

THE NORTH DAKOTA Soybean GROWER MAGAZINE

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SPECIAL ISSUE: 2025 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo





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On the cover

The Butler Machinery Arena on the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo will be the center of all things North Dakota agriculture for the 2025 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo. The event will feature top-notch speakers addressing current issues and it offers the opportunity to mingle with exhibitors, researchers and fellow farmers.

—Photos by staff



Register to Attend the 2023 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo!

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Visit the Northern Corn and Soybean Expo Site

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Gackle Becomes ASA Chair

After serving as president of the American Soybean Association (ASA) for a year, Kulm farmer Josh Gackle has transitioned into the role of chairman for the organization.

“I’m still part of the executive committee, so I work with the incoming president and the new vice president and the rest of the board,” Gackle says. “Our policies are board-driven and delegate-driven, so it’s the chairman who runs the board meetings and works with the CEO to set agendas and do those types of things.”

Caleb Ragland from Kentucky was elected ASA president at the December board meeting.

Gackle served a year as vice president and a year as president before moving into the chairman role. Gackle says there is value in having continuity in leadership.

“It helps to keep the stability

and bring in some institutional knowledge, so when the new people start moving into leadership there are people there who have been there working on the matters of the organization as well as on the policy issues that the organization is pursuing and advocating for in Washington D.C.,” Gackle explains.

While Gackle is disappointed Congress has not yet passed a new five-year farm bill to replace the 2018 Farm Bill, ASA leaders from across the country will continue advocating for favorable legislation. With a new administration in place, Gackle says the education efforts will be ongoing.

“Going into this year with the new administration and a new Congress, we’re going to have new cabinet officials across government, so a lot of education and advocacy that needs to take place for ASA to get our prior-



Josh Gackle (left) was recognized for his year of service as American Soybean Association president during the organization’s board meeting in December.

ities in front of people, so they understand the impacts in farm country,” Gackle says. “On some things our message won’t change, but on other issues, especially when it comes to trade and biofuels issues, there are a lot of things that are going to be coming in front of Congress and in front

of the administration that we already have been engaged with over the past several weeks trying to get the new folks that will be in place up to speed on the things that are important to us.”

—Story by Daniel Lemke, photo courtesy of ASA



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Building and Growing

Agriculture is far from a static industry. In fact, it is constantly changing. Weather and market conditions are just a couple of influences that affect what farmers plant each year. North Dakota's diverse agriculture picture changes every year as farmers manage their crops and livestock to meet changing conditions.

Despite nearly constant change, one thing that has been consistent in the state is the growth of soybean production. In 1980, the state's farmers produced just 3.5 million bushels of soybeans. Today, our annual soybean production tops 200 million bushels. That growth has been remarkable, and it has occurred in a relatively short period of time. What once was a niche or alternative crop has become North Dakota's most valuable agricultural commodity.

Growth in soybean production has been the result of numerous factors, not the least of which are a better understanding of the soybean's agronomic needs as well as better varieties that are suited for North Dakota's varied growing conditions. There are other forces that influence our agriculture opportunities, including state

and federal policy as well as events happening in other parts of the world. Soybeans are one of the nation's most widely exported agricultural commodities, so what's happening globally can have a profound impact at the farm gate.

The 2025 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo offers an excellent opportunity to stay up to date on some of the important things happening politically and economically that will affect us as farmers. The Expo features some top-notch presenters and speakers who are knowledge leaders in their areas. There's no need to travel across the country to gain from their insights, these experts will be in West Fargo, February 4 at the Butler Machine Arena on the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo. I encourage you to attend the Expo and take in as much information as you can as these experts will give you a better understanding of global shifts impacting commodity markets.

The Northern Corn and Soybean Expo will also feature the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) annual meeting. You will hear how the NDSGA is working on your behalf in Bismarck and in Washington, D.C. to make



Justin Sherlock
President, North Dakota
Soybean Growers Association

sure that North Dakota farmers are represented and that your voices are heard on policy decisions that affect us.

We hope you'll join us for the Northern Corn and Soybean Expo as we continue the work of building and growing North Dakota's soybean industry.



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Farm Bill Extended Again

Amid late December chaos, Congress passed a continuing resolution to fund the federal government and deliver a disaster aid package to help farmers hurt by natural disasters and an economic downturn. Despite efforts from agriculture groups and farm organizations, Congress was unable to come to an agreement on a new five-year farm bill and instead passed another one-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill as part of the continuing resolution. It was the second time the farm bill was extended.

American Soybean Association (ASA) Chairman and Kulm, North Dakota farmer Josh Gackle is among the many farm leaders disappointed that Congress remains unable to authorize a new bill. However, the extension is better than the alternative.

“We’ve been working really hard to get a full five year reauthorization done throughout the year and then again in the lame duck, but

when it became clear that Congress was going to run out of time to get a full farm bill done, we really started pushing for that extension in any type of lame duck legislation or end of the year continuing resolution,” Gackle says. “So, we were happy to see that extension in there. Without a full reauthorization and without an extension, the alternative would be pretty negative for farm country.”

Gackle says an updated bill



American Soybean Association Chairman Josh Gackle is disappointed another farm bill extension was needed, but optimistic a new Congress can pass a new five-year bill.

is important because the 2018 Farm Bill, now seven years old, doesn’t reflect the current situation in agriculture.

“The farm bill language and reference prices just don’t reflect what’s actually happening when it comes to input prices, cost of production and sustainability on the farm,” Gackle says. “That’s why an updated farm bill and a full reauthorization that reflects the current economic situation on the farm is important. Hopefully this extension will get us through to

where we can get new language and better risk management tools especially now when the farm economy is hurting, prices are low, and inputs are high.”

Upper Midwest farmers will be well represented on both the incoming U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees. Sen. Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Ag Committee, with North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven also serving on that committee. Sen. John Thun from South Dakota is the new Senate Majority Leader. Minnesota Con. Angie Craig is the ranking Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee.

“I’ve seen them in person, both Democrats and Republicans working together,” Gackle says. “When you get those Midwestern farm leaders together, they do seem to be able to work across the aisle to get something done. That is a hopeful sign, and hopefully they get started early here in 2025.”

The 119th Congress was sworn in on January 3.

—Story and photo by Daniel Lemke

Sherlock Appointed to EPA Advisory Committee

Dazy farmer and North Dakota Soybean Growers Association President Justin Sherlock has been named to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). The FRRCC provides independent policy advice and recommendations to the EPA administrator about the crucial environmental issues affecting agriculture and rural communities.

Sherlock offers a unique perspective as both a farmer and the former mayor of a small town.

“(The) EPA is involved in a lot of important decisions that play a major role in how we operate

our farms,” Sherlock says. “That’s why it’s important to get some good farmer and rural community perspective on issues so we can help advise the administrator.”

The selection process for new members began in July 2024. The EPA issued a request for nominations that drew more than 80 applicants. The agency selected individuals from a diverse and highly qualified pool, ensuring representation across all 10 EPA regions and from 24 states, territories and the District of Columbia. Members were chosen for their expertise in key EPA priority areas, including climate change and sustainable agricultural practices, and represented a variety of agricultural sectors, rural stakeholders

and diverse geographies.

Sherlock describes how an important part of his role on the FRRCC is to ensure that EPA administrators hear from the people who are living with the regulations which the agency establishes and implements.

“I look forward to being able to help advise (the) EPA as they’re making rules and procedures and (are) coming up with policy proposals by being able to give them a perspective of if policies will actually be feasible in a small community or on a farming operation,” Sherlock explains.

Sherlock also wants the committee role in order to help bring information back to farmers.

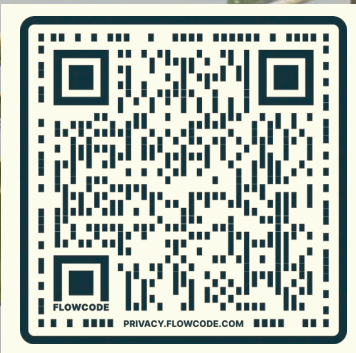
“I hope to also be a bridge to

bring a little bit of perspective from (the) EPA back to the farmers to show that the EPA is not just out to get them,” Sherlock asserts. “You’re either part of the discussion and the solution, or you’re going to be told how you’re going to operate in the future by somebody who doesn’t really know what farming is like day to day. That’s why I was willing to step up and try to be a, hopefully, reasonable voice of common ground in the middle for both sides.”

The FRRCC appointment is nonpolitical. Sherlock will serve a two-year term on the committee.

—Story by Daniel Lemke

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needs of 8 billion consumers



wishh.org

Expo: A Time for Connections

There's no question that technology has changed the way we farm. The amount of information that we have at our fingertips to help us make decisions is nothing short of amazing. Most of us carry a mobile phone that has more technology and capacity embedded in it than was used to get astronauts to and from the moon more than 50 years ago. While all this technology is great, there's something about connections with real people that can't be topped.

Among the values that the Northern Corn and Soybean Expo offers is the opportunity to connect with a wide range of folks who are involved with North Dakota agriculture. From leading researchers and industry experts to your friends and neighbors from down the road,

this event provides the perfect venue for personal connection.

The Northern Corn and Soybean Expo is one of my favorite events of the year because it's a combination of information and conversation. At one of the previous expos, I ran into a friend I hadn't seen since college, which led to a long and enjoyable conversation. Not only is it fun for me to reconnect with friends, colleagues and fellow farmers, it's also enjoyable to watch multiple generations of farmers mingling and connecting over our shared passion for agriculture.

As always, the 2025 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo will provide ample opportunities for farmers to connect with each other and to talk with the dozens of participating vendors. There's also

the Research Pavilion which will provide access to North Dakota State University scientists and experts who can outline some of their latest efforts to help improve our productivity and sustainability.

The expo will also have plenty of insightful presentations and panel discussions, providing ample food for thought and discussion. Topics range from the current geopolitical landscape to the outlook for weather, markets and the future of biofuels such as sustainable aviation fuel.

If you haven't done so already, make plans to attend the Northern Corn and Soybean Expo on February 4, 2025, at the Butler Machinery Arena on the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo. The day's program is full of timely and important topics, and the venue offers a great space to mingle with vendors and other farmers. The



Rob Rose
Wimbledon, North Dakota
North Dakota Soybean Council Vice Chairman
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ndsoybean.org

entire day is dedicated to helping us learn more about our industry while making valuable connections with the people around us.

Research Pavilion Features Soil Health

Corn and soybean productivity starts at the ground level, so it's only fitting that the Research Pavilion at the 2025 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo will focus on soil health.

Supporting research that benefits farmers is a primary focus of the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC). The Research Pavilion,

jointly organized by the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council and the NDSC, will include a range of information about soil-health practices, including hands-on demonstrations that are led by experts. The exhibit will be staffed by a team of soil scientists from the North Dakota State University (NDSU) campus as well as from the Research Extension Centers (REC); those

individuals will be able to answer the farmers' specific questions.

"We're not featuring one or two research projects; instead, we're emphasizing the importance of science-based best management practices to improve soybean production while addressing growers' production challenges," explains Miki Miheguli, the NDSC's director of agronomy and research. "Research plays a critical role in improving our understanding of various practices on soybean production and developing management practices suitable for different soil climatic conditions in the state."

Northern Corn and Soybean Expo attendees can stop by the Research Pavilion, located on the tradeshow floor, and can pose specific questions to the attending experts. Among the researchers staffing the booth will be Carlos Pires, Ph.D., NDSU soil health

professor, and Chandler Gruener, Ph.D., NDSU Extension soil health specialist at the North Central REC in Minot.

"Visitors will be able to learn the value of soil health through hands-on demonstrations and one-on-one discussions with soil scientists," Miheguli says.

—Story and photos by
Daniel Lemke



The Research Pavilion offers an opportunity for farmers to ask questions of researchers, including NDSC Director of Agronomy & Research Miki Miheguli (right).



Soil health will be the focus of this year's Research Pavilion, which will be staffed by NDSU researchers.



Tuesday, February 4, 2025 • Butler Machinery Arena • Red River Valley Fairgrounds • West Fargo

Tentative Agenda

8:00 a.m. | Butler Arena

Registration, Breakfast, Research Pavilion and Trade Show

9:00 a.m. | Butler Arena Main Stage

Welcome

Emcee Clinton Griffiths, Ag Day

Co-chair Rob Rose, North Dakota Soybean Council

Co-chair Carson Klosterman, North Dakota Corn Utilization Council

9:10 a.m. | Butler Arena Main Stage

Geopolitics and the Future of American Agriculture

Jacob Shapiro, Cognitive Investments

10:10 a.m. | Butler Arena Main Stage

2024 Growing Season Review and a Look Ahead to 2025

Brad Rippey, USDA

10:55 a.m. | Butler Arena Trade Show

Visit Trade Show Vendors and Research Pavilion

11:25 a.m. | Butler Arena Main Stage

How Sustainable Aviation Fuel Development Boosts Crop Demand

Jeff Davidman, Delta Air Lines

Butler Arena • Red River Valley Fairgrounds
West Fargo, North Dakota



12:10 p.m. | Hartl Building

Lunch

ND Corn Growers Association and ND Soybean Growers Association Annual Meetings

Visit Trade Show Vendors and Research Pavilion

1:25 p.m. | Butler Arena Main Stage

Future of Farm Machinery Panel

Todd Pringle, John Deere

Dan Dufner, CNH

Chris Brossart, Producer

2:10 p.m. | Butler Arena Trade Show

Visit Trade Show Vendors and Research Pavilion

2:55 p.m. | Butler Arena Main Stage

2025 Grain Outlook

Naomi Blohm, Total Farm Marketing

3:25 p.m. | Butler Arena Main Stage

Hot Topics

4:10 p.m. | Butler Arena Main Stage

The Evolving Role of Renewable Fuels: Implications for Farmers Panel

Cory-Ann Wind, Clean Fuels Alliance America

Kent Hartwig, Gevo

5:10 p.m. | Butler Arena Main Stage

Closing Remarks

Agenda subject to change

Speakers Explore Current Ag Issues

The 2025 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo features an array of top-notch speakers and panelists who will help to make sense of some of the most pressing current issues and to address the most exciting opportunities for North Dakota farmers. You'll leave these presentations enlightened and better prepared for what lies ahead.

All speaker presentations take place on the expo's main stage, so you'll be able to take in each session.

Geopolitics and the Future of American Agriculture

Jacob Shapiro, Cognitive Investments

Policy decisions, trade barriers and global events exert a great deal of influence on agriculture. Our opening session dives right into these large, overarching issues that affect farmers.

Jacob Shapiro is a speaker, consultant, author and researcher who covers global politics and affairs, economics, markets, technology, history and culture. He speaks to audiences of all sizes around the world; helps global, multi-national organizations make strategic decisions about political risks and opportunities; and works directly with investors to grow and to protect their assets in today's volatile global environment. Shapiro's insights help audiences across industries like finance, agriculture and energy make sense of the world. Shapiro is a partner and the director of geopolitical analysis at Cognitive Investments, a registered investment adviser offering wealth-management services. He is also the chief strategist at Perch Perspectives, a business and political risk consulting firm that works with Cognitive Investments to provide corporate executives with custom advisory services and analysis.



Jacob Shapiro

2024 Growing Season in Review and Looking Ahead to 2025

Brad Rippey, USDA

Weather is a factor for farmers' success each and every year, yet some years are more volatile than others. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Meteorologist Brad Rippey will walk us through what happened in 2024 and look ahead to the upcoming growing season.

Rippey is an agricultural meteorologist in the USDA's Office of the Chief Economist, and he is the managing editor of the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin. He is one of ten rotating authors for the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor and is a contributor to the monthly North American Drought Monitor. Prior to joining the USDA in 1998, Rippey worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce. Since 1994, he has been a columnist and a contributing editor for Weatherwise magazine.



Brad Rippey

How Sustainable Aviation Fuel's Development Boosts Crop Demand

Jeff Davidman, Delta Air Lines

In recent years, few opportunities have generated as much excitement among leaders in agriculture as sustainable aviation fuel. The possibility

of utilizing ag-based products, such as ethanol and biodiesel, as feedstocks to produce aviation fuel has many people in agriculture and other affiliated industries revved up. Jeff Davidman, vice president for state and local government affairs at Delta Air Lines, will take a deeper look at the challenges and opportunities with sustainable aviation fuel and how the product could affect the demand for agricultural commodities.



Jeff Davidman

Davidman oversees the team that represents Delta before state and local government units across the United States. He assisted with securing the necessary government support for the successful merger of Northwest Airlines and Delta Air Lines. He led Delta's state and local government affairs efforts in securing the support and resources which helped enable Delta to be the first airline to purchase an oil refinery and to produce its own jet fuel.

Panel: Future of Farm Machinery

Todd Pringle, John Deere; Dan Dufner, CNH Industrial; and Chris Brossart, ND Producer

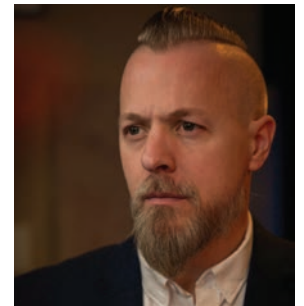
Farm machinery has come a long way from the first moldboard plow that was used to break the sod. Today, equipment is high-tech with amazing capabilities, and there's more advancement on the horizon.

This panel will address how farm machinery is changing and how that could affect your productivity.

Todd Pringle is the advanced engineering manager for Deere & Co. Pringle explores the electronic module-level technology for vehicle systems, electrification, the human-machine interface, perception systems and advanced control algorithms.

Dan Dufner is the vice president for global large and compact tractors for CNH Industrial, a position he has held since early 2022. Dufner is responsible for all current and future product-development activities related to large and compact tractors for the New Holland and Case IH brands.

Chris Brossart farms at Wolford, North Dakota. Brossart served on the North Dakota Soybean Council for six years, including two years as the chair. Brossart also served on the Soy Transportation Coalition.



Todd Pringle



Dan Dufner



Chris Brossart

2025 Grain Outlook

Naomi Blohm, *Total Farm Marketing*

It's no secret that the profit margins for grain producers have been tight in recent months due to low commodity prices and rising input costs. While many of those factors remain in place, market opportunities often emerge.

Naomi Blohm, senior market adviser, Total Farm Marketing by Stewart Peterson, will examine the factors that influence grain prices and what to watch in 2025. Blohm specializes in helping farmers understand how to manage cash marketing needs, the importance of managing basis, delivery point considerations, and cash-flow needs and storage capacity.



Naomi Blohm

Panel: The Evolving Role of Renewable Fuels: Implications for Farmers

Cory-Ann Wind, *Clean Fuels Alliance America* and Kent Hartwig, *Gevo*

Ethanol, biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel are all important or emerging markets for North Dakota-grown agriculture commodities. Policy decisions and market factors will greatly influence the sustainability of



Cory-Ann Wind

these ag-based fuels. This topic will be addressed by panelists Cory-Ann Wind and Kent Hartwig.

Cory-Ann Wind serves as the director of state regulatory affairs for Clean Fuels Alliance America. She engages in issues associated with biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel, and she represents the interests of Clean Fuels' members to state regulatory bodies, legislatures and environmental organizations. Her primary focus is advancing state and regional policy efforts on the West Coast. Wind has 30 years of experience with developing programs and policies to address air pollution, transportation emissions and climate change.

Kent Hartwig is the director of state government affairs for Gevo, Inc. where he enacts low-carbon policies at the state and local level. Hartwig specializes in building strategic governmental partnerships and has more than 20 years of experience working with state and local governments. Prior to Gevo, Hartwig engaged legislators on behalf of the Iowa and Minnesota Senates as well as the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. He also worked for Advocacy Strategies, an Iowa-based, multi-client lobbying firm, and Renewable Energy Group, a leading producer of biodiesel and renewable diesel.



Kent Hartwig

—Story by Daniel Lemke, photos provided by speakers

2025 Western Soybean School

Join us for the 2025 Western Soybean School in Minot and Dickinson!

Discover the latest research and updates in soybean production.

CEUs for Certified Crop Advisers are available at both locations on the day of the event.

Topics to Include Updates on:

Soybean variety selection | Soybean diseases management
Weed control | Soil fertility and nutrient management | Cover crops
Insect control | Soybean market | Production outlook

Minot

February 18, 2025

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CST

Location: Conference Room,
North Central Research
Extension Center,
5400 Highway 83 S.,
Minot, ND 58601

Dickinson

February 19, 2025

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. MST

Location: Stark County Family
& Ag Resource Campus Office,
Dakota Room Door C,
2680 Empire Rd.,
Dickinson, ND 58601

Lunch is complimentary
and will be served at noon.

Registration is *free* and
necessary to assist in organizing
food and beverage preparations.

Please register
by scanning
the QR code.



NDSU

EXTENSION



Hillsboro Farmer Reappointed, Valley City Farmer Elected to Leadership on United Soybean Board

North Dakota soybean farmer Matt Gast has been elected treasurer of the United Soybean Board (USB) during the board's December meeting in St. Charles, Missouri. Gast, who farms near Valley City, has been a USB director since 2019 and has served on the executive committee



Matt Gast

since 2021. Before joining USB, Gast was a director of the North Dakota Soybean Council from 2016 to 2019.

"I'm honored to have been elected treasurer and look forward to the year ahead. It's exciting to represent all 515,000 U.S. soybean farmers and serve as a voice for them," said Gast.

The meeting also included the reappointment of Hillsboro farmer Cindy Pulskamp to the USB for another three-year term. Pulskamp, who has been a USB director since 2022, was officially sworn in on December 11.

"I am passionate about agriculture's growth and development and look forward to continuing to advocate for North Dakota farmers," said Pulskamp.

Stephanie Sinner, executive director of the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC),

praised both leaders: "We congratulate Matt on his election and Cindy on her reappointment. Their leadership and dedication ensure North Dakota farmers are well-represented as USB works to strengthen the soybean industry domestically and globally."

In addition to Pulskamp and Gast, North Dakota is also represented on the USB by Darren Kadlec of Pisek.

The United Soybean Board, which administers national soy checkoff investments, increases farmer profitability through initiatives and partnerships that grow the domestic and global demand for U.S. soybeans and protect on-farm resiliency. Its 77 members, representing 29 states and two regions, are soybean farmers nominated by Qualified State Soybean Boards (QSSB), such as the North Dakota Soybean Council, and

appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Board seats are determined by soybean production in each state and region.

To learn more about the key investments made on behalf of U.S. soybean farmers, please visit unitedsoybean.org.

—Story by staff, photos courtesy of the United Soybean Board



Cindy Pulskamp

Pederson Reelected to the Clean Fuels Governing Board

Ryan Pederson, a farmer from Rolette, North Dakota, has been reelected to the Clean Fuels Alliance America (Clean Fuels) governing board. Representing the North Dakota Soybean Council, Pederson has played a significant role on the board, serving multiple terms as treasurer and secretary. In his continued leadership, he now resumes his position as the treasurer.

"We're continuing to innovate in the biodiesel, renewable diesel and

sustainable aviation fuel sectors, proving that clean fuels are not just viable: they are essential," Pederson says. "As a farmer from North Dakota, I'm proud to see how our state's crops contribute to the production of renewable diesel and biodiesel. These advancements play a crucial role in reducing emissions, supporting agriculture and meeting the nation's transportation needs today and in the future."

Clean Fuels is the leading trade association for biodiesel, renewable

diesel and sustainable aviation fuel. The organization works to advance the interests of its members by supporting industry growth for sustainable biodiesel, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel. Clean Fuels also serves as the industry's central coordinating entity for technical, environmental, quality assurance and advocacy programs.

To learn more about Clean Fuels Alliance America, visit cleanfuels.org.

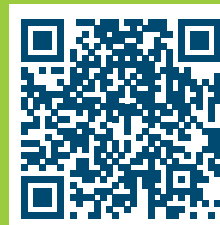
—Story and photo by staff



Ryan Pederson



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2025 Annual Meeting Agenda

February 4, 2025 • 12:30 p.m. CST • Hartl Building • Red River Valley Fairgrounds • West Fargo, ND

1. Welcome and Introduction of Board Members:

NDSGA President
Justin Sherlock

2. Secretary's Report:
Secretary Josh Stutrud

3. Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer Stephanie Cook

4. American Soybean Association Update:
ASA Chairman Josh Gackle

5. Old Business

6. New Business

a. Election of Directors

District 1:
Dickey, Ransom,
Richland, and Sargent Counties;
3-year term

District 4:
Barnes, Kidder, and
Stutsman Counties;
3-year term

District 7:
Bottineau, McHenry, Pierce, Rolette
and Renville Counties; *3-year term*

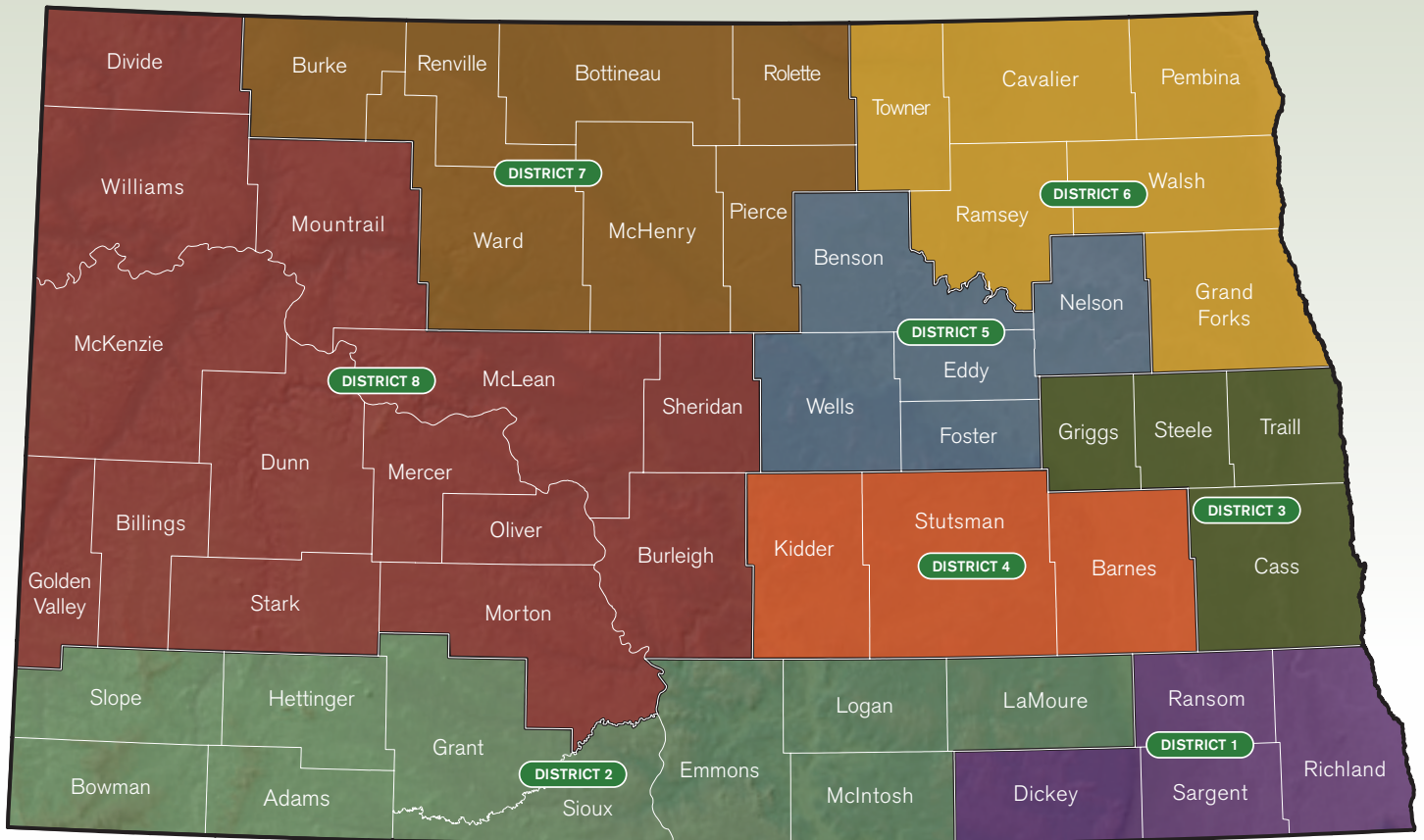
District 8:

Burke, Billings, Burleigh, Divide,
Dunn, Sheridan, Golden Valley,
Grant, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer,
Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Stark and
Williams Counties; *3-year term*

c. Other New Business

7. Adjourn

North Dakota Soybean Growers Association District Map



Congress Approves Economic Disaster Payments

In addition to passing a continuing resolution to fund the federal government until March and extending the 2018 Farm Bill for another year, shortly before it adjourned in December, Congress also passed an economic disaster assistance package that includes \$10 billion in direct payments to farmers.

The current farm safety net provisions under the 2018 Farm Bill were effectively put in place utilizing cost of production data from 2010, so the effective support provided by these programs has not kept up with inflation.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) projects that farmers will experience the steepest two-year decline in net farm income in history. Due to an ineffective safety net, federal assistance for producers is slated to be at the lowest level since 1982.

The Further Continuing Appropriations and Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2025 provides emergency aid to producers of eligible commodities for which expected revenue in crop year 2024 is below the projected per-acre cost of production. This assistance will help farmers pay down debt relative to the 2024 crop and assist them in obtaining financing for the 2025 crop year.

Acres planted or prevented from being planted in 2024 to a range of crops are eligible for assistance. Those crops include barley, corn, dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, oats, soybeans, other oilseeds, and wheat.

USDA will have 90 days after the bill's passage to issue the one-time farm assistance payment, which are based on 100 percent planted acreage and 40 percent of prevented plant acres for the 2024 crop. Payment rates are estimated to total \$43.80 per acre for corn; \$30.61 for soybeans; \$31.80 for wheat and \$21.76 per acre for barley. A \$125,000 payment limit

is in place, although the limit could increase to \$250,000 for farmers who receive 75 percent of more of their gross income from farming.

Caleb Ragland, president of the American Soybean Association and soy farmer from Kentucky, said, "We appreciate that congressional leadership heard our fourth-quarter plea and understood the very real consequences of not including economic and disaster aid in their plans. This is a much-needed win at a time that has been exceptionally hard for

many of our country's farmers."

Soybean prices have dropped 40% over the past two years. Compounded by an already insufficient farm safety net, soybean industry leaders contend this situation has made it increasingly difficult for farming operations to remain viable.

"Having economic and disaster aid in this critical piece—at a critical time for farm families—is also very appreciated, along with other provisions," Ragland said.

The bill will keep government funding in place through March

14, 2025, and extend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 for one more year through September 30, 2025. Additionally, the package includes approximately \$21 billion in disaster assistance to help producers who suffered disaster losses during the past two years. The disaster funds would cover losses from an array of natural disasters in 2023 and 2024 including wildfires, hurricanes, floods, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms and excessive moisture.

—Story by Daniel Lemke



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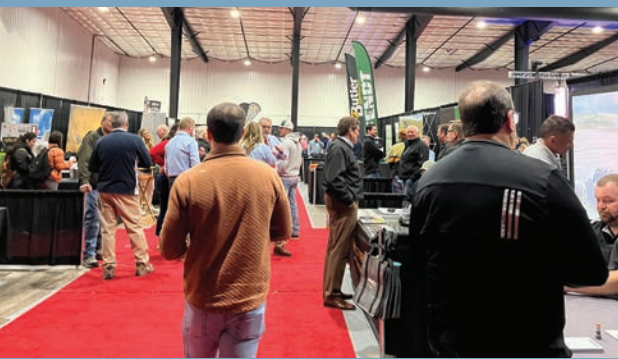
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