



North Dakota Stockmen's Association 97th Annual Convention & Trade Show Sept. 24-26 • Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center Bismarck, ND

★ ★ HIGHLIGHTS ★ ★

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Golf Scramble and Hole-In-One Contest

The 2026 NDSA Golf Scramble and Hole-In-One Contest will be held at the Tom O'Leary Golf Course at 1200 N. Washington Street in Bismarck. Contact Scott Ressler at (701) 223-2522 or sressler@ndstockmen.org to pre-register for the golf outing.

Gene Copenhaver, National Cattlemen's Beef Association: "National Industry Issues Update"

National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) President Gene Copenhaver is a fifth-generation cattleman whose family dates back to the 1850s in Washington County, Va. He manages his family's stocker operation in southwest Virginia with his son. He was also an agricultural loan officer for 28 years and served clients who were primarily cattle producers in five East Coast states. Copenhaver served as president of the Virginia Cattlemen's Association and chairman of the Virginia Cattle Foundation, as well as chairman of NCBA's Tax and Credit and International Trade Committees before being tapped for NCBA's top post. He will review some of the national issues impacting producers' bottomline.



Gene Copenhaver

Trade Show

The NDSA Trade Show is three days again this year. With more than 50 booths, the Trade Show will open Thursday with a social at 5 p.m. and continue through noon Saturday. Convention-goers can visit booths from many of the NDSA's allied partners, ranging from feed and pharmaceutical providers to bankers and research professionals.

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Policy Committee Meetings

Grassroots policy-making is at the heart of the NDSA. In a new format, the NDSA will offer two meetings at a time, rather than three, for additional opportunities to attend more policy meetings. Members will discuss and debate policy issues and learn from industry experts who will offer information on topics such as school land leases, New World screwworm prevention, veterinary diagnostic laboratory submissions, food-animal veterinarian shortages, brand renewal grace period reminders, electronic brand inspection, the odor footprint tool, meat processing opportunities and producer considerations, Alpha-gal syndrome and more. Resolutions will be voted on in committees on Friday and then in the closing general session on Saturday.

Cattlemen's Education Series Program: "Managing Risk When Everything is at Risk"

John Arnold, North Dakota Insurance and Securities Department deputy insurance commissioner; Angie Johnson, North Dakota State University farm and ranch safety specialist; and John Lockie, U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency specialist, will headline the Cattlemen's Education Series program, sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and National Corn Growers Association. The trio will tackle risk from different angles, sharing strategies to help cattle producers best protect people, property and livelihoods.



John Arnold



Angie Johnson

Laughing Through the Years Fun Night

Join us for an evening of laughs with Mark Mayfield, a farm-raised comedian and speaker who has entertained agriculture audiences for more than 40 years. A former National FFA president, agriculture teacher and ag lobbyist, Mayfield combines his deep agricultural roots with clean comedy and a hilarious take on farm life. Celebrate where tradition meets tomorrow by dressing as a "Rancher Through the Years," showcasing the styles and spirit of ranching's past, present or future.



Mark Mayfield

SATURDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Brett Stuart, Global AgriTrends: "What's Next in the Global Cattle and Beef Markets"

Brett Stuart, owner of Global AgriTrends, brings a worldwide perspective to the cattle industry, having traveled to six continents researching global meat and livestock markets. During his presentation, Stuart will explore the supply and demand trends driving record-high cattle prices, indicators of herd expansion and how today's cattle cycle compares to the past. Convention-goers will gain insight into the global factors influencing the beef industry, along with Stuart's cattle price forecasts and perspective on what producers can expect as the current cattle cycle continues to unfold.



Brett Stuart

Shelby Bothun, Ag Legacy Law, PLLC.: "Business Entities: What's Actually Worth Doing for my Ranch"

Shelby Bothun, attorney and owner of Ag Legacy Law, PLLC., specializes in agricultural law and business transitions, bringing perspective from both her law practice and her family's agricultural operation. During her presentation, Bothun will tackle three things that can devastate an operation — death, taxes and liability — and how the right business structure can help. Convention-goers will learn the differences between business entities, why one may fit an operation better than another and what producers should consider when choosing a structure that works best for their ranch or farm.



Shelby Bothun

Wade Greening, Federal Bureau of Investigation: "Evolving Threats Affecting Agriculture"

Federal Bureau of Investigation Supervisory Intelligence Analyst Wade Greening will bring a unique perspective to convention-goers as he explores the growing security threats facing U.S. agriculture. From cyberattacks and scams to risks involving financial information and technology, Greening will use real-world examples to show how these threats can impact cattle producers and rural agriculture businesses. Attendees will gain a better understanding of emerging risks and walk away with practical, actionable steps they can take to protect their businesses, strengthen their operations' security and reduce risk in an increasingly connected world.

Foundation Luncheon

The North Dakota Stockmen's Foundation will salute scholarship winners, convention interns and other supporters at the Foundation Luncheon. Attendees will also hear from North Dakota Beef Commission Chairman Brian Amundson, as well as Ryan Taylor, who will share "The Ups and Downs of Cowboy Logic," offering a light-hearted and upbeat message drawn from the real-life lessons that come from North Dakota ranching.



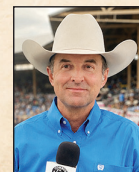
Brian Amundson



Ryan Taylor

Justin McKee, The Cowboy Channel National Television Host: "Waking Up Rural America to its True Identity"

The people who feed this country don't ask for much. They don't look for recognition or chase headlines. They just wake up early, go to work and quietly carry the responsibility of feeding the world. But it's time someone said it out loud: Rural America isn't ordinary. It's essential. And, according to Justin McKee, rancher, former rodeo contestant and national television host with The Cowboy Channel, it's something even deeper. It's chosen. McKee will headline the NDSA convention banquet with stories, humor, faith and hard-earned lessons from the ranch and rodeo arena to wake up rural America, remind farmers and ranchers to stand a little taller and to see themselves as God sees them: not forgotten, not ordinary, but chosen.



Justin McKee



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★ ★ TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ★ ★

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

**18-Hole Golf Scramble and
Hole-in-One Contest** 8:30 a.m.
Tom O'Leary Golf Course

Board of Directors Meeting..... 9:30 a.m.

Registration 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Trade Show Set-Up 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Opening General Session 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order: Randy Schmitt
Presentation of Colors: New Salem FFA
National Anthem:
Addyson and Dawson Erbele
Adoption of Convention Minutes
Convention Video
President's Message: Randy Schmitt
Executive Vice President Report:
Julie Ellingson
North Dakota CattleWomen Greeting:
Carol Peterson

Refreshment Break

Opening General Session Resumes

Nominating Committee Reports:
Committee Chairmen
Floor Nominations of Officers and
Directors
Candidates' Forum
Speaker Presentation:
"National Industry Issues Update,"
Gene Copenhaver, National Cattlemen's
Beef Association

Trade Show Opening and Social..... 5 p.m.

Supper 7 p.m.
"Riding for the Brand" Recognition
Golf Awards

Trade Show Resumes 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

Policy Committee Meetings ... 8 - 10 a.m.
Ag Policy Committee
Animal Health Committee

**North Dakota CattleWomen
Silent Auction** 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Registration 8 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Trade Show 8 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

**Resolutions Committee
Meeting**..... 9:15 a.m.

**Policy Committee
Meetings** 10:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Brand & Theft Committee
Environmental Issues Committee

Lunch 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

**Policy Committee
Meetings** 1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Feeding & Marketing Committee
Research & Education Committee

**Cattlemen's Education Series
Program** 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
**"Managing Risk When Everything is
at Risk," John Arnold, North Dakota
Insurance and Securities Department;
Angie Johnson, North Dakota State
University Extension; and John Lockie,
U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk
Management Agency**

Social..... 6 p.m.

Supper 7 p.m.
Convention Fundraising Auction

**Laughing Through the Years
Fun Night** 8 p.m.
Mark Mayfield, comedian

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

Registration 7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Resolutions Committee
Meeting**..... 7:30 a.m.

Trade Show 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

General Session 8 a.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Convention Video
Photo Contest Winner Announcement
Speaker Presentations:
**"What's Next in the Global Cattle and
Beef Markets," Brett Stuart, Global
AgriTrends**

**"Business Entities: What's Actually
Worth Doing for my Ranch,"**
Shelby Bothun, Ag Legacy Law, PLLC.

Trade Show Refreshment Break

**General Session Resumes
Speaker Presentation:**
"Evolving Threats Affecting Agriculture,"
**Wade Greening, Federal Bureau of
Investigation**

Foundation Luncheon 12:15 p.m.
North Dakota Beef Commission Greeting:
Brian Amundson
North Dakota Stockmen's Foundation
Scholarship Presentations: Jason Leiseth
Convention Intern Recognition:
Rachelle Degner
Speaker Presentation:
"The Ups and Downs of Cowboy Logic,"
**Ryan Taylor, Author and Advocate
Rancher**

Closing Business Session..... 1:30 p.m.
Policy Committee Reports
Adoption of Resolutions
Officer and Director Elections

Refreshment Break

Closing Business Session Resumes
Retiring Leader Presentations
Membership Drive Awards
Bull Bucks Drawing

Social..... 6 p.m.

Annual Banquet 7 p.m.
Master of Ceremonies: Calli Thorne
Introductions
Convention Video
North Dakota Stockmen's Foundation
Auction
Employee Service Awards
Honorary Local Brand Inspector Award
Rancher of the Year Award
Environmental Stewardship Award
Honorary Membership Awards
Top Hand Award
Speaker Presentation:
**"Waking Up Rural America to its True
Identity," Justin McKee, The Cowboy
Channel National Television Host**



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★ ★ PRE-REGISTRATION FORM ★ ★

Pre-register by Sept. 10 to save \$50

Name(s) Attending _____

Organization/Ranch Name _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Cell Phone _____

Registration fee must be paid by all who attend the convention. Registration and name tags will be required to enter all meetings.

CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW REGISTRATION	# of People	By Sept. 10	After Sept. 10
Full Registration Fee (Per person) (2 or more days)		x \$40 =	x \$55 =
Full Student Registration Fee (Per person) (2 or more days)		x \$10 =	x \$15 =
One-Day-Only Registration Fee (Per person) Check Day: Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐		x \$30 =	x \$35 =
SPECIAL EVENTS	# of People	By Sept. 10	After Sept. 10
Thursday Supper — Gluten Free: ☐		x \$38 =	x \$45 =
Friday Buffet Lunch — Gluten Free: ☐		x \$27 =	x \$34 =
Friday Supper and Entertainment — Gluten Free: ☐		x \$45 =	x \$52 =
Kids' (10 and under) Friday Supper and Entertainment — Gluten Free: ☐		x \$18 =	x \$18 =
Saturday Foundation Luncheon — Gluten Free: ☐		x \$39 =	x \$46 =
Saturday Annual Banquet and Entertainment — Gluten Free: ☐		x \$71 =	x \$78 =
Kids' (10 and under) Saturday Annual Banquet and Entertainment — Gluten Free: ☐		x \$18 =	x \$18 =
TOTAL			

Credit Card Number _____ Billing Zip Code _____

Name as it Appears on Card _____

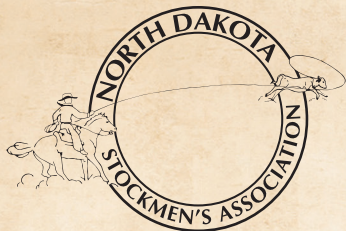
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* A credit card processing fee of 4 percent will be added to all credit card transactions. This fee does not apply to cash or check payment methods.

Mail with payment to North Dakota Stockmen's Association, 4520 Ottawa St., Bismarck, ND 58503. For questions, call (701) 223-2522.

ACCOMMODATIONS: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center until Sept. 10. Rooms will fill quickly. To make reservations, call (701) 258-7700 and mention the North Dakota Stockmen's Association to get the discounted rate.



4520 Ottawa Street
Bismarck, ND 58503

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**For more
information, visit
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