



Information Guide





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The founders of NDFB believed that if individuals were allowed to progress to the fullest of their capabilities, abilities and ambition, a strong nation would result.

1941 In 1941, three farmers - Wilfred A. Plath of Davenport, B.E. Groom of Langdon and Roy Johnson of Casselton - met with a representative of American Farm Bureau to make plans for an organizational meeting.

On November 14, 1941, that organizational meeting was held at the Gardner Hotel in Fargo. An organization committee of 14 individuals was selected to explain the objective and policies of Farm Bureau as a forerunner to the campaign for charter members.

1942 It was not an easy task. Members of the committee had to devote hours and hours meeting with farmers at the local and county level. But a steadfast belief in the organization's principles drove the enthusiasm of the committee, and a year later, on November 19-20, 1942, Farm Bureau officially organized in Valley City.

Charter members from 21 county Farm Bureaus represented the voting body at that first meeting.



2016 Today, the organization has more than 27,000 members, and 50 organized county Farm Bureaus. The foundation on which the organization was built - a grassroots, member-driven structure - remains solid. Without the volunteers, the individuals on the local level who bring forth the concerns and ideas, the system would not work.

27,000
FAMILIES

50 organized
COUNTY
Farm Bureaus

Hundreds
of VOLUNTEERS



Purpose Statement

NDFB is an independent, statewide, non-governmental, voluntary organization dedicated to improving opportunities and prosperity for all North Dakotans by advocating for our state's largest, renewable, economic sector: agriculture.





Our vision

is to create lasting economic opportunity and the framework for an unsurpassed quality of life for all North Dakotans. We will do this by being the most influential champions for practices, ideas, policies, issues and initiatives that benefit our state's economic backbone: agriculture. Our intent is to help ensure unencumbered support for farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs and the self-reliant people who have built our state, and those who continue to build upon that legacy.

Our mission

is to enhance the livelihood of all North Dakota individuals, families and communities by advocating for agriculture, our state's largest, most important economic sector. Our goal is to create a better future consistent with our purpose, our vision, and supported by our core principles of individual freedoms and initiatives, self-reliance, independence, and hard work.

Board of Directors

The NDFB Board of Directors is comprised of a president, elected at large, and individuals elected from each of the nine Farm Bureau Districts, the Promotion and Education Committee Chair and the Young Farmer and Rancher Committee Chair. The vice president is elected by the full delegate body but also serves as the district director for his or her district.



Daryl Lies
NDFB President

Douglas farmer Daryl Lies was elected to the District 6 Director position in 2013 and elected as NDFB President in 2015. He and his wife, Kim raise hogs, sheep, and goats with an emphasis in show animals. He is active in McLean County Farm Bureau, is a 4-H leader and on the McLean County Fair Board. Up until his election as NDFB

President, Daryl served as the agriculture liaison to Representative Kevin Cramer. The Lies have two children.



Chris Brossart
NDFB Vice President

Wolford farmer Chris Brossart was first elected vice president of NDFB at the 2011 annual meeting. He was elected to represent District 4 on the NDFB Board of Directors in 2009. As District 4 director, he represents Farm Bureau members in Benson, Eddy, Pierce, Ramsey, Rolette and Towner counties. Chris and his wife, Jennie, raise

spring wheat, winter wheat, canola, barley, soybeans and pinto beans. Jennie also works in Rugby as an insurance specialist. Chris is involved on the St. Mary's Church Council, and is an active member of Pierce County Farm Bureau. The Brossarts have three children.



Nathan Green
District 1 Director

St. Thomas farmer Nathan Green was elected as the District 1 director for the NDFB Board of Directors in 2010. As the District 1 director, he represents Farm Bureau members in Cavalier, Pembina, Walsh, Nelson and Grand Forks counties. Nathan and his wife, Melissa, raise sugbeets, hard red spring wheat, navy beans

and soybeans on their farm. The Greens have three children.

In addition to his involvement in Farm Bureau, Nathan is a member of the St. Thomas Booster Club and the St. Thomas Fire Department.



Dana Kaldor
District 2 Director

Dana Kaldor was elected as the District 2 director in 2015. He is a former committee member of the state Young Farmer and Rancher Committee and has served on the Traill County Farm Bureau Board as a director and president. As the District 2 Director, Kaldor represents Farm Bureau members in Barnes, Cass, Griggs,

Steele and Traill counties. He and his wife, Dawn, have a farm near Hillsboro and raise soybeans, corn and wheat. The Kaldors have three children.

Board of Directors



Tom Christensen ***District 3 Director***

Verona farmer Tom Christensen was elected to the District 3 NDFB Board of Directors position in 2011. As the District 3 director, he represents Farm Bureau members in Dickey, LaMoure, Ransom, Richland and Sargent counties.

He is also past president of LaMoure County Farm Bureau. Christensen and

his wife, Nancy, have a fourth-generation farm where they raise corn and soybeans. They have three children.



Chad Weckerly ***District 5 Director***

Hurdsfield farmer Chad Weckerly was elected as the District 5 director for the NDFB Board of Directors in 2010. As the District 5 director, he represents Farm Bureau members in Wells, Foster, Kidder, Stutsman, Logan and McIntosh counties. Chad and his wife, Tessa, raise

wheat, barley, soybeans, pinto beans, corn

and sunflowers on their farm. The Weckerlys have four children.

Prior to his service on the state board, Chad served on the executive committee for the NDFB PAC. He is also a member of the Hurdsfield Community Club.



Nathan Fegley
District 6 Director

Berthold farmer Nathan Fegley was elected to represent District 6 on the NDFB Board of Directors in 2015 to fill out the unexpired term of Daryl Lies, who was elected president in 2015. As the District 6 Director, he represents Farm Bureau members in Bottineau, McHenry, McLean, Renville, Sheridan and Ward counties.

Fegley was previously on the NDFB Young Farmer and Rancher Committee representing District 6. Fegley and his wife, Katie, raise a variety of crops with an emphasis on seed production. The Fegleys have three children.



Wes Klein
District 7 Director

Hazen-area rancher Wes Klein was elected to the NDFB Board of Directors in 2008. As the District 7 Director, Klein represents Farm Bureau members in Mercer, Oliver, Morton, Grant, Sioux, Emmons and Burleigh Counties.

Wes is a long-time 4-H leader and has been active on the Mercer County Farm Bureau

Board, serving as vice president and secretary. Wes has a cow-calf herd, trains horses and sells alfalfa. He has nine children.

Board of Directors



Kirk Olson
District 8 Director

Kirk Olson of Arnegard was elected to the District 8 position on the NDFB Board of Directors in 2012. As the District 8 director, he represents Farm Bureau members in Burke, Divide McKenzie, Mountrail and Williams counties. Olson and his wife, Heidi, raise small grains and pulse crops on their farm. They

have two children. Olson is a township supervisor, on the Arnegard Township zoning board, and the state Ag in the Classroom board. He also is an ABC farm safety instructor.



Weston Dvorak
District 9 Director

Manning-area farmer Weston Dvorak was elected to the NDFB Board of Directors in 2014. As the District 9 Director, Dvorak represents Farm Bureau members in Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope and Stark counties. Dvorak has been the president of Dunn County Farm Bureau and

has served as the chair of the NDFB Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. Dvorak and his wife, Teresa, operate a fourth-generation farm. They raise Angus cow-calf pairs, and have a backgrounding feedlot. The Dvoraks have four children.



Alysa Leier

P&E Chair

Alysa Leier was elected to the Promotion and Education Committee chairmanship in 2016. As the P&E Chair, she represents that committee on the NDFB Board of Directors.

Alysa and her husband, Dustin, raise beans, flowers, wheat, corn and cattle on their farm near Minot. She holds a Bachelor's degree in biology from Minot State University and helps around the farm, driving tractor and combine. The Leiers have two children



Joe Sheldon

YF&R Chairman

Joe Sheldon is the chairman of the Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. The chair of the YF&R Committee holds a position on the NDFB Board of Directors.

Joe and his wife, Kellie, farm near Washburn on the family farm. Joe also sells crop insurance with his father. The Sheldons have one child.

**Jeffrey Missling*****Executive Vice President and CEO***

General administration. Oversight of staff and coordination of leadership training efforts throughout the state. Tracks membership numbers and coordinates statewide membership recruitment and retention plan. Partners with agribusiness for mutually beneficial programs. Sources funding for the NDFB Foundation, and coordinates NDFB strategic plan implementation.

**Valerie Gordon*****Assistant Treasurer***

Manages financial activities of NDFB, the NDFB Foundation, the NDFB PAC and the North Dakota Farm Bureau PAC including accounting, purchases, payments, data processing and human resources.

**Joey Tigges*****Director of Leadership Development***

Serves as staff liaison to state-level Young Farmer and Rancher Committee and the Promotion and Education Committee. Advisor to NDSU Collegiate Farm Bureau.

**Emily Evert*****Assistant Corporate Secretary***

Membership verification and changes, county membership lists, arrangements for Executive Vice President and NDFB Board of Directors, logistics for NDFB Board meetings, update monthly county board meeting agendas, maintain and update Route 1000 records.



Darlene Thomason

Member Services/Office Coordinator

Membership, process and distribute new membership cards, member benefits, county membership lists, monthly membership report, NDFB annual meeting and Leadership Conference coordinator, leadership directory design & updates, promotional items and orders.



Jill Vigesaa

Food, Land and People Coordinator

Coordinates Project Food, Land and People workshops and outreach.



Nancy Ellertson

Direct Marketing Specialist

Provides voting members with information on NDFB's new AgriPlanNOW benefit. AgriPlanNOW is a medical reimbursement programs that enables qualified small business owners to deduct 100 percent of federal, state, and FICA taxes for family medical costs. The average AgriPlanNOW client saves over \$5,000 a year on their medical expenses



Pete Hanebutt
Director of Public Policy

Represents NDFB on legislative and regulatory issues, serves as an issue strategist and analyst, prepares informational backgrounders for member dissemination, assists in public policy development process of county Farm Bureaus, coordinates special and ad hoc committees, and establishes relationships with elected officials.



Rachel Grosz
Government Affairs Liaison

Represents NDFB on legislative issues. Establishes relationships with elected officials. Serves as national affairs coordinator.



Lisa Hauf
Public Information Specialist/Office Manager

Focus and Leader Update editor, news releases, assists public policy division with information dissemination, Route 1000.



Dawn Smith-Pfeifer
Director of Communications

Promotional material oversight, design, NDFB website, social media, radio, video.

Field Staff



Seth Estenson

Northeast Field Representative

Provides support and leadership development opportunities for NDFB members in Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Nelson, Pembina, Ramsey, Steele, Towner, Traill and Walsh Counties.



Aryel Smith

Southwest Field Representative

Provides support and leadership development opportunities for NDFB members in Adams, Bowman, Grant/Sioux, Hettinger, Burleigh, Morton, Oliver, Mercer, Stark, Dunn, McKenzie and Golden Valley counties.



Alisha Nord

Southeast Field Representative

Provides support and leadership development opportunities for NDFB members in Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Emmons, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Stutsman and Wells counties.



Caroline Jacobson

Northwest Field Representative

Provides support and leadership development opportunities for NDFB members in Divide, Williams, Burke, Mountrail, Renville, Ward, McLean, Bottineau, McHenry, Sheridan, Rolette and Pierce counties.

FAQs

How are you associated with Nodak Mutual Insurance Company?

Nodak insurance services are a benefit of being an NDFB member. NDFB started Nodak in 1946 because many farmers at the time had no options for insuring their farms. In fact, one member said, “Do you mean I have been carrying my farm in the back seat of my car?” Since then, Nodak has grown to become one of the top 50 property/casualty companies in the nation. NDFB also provides members with many other value-added benefits which can be found at ndfb.org/benefits.

How is NDFB structured?

NDFB is member association. Membership is county, state and national in scope. It starts with a family membership in a county Farm Bureau. A portion of the membership fee stays within the county to support local initiatives deemed important by the county Farm Bureau. Another portion goes to NDFB to carry out advocacy, education and leadership efforts on a statewide level. Still another portion goes to American Farm Bureau Federation for work to enhance agriculture initiatives on a national scale. AFBF is the largest general farm organization in the nation.

How are NDFB’s positions on issues developed?

NDFB positions begin at the county Farm Bureau level, where ideas become resolutions. Members vote on these resolutions at county annual meetings, which are forwarded to the district level and then on to the state level. All resolutions are voted upon by representatives of all the county Farm Bureaus at the NDFB Annual Meeting. Resolutions passed at this level become the policy of NDFB. It is these policies that NDFB advocates for at the state legislature and Congress.

What actions does NDFB take to help agriculture thrive?

Through advocacy and education. NDFB sponsors agriculture education for youth as well as teachers through such programs as Living Ag Classroom, Special Assignment Pizza, and Food, Land and People. NDFB’s Promotion and Education is responsible for much of the outreach. The Young Farmer and Rancher program also supports the development of young leaders involved in agriculture. More information can be found at ndfb.org/edusafe.

FAQs

What are some of NDFB's more recent accomplishments?

After raising \$162,000 for flood recovery in 2009, the NDFB Foundation was one of thirteen not-for-profit entities in the United States to be considered for the prestigious Summit Award by ASAE in Washington, D.C.

Approximately \$35,000-\$40,000 is given out annually for scholarships annually thanks to the work of the NDFB Foundation and our county Farm Bureaus.

In 2012, NDFB single-handedly initiated a ballot measure, adding the first "Right to Farm" language to any State Constitution in the United States. NDFB members gathered nearly 32,000 signatures over a one-year period to place this item on the ballot for the general election. NDFB, our county Farm Bureaus, and several individual members raised \$158,000 to fund this initiative. The measure passed in every county in the state on a vote of 67% to 33%.

In 2008, NDFB assisted Ramsey County Farm Bureau in winning a ND Supreme Court appeal case addressing the issue of zoning for animal agriculture.

Each year, we reach thousands of students through Special Assignment Pizza, the Living Ag Classroom, the ABC Safety Program, Ag Day events, and other ag education programs.

Contact

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