

Commissioners to hear views on converting 87th Ave. SE to county road

At 6pm on August 19, the Dickey County Commissioners will hear public statements on changing the status of 87th Ave. SE from a township road to a county road. 87th Ave. SE is the north-south route in Ellendale Township that runs from Highway 11 past the Applied Digital campus.

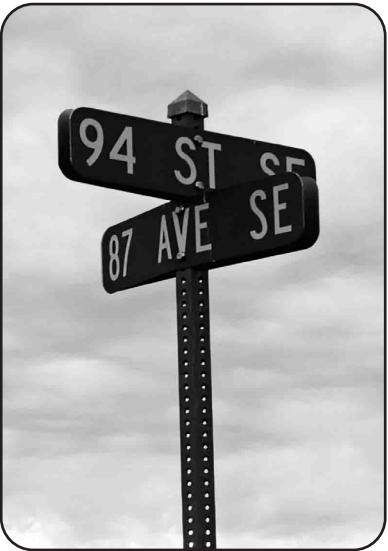
The move to transfer oversight of this road to the county stems from the enormous amount of traffic flowing in and out of the Applied Digital site, including workers' personal vehicles and a great deal of heavy truck traffic. According to Applied Digital representatives, some 500 workers are presently on the site on a typical work day.

While the traffic flow has been intense since the company's first construction in the fall of 2022 to the present, it is not expected to be alleviated for at least another few years, as construction of the second large "AI factory building" (officially designated Polaris Forge 2) is already underway, and ground has been prepared for construction of Polaris Forge 3.

Applied Digital representatives have expressed a desire to see 87th Ave. SE paved, and combined with the two miles of 94th St. SE (the east-west road it adjoins to in Elden Township) to provide an improved "bypass" route that would be able to easily handle a large portion of the traffic that now enters and exits the data center site from the south.

The expectation is that this improved route would alleviate a great deal of traffic congestion in Ellendale, and likewise take pressure off of the intersection of Highway 11 and 87th Ave. SE.

The upcoming meeting will allow township residents and non-township residents, as well as company representatives, to express their views on the matter.



This sign marks the intersection of 87th Ave., the north-south road that runs past Applied Digital, and the road (94th St.) that runs east to Highway 281. The conversion of 87th to a county road would help facilitate a bypass so that traffic to the data center site would not need to flow through town.

S. Central Threshing Association to celebrate 50th year, Sept. 6 & 7 at Braddock, N.D.

Submitted—It all started in 1975 at a community meeting in Braddock, N.D., when plans were being made to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial in 1976. Someone suggested the event should include a threshing demonstration. That's when two local farmers offered an Aultman-Taylor tractor and a threshing machine from the early part of the 20th Century for the event. Neighbors helped get the machines in running order, and oats was threshed first in the fall of 1975 and then again at the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration in Braddock.

Sportsmen coveted the big straw pile left by the threshing operation and used it to foster the pheasant population. That expanded interest in having an annual threshing event to build the pheasant population and to attract more hunters to the area. However, the threshing show is all about antique farm equipment, the restoration of decades old machines, and live demonstrations of pioneer farming. History comes alive at the threshing grounds!

The threshing tradition has continued every year, and the event has gone from a threshing machine and a tractor in a field southeast of town to a few more machines and more people in a field northeast of town. Now, the show has its own 23-acre site at 5855 16th Avenue, S.E., just north of Braddock.

About 1,500 to 2,000 people and dozens and dozens of antique tractors and other machines turn out the weekend after Labor Day



Perhaps the most unique part of the historical park at Braddock is the print museum, which houses the state's best collection of antique printing equipment, most of which are functional and used for demonstrations. In the photo above (April 30, 2016), NDSU professor Suzzanne Kelley's publishing class poses after completion of a poetry chapbook in the print museum. At far right is Ken Smith, editor of the *Dickey County Leader*. Visitors to the Threshing show can examine the antique presses, linotype machines, paper folders, and various related equipment, and see some of it in action.

for the South Central Threshing Association's Threshing Bee & Antique Show. The threshing grounds features a pioneer village that has grown from one lonely donated building to a small town with a saloon, chuck wagon, event center, truck pull track, pioneer house, school house, church, general store, printing museum with operating presses, railroad depot, ice house, blacksmith shop, post office, electrical hookups for 100 campers and more.

Along with a traditional oats threshing demonstration, there is a corn shredder, saw mill, rock crusher, shingle maker, stationary engines, feed mill, miniature farm equipment, wood planer, silage

cutter and hand-tie baler.

An army of dedicated volunteers have made the threshing show a popular event for half a century. Special events, souvenirs and a keepsake anniversary booklet are being planned for the Sept. 6 and 7, 2025, celebration. Funds are being raised to help update the church, pioneer house, depot and other buildings.

Donations may be sent to Rosalie Rambough, SCTA Treasurer, 5855 16th Avenue, S.E., Braddock, N.D. 58524-9202. SCTA is a 501c3 non-profit.

For more information, contact SCTA President Alan Svanes of Kintyre. He can be reached at 701-391-7636.

Rainwater slows but doesn't stop foundation work for school addition



In early June, work began in earnest on the new addition for the Ellendale Public School, which will provide a significant expansion of activity space for the school as well as for the community, as well as providing a long-desired wrestling room. After surveying, heavy equipment removed up to six feet of the existing dirt and clay surface, which was hauled away and exchanged for a fine sandy and gravelly mix

suitable for a large, permanent foundation. Once that was thoroughly packed, excavation for footers began, and in early August, considerable progress was made in laying concrete. Frequent rains have forced some delays as workers put pumps to work to remove significant water buildup. The project is expected to be entirely completed sometime in 2026.

(August 8 photo by Ken Smith)

New Summit Carbon Solutions CEO teases 'updates' to business plan in letter to landowners

By Cami Koons, North Dakota Monitor, August 6, 2025

Summit Carbon Solutions has a new CEO, Joe Griffin, who authored letters this week to signed and unsigned landowners along the carbon pipeline project route.

Two versions of the letter, one dated Aug. 4 and the other dated Aug. 5, noted the company would be announcing "several updates" that would "open new markets and create greater opportunities for the region." The letters also note Summit has a new senior leadership team.

The version addressed to landowners along the route who have not signed an easement agreement said they should expect a "revised Right of Way proposal in the coming weeks."

The letter said the revised proposals would reflect Summit's "commitment to offering terms that better support landowners and their long-term interests."

The other version was addressed to landowners who had already signed easements and instead thanked them for their trust in the company and its project to build a carbon sequestration line across Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Griffin wrote in the letter he wanted to "set the tone" for a "fresh chapter" for Summit.

In addition to Griffin's replacement of former CEO Lee Blank, the letter notes Summit has a "new senior leadership team" that is focused on "partnership and respect."

"This team has constructed and/or operated more



James Yantzer and Valorie Cartwright, both of Bismarck, look at signs showing the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline route ahead of a hearing on April 22, 2024. (Kyle Martin/For the North Dakota Monitor)

than 4,700 miles of pipelines, but what I'm most proud of is that we did it safely, working closely with landowners, communities, and emergency responders to ensure the safety of all," Griffin said.

Griffin said he has spent his career in "energy infrastructure" though it is unclear what company the new CEO was with formerly.

"I'm the kind of person who's not afraid to get out in the fields and help alongside the farmers, someone who understands that this project is about more than pipes and technology—it's about people, land, and communities," Griffin wrote in the letters.

Former Summit CEO Lee Blank could not be reached for comment.

North Dakota farmers, AG businesses brace for tariff blowback

(continued from page 1)

"All of our other export demand combined is still not as much as we typically export to China," he said. "So we really need the Chinese demand to enter our market. So far they've bought no soybeans for 2025, so that is very worrying."

Mark Watne, president of the North Dakota Farmers Union, said both soybean and wheat markets are currently depressed and will likely remain so.

"If there's no agreement with China, Mexico and Canada, that really hits us hard, especially from a North Dakota perspective, because we export so much," Watne said.

The addition of two new crushing plants for soybeans does help somewhat, Sherlock said, but even if half of the soybeans produced in the state can be crushed, a market would be needed for the other half.

Soybean producers need to see some sort of movement on orders out of the Pacific Northwest in the next two or three weeks, Sherlock said, otherwise there could be bottlenecks on shipping or storage after that point.

Other business impacts

Ag-related businesses are also increasingly impacted by the trade uncertainty. Everything from fertilizer, seed, and other inputs have seen inflated prices, as has farm equipment and parts.

Sherlock said costs have increased by between 15% up to 50% for some parts and equipment.

"So much of our equipment is manufactured in Canada or Mexico," he said. "We're very grateful that we saw the 90-day pause with Mexico. That's very promising. It was disappointing to see the tariff rate increase with Canada."

Current tariffs on imported steel, aluminum and semi-finished copper now stand at 50%, potentially raising the cost of equipment further down the line.

Watne said those impacts are mostly indirect and few people think about them, but increased tariffs on

metals, electronics, and microchips eventually hit the pocketbooks of farmers.

"Those prices are rising and now as we get into the next couple of years, as they have to restock and resupply, those (tariffs) seem to be tighter," Watne said. "From an agricultural perspective, we're at a vulnerable stage."

In mid-May, major tractor company John Deere detailed in an earnings call that it had incurred \$100 million in tariff-related expenses in the second quarter of the year. Deere estimated \$400 million more by the end of the year and will likely need to increase some prices because of tariff and inflationary pressure.

The new tariffs on Canada will also likely increase costs for fertilizer further, largely because up to 90% of potash used in fertilizer in the U.S. comes from Canada. Tariffs on urea imports, also used for fertilizer, from Saudi Arabia and other sources also increase fertilizer prices.

"Fertilizer is probably our biggest cost on the farm," Watne said.

One of the main issues of the trade drama for most farmers is the uncertainty it creates in both the short and long term, said John Bitzan, director at the Sheila and Robert Challey Institute for Global Innovation at North Dakota State University.

"If you think about it from the perspective of farmers, they don't know what their input prices are going to be. So, buying fertilizer, or seed, or other things, are the prices of those going to go up because of import tariffs? I think there's a lot of uncertainty about markets, too," Bitzan said.

That uncertainty also leads to less willingness to make investments for the future on a new tractor or other equipment, Bitzan said. That uncertainty has knock-on effects for machinery and input dealerships.

Supply chain dilemmas

Trade friction and increased tariffs can also impact products most people don't often think about.

Recent analysis by property

experts at Eden Emerald Buyers Agent found North Dakota to be the third-most rodent-infested state, for example, just behind Vermont and South Dakota. Rodents sometimes like to chew on wires and cables in everything from cars to tractors.

Ken Huening, creator of CoverSeal, makes and sells covers for cars, tractors, motorcycles, BBQs and other equipment all across the U.S. When he started his business, he wasn't able to produce the covers in the U.S., so he had to make them in Mexico and China.

"Textiles were a U.S. commodity. They aren't anymore. So, I couldn't find a mill in the U.S. to either create the fabric or try and find people who would build them in the U.S. in any kind of volume that would be cost effective," Huening said.

Farmers in North Dakota recently looking to buy CoverSeal covers to protect their equipment from rodents are seeing higher prices and delays because of trade friction.

Huening said a year ago for bulk orders he had to pay a \$14.5 tariff on each cover imported from China. He now has to pay around \$44. New tariffs also require additional paperwork, often adding another two or three days of processing through the supply chain, Huening said.

Another challenge is that direct-to-customer sales of products under \$800 shipped from his warehouse in China are no longer exempt after the 321 exemption rule was rescinded. Those added costs are partly passed along to consumers.

For smaller ag-related businesses, tariff impacts depend on how supply chains are structured, said Alfredo Roa-Henriquez, an assistant professor of supply chain management at North Dakota State University.

Some may come out better, depending on what exemptions are carved out in the final trade deals, and others could lose out, he said.

"All sectors will be unequally affected," he said. "The impacts will be different."

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