

Fall 2025

THE *South Dakota* CATTLEMAN

The official publication of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association





DON'T KEEP YOUR OPERATION WAITING.



Fill year-end gaps with an adaptable line of credit.

With all the various management needs of your operation – input costs, equipment repairs, labor and livestock expenses – you need a line of credit that can keep up. An operating line of credit from Farm Credit Services of America has convenience, savings and flexibility built in, so you can meet each season's needs without slowing down.



Only borrow what you need



Multi-year commitment options



No-limit remote deposit



Eligible for yearly cash-back dividends

➤ FCSAmerica.com/lineofcredit / 800-884-FARM
Agriculture Works Here..

Terms apply. See website for details.

Chelsea B. / customer since 2008 ➤

SDCA *Calendar of Events*

Sept. 13: Sanford International | Sioux Falls
Sept. 14: Spearfish Region Roundup | Spearfish
Sept. 18: Policy Chair Training | Pierre
Sept. 19: Board of Directors Meeting | Pierre
Dec. 2-3: SDCA Convention & Trade Show | Deadwood
January 13: South Dakota Legislative Session | Pierre
January 28: Board of Directors Meeting | Pierre
Leadership Academy Graduation & Social | Pierre
January 29: SDCA Day at the Capitol | Pierre
February 16: Cattlemen's Education Day | Brookings

SDBIC Events

August 27 - Sept. 1: South Dakota State Fair | Huron

Sept. 8 - 14: Sanford International | Sioux Falls

Sept. 13: SDSU Beef Bowl | Brookings

September 15: SDBIC Annual Board Meeting | Pierre

September 26 - 28: Cinch Playoffs | Sioux Falls

Oct. 3: Western Junior Livestock Show | Rapid City



Advertising *Opportunities*

The South Dakota Cattleman is published six times a year and sent to SDCA members including beef producers, beef industry supporters, property owners, allied industry partners, as well as state and local government officials with a circulation over 1,000.

Advertising deadline is the 5th of the month prior to publication.

The SDCA e-newsletter, **The Cattle Guard**, is emailed to all SDCA members every week. **The Cattle Guard** contains updates and news from SDCA, industry partners, and NCBA.

Follow us on our social media platforms to stay informed of the latest SDCA news, events, and information.



Scan to access
SDCA's Media Kit

Features

Combatting New World Screwworm.....	6
Kinzie Foods Feature Recipe	8
2025 SDSU Collegiate Cattlemen Officers.....	13
Pregnancy Diagnosis in Beef Cattle	14-15
Member Feature: Lyon Ranch Beef.....	18-19
Fall Planning for Winter Pasture Success.....	30

In Every Issue

From the Cattle Pen	4
The Cattlemen's Outlook	10
Making the Most of Membership.....	20
The Beef Checkoff Works - And Here's the Truth	22-23
SDCA Working for you.....	28-29
For the Cattlekids.....	31
SDCA Affiliates	32

Association & Industry News

2025 Region Roundup Recaps.....	9
Midwest Agricultural Export Summit.....	11
2025 Convention & Trade Show.....	16-17
Cattlemen's Leadership Academy Seminar 3 Recap.....	24
Cattlemen's Leadership Academy Leader Spotlights.....	26-27



Mission

To advance the interests of South Dakota Cattlemen through representation and promotion of the beef industry.

Vision

To be an organization where members can work together to protect their interests; seek solutions to industry problems; provide a unified voice, and to build the good will, esteem, and recognition the industry deserves.



South Dakota
Cattlemen's
Association



SDCattlemen



sdcattlemen



TRIED AND TRUE



Your business needs reliable partners. Become a PTUSA distributor and start offering our high-quality cubes, pellets, and tubs today.

— pellettechnologyusa.com —



PowerTubs™ logo, the PowerCubes™ logo, the PowerPellets™ logo and the Pellet Technology USA logo are trademarks of Pellet Technology USA, LLC. © 2024 Pellet Technology USA, LLC.



FOR ANIMALS. FOR HEALTH. FOR YOU.



Amy Pravecek
Southwestern SD &
Northeastern WY
amy.pravecek@zoetis.com
605-390-4241



Kelsey Swainston
Northwestern & Central SD
kelsey.swainston@zoetis.com
208-249-6005



Shirley Thompson
Southeastern SD
shirley.thompson@zoetis.com
605-360-6546



Sam Sletta
Northeastern SD & East Central ND
Sam.sletta@zoetis.com
507-766-2048



Craig Dybedahl
East Central SD
craig.dybedahl@zoetis.com
605-310-2279



SDCA
Leadership

Officers

Warren Symens, President
wsymens@sd cattlemen.org

Craig Bieber, Vice President
craig@bieberredangus.com

Vaughn Thorstenson, Secretary/
Treasurer
vwthor@venturecomm.net

Calli Williams, VP of Membership
callicwilliams@gmail.com

Eric Jennings, Past President
ermijenn@outlook.com

Regional Directors

Bryan Gill, Northern Region

Troy Hadrick, Northern Region

Drew Edleman, Northeast Region

Nick Wilkinson, Northeast Region

Colby Olson, Southeast Region

Austin Havlik, Southeast Region

Casey Heenan, Southern Region

Kory Bierle, Southern Region

Britton Blair, Western Region

Devin Stephens, Western Region

Abby Morse, SDSU Collegiate
Cattlemen's Club

SDCA Staff

Taya Runyan
Executive Director
trunyan@sd cattlemen.org

Lorrin Naasz
Director of
Communications & Outreach
lnaasz@sd cattlemen.org

For additional contact
information, visit sd cattlemen.org.

FEED SMARTER.
NOT HARDER.



When weaning supplements don't deliver, you lose time, money and performance. StressLic® with Bio-Mos® ensures consistent nutrition and better herd results—so you get more return for every dollar you invest.

SMARTLIC.COM

SmartLic® and StressLic® are registered trademarks of New Generation Supplements. BIO-MOS® is a registered trademark of Alltech, Inc.

South Dakota Cattlemen's Association

STOREFRONT

Visit sd cattlemen.org to shop SDCA merch for you and your cattlekid!



Scan to shop the SDCA's storefront!
Want a product that's not in our store?
Let us know and we'll work with Quality
Quick Print to find it!

Ad Index

Farm Credit Services of America.....	Inside Front Cover
Pellet Technology USA	2
Zoetis.....	2
New Generations Solutions.....	3
Boehringer Ingelheim.....	4
Axiota	7
American Angus Association.....	12
Dakotaland Feeds	12
Stockyards Ag Experience	12
Ward Laboratories.....	32
Cattle Con	Inside Back Cover
Jorgensen Land & Cattle	Outside Back Cover



From the Cattle Pen

Warren Symens, SDCA President

The current conditions in the cattle markets have created historic opportunity for those involved in the business. You may be a cow/calf producer that sells calves at weaning, backgrounds to a target weight, or takes them all the way through the finishing process. Perhaps you are a cattle feeder that buys cattle and operates on tight margins, or a seedstock producer doing your best to raise the next set of genetics to move the cattle industry forward. Maybe you're involved in several or all these sectors.

During these unprecedented times, many of us are paying down debt acquired at lower interest rates than we're currently seeing. Paying off loans on investments in our operations that have inflated in price over the years is a great way to increase the value in our balance sheets. Some of us are adding elements to our operations that will increase profitability in the future or allow the next generation to step into the family farm or ranch. For some of us in the process of transitioning to the next generation, the current market climate allows us to add an enterprise that keeps the operation sustainable for generations to come.

As I grow older (and hopefully wiser), I've started to view "opportunity" differently. More accurately, I've started to look at difficulties as opportunities. The shift in perspective came as I watched my kids leave home and face familiar challenges. I often ask them, "What opportunity has this problem created?" Over time I began to question my own attitude when things weren't going right. Yes, there's value in putting your head down and pushing through but doing the same thing over and over while expecting a different result is often called insanity. So, I ask myself, "What can I do differently today to create a better outcome next time?"

Past experiences shape how we operate and make clear that we must keep finding new opportunities. While high prices and good weather make opportunity easy to spot, when times are tough, pessimism comes easy. It takes real effort to stay positive and spot chances for success amid obstacles. Surrounding yourself with positive people helps, after all "It's hard to fly with eagles when you're always hanging out with turkeys," as my kids hear me say. Spend too much time with complainers, and before long, you'll be pointing fingers instead of finding solutions and new opportunities.

I encourage you to stay connected with the positive people and all the opportunities SDCA offers. Whether it's a Region Roundup, ranch tour, Cattlemen's Cookout, or the next Cattlemen's Leadership Academy class, this area all great places to learn from others. I'm especially looking forward to our Convention and Trade Show this December in Deadwood, where discussions often spark ideas that you can use at home or share with others. Keep up to date with everything at sdcattlemen.org.

Hopefully the opportunities in today's cattle industry continues for a while. We know, however, there will be downturns. We'll need past lessons - as well as the eagles we surround ourselves with - to navigate difficulties and seize the opportunity change brings. Let's stay involved and keep pulling forward together, because nobody is going to do it for us. It's up to us.

INTERESTED IN JOINING SDCA LEADERSHIP?

The SDCA is now accepting nominations for individuals to serve on the Board of Directors. Directors serve two-year terms, with one representative from each region elected annually on a rotating basis. Members interested in serving on the board can nominate themselves or be nominated by their local affiliate or another member.

Nominate today!



RELENTLESS PROTECTION

PUT GREAT IN, GET GREAT OUT.
PYRAMIDVaccines.com

PYRAMID®, the PYRAMID logo® and PRESPOSE® are registered trademarks of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc. ©2022 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc., Duluth, GA. All rights reserved. US-BOV-0417-2022A-V2

Allied Industry Members

Prime Members



Corporate Members



Select Members

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Agtegra Cooperative | Floyd's Truck Center / Floyd's |
| Central Farmers Cooperative | Kubota |
| Custom Genetic Solutions | Nutrient Advisors |
| Dakota Ethanol, LLC | Rush-Co |
| Elanco Animal Health | |

Standard Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Diesel Machinery, Inc | Renner Corner Locker |
| DNB National Bank | Ritchie Industries |
| First Fidelity Bank | Rock Veterinary Clinic |
| For-Most Inc. | Steele Financial Services, LLC |
| J&R Feeds | VIRBAC |
| Millborn Seeds | White Insurance P&C Inc. |
| OLS Tubs, Inc. | |

Supporting Members

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3D Security, Inc. | Ed's Produce | Lyle Signs Inc | Statewide Ag Insurance - Winner |
| Animal Clinic, Ltd. - Winner | Farmers & Merchants State Bank | Moly Manufacturing LLC / SILENCER | Summit Carbon Solutions |
| Bankwest, Inc. - Pierre | Feldhaus Trucking, Inc. | Montrose Veterinary Clinic | US Premium Beef |
| Bryant State Bank | First National Bank - Ft. Pierre | NDEco | Y-Tex Corporation |
| C-Lock, Inc. | Huron Veterinary Hospital | Rick Dockter/ Wealth Partners | Zinpro Corporation |
| Cattlecents Consulting, Inc. | Kingbrook Rural Water System, Inc. | Rivers Edge Bank | |
| Chase Consulting | Lilac Lane Media | Sioux International | |
| De-Tye Vet Supply, Inc. | Liphatech (Rozol) | Sioux Nation, LLC | |

Choice Members



Allied Industry Membership information available online at sdcattlemen.org



COMBATTING NEW WORLD SCREWORM

Nearly 60 years after New World Screwworm (NWS) was eradicated from the United States, this pest is once again an animal health threat to American cattle producers. For months, NCBA has been collaborating closely with its state partners and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to protect the nation's cow herd, but the situation remains

Screwworm Status in the United States

Currently, no cases have been detected in the United States. The northernmost cases in Mexico are roughly 370 miles south of the border. Mexico is dealing with roughly 3,800 cases total, mostly in cattle, but also some equines, dogs and humans. The outbreak in Mexico is a continuation of the spike in cases that began in Panama in 2023 and quickly spread through the rest of Central America. Screwworm was endemic in the United States from the 1930s-1960s. After decades of work by producers and APHIS, it was officially declared eradicated from the U.S. in 1966. In total, from the 1930s-1960s, the effort to eradicate screwworm in the United States cost more than \$52 million. Adjusted to today's value, that's closer to \$675 million. In 1996 (around the time sterile insect efforts began in Panama), screwworm eradication was estimated to save American producers \$796 million a year.

USDA's Response

USDA's strategy to combat NWS centers on stopping its spread in Mexico, improving early detection of infected animals before they reach our border, strengthening U.S. disease response plans and treatment tools, boosting sterile fly production, and advancing research and producer education. USDA has also begun converting a facility at Moore Air Base in Texas so we can better disperse sterile flies in northern Mexico (and U.S. border states, if necessary.) The facility is expected to be completed in 2025, but until then, flies will continue to come from Panama. Secretary Rollins announced in August a five-pronged plan to enhance the USDA's already robust ability to detect, control, and eliminate the pest. The plan can be viewed at [USDA.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

NCBA's Work

NCBA has remained in constant contact with USDA-APHIS staff on this issue since cases started gaining momentum in Central America in October, while educating and advocating on Capitol Hill. Securing \$300 million to build or convert a U.S.-based sterile fly production facility remains a top priority. NCBA is actively pursuing every avenue to obtain this funding, so we have a sufficient supply of sterile flies to combat the pest.

Treatment Options

If NWS is suspected, a veterinarian should be consulted for treatment of affected animals. Currently, there are no animal drugs approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) for the treatment or prevention of NWS myiasis in animals. CVM is working with drug sponsors, federal and state partners and international regulators to understand options for U.S. veterinarians to treat NWS effectively and safely. Veterinarians may prescribe the use of FDA-approved products for uses that are not on

the label, in accordance with the existing regulations with a valid veterinary/client/patient relationship. NCBA has also been working to reduce hurdles at USDA, EPA and FDA that could slow down new drug approvals or indications for screwworm.

How to Prepare

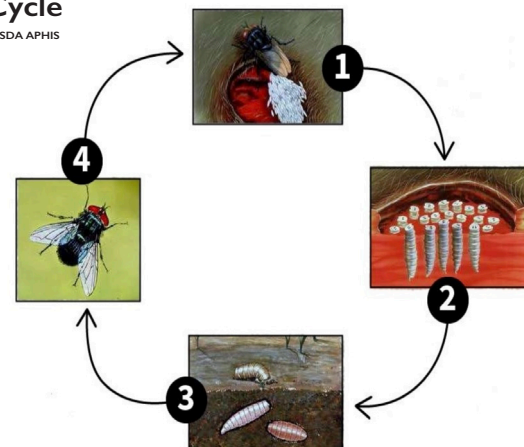
As pupae, NWS cannot survive soil temperatures that are consistently below 46 degrees. For perspective, last year soil temperatures stayed above 46 degrees from mid-April to late-October in Pullman, Washington; Grand Island, Nebraska; Minot, North Dakota; and Brookville, Pennsylvania. From spring to the early fall, there was almost no part of the United States that was completely inhospitable to this pest — that means all American producers need to be prepared and stay vigilant for screwworm. When screwworm was endemic in the United States, the response for farmers and ranchers was time and labor intensive. Start planning now, especially if you are in a border state, on how you will effectively monitor your herd for signs of screwworm. Familiarize yourself with the signs of a screwworm infection and talk to your vet about treatment options. Closely watch your state animal health offices and departments of agriculture for information on any emergency response plans they might be updating. If you suspect a screwworm case, report it to your state veterinarian for proper testing and confirmation. Sharing unverified information online can cause unnecessary alarm and negatively impact the livestock industry. Accurate reporting helps protect both animal health and our agricultural community.

For guidance on how to prevent and treat a potential NWS infestation, scan the QR code or visit [USDA.gov](https://www.usda.gov) for official resources.



Life Cycle

Courtesy of USDA APHIS



1. The adult screwworm fly is attracted to the smell of an open wound and lays her eggs on the edges of it.
2. Within a few hours, the eggs hatch into larvae, which burrow into the wound to feed. This worsens the wound and attracts more flies, which lay more eggs.
3. The larvae feed for about 1 week and then fall off and burrow into the ground to pupate.
4. After at least 7 days, an adult fly emerges.

INJECTION ENSURES WHAT INGESTION ALONE CAN'T.

EVERY ANIMAL. EVERY TIME.



Multimin® 90 (zinc, copper, manganese, and selenium injection) delivers essential trace minerals to cattle. Adding it to your oral nutrition program helps prepare your herd when it matters most.

DON'T CHANCE IT. LEARN MORE AT [AXIOTA.COM](https://www.axiota.com).



IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FOR MULTIMIN® 90: Not for use in humans, keep out of reach of children. Multimin 90 has a preslaughter withdrawal time of 14 days after injection. Do not use during the first trimester of pregnancy or in pre-ruminant calves as safety has not been established. Selenium and copper are toxic if administered in excess and may lead to sudden death, depression, weakness, ataxia, salivation, and drooling. Do not use concurrently with other selenium or copper injections or boluses. Maximum volume per injection site is 7 mL. Allow a minimum of 30 days before considering repeat dosing. See prescribing information.

Axiota
AX-00087 ©
2025 Axiota®
[axiota.com](https://www.axiota.com)

Brief Summary of Full Prescribing Information

MULTIMIN® 90 (zinc, copper, manganese, and selenium injection)

Active Ingredients: Zinc 60 mg/mL (as zinc oxide); Copper 15 mg/mL (as copper carbonate); Manganese 10 mg/mL (as manganese carbonate); Selenium 5 mg/mL (as sodium selenite)

Inactive Ingredients: Edetic acid 399.74 mg/mL; Sodium hydroxide 106.9 mg/mL; Benzyl alcohol 10.4 mg/mL (as preservative)

CAUTION: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

INDICATIONS FOR USE

To provide a supplemental source of zinc, copper, manganese, and selenium in cattle. Not for use in pregnant cows and heifers during their first trimester because reproductive safety testing has not been done in these animals. Do not use in beef calves less than 2 months of age, dairy calves, and veal calves because safety has not been established.

Before using this drug, read package insert for full prescribing information.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Determine accurate body weights prior to treatment. Administer subcutaneously under the loose skin of the middle of the side of the neck per the following dosages depending on age and bodyweight of the cattle:

Cattle up to 1 year, 1 mL/100 lb bodyweight
Cattle from 1-2 years, 1 mL/150 lb bodyweight
Cattle over 2 years, 1 mL/200 lb bodyweight

To be administered as a single dose. The maximum volume per injection site is 7 mL. Use standard aseptic procedures during administration to reduce the risk of injection site abscesses or lesions. Ensure there are at least 4 inches between injection sites for MULTIMIN® 90 (zinc, copper, manganese, and selenium injection) and other injection sites.

MULTIMIN® 90 is intended as a single dose product. Allow a minimum of 30 days before considering repeat dosing. Additional zinc, copper, manganese, or selenium products should not be administered at the same time.

Use within 28 days of first puncture of the vial and puncture a maximum of 15 times. If more than 15 punctures are anticipated, the use of multi-dosing equipment is recommended. When using a draw-off spike or needle with bore diameter larger than 16 gauge, discard any product remaining in the vial immediately after use.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Do not use MULTIMIN® 90 concurrently with other injectable selenium and copper products. Do not use MULTIMIN® 90 concurrently with selenium or copper boluses.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Withdrawal Periods

Cattle must not be slaughtered for human food consumption within 14 days of the last treatment. No milk discard time is required when used according to labeling.

User Safety Warnings

Not for use in humans. Keep out of reach of children. Do not allow children access to used or empty syringes. Wash hands after use. This product is highly concentrated in zinc, copper, manganese, and selenium. Due to a potential risk of zinc, copper, manganese, and selenium toxicity, care should be taken when handling the product to avoid accidental self-injection. Symptoms of exposure to zinc, copper, manganese, and selenium include aches, chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tachycardia, epigastric pain, tremors, and irritability.

In case of accidental self-injection or ingestion, SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION and take the vial with you.

To report a suspected adverse drug experience or to obtain a safety data sheet, contact Multimin North America, Inc. at 970-372-2302.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Accidental overdose of copper or selenium through misdosing or the use of multiple sources, including the use of injectable products in addition to high dietary levels, can result in adverse events, including death, depression, weakness, ataxia, salivation, and drooling.

Animal Safety Warnings and Precautions

Selenium and copper are toxic if administered in excess. MULTIMIN® 90 may cause clinical signs associated with copper toxicity or selenium toxicity, including death, if overdosed or used in conjunction with excessive dietary levels of copper and selenium or other selenium or copper products. Additional zinc, copper, manganese, or selenium

products should not be administered at the same time. Do not use concurrently with other injectable selenium and copper products. Do not use concurrently with selenium or copper boluses.

MULTIMIN® 90 may cause injection site swelling that appears on the day of injection and resolves by 2 days later. MULTIMIN® 90 may cause induration at the injection site that appears the day of injection and may persist for at least 14 days post-injection. These reactions may result in trim loss of edible tissue at slaughter.

Do not use in cases of known hypersensitivity to the active ingredients or to any of the excipients. Do not use in emaciated cattle with a body condition score of 1 on a 5-point scale in dairy or 1-3 on a 9-point scale in beef.

Do not use during the first trimester of pregnancy because safety has not been evaluated. Do not use in pre-ruminant calves because safety has not been evaluated.

TARGET ANIMAL SAFETY

Target animal safety was evaluated in cattle less than 10 months of age. 16 non-pregnant females and 16 intact males (4 animals per sex per treatment group) received MULTIMIN® 90 (1x, 3x, or 5x the labeled dose) or saline for 3 consecutive days. The only treatment-associated findings from the 1x dose group included injection site swelling and a minor, clinically insignificant, dose and time dependent decrease in cholesterol. The treatment-associated findings from the 3x dose group were injection site swelling, a decrease in feed consumption, and a decrease in cholesterol. In the 5x dose group, treatment-associated findings included injection site swelling, a decrease in feed consumption, a decrease in cholesterol, an increase in creatinine kinase, a decrease in calcium, and signs of acute copper toxicity (2 out of 8 animals), including sudden death, depression, weakness, ataxia, salivation, and drooling. Animals in the 5x dose group also had hepatic centrilobular necrosis on necropsy and an increase in serum chemistries associated with liver damage.

STORAGE, HANDLING, AND DISPOSAL

Store between 15°C and 30°C (59°F and 86°F)

Manufactured for: Multimin North America, Inc., Fort Collins, CO 80528

Approved by FDA under NADA # 141-582
FOI: <https://animal.drugs.fda.gov/adafda/app/search/public/document/download/15347>

MULTIMIN® 90 is available in 100 mL and 500 mL vials.

Revision date: July 2025



Kinzie

SWEET BBQ SAUCE DOUBLE PATTY SMASH BURGERS

Ingredients

1 lb ground beef
4 slices sharp cheddar cheese
1 small yellow onion, thinly sliced
2 brioche buns, sliced
Salt & pepper to taste
Neutral oil or mayo for toasting buns

BBQ Smash Sauce

¼ cup mayo
1 tbsp Kinzie Sweet BBQ Sauce
1 tsp yellow mustard
1 tbsp chopped pickles

— Instructions —

1. Make the BBQ Smash Sauce: In a small bowl, combine mayo, Kinzie Sweet BBQ Sauce, mustard, and chopped pickles. Mix well and refrigerate until ready to use.
 2. Prep the Beef Patties: Divide the beef into 4 equal portions (about 4 oz. each). Roll into loose balls—don't overwork the meat. Season lightly with salt and pepper.
 3. Sauté the Onions: In a skillet over medium heat, add a little oil and sauté the sliced onions until golden and slightly caramelized, about 8-10 minutes. Set aside.
 4. Toast the Buns: Spread a light layer of mayo on the cut side of each brioche bun. Toast in a skillet until golden and crispy. Set aside.
 5. Smash Those Patties: Heat a cast iron skillet or griddle over high heat until smoking hot. Place 2 beef balls in the skillet, spaced apart. Using a heavy spatula (or burger press), smash each ball flat until about ¼ inch thick. Season with salt and pepper. Then, cook for 1.5 to 2 minutes until the edges are deeply browned. Flip, immediately top each patty with a slice of cheddar, and cook for another minute. Repeat.
1. Assemble the Burgers:
 - Bottom bun
 - Generous layer of BBQ smash sauce
 - Caramelized onions
 - Double cheese-covered patties
 - Another swipe of BBQ smash sauce on the top bun
 - Top bun

2025 REGION ROUNDUP Recap

Six of the seven Region Roundup events took place over the summer, with the final Roundup to take place in Spearfish on September 14. Thank you to all the sponsors for making these events a success!

Watertown Region Roundup

The Watertown Region Roundup social took place in conjunction with the Stockmanship & Stewardship event hosted by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association at Labby's Sports Bar & Grill. NCBA's CEO, Colin Woodall was on hand to talk to members about national policy priorities. It was a great night catching up with fellow Cattlemen, as well as network with new faces that attended the Stockmanship & Stewardship event.



Gettysburg Region Roundup

At the Gettysburg Region Roundup, attendees heard an update from the South Dakota Brand Board and had an in-depth demonstration on electronic identification tags and how they can be used as a livestock management tool by SDSU Extension. Attendees also heard an update from the South Dakota Brand Board about the brand registration, inspection, and investigation programs.



Mitchell Region Roundup

Hosted at Palace City Brewery, the Mitchell Region Roundup included policy updates by Southeast Board Directors Colby Olson and Austin Havlik, followed by a presentation by Scott Varilek of Kooima Kooima Varilek Trading, a trusted voice in ag risk management for over 40 years. The SDCA Friend of the Southeast Region was awarded to Jim Woster. Attendees enjoyed Lyon Ranch Beef and ended the night with live music by Karter Kenis!



Pierre, Winner, and Wall Region Roundups

Ethan Lane, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, and Tanner Beymer, Senior Director of Government Affairs, joined the Pierre, Winner, and Wall Region Roundups where they held town halls with members of SDCA, NCBA, and the public. Ethan and Tanner toured the state outside of Region Roundup meetings with Craig Bieber, SDCA Vice President, where they had important conversations with folks throughout the industry. At the Region Roundups, Ethan and Tanner discussed NCBA's grassroots policy process, the Checkoff, EID, MCOOL, and more.



Mid-Year Observations

Matthew Diersen, PhD

Griffith Chair in Agricultural Finance at South Dakota State University

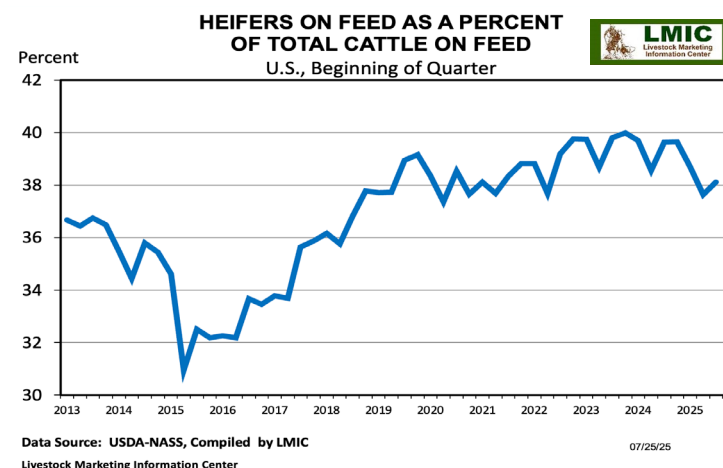


The mid-year reports give some insights into continued tight supplies and high prices for all classes of cattle. The July Cattle report confirmed smaller inventories of beef cows, heifers, steers, and calves compared to two years ago. The supply of feeder cattle outside of feedlots was again lower too. The calf crop was lower than two years ago, and lower than last year (based on full-year estimates). There are many factors that have changed from two years ago with higher cattle prices, a different beef and dairy mix, and disrupted trade flows, which generally favor expansion. The ratio of calves under 500 pounds to all cows and heifers that have calved was 68.2 in mid-2023. While the market wants more cattle, that ratio declined to 67.7 in mid-2025.

At some point, cow-calf producers may be able to retain enough heifers to expand. While the overall inventory is tight, the heifer mix on feed has been hinting at some retention. Collected quarterly in Cattle on Feed reports, the heifer mix, the ratio of heifers to all cattle on feed (steers and heifers), was 38.1 percent as of July 1, 2025 (see figure). The mix had been trending lower, reaching 37.6 percent as of April 1, 2025, before seasonally increasing. The mix had been relatively stable for several years before this recent decline. However, it is not near the level that signals widespread expansion such in mid-2015.

Lower inventory levels have meant lower beef production during the first half of 2025 compared to a year ago. The recent Livestock Slaughter report showed that from January through June of 2025, a total of 15.0 million head were slaughtered. The volume is down from 15.9 million head for the same span in 2024. Lower volume is the primary reason that beef production in the first half of 2025 was at 13.0 billion pounds versus 13.3 billion pounds the year before. Average live weights for the year-to-date were 1,427 pounds, versus only 1,390 pounds in 2024. Furthermore, higher weights and a slightly different slaughter mix resulted in a slight increase in the overall yield (pounds of beef produced) for the year. However, greater weights and yields only offset a little more than half of the impact of fewer head harvested.

The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service compiles transactions of feeder cattle at physical auction locations, through direct sales, and using video auctions. Not every sale location is included, but typically, the larger, more consistent outlets will have a market reporter. During all of 2024, there were over 13.6 million head of feeder cattle traded and reported across different outlets. For comparison, there were 22.2



million head of feeder cattle placed by large feedlots during 2024. Physical auctions accounted for 9.2 million head, direct sales for 1.9 million head, and video auctions for 2.5 million head. Seasonally, that general pattern holds except during July, when video auctions have had more head reported than at regular actions. In July of 2025, that trend continued as 814,200 head were reported at video auctions while 394,400 head were reported at physical auctions.

Much of the video volume was concentrated in two sales by Superior Video Auction, one by Northern Video Auction, and one by Western Video Auction. Combined, and those four sale reports covered just over 750,000 head of beef steers and heifers. Across those auctions, over 96 percent of head traded, had a non-current or forward delivery date. The delivery times were spread from August through December. As expected, there are relatively large volumes of heavier feeders scheduled for delivery in August and September. The largest volumes are for feeders weighing less than 600 pounds for delivery in October and November.

For insights into basis levels to expect this fall, those video auction prices were isolated further. The sales were filtered to only include steers from North Central states (including South Dakota) with delivery dates of October-November, November, and November-December. Then, the weights were isolated to those weighing 5-600 pounds. Just over 27,000 head met the criteria and included various lot descriptions. The average price (observed during July) was \$416.00 per cwt. The November feeder cattle futures price averaged \$320.00 per cwt during July. This implies a basis of \$96.00, which is higher than the \$72.00 observed last November.

There were several entries for the North Central region with heifers labeled as replacements in the lot description. Based on sale weights and delivery dates, these would be unbred. Most were from the Northern Video Auction. Looking at the July AMS report, there was not a consistent pattern clearly showing a premium and/or discount for heifers classified as replacements compared to heifers with no lot description. Even with large total volumes, it was not easy to match weights and delivery months. Fall is right around the corner with larger physical auction volumes and maybe better market signals about expansion.



MIDWEST AGRICULTURAL EXPORT SUMMIT

SDCA Director, Austin Havlik, and SDCA member, Stacy Hadrick, attended the 2025 Midwest Agricultural Export Summit. Below they will each share insights from the event.

The Midwest Ag Export Summit had a different tone this year - one shaped by uncertainty, shifting trade strategies, and a new style of deal-making. Every speaker and panelist seemed to glance at their phones before stepping to the podium, just in case a fresh trade announcement, or tariff hike, had landed while they were on stage.

While no brand-new trade agreements or major breakthroughs came during the summit itself, there was no shortage of optimism in the room. The big shift? It's becoming clear that "Fair Trade" has taken the place of "Free Trade" as the model for doing business between the United States and other countries. Fair Trade, in this context, isn't the coffee label you see at the grocery store, it's a policy approach to ensure balanced trade between partners, often tied to other issues like border policy, intellectual property, and national security. President Trump has made it clear he prefers these one-on-one deals with individual countries over broad regional agreements.

This matters for cattle producers. Just weeks before the summit, the U.S. reached new trade frameworks with Japan and South Korea, two of our biggest beef customers. Both deals keep U.S. beef access open, while locking in tariff rates and securing billions in overseas investment here at home. Japan remains a top-tier market for high-quality U.S. beef, and South Korea has been closing the gap quickly in both volume and value. With these agreements in place, stability in those markets should keep demand strong for the beef coming from South Dakota ranches.

Much of the day's discussions centered on row crops, including corn and soybeans, and the reality that even record yields aren't guaranteeing profitability. However, the broader takeaway applied to livestock, too: relying too heavily on a single export market, especially one that can turn into an adversary overnight, isn't a sustainable long-term strategy. Diversifying our customer base and building trust with trading partners is key.

One consistent theme ran through the conversations with international guests. Personal relationships and trust matter more than ever in global trade. Buyers want to work with people they know, from places they trust, for products they believe in. That's an advantage South Dakota producers can lean into. We've got the reputation for producing some of the best beef in the world, backed by people who stand behind it. Governor Rhoden put it plainly in his opening remarks, "Over the past few years, South Dakota has made its presence known to the world. With a President focused on striking, the opportunity is here. The time to build connections, and secure our markets for the future, is now."

- Austin Havlik

Once again, the Midwest Agricultural Export Summit had a strong lineup of speakers to address solutions the agricultural trade deficit. With Luke Lindberg recently being appointed as USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Ag Affairs, Jesse Fonkert took the reins as the new President and CEO of South Dakota Trade. Highlights from the meeting included discussion about export markets beyond China for all agricultural products. Over 400 U.S. beef plants remain ineligible to export to China, while other trade barriers persist, including non-science-based restrictions in the European Union and Indonesia's Halal requirement. Meanwhile, Brazil and Egypt present opportunities for export growth, and the United Kingdom has recently lowered tariffs on U.S. beef imports.

One session included Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Hunter Roberts. Secretary Roberts indicated that South Dakota has investigated the development of a container location in the state, that would support producers to export value added productions, just as North Dakota and Nebraska have done. Director of Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Sherry Vinton, indicated that an inland port in her state that has worked well to export products.

A final highlight that is worth a note, Dr. Julie Callahan has been appointed to serve as the assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy. Julie has dedicated her career to advancing agricultural trade. We're in great hands with Dr. Callahan and the other eight dedicated agricultural trade team who focuses daily on advancing U.S. agriculture products. Luke Lindberg and Dr. Callahan noted they are working together, and a representative from USDA's Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs office has been assigned to the U.S. Trade Representative's office to improve communication between the two. The South Dakota Trade office welcomes questions and is eager to provide education for those interested in learning how to export a product and navigate the complexities of international trade.

- Stacy Hadrick

Power of Angus.



Andrew Swanson,
Regional Manager

Minnesota
North Dakota
South Dakota

A reliable business partner is difficult to come by. Contact Andrew Swanson to locate Angus genetics, select marketing options tailored to your needs, and to access American Angus Association® programs and services. Put the business breed to work for you.

Contact Regional Manager Andrew Swanson:
Cell: 507-829-4133
aswanson@angus.org

ANGUS

THE BUSINESS BREED

3201 Frederick Ave. | St. Joseph, MO 64506
816.383.5100 | www.ANGUS.org

© 2024-2025 American Angus Association

SERVICE. EXPERIENCE. TECHNICAL SUPPORT.

We offer high-quality feed products paired with nutritional expertise and efficiency to ensure our customers have the support they need, when they need it.



— OUR NUTRITIONAL PARTNER —
 **PURINA**

South Dakota State University

COLLEGIATE CATTLEMEN'S CLUB

South Dakota State University's third official year of Collegiate Cattlemen's presents to you this years Executive Team.



Abigail Morse
PRESIDENT

Abigail is an upcoming senior, majoring in animal science with minors in agriculture business and agribusiness marketing. She grew up on a cow/calf and row crop operation in Madison, South Dakota. Growing up, she was involved in 4-H and FFA, and through these organizations she showed cattle for many years. In her time at SDSU, she has been involved in Collegiate Cattlemen's, this year's secretary for the 103rd Little International, Swine Club, Alpha Zeta, Animal Science Ambassadors, undergraduate research, and is in the Fishback Honors College.

Andrew Timm hails from Adams, Minnesota. He is an upcoming junior majoring in animal science with a minor in ranch management. Andrew is a fourth generation Hereford breeder, and his family runs a cow/calf show operation. Their main goal is to produce show calves with an overall goal of having great cows. He has been showing and working calves since he can remember and has the opportunity to work for some prestigious cattle operations. When he is on campus he is involved in Collegiate Cattlemen's, Block and Bridle, Meat Science Club, Farmhouse, Little International, and the Wool Judging Team



Andrew Timm
VICE PRESIDENT



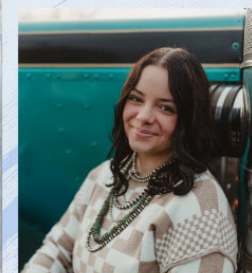
Beth Holst
SECRETARY

Beth Holst is an upcoming junior majoring in agriculture science with minors in animal science, agriculture business, and agriculture marketing. She was raised on her family's dairy and beef farm in Kellog, Minnesota. Beth's family primarily milk Holstein and Brown Swiss cows and they manage a herd of 150 Black Angus cow/calf pairs. Growing up, she was active in 4-H and FFA and she has extensive experience in livestock care and management. She has found her passion in continuing her family's legacy and has plans to take over and expand her beef cattle operation. On campus she is involved in Collegiate Cattlemen's, Dairy Club, and Little International

Kory Storm is an upcoming senior from Ethan, South Dakota where he had the privilege of growing up on his family's corn, soybean, and alfalfa farm. They also raise cow/calves and have a wean to finish swine operation. He has a double major in animal science and agricultural science along with a minor in agriculture business. While at SDSU, he has been involved in Collegiate Cattlemen's, Swine Club, and Little International. Post graduation, he plans to return to his family farm and carry on the family legacy.



Kory Storm
TREASURER



Payton Sailor
MARKETING CHAIR

Payton Sailor is an upcoming senior majoring in agriculture science with a minor in animal science. She has been involved in Collegiate Cattlemen's, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, Little International, Block and Bridle, and Swine Club. Payton is originally from Conger, Minnesota where she was active in FFA and 4-H. Through these organizations, she gained experience with cattle through the show side of things. When she wasn't showing cattle, she was at the shop assisting her dad, or working with other livestock including swine and sheep.

SELL A LOT. GIVE A LOT. *Thanks A Lot!*

Thanks A Lot is a simple way for cattle producers to support the Stockyards Ag Experience. By donating the proceeds from just one lot in your sale, you'll help preserve our agricultural heritage and inspire the next generation. Learn more and join the effort at StockyardsAgExperience.org.



STOCKYARDS
AG EXPERIENCE

Pregnancy Diagnosis in Beef Cattle: Tools, Timing, & Accuracy

Common Concerns from a Practical Perspective

Dr. Jessica Drum, SDSU Extension Beef Reproduction Physiology Specialist



Pregnancy diagnosis is a cornerstone of reproductive management in beef cattle operations. The ability to confirm pregnancy is more than just a reproductive checkpoint—it's a strategic tool. It helps measure fertility outcomes, assesses the effectiveness of synchronization protocols, and provides an opportunity to intervene early when cows are not pregnant. This early intervention can include resynchronization or culling decisions, both of which have significant economic implications.

While several diagnostic methods exist, each has its strengths and limitations, especially when applied early in gestation. Each method available varies in cost, accuracy, and practicality. When choosing a method, producers must consider herd size, labor availability, timing of bull introduction after AI, access to veterinary services or ultrasound equipment, and goals for resynchronization or fetal sexing.

The most common methods of detecting pregnancies at the end of the breeding season are the direct methods:

- Transrectal palpation** is inexpensive and accessible but requires skill and experience to avoid misdiagnosis or potential harm to the pregnancy (Iatrogenic Pregnancy Loss). Typically involves detecting fluid in the uterus, membrane slip, or placentomes in more advanced pregnancies. While it provides a simple yes-or-no answer, it does not offer accurate information about fetal age or viability.

- Transrectal ultrasound** allows visualization of the embryonic vesicle as early as day 25 post-breeding and can detect a heartbeat, fetal development, and even fetal sex. Although ultrasound requires specialized equipment and training, it significantly improves diagnostic accuracy and can help differentiate pregnancies resulting from artificial insemination (AI) versus natural service (NS) at the end of the breeding season.

Challenges in Differentiating FTAI vs. Bull-Bred Pregnancies

In synchronization programs, producers often introduce bulls two weeks after FTAI to breed cows that did not conceive via AI. This practice minimizes handling and maximizes pregnancy rates. However, it complicates efforts to distinguish between FTAI and bull-bred pregnancies.

The gestational age difference between FTAI and bull-bred

pregnancies may be as short as 10-14 days, making it

difficult to differentiate using palpation alone. Studies estimate an error rate of 5.8% to 7.1% in distinguishing these pregnancies, depending on gestation length. Errors include both underestimation and overestimation of fetal age (Kasimanickam et al. 2011). Hence, the use of ultrasound to differentiate those pregnancies is highly recommended. Crown-rump length measurements strongly correlate with embryo age, offering another tool for estimating gestational age and can be used as a tool to accurately estimate gestational age, hence, differentiating between AI and bull-bred.

Ultrasound vs. Palpation: Speed & Efficiency

Even though it requires more skill, ultrasound is a rapid and effective method for pregnancy diagnosis. Experienced palpators can adapt quickly to ultrasound technology. In one study, the average time to assess pregnancy via palpation was 11.3 seconds, compared to 16.1 seconds using ultrasound. Interestingly, older fetuses require less time for diagnosis, regardless of method. While ultrasound may not increase accuracy for experienced palpators, it can significantly improve diagnostic precision for less experienced technicians. However, two caveats must be considered:

1. Focus on identifying nonpregnant cows – this enables timely resynchronization.
2. Implement a management strategy – ensure nonpregnant cows are returned to service quickly.

Risk of Iatrogenic Pregnancy Loss

Concerns have been raised about the potential for iatrogenic pregnancy loss due to early transrectal palpation. Some studies report increased risk, while others show no effect or even reduced risk. Despite ongoing debate, other factors—such as nutrition, stress, and herd health—have a greater influence on calving rates than palpation technique alone.

Timing & Accuracy of Diagnosis

Research by Kastelic et al. (1989) showed that pregnancy diagnosis by ultrasound below 24 days post-insemination yielded lower accuracy (50-75%). However, accuracy improved significantly as the pregnancy progressed, with ultrasound detection of the embryonic vesicle becoming highly reliable after day 25 of gestation. For practical purposes, pregnancy diagnosis should be performed when embryos are at least 26 days old, ensuring high accuracy and minimizing false results.

Fetal Sexing & Timing

Between days 55 and 110 of gestation, ultrasound can also be used to determine fetal sex by locating the genital tubercle. In male fetuses, it appears behind the umbilical cord, while in females, it is located under the tail. This capability is particularly useful for herd planning and marketing decisions, especially in operations where sexed semen or targeted breeding strategies are employed.

Conclusion

Pregnancy diagnosis is more than just confirming conception—it's a strategic tool for improving reproductive outcomes. Whether using palpation, ultrasound, or biochemical tests, timely and accurate diagnosis helps producers make informed decisions that enhance herd productivity. Methods can also be more or less suitable for each situation. For example, palpation may suffice for small herds or late-season checks, while ultrasound offers advantages for early diagnosis and herd-level reproductive planning.

Extension specialists can support producers by offering training in palpation and ultrasound techniques, interpreting test results, and integrating pregnancy diagnosis into broader reproductive management plans.

References

- Hughes, E.A. and D.A.R. Davies. 1989. Practical uses of ultrasound in early pregnancy in cattle. *Vet. Rec.* 124:456-458.
- Kasimanickam, R., Whittier, W. D., Tibary, A., & Inman, B. (2011). Error in pregnancy diagnosis by per-rectal palpation in beef cows. *Clinical Theriogenology*, 3(1), 43-47.
- Kastelic, J.P., S. Curran and O.J. Ginther. 1989. Accuracy of ultrasonography for pregnancy diagnosis on days 10 to 22 in heifers. *Theriogenology* 31:813(abstr.).
- Perry, R.C., W.E. Beal and L.R. Corah. 1990. Reproductive applications of ultrasound in cattle part 2: Monitoring uterine characteristics and pregnancy. *Agri-practice* 11:31-35



The Leave Your Mark Legacy Fund is a voluntary fundraising campaign to support specific SDCA programs and initiatives selected by the SDCA Board of Directors that will advance the interests of cattlemen across our state and ensuring the sustainability and growth of the organization. The SDCA Board of Directors has elected to earmark contributions to the Leave Your Mark Legacy Fund in fiscal year 2026 to support the administration of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Leadership Academy. Contributions to the Leave Your Mark Legacy Fund are tax deductible, thanks to the partnership between the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

☐ Check enclosed* ☐ Invoice Me

Name: _____

Company Name (if applicable): _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

How would you like to be recognized?

☐ Give Anonymously

☐ Recognize as indicated below:

Skip the form & donate online!



Return this pledge card to:
South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation
5013 S Louise Avenue, #116
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

*Make check payable to SD Cattlemen's Foundation & include SDCA Leave Your Mark Legacy Fund on the check memo line.

South Dakota



ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

DECEMBER 2-3, 2025
THE LODGE | DEADWOOD, S.D.



Agenda

The South Dakota Cattlemen's Association's Annual Convention and Trade Show is slated for December 2 - 3 in Deadwood. The Annual Convention & Trade Show provides a forum for members to network with fellow cattlemen, craft policy that will guide SDCA staff and leadership in the coming year and learn about the latest industry happenings.

The 2025 event focuses on practical solutions to improve your operation and bottom line.

December 2, 2025

7:00 AM - Registration & Heavy Equipment Move - In

9:00 AM - Ag & Food Policy Committee Meeting

9:00 AM - Tax & Credit Policy Committee Meeting

10:30 AM - Live Cattle Marketing & International Trade Policy Committee Meeting

Noon - *Cattlemen's*
LAND & LEGACY

3:30 PM - Trade Show Opens

4:30 PM - PREM & Federal Lands Policy Committee Meeting

4:30 PM - Cattle Health & Wellbeing Policy Committee Meeting

5:45 PM - Trade Show Time

6:00 PM - Bet on Beef Happy Hour

7:00 PM - President's Auction

December 3, 2025

7:00 AM - Registration Opens

7:15 AM - Breakfast

8:00 AM - DC Update

9:00 AM - Trade Show Time

9:30 AM - Annual Business Meeting

11:00 AM - Trade Show Time

Noon - Lunch / Featured Keynote: Nevil Speer

2:00 PM - Trade Show Time

2:30 PM -  CATTLEMEN'S
EDUCATION
SERIES

5:00 PM - Last Call Saloon



Meet the Emcee ♠ Walter Kinzie

Walter Kinzie is an entrepreneur and event producer known for founding Encore Live, the Fort Worth-based company behind major global events, including nine official celebrations for President Donald Trump's 2017 inauguration. He also created the Encore Drive-In Nights Series during the COVID-19 shutdowns, bringing live music from stars like Garth Brooks and Metallica to audiences across North America.

Now based in South Dakota, Kinzie has turned a family recipe into a fast-growing business: Kinzie Foods, a line of barbecue sauces that began as gifts for clients and is now sold nationwide. What started as a passion project in his kitchen has grown into a brand featured at festivals, restaurants, and online, with retail distribution on the horizon.

Check out a signature Kinzie recipe on page 8!

Cattlemen's LAND & LEGACY

The Cattlemen's Land & Legacy event is the Convention and Trade Show's day one program. The Cattlemen's Land & Legacy is focused on conservation and working lands, be inspired and gain insight into concepts and practices that you can implement on your operation.

Schedule of Events* (Noon - 3:00 PM):
Lunch & Keynote

Ranching for the Future workshop by



featuring



(*Schedule is subject to change.)



THE
LODGE AT
DEADWOOD
Gaming Resort

RESERVE your ROOM

☎ 877.393.5634

🌐 deadwoodlodge.com

📍 100 Pine Crest Lane
Deadwood, SD 57732

77TH ANNUAL
CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

Make plans to attend!

Attendee and vendor registration is open at sdcattlemen.org or by scanning the QR code. Join us!

Register to Attend!



Become a Vendor!



Lyonville

45

Chamberlain

In Brule County, where the prairie stretches without end and the work never stops, beef isn't just a business – it's a way of life. For six generations, the Olson family has ranched on the same ground their ancestors pieced together almost 100 years ago. Today, Colby and Kendra Olson carry on that legacy at Olson Ranch, while building their own venture, Lyon Ranch Beef, a direct-to-consumer brand born of experience, driven by quality, and dedicated to delivering steakhouse-caliber beef straight to the family table.

The Olson story begins during the Great Depression. Colby's great-great grandfather, Jay Will and his son bought small parcels when land was cheap and times were tough. Piece by piece, they build the foundation of what would later become the family operation. Colby's grandmother Nancy Will and her husband Wayne Olson built on that foundation establishing the Olson Ranch.

By the time Colby was in high school, the ranch was running yearlings and the feedyard had expanded. His high school sweetheart, Kendra, worked alongside Colby during the summer months. After graduation and while the United States was at war with Afghanistan and Iraq, Colby considered joining the Marines. However, he remembered his father's words about his future: "You alone aren't going to win or lose the war for the United States, but you alone can help transition this legacy going forward."

Colby and Kendra attended South Dakota State University. Kendra studied elementary education and Colby studied animal science, ag economics and ag business, and he also competed on the meats and livestock judging teams and later interned with Tyson Fresh Meats in Kansas. "I grew up raising cattle, but the internship showed me the other side – fabrication, packaging, labeling – the entire supply chain," he recalls. "It's one of the most intricate businesses in the world."

Since returning to the ranch in 2013, they've continued to develop their own herd, fine-tuned genetics, and honed nutrition programs. When Lyon Ranch Beef launched, the ranch already had every link in the production chain in place: a

registered Angus cow-calf herd, a heifer retention program, and a feedlot to finish cattle. Lyon Ranch Beef is the culmination of years of breeding decisions, feeding strategies, and a vision for what great beef should be. "The idea of a direct-to-consumer business has been in my head for over 10 years," Colby says. "Back then I couldn't pull five head out of a pen and have them all grade Prime." After years of hard work, the very first Lyon Ranch Beef harvest told a different story: six head processed, with five grading Prime. "We didn't want to do this unless we could sell the best product there is," said Kendra. "And now we can."

Before opening sales, Colby and Kendra put their beef to the ultimate blind taste test. Their 28-day aged cuts drew comparisons to Wagyu and \$150 restaurant steaks. "What we're trying to do is give people the Ruth Chris Steakhouse or Morrie's experience, but at their own kitchen table," said Kendra. "You can't beat grilling up your own beef at home."

Lyon Ranch Beef's mission is to make restaurant-quality beef accessible for families to enjoy at home, at an affordable price. Whether it's a Labor Day cookout, an anniversary dinner, or a family reunion, they want their beef to be the meal people talk about after the plates are cleared. "It feels pretty good when someone serves our beef to a house full of guests and they get compliments all night," said Kendra. "That's the experience we want people to have."

For Colby and Kendra, the brand is more than just a business, it's something to call their own. It's a bridge between past and future, one they hope to share with their children, Clancy (10), Georgia (8), River (5), and Vera (3). "This is for our kids," says Kendra. "We want them to have something that started when they were young, and the opportunity to share in something we all love – isn't that what it's all about?"

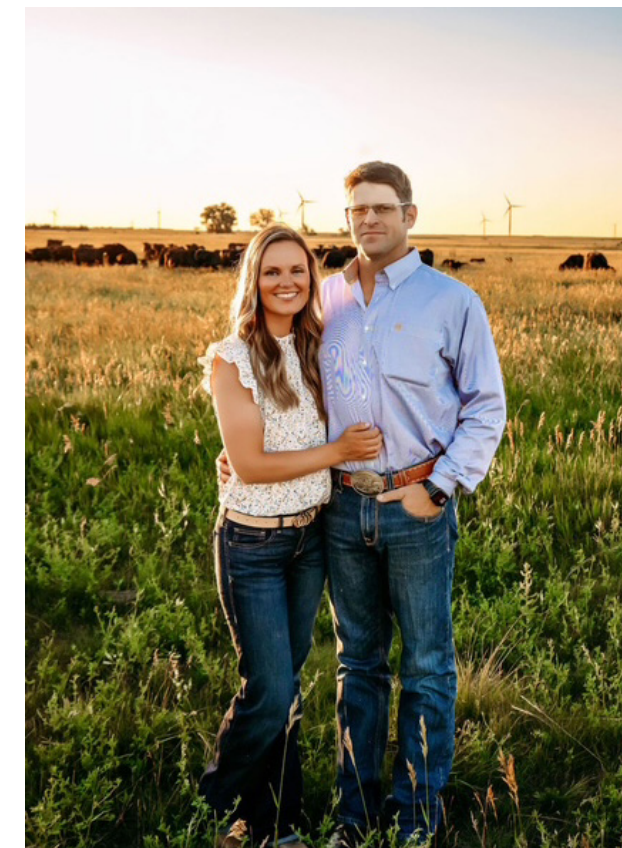
From land purchased during the Great Depression to today's premium aged Angus steaks, every bite of Lyon Ranch Beef tells a story of dedication, heritage, and a family's unwavering belief that the best beef in the world can come from right here in South Dakota.



Colby & Kendra working on the ranch in high school.



L to R: River, Georgia, Vera, and Clancy





Making the Most of Membership

Calli Williams, Vice President of Memberhsip

The fall run is officially here and at TW Angus, that means calves are weaned, and selections are being made for our annual online production sale, the Black Hills Stock Show, and our direct-to-consumer beef business. Similar decisions are being made at ranches across the Midwest.

Summer 2025 quickly became a summer of both state and national interviews due to the rising cost of beef for our consumers. While speaking with news anchors, I explained that the U.S. is facing a historic low in cattle numbers, while consumers continue to choose beef as their number one source of protein, resulting in consumers seeing a higher price reflected in the grocery stores. A recurring question in these interviews was whether producers will rebuild the cowherd soon. In response, I redirected the news anchors to the team at CattleFax for specifics on the U.S. cowherd, but come fall, we will see if producers decide to capitalize on market prices, or if ranchers will rebuild their herds.

This past year I have been more involved with both the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association (SDCA) and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), and I cannot stress enough the importance of being a member at both levels. After attending the Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) and having the opportunity to network with producers from across the country and visit our state delegation in D.C., I saw the full value of my SDCA and NCBA membership dues

hard at work. YCC gave us the opportunity to get our boots in the door and build relationships for the future. Relationships that will make a difference and allow our voice to be heard.

My membership and involvement with NCBA is also what led to recent state and national interviews. It was an honor to be asked to participate in the interviews, but it is also a reflection of how important it is to be involved with our state and national associations. Due to my involvement and recent media trainings, the media groups had a rancher they could contact rather than using the Chief Ag Economists and Ag Bankers. They were able to get an inside view from a South Dakota rancher. We are the experts within our industry, and we need to make sure we are the ones telling our story.

In addition to all the work NCBA does to ensure America's cattlemen and women are protected and fight for our rights with policy created by cattlemen for cattlemen, NCBA has a plethora of exclusive membership benefits including cost savings, and more from brands like Elanco, Gallagher, Kubota, Montana Silversmiths, Roper, and more.

If you have any questions on how to become a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, please contact myself, or our SDCA Executive Team.

Affiliate Snapshots

MCCOOK-MINER-LAKE CATTLEMEN'S AFFILIATE

The McCook-Miner-Lake Cattlemen hosted their annual T-Bone Classic at the Madison Golf & Country Club, drawing 51 teams for a day of friendly competition on the course. To cap off the event, golfers enjoyed a delicious T-bone steak dinner!



CLARK-HAMLIN CATTLMEN'S AFFILIATE

Chance Popham, President of the Clark-Hamlin Cattlemen's, presented rope halters to Clark and Hamlin County 4-Hers that participated in showmanship. The Senior Showman was also awarded a coat.



KINGSBURY CATTLEMEN'S AFFILIATE

The Kingsbury County Cattlemen's Affiliate was honored with the Community Service Award from the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, recognizing their mission to bring locally raised beef to students in Kingsbury County schools.



BACK to CAMPUS

with

Send your student back to campus with an SDCA Student Membership for only \$45.00!



BEEF

Myths v. Facts

MYTH Checkoff funds are used to support lobbying for national trade groups.

FACT Checkoff funds cannot be used to influence government policy, such as MCOOL, EID, etc., or action, including lobbying.

MYTH The Beef Checkoff lacks transparency and independent audits.

FACT By law, the CBB is required to provide annual audited financials to the public. Audits firms are independent and renewed yearly and approved by the Budget & Audit Committee.

MYTH Producers aren't represented on the Cattlemen's Beef Board and ran by national interest groups.

FACT The Cattlemen's Beef Board is a body made up of producers who are nominated by certified nominating organizations and appointed by the Secretary of the USDA.

MYTH Organizations that receive checkoff funds often use those funds to prioritize large packers, corporate feeders, and exporters and not the independent rancher.

FACT By law, only beef industry organizations with at least 2 years of operation can apply for funding, known as an Authorization Request (AR). These requests are reviewed by producer-led committee that decides approval.

Learn more about the facts by visiting linktr.ee/sdcattlemen or by scanning the QR code.



The Beef Checkoff Works - And Here's the Truth

Craig Bieber, Vice President

I recently wrote an op-ed in which I noted that the Beef Checkoff is working for us. I was challenged to define "us" and whether all producers were truly represented. These are a fair questions and here are the straight answers.

"Us" means every cattle producer large and small, who are working to run a business, support a family, and leave the ranch better than they found it. It's the men and women who show up, put in the work, and use every tool available to promote beef, grow demand, and defend our way of life. It's not the voices within our own industry who seek to divide us filing lawsuits, spinning conspiracies, and claiming collusion without a shred of credible evidence.

Let's be clear, the decline in producer numbers over the past 40 years is real and painful. But blaming that decline on the Beef Checkoff is dishonest. That dollar-per-head didn't cause rural depopulation, rising land values, tighter margins, or difficult generational transitions. Those are serious, structural issues, and pretending the Checkoff is the villain is lazy politics.

Now, let's talk about the results. The Beef Checkoff returns more than \$13 for every \$1 invested. That's not my opinion, it's from independent economists, reviewed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the full report be viewed at beefboard.org or by scanning the QR code. Critics haven't offered a single piece of data to dispute the report's findings. Casting doubt without facts isn't scrutiny, it's just slander of the professionals who've done the work.

As for the claim that producers have "no say" in how Checkoff dollars are used? That's flat-out false. I've served on the South Dakota Beef Industry Council.



SOUTH DAKOTA
BEEF WELCOMES
INDUSTRY COUNCIL

JON DILWORTH

Jon Dilworth joins the South Dakota Beef Industry team as the Executive Director. Raised on a Minnesota farm, he has held leadership roles with Hormel Foods, the Minnesota Beef Council, and in agricultural education. A graduate of South Dakota State University, he is completing his Master of Business Administration at Grand Canyon University and got his start to the beef industry showing Hereford cattle through 4-H and FFA. Jon is recognized for his work in producer engagement, beef promotion, and building strong industry partnerships.

I have submitted names for consideration on the Beef Board. I've seen the process up close. State beef councils are made up of producers. The national Beef Board is made up of producers, and the USDA oversees it all. The process is open to those willing to show up and contribute. It's not always easy, but it's there for anyone who wants to be part of the solution.

Some of the Checkoff's loudest opponents attack organizations like the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF), suggesting they only serve "big packers." That's simply not true. USMEF has leveraged our Checkoff dollars to grow beef exports beyond \$10 billion, increasing demand and putting more dollars into producers' pockets. That export value adds more than \$400 per head on fed cattle whether you run 50 or 5,000 cows.

Yes, I operate a larger ranch today, but my father started with 120 cows. Like many of you, we built our business the hard way. I know what it means to count every dollar and fight for every market. I don't look down on anyone in this business, but I don't have patience for people who lob cheap shots at the very organizations working every day to build demand and defend this industry.

I support the Beef Checkoff because I've seen what it delivers. If you don't like how something works, get involved. Seek a seat on your state beef council or on the Beef Board. Ask tough questions. Put your name forward. Show up. Work for change. But don't just tear it all down.

At the end of the day, it's the people who show up and do the work who make the difference not the ones shouting from the sidelines with empty promises and half-truths about a utopia that doesn't exist.



SOUTH DAKOTA
BEEF
INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Myths v. Facts

MYTH State Checkoff funds are used to support lobbying.

FACT The law prohibits Checkoff funds from being used to influence policy through lobbying or other legislative activity. Trade groups can apply for funding as long as the funding is for qualified, non-legislative activities. The USDA provides direct oversight of all SDBIC contract expenditures, and Checkoff funds are audited annually by an independent third party.

MYTH Independent cattle producers aren't represented on the South Dakota Beef Industry Council.

FACT The SDBIC Board of Directors is comprised of three nominated representatives from eight SD organizations:



MYTH The South Dakota Beef Industry Council gets \$1.00 from every head of cattle sold.

FACT Each dollar collected is split between the state and national programs. Fifty cents stays in South Dakota to fund in-state initiatives and additional national efforts and such as research, promotion, and education. The SD Beef Industry Council determines how the state funds are allocated. The remaining 50 cents is remitted to the national Beef Checkoff overseen by the Cattlemen's Beef Board.

South Dakota *Cattlemen's* Association
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

In early August, members of the Cattlemen's Leadership Academy gathered in Sioux Falls for Seminar III, a day designed to highlight the powerful connection between agriculture and communities of every size across South Dakota.

The class began their day at the Stockyard Ag Experience, where Jim Woster led participants through a tour and a conversation about the history of the stockyards and the impact it had on Sioux Falls, from the first roads and bridges built to support the livestock market, to the economic development that helped the city and the surrounding communities. In the years after the Stockyards held its final sale, leaders including Woster set out to create the Stockyards Ag Experience to ensure that future generations could learn about and maintain a connection to agriculture.

A leadership session focused on the importance of mentorship, building a network of people to learn from, and finding a mentor, while also teaching participants how to be a good mentee and how to become a mentor to others. Participants were presented with a set of mentorship coins and were encouraged to share with mentors to mark the beginning or deepening of a mentorship relationship; a tangible reminder that leadership is not walked alone.

A panel discussion followed, featuring Ryan Budmayr, President & CEO of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce, SD District 15 Representative

Seminar 3 Recap:
MENTORSHIP & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Kadyn Wittman, and Calli Williams, SDCA VP of Membership and NCBA Trailblazer. Moderated by Jim Woster, the panel shared perspectives on how agriculture impacts both urban and rural communities, and how producers can more effectively communicate that story across diverse audiences.

In the afternoon, Beef Logic, Inc. joined the academy to share their approach to developing and implementing nutrition education programs that promote beef as part of a healthful lifestyle. Participants then traveled to Wings Gymnastics Academy, where Beef Logic demonstrated their popular Build Your Base program. This hands-on session gave participants practical tools to design programs and events that connect beef with health, nutrition, and community well-being.

The seminar concluded at the Levitt, a free outdoor concert series in downtown Sioux Falls, where participants volunteered as greeters. By engaging with attendees, they emphasized the importance of cattle producers being visible, active contributors to their communities and building strong relationships through service.

Seminar III reinforced the role of agriculture in community vitality and provided participants with strategies to champion beef and strengthen connections with the public. The Cattlemen's Leadership Academy heads west for the fourth seminar in October that will include tours of two Black Hills ranches and sessions on advocacy and civic engagement.

Seminar Snapshot



South Dakota *Cattlemen's* Association
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

EMPOWERING PRODUCERS | CULTIVATING ADVOCATES | LEADING THE FUTURE

Apply
for Class II
by Nov. 1!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS!



CATTLEMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SCHEDULE

- April 2026 | Seminar I: Policy & Communications
- June 2026 | Seminar II: Spring Tour & Media Communications
- August 2026 | Seminar III: Mentorship & Consumer Outreach
- October 2026 | Seminar IV: Fall Tour & Persuasive Communications
- December 2026 | SDCA Convention & Trade Show
- January 2027 | Leadership Academy Graduation & SDCA Day at the Capitol

LEARN MORE & APPLY TODAY!

Applications are now open for Class II of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Leadership Academy! Participants will make a positive impact on the industry, drive sustainable growth, and shape the future of the beef production industry. Participants will be equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge, and networks to give a voice to the next generation of influential leaders in the industry!



Cattlemen's Leadership Academy Spotlights

by Kristen Smith, SDCA Contributor

Meet Trevor Johnson

Trevor Johnson grew up near Centerville, South Dakota, and returned after earning his agribusiness and agricultural business operations degree from Kansas State University. Alongside his parents and brother, Tate, the Johnsons operate Sleepy Hollow Farm, a seedstock operation raising Hereford, Angus, and Simmental cattle.

Each year, the Johnsons host a bull sale featuring around 40 bulls, emphasizing functional, well-balanced genetics that perform across diverse environments without sacrificing the genomic process. While seedstock marketing remains their core focus, Trevor and Tate are taking a formal role in the operation. The brothers are exploring ways to expand and diversify Sleepy Hollow Farm, including entering the cattle feeding sector. Their feedyard plans aim not only to diversify the business but also support bull customers through a potential calf buyback program. During the sale, and year-round, the family emphasizes functional, well-balanced genetics that work across diverse environments without sacrificing genomic progress.

Trevor and his family aim to grow their cow herd, expand bull sales into new regions, and build a sustainable customer-focused business. "Though feedyard development will be gradual, we see it as a meaningful way to add value beyond our own operation and build a legacy for future generations," said Trevor.

Trevor applied for the Cattlemen's Leaders Academy because he believes in the value of surrounding yourself with individuals who share a passion for advancing the cattle industry.

"We are stronger when we face challenges with a united front – and throughout our careers, we'll encounter issues we can't yet foresee," said Trevor. "This academy will not only make us better advocates for the beef industry, but it will also equip us to lead in our business, associations, and communities."

Trevor's interest in the SDCA stems from a concern that younger generations may not be as engaged as those before us. He hopes to gain the skills needed to help South Dakota's beef industry remain strong and vibrant for years to come.

Prior to Kansas State University, Trevor attended Butler Community College, where he earned his associates in agribusiness and competed on the livestock judging team. Afterwards, he attended Kansas State, earning himself a bachelor's degree in agribusiness while participating on the competitive meat animal evaluation team.

His time at K-State was enriched with involvement in the Center for Risk Management, Feedlot Bootcamp, as well as internships and mentorships with Adams Land & Cattle, Innovative Livestock Services, and the U.S. CattleTrace.

Since graduating last year, Trevor is back at Sleepy Hollow Farm while also gaining experience as an auditor for IMI Global and as a Commercial Marketing Representative for the American Hereford Association. The cattle business remains central to his work, but Trevor is committed to continued growth and lifelong learning.

A key part of this mindset has been co-founding the Evolving Ag Leaders Coalition, a peer group of young producers that are focused on building stronger business and growing leaders within their operations, families, and communities.

Trevor's mission is simple: serve the cattle industry in ways that promote sustainability and longevity while honoring tradition and embracing change. "I believe the most important thing we can do is leave everything better that we found it," he said. "I hope to ensure my family business remains viable for generations, mentor the next generation as I was mentored, and continue advocating for our way of life as agriculture represents a smaller share of the population."

This Leadership Academy cohort represents the future thought leaders and problem solvers of the industry. He's looking forward to building deeper relationships with the class, learning about the challenges and opportunities others foresee, and explore how they can collectively approach them.

"It's dangerous to operate in an echo chamber and I look forward to having a network of peers who can challenge conventional thinking, help create innovative solutions and offer support through when life throws us curveballs," Trevor said.

Meet Colin Geppert

Colin Geppert hails from Kimball, South Dakota, with his wife Courtney, son, Croix, and daughter, Sage.

The Gepperts run a commercial cow herd alongside his family's operation. They're primarily a cow-calf operation that backgrounds home-raised calves for three to six months. They aim to make moderately framed cattle that go to the feedyard and perform. Outside of the cow herd, the Geppert family runs corn, soybeans, spring and winter triticale, oats, and cover crops across focusing heavily on diversity.

Colin's parents transitioned to no-till in the early 1990s to conserve moisture and reduce weed pressure. Since then, they have more moisture for their crops and have boosted their yields. In the early 2000s, they began incorporating cover crops behind their small grains to increase their grazing days and reduce the amount of feed they had to bring to their herd. Unintentionally, they began seeing the soil health benefits that cover crops can provide for their land.

More recently, they started rotating their pasture more intensely, allowing their cool season grasses to rest more and recuperate faster, which allowed for a more fruitful forage late in the growing season when drought can be more prevalent.

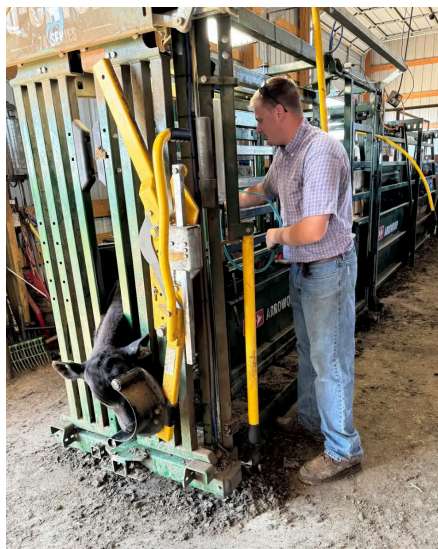
"We believe that if we take care of the land, the land will take care of us," says Colin.

The Gepperts would like to incorporate more technology in both the cropping and livestock sectors of their operation in the future. "I chose to apply for the Cattlemen's Leadership Academy because I want to further my networking with other progressive cattlemen and lean in on more understanding of topics that are important for this industry," says Colin. Geppert is eager to network and see all aspects of the industry, more specifically on the packing plant side.

In addition to working on the operation, Geppert has worked in the ag sales sector since graduating college. With that, he has visited a variety of operations where he's learned what best fits his family's operation, allowing them to provide practical alternative crop rotations for the farm and allows for quick adjustments in ration for their feeder cattle, increasing overall improved performance.

Within the industry, Colin is a board member of the Northern Plains Forage Association, a member of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and a lifetime member of the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition. Geppert received his bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences at South Dakota State University.

"I hope that we continue the agricultural legacy of the generations before me, and keep the morals and values that create good humans that are beneficial to society," says Colin.



"I hope that we continue the agricultural legacy of the generations before me, and keep the morals and values that create good humans that are beneficial to society."

- Colin Geppert



Taya Runyan
SDCA Executive Director

SDCA *Working for You*

NCBA SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING RECAP

Cattle industry leaders gathered in San Diego, CA, this summer to pass policy that guides NCBA. Representing SDCA at the meeting was SDCA President Warren Symens and SDCA VP Craig Bieber. There were a total of 97 resolutions and directives passed that can be viewed by scanning the QR code. The next step is the Member Mail Ballot, where every member in good standing with NCBA will be eligible to fill out a ballot to overturn any of the policies passed.



There was much discussion about the newly passed “One Big Beautiful Bill” and the range of tax measures designed to reduce federal tax burdens for cattle producers. The New World Screwworm (NWS) and the need for a comprehensive and expedited plan to keep the NWS out of the US was a hot topic throughout the event.



The NCBA board adopted the 2026-2030 Long Range Plan at the Summer Business meeting. This plan is a forward-looking roadmap designed to guide the U.S. beef industry.



Committee openings were filled in both policy and federation representatives in several regions. In Region 7 specifically Ivan Rush of Nebraska became the Federation Division Representative. SDCA Vice President Craig Bieber was reelected to a second term as Region 7 PAC General. The NCBA-PAC raises funds from personal voluntary contributions from NCBA members and pool those contributions together to support political candidates who defend the U.S. cattle and beef industry. Learn more at NCBA.org.



CATTLEMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The most recent Seminar focused on the importance of community outreach and involvement. In the former stockyards stable that is now reimagined as Stockyards Ag Experience (pictured right), participants learned about how the stockyards and agriculture built Sioux Falls and provided the foundation for what the city has become. It's important to bridge the divide between our urban and rural communities and educate consumers in both about how they can support each other and provide opportunities for each other.

The Academy participants will be organizing outreach events in their local communities as part of their homework assignment. Recent news of livestock shows being retired in Sioux Falls and 4-H programs be discontinued in communities across the state, it's more important than ever for producers to share their story and relate how important agriculture is to our communities of every size and our state.



DAKOTAFEST

Once again the Beef Booth served up roast beef sandwiches to the crowds! It was a hot week as over 400 vendors and 25,000 attendees gathered in Mitchell for the three-day event. Thanks to all our volunteers, Cory & Leanne Eich, and the Central Cattlemen's crew for all their hard work!

SDCA officers and staff attended the Congressional Forum on Wednesday. Leader John Thune, Senator Mike Rounds, and Representative Dusty Johnson addressed a packed house. They discussed trade, the farm bill, workforce challenges, and public health. Many statewide ag leaders and state legislators were also in attendance giving us an opportunity to network.



Leader John Thune speaking with attendees at the SDCA Beef Booth.

SDCA member, Jared Knock, moderated the South Dakota Ag Policy Forum at Dakotafest.



CATTLEMEN'S COOKOUTS

The SDCA Beef Booth was on the road this summer hosting Cattlemen's Cookouts at the Agtegra Customer Appreciation event in Huron, and the Full Circle Ag dinner at the Brown County Fair. Thank you to Drew Edelman, Troy Hadrick, Warren Symens, Craig Bieber, Scott Slepikas, the Central Cattlemen's crew, and everyone who volunteered to make these events a success!



Agtegra Event



Drew cooking at the Full Circle Ag event.

LEOPOLD AWARD RECIPIENT - LARRY STOMPRUD

SDCA member Larry Stomprud has been recognized as the 2025 Leopold Conservation Award winner. Stomprud and his family hosted a ranch tour in August, welcoming Governor Larry Rhoden and leaders from across the state to see the conservation methods that he has employed on the ranch. Congratulations to the entire Stomprud family! Several SDCA members and former award recipients were in attendance.



BRAND BOARD AD-HOC MEETINGS

On July 22, the first of three Ad-Hoc Brand Board meetings was held in Pierre. Kory Bierle, SDCA Brand Committee Chair represented SDCA. The meeting brought together key stakeholders to learn about Brand Board operations and identify potential areas for improvement. The Auditor General, Russell Olson attended and discussed the audit performed by Legislative Audit. The group also discussed the various financial tracking that is currently available through the Brand Board, the Bluebook, Open SD, or the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Two additional meetings are scheduled for September 25 in Rapid City and October 9 in Pierre.

CATTLEMEN'S EDUCATION DAY

The SDCA Feeder Committee has been working with SDSU and SD Soybean to plan a Cattlemen's Education Day. A full day is planned with sessions on yield calculations, grading, the latest information on implants and the benefits of soybean meal as a high-quality feed. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this free event on February 19 in Brookings!

Cattlemen's EDUCATION Day

Learn how yield is calculated, what impacts maturity, and how grades are determined in the plant. Plus, get up to speed on the latest cattle implant rules and explore the benefits of soybeans as a high-quality feed.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 8:00 AM - Registration
- 9:00 AM - Meat Lab Tour
- 10:15 AM - Soybeans & Feeder Cattle
- Noon - Lunch
- 1:00 PM - Implants: Rules & Updates
- 2:00 PM - Carcass Quality & Grade
- 3:00 PM - Open Discussion

February 19, 2026 | Brookings, SD
Cow/Calf Unit, South Dakota State University

SDCA POLICY MEETINGS & SEPTEMBER MEETING

Policy Chairs will meet September 18 in Pierre to review resolutions and make preparation for fall committee meetings and Convention. Each committee will be scheduling a fall zoom meeting open to members to review any new resolutions assigned as well as expiring resolutions. We want to hear from YOU during this grassroots process. All virtual committee dates will be posted on the website under the events tab and in the Cattle Guard. Please make sure to attend a few of those brief meetings as your schedule allows.



Fall Planning for Winter Pasture Success in South Dakota

Krista Ehlert, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and State Extension Specialist



As the growing season winds down, fall offers a critical window for pasture planning that can reduce winter feed costs, protect your grasslands, and set the stage for a productive spring and growing season next year. From extending grazing days to prepping winter feeding areas, now is the time to get ahead before snow and frost limit your options.

Instead, rotate feeding areas annually and consider unrolling hay or bale grazing on low-fertility sites to distribute nutrients and build up soil carbon. A sacrifice area can be designated if necessary, but if possible, plan to rest and possibly reseed it in the spring. Feeding near windbreaks or using portable electric fencing can help protect both livestock and the land.

4. Winterize water sources and consider wildlife habitat

Don't let frozen water lines or inaccessible tanks become a winter bottleneck. Fall is the time to inspect and insulate pipes, clean tanks, and ensure alternative water sources are available if the primary system fails. In addition to livestock needs, leaving some residual vegetation in draws, coulees, and fence lines can provide important winter cover for pheasants, grouse, and other grassland bird species. These areas also serve as buffers to reduce runoff and improve soil moisture infiltration when the snow melts.

5. If you want to manage it, you need to measure it – it'll help you next spring

Documenting pasture conditions, grazing dates, and forage use now will pay dividends later. Fall is a great time to review stocking rates, evaluate any problem spots or areas that are difficult to manage, and make plans for grazing improvements next year. Even quick notes on your phone or a calendar can help track what worked and what didn't. If you want to manage it, you need to measure it – the beef cattle industry takes in and reports a lot of data – from calving and weaning weights, to breed up, and everything in between. Try turning that data collection mindset on to how your pastures performed this year and what you hope to gain from them next grazing season.

Conclusion

In South Dakota, fall management decisions carry weight well beyond the frost line. By taking stock of your pastures, planning winter forage strategies, and protecting soil health, it is possible to stretch grazing days, reduce feed costs, and position your operation for long-term resilience. For additional tools, forage calculators, or assistance with planning, contact your local SDSU Extension office.

1. Stockpile native and introduced grasses for winter grazing

There are a variety of grasses in South Dakota that can be leveraged for stockpiling forage. Species such as native cool-season grasses like western wheatgrass, needle-and-thread, and green needlegrass, along with introduced species like crested wheatgrass and smooth brome can provide high-quality fall and early winter forage if properly managed. If you rested certain pastures in late summer, there may already be standing forage ready to be grazed. If not, consider identifying pastures now to rest and defer until later in the fall or early winter. This strategy not only extends the grazing season but also reduces reliance on hay.

2. Protect residual cover and soil health

Fall is a key time to evaluate how pastures held up through the grazing season. Use a grazing stick or visual assessment to check residual stubble height and ground cover. Areas grazed too short going into winter are more vulnerable to wind erosion, moisture loss, and delayed spring regrowth because of the lack of soil armor. Aim to leave at least 4-6 inches of stubble on most upland sites. In riparian areas, native sedges and rushes can benefit from full rest through fall to allow regrowth and bank stabilization. If there are pastures that were overused this year, plan to give them a longer rest period next year.

3. Rotate and strategically place winter feeding areas

Winter feeding is a fact of life in South Dakota, but how and where you feed can impact soil and grassland health for years. Avoid feeding in the same location each winter, which can lead to compaction, manure buildup, excess thatch, and weed pressure.



FOR THE **CATTLEKIDS!**



WORD SEARCH

- PASTURE
CHICKEN
COMBINE
- HARVEST
CROPS
FIELD
- FARM
CALF
CORN
- BARN
PIG
HAY

N	T	S	E	V	R	A	H
E	D	P	V	P	F	E	C
K	L	F	I	L	R	O	C
C	E	G	A	U	M	R	U
I	I	C	T	B	O	C	F
H	F	S	I	P	Q	O	A
C	A	N	S	X	E	R	R
P	E	Y	B	A	R	N	M

Guiding Producers Today
to Feed the World Tomorrow

“I have always been impressed with
their staff taking the time to work
with me to interpret my results
and **understand what management
decisions I can make to positively
affect future results.**”

- Eric J.

Spearfish, SD



Join the prime
producers!
Order your feed
testing kit today!



Submit Samples
to Ward Labs at:
PO Box 788
4007 Cherry Ave.
Kearney, NE 68847

308-234-2418 | www.wardlab.com

SDCA AFFILIATE CONTACTS

Black Hills: Britton Blair, Vale • 605-347-0426 •
britton.blair@yahoo.com

Central: Derek Chase, Huron • 605-354-3695 •
derekchase07@gmail.com

Clark Hamlin: Chance Popham, Hayti • 605-880-2717 •
P4cattleco@gmail.com

Davison-Hanson: Calli Williams, Letcher • 605-695-1990 •
callicwilliams@gmail.com

East Central: Andy Dupraz, White • 605-693-3191 •
adupraz@itctel.com

Kingsbury: Nick Wilkinson, Lake Preston • 605-203-0711 •
wilkinsonn77@gmail.com

McCook-Miner-Lake: Pete Hanson, Fedora • 605-421-8251 •
hansenrancher@gmail.com

Northeast: Nancy Johnson, Milbank • 605-432-5600 •
michaelnancy06257@gmail.com

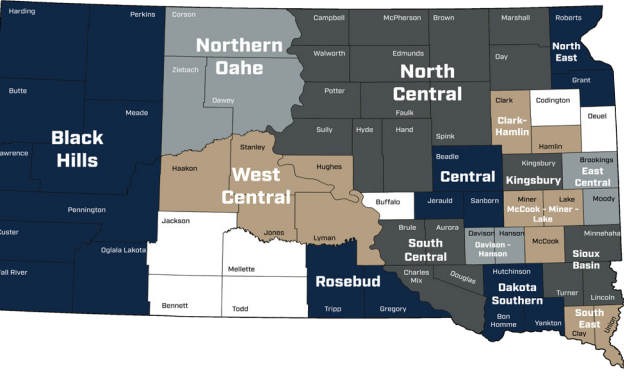
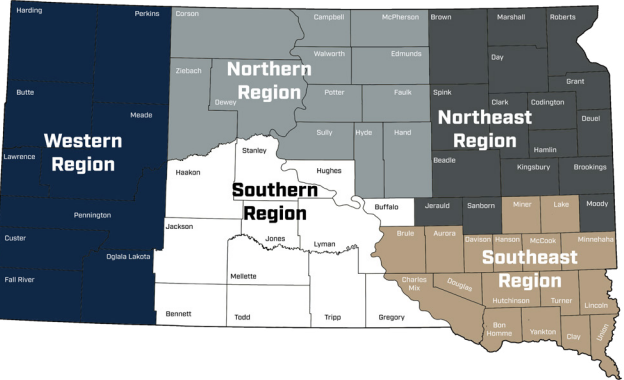
North Central: Bryan Gill, Timber Lake • 701-730-0134 •
bigredgenetics@hotmail.com

Northern Oahe: Jay Jones, Trail City • 605-845-3082 •
jones@westriv.com

Sioux Basin: Carl Johnson, Dell Rapids • 605-651-5064 •
cjohnsonfarm@outlook.com

South Central: Kent Geppert, Kimball • 605-778-6227 •
geppert@midstatesd.net

West Central: Matt Jones, Midland • 605-843-2066 •
ropeonthecorner@yahoo.com



Registration & Housing
NOW OPEN!

**CATTLE20
CON26**

NASHVILLE | **FEBRUARY**
MUSIC CITY CENTER | **3-5**



convention.ncba.org



TEXT BEEF TO 877-319-2142

FOR THE **CATTLEKIDS!**

N	T	S	E	V	R	A	H
E	D	P	V	P	F	E	C
K	L	F	I	L	R	O	C
C	E	G	A	U	M	R	U
I	I	C	T	B	O	C	F
H	F	S	I	P	Q	O	A
C	A	N	S	X	E	R	R
P	E	Y	B	A	R	N	M





the MOTHERLODE

1 P.M. (CST) • SATURDAY, NOV. 22, 2025
AT LAZY J GRAND LODGE • IDEAL, SOUTH DAKOTA

ANGUS FEMALE & BULL SALE



Ideal 9411 Marjorie of Encor • Featuring unlimited future potential, this cherished Jorgensen Motherlode donor with WR 3@105 has the distinction of being a full sister to the \$100,000 Ideal Accolade 2558 and a maternal sister to the \$57,500 Ideal 44058 Black Bandler, sired by Ideal Encore of 9524 Lady. She sells with her incredible son by the legendary Band 116 of Ideal 2118 7174 (Band 174).

SUPERIOR COWS
from generations of
Maternal Production Data

selling **100 FEMALES**
donors • bred cows • heifers
& **50 Elite, Strong-Age Bulls**

SALE MANAGER: Angus Hall of Fame • (816) 532-0811 • angushall@angushall.com



Ideal 4124 of Res Bkbrd • This proven third consecutive-generation Pathfinder® Dam with WR 6@104 by SAV Resource 1441 sells as a special feature, from the herd sire producing historic Blackbird family that produced Rito 707 of Ideal 3407 7075 and many others.



Ideal 8728 of 5760 Blackcap • Featuring this proven Jorgensen Motherlode donor with WR 3@107, sired by the Pathfinder® Sire SAV Renown 3439 from the family that produced Emulous Extra of Ideal and Rito 8221 of Ideal 087 36.



Ideal 9420 Marjorie of Encor • Featuring this proven Jorgensen Motherlode donor who has taken her place among the very top daughters of Ideal Encore of 9524 Lady, with WR 3@107, from the herd sire-producing Marjorie family.



Call for a sale book today!
Jorgensen Land & Cattle
31250 265th St Ideal, SD 57541
800.548.2855

From Pioneers to the WORLD'S  **ANGUS BULL SOURCE**