

**MINUTES**  
**North Dakota Stockmen's Association**  
***BRAND BOARD***  
**2 p.m. CT • Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025**  
**NDSA Headquarters • 4520 Ottawa St., Bismarck, N.D.**

North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) Brand Board Chairman Joe Schettler called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. Brand Board members present included Shane Anderson, Scott Katus and Justin Maddock. Others present included Corey Bergrud, Julie Ellingson, Tim Erbele, Jason Leiseth, Nick Marolt, Randy Schmitt, Corby Ward and Joan Zimmerman.

**Agenda**

Joe Schettler asked if there were any items to be added to the agenda, but there were no items.

**Minutes**

The board reviewed the minutes from the July 15, 2025, meeting. *1<sup>st</sup> Shane Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Justin Maddock, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.*

**Reorganize the Board**

Joe Schettler turned the meeting over to Julie Ellingson to conduct the reorganization. *1<sup>st</sup> Justin Maddock, 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Katus, to nominate Joe Schettler for chairman, to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for him. Motion carried.* Julie Ellingson turned the meeting back over to Joe Schettler to conduct the rest of the meeting. *1<sup>st</sup> Shane Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Katus, to select Justin Maddock as vice chairman. Motion carried.*

**Financial Reports**

Julie Ellingson reviewed the preliminary November 2025 profit-loss report and balance sheet for the brand-related programs of the organization, noting softer inspection numbers year over year, as well as the Brand Recording revenue reflective of the ongoing brand renewal and the new \$50 fee. The Q3 2025 Inspection Report indicates inspections 2.51 percent fewer than in 2024. The Brand Board discussed projections for the month ahead, as well as the impact of the grace period year on the financials.

**Follow-up to Brand & Theft Committee Discussions**

The Brand Board reviewed discussions held during the Brand & Theft Committee meeting at the NDSA Annual Convention in Minot, including discussions about producer notification of strays at the markets and removal of deceased individuals from brand recordings.

**Staff Reports**

*Brand recorder:* Joan Zimmerman, brand recorder, reported on the current renewal, noting that about 11,000 brands have been renewed so far, which is approximately half of the total. There are an estimated 7,900 brand records left to be renewed. She has had some requests to record brands that are not allowable by Century Code that she has had to deny. So far for the year, 499 permanent horse permits have been issued.

*Deputy brand inspector:* Deputy Brand Inspector Nick Marolt reported on his work at the markets, training a new scale inspector, assisting Isaac Cadet, helping Corey Bergrud with iPad management system conversion and aiding with a Fessenden truck rollover case and livestock at-large cases in several counties.

*Technology support director:* Corey Bergrud, the technology support director, reported that there is just one iPad left to navigate to the new management system and that computers are in all but two of the auction market offices. An update to the app will be released soon. The next step will be configuring the barns that have multiple computers in the brand offices.

*Chief brand inspector:* Corby Ward, chief brand inspector, noted that Deputy Brand Inspector Isaac Cadet is currently in a two-week course at the law enforcement academy and has been working at the Bowman and Dickinson markets and making contacts in his territory to get acclimated to the new position. Inspections as of Dec. 1 number approximately 983,000, about 200,000 behind the budget estimate for the year.

### **Other Business**

The Brand Board discussed training opportunities for inspectors on the computer systems in the markets. *1<sup>st</sup> Justin Maddock, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shane Anderson, to provide computer training at the Annual Brand Inspectors Meeting in the summer for full-time inspectors and at regional training sessions at the chief's discretion for part-time inspectors and to pay part-time inspectors to attend. Motion carried.*

### **Announcements**

Julie Ellingson noted that the Board of Animal Health has discussed some possible changes to the way it handles health certificates for animal movement by border producers. A subcommittee met on the topic in November, and the Board of Animal Health further discussed that at the group's quarterly meeting Dec. 1. Dr. Ethan Andress will be attending the North Dakota Stockmen's Association's board meeting on Dec. 3 to gather some input. The Board of Animal Health has also requested to be on the agenda at the organization's Spring Roundups to do the same next summer.

This was the last meeting for Shane Anderson. The Brand Board thanked him for his service. Riley Schriefer has been appointed to the Brand Board as his replacement. His term will begin at the March 2026 meeting.

### **Adjourn**

*1<sup>st</sup> Shane Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Katus, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.*

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Julie Ellingson, Secretary

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Randy Schmitt, President