our office last month. For three-quarters of a century, the NDCW has played a vital role in promoting beef and educating consumers. Its dedication and boots-

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## OFFICE INFORMATION

### SCHEDULE:

Open Monday through Friday

### BUSINESS HOURS:

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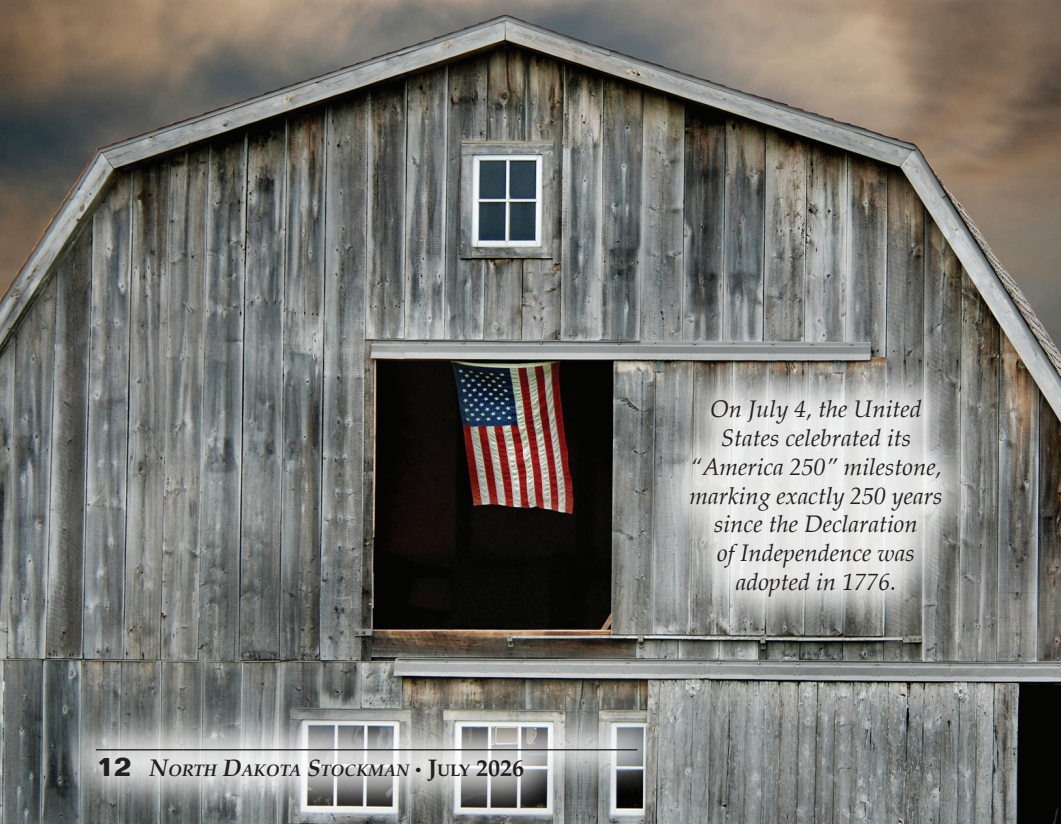
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*On July 4, the United States celebrated its "America 250" milestone, marking exactly 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.*