

Voices

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aims to help build a country that works for everyone by grounding policy in real experience, reducing polarization and reconnecting urban and rural perspectives.

Josh Kirschenbaum, a senior advisor at PolicyLink who initiated the gathering, said the biggest “aha” for him was how long it takes to build markets and how easily they can be destroyed.

“Even for me, on this quest about how to deliver democracy for all, the thread about the interplay between the market and democracy and how that shapes governing, that was extremely enlightening and powerful,” Kirschenbaum said.

All the volatility impacts the generational transition of farming and ranching families across the state.

High land costs, debt, thin margins, and enormous financial risk can make it a daunting challenge to pass on a farm, leading to questions about who will continue farming in the future and what that means to food security and the communities farming supports.

While their communities know this, the wider public does not: farmers and ranchers are key to supporting local businesses, churches, schools and civic leadership. When farms disappear or consolidate, communities lose population, leadership and economic activity.

Fertilizer, fuel, machinery, insurance, and labor costs have all increased significantly while commodity prices have stagnated or declined in recent years. These rising costs are steadily shrinking profit margins.

Attendees also raised concerns about rural health care access, rising health insurance costs, and the loss of rural hospitals, making it more difficult to sustain families in rural areas.

Policies like support for renewable fuels were cited as a major suc-



Participants discuss current and future issues impacting agriculture and rural communities at a roundtable held by North Dakota News Cooperative with PolicyLink representative Josh Kirschenbaum, seated to right of Sabrina Halvorson (NDNC CEO, in orange). (Photo by Rusty Halvorson)

cess but that growth had stalled and that policies need to evolve to support higher biofuel blends and new markets, while also addressing foreign competition.

Policies like crop insurance were also seen as essential, but incomplete. They provide a necessary safety net, but don't cover enough of a producer's potential revenue.

Telling their story

On the public misconceptions side, examples included confusion about GMOs, pesticides, fertilizers and organic farming, with producers saying they've struggled to tell their story and have allowed misinformation to fill the gap.

Most emphasize that they already prioritize stewardship and sustainability because their livelihoods depend on protecting soil, water, and land for future generations taking over their operations.

Schneider of Ashley said farmers need to get more active if they want

their voices heard.

“If you've got grain or livestock and you've got a commodity in your operation that's making you financially sound, you've got to get involved and get on boards,” he said.

“You've got to be at the table, not on the table, for that commodity and that makes a difference. That's the most important thing they can do.”

Kirschenbaum said most people don't think that deeply about food and connect that to the policies that impact the people producing it and the communities they live in.

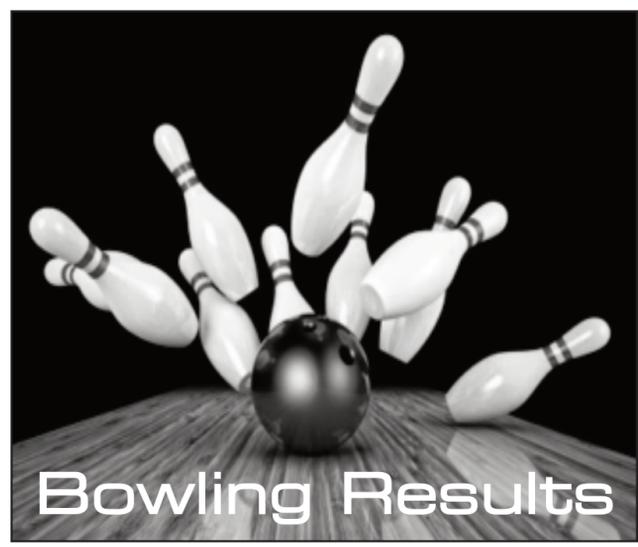
“The vulnerability and the volatility that all the externalities can have on our food systems is tremendous,” he said. “I don't think Americans know that, and being able to tell that story is important.”

Other attendees included Carson Klosterman, a farmer and representative of the North Dakota Corn Council; Lance Gaebe of the North Dakota Farmers Union; Dallas Loff, a farmer

and representative of the North Dakota Soybean Council; Dr. Greg Lardy of NDSU; David Boehm, director of the Northern Crops Institute; generational farmer and rancher Garrett Bladow; agricultural reporter Rusty Halvorson; Monte Peterson representing the Soybean Growers Association; Jed Brazier and Tony Richards of NorthHarvest Bean Growers Association.

The event was moderated by Cally Peterson, co-chair of NDNC, and NDNC CEO Sabrina Halvorson.

The North Dakota News Cooperative is a non-profit news organization providing reliable and independent reporting on issues and events that impact the lives of North Dakotans. The organization increases the public's access to quality journalism and advances news literacy across the state. For more information about NDNC or to make a charitable contribution, please visit newscoopnd.org.



Gopher League 3-16-26		HIGH SERIES:	
First State Bank.....	60.5	Sandy Geiger	515
Farmers Union Oil D.L.....	57	Gene Thompson.....	508
D&R Tire & Repair.....	57		
Ace Hardware.....	53	Oriole League 3-19-26	
Corrigidor Bar	50.5	DQ Rugby.....	12
Mikkelsen Brothers.....	45	LRC Pincrushers	9
Cando Bar	42	Cando Grocery	9
Northern Plains Electric.....	35	Legacy.....	7
		First State Insurance	6
HIGH GAME:		HIGH GAME:	
Ryan Brown.....	248	Toni Howard	190
HIGH SERIES:		HIGH SERIES:	
Ryan Brown.....	717	Toni Howard	483
Koffee Kup League 3-17-26		Whale League 3-22-26	
Morning Glories.....	62	4U Custom Apparel	52.5
Dreamers.....	54.5	Goeser Seed	39.5
Alley Cats	54	Legacy Cooperative	36
Petunias	53.5	Country Lanes	32
Pins & Needles.....	46		
Strike O' Holics.....	45	HIGH GAME:	
Queen Pins.....	44	Becky Lewis	224
Tea Bags	41	Chad Rinas.....	277
HIGH GAME:		HIGH SERIES:	
Sandy Geiger	194	Becky Lewis	532
Gene Thompson.....	187	Chad Rinas.....	691



Food pantry gets some extra help for Easter

The North Star SADD members helped pack the Easter Boxes for the Cando Area Food Pantry. (Courtesy photo)

Relief
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and Bottineau counties have thus far received the most funding through the program, at \$7.9 million and \$7.1 million respectively. Mountrail, Stutsman and Eddy counties are the others to have received more than \$5 million so far.

Walsh County has the most funding pending approval and distribution, with \$55 million. Other counties with more than \$20 million pending through the program include Grand Forks, Cass, Pembina and Stutsman counties.

The deadline for farmers and ranchers to apply for low-interest

loans through the program is June 30. Applications are accepted through local banks and credit unions in the state.

The Grain Inventory Program, a short-term financing initiative to help farmers hold leftover inventory from 2025 until prices improved, has been utilized less than expected. Farmers have submitted 10 applications for a total of \$7.7 million through the program. Seven applications totaling \$5.8 million have been approved and distributed, including \$2.5 million for producers in Hettinger County.

GET THE WORD OUT! PUT IN A CLASSIFIED AD! PRICES START AT JUST \$5 PER WEEK! CALL US AT 968-3223 FOR MORE INFO!

Courthouse News

- Possession of drug paraphernalia**
Corbett Lee McKay, \$325, placed on 360 days unsupervised probation, complete chemical dependency evaluation, sentenced to 360 days Heart of America Correctional and Treatment Center, 360 days suspended.
- Poss. of methamphetamine**
Corbett Lee McKay, \$25, placed on 360 days unsupervised probation, sentenced to 360 days Heart of America Correctional and Treatment Center, 360 days suspended.
- Poss. of marijuana – less than ½ oz.**
Mickey C. Myles, \$250.
Judy Christine Patton, \$250.
- Failure to maintain control – distracted driving**
Clayton A. Dammen.
- Violation of registration provisions – driver**
Bradley Leonard Johnson.
Madison Faith Luehring.
- Speeding**
Robert George Martin.
Katelyn Rose McLaurin.
Philip Deplazes.
Brekka Minnie Kuss.
Denise Marie Laducer.
Robert Miguel Ponce.
Rene Samuel Porter.
- Driving without a license**
Jazelynn Unique Bergie.
- Wesley Davis.
- Drove without headlamps as required**
Jazelynn Unique Bergie.
- Failure to display plates or tabs – owner**
Allan Oscor Nord.
Emily Hope Thumb.
- Overtaking schoolbus**
Stacy Lynn Sabbe.

PUBLIC NOTICES

A public notice is information informing citizens of government activities that may affect the citizens' everyday lives. Public notices have been printed in local newspapers, the trusted sources for community information, for more than 200 years.

Pancake Breakfast with a special Easter Bunny visit!

Sunday, March 29 • 9am - 1pm
Free will offering
Cando Masonic Center • 313 6th St, Cando

Join us for a warm and welcoming morning of homestyle pancakes with syrup, classic breakfast favorites, North Country sausage and eggs, photos with the Easter Bunny, and family-friendly fun! All are welcome! Bring your family and friends!
Hosted by Hal Parker Post #79 American Legion

Towner County Government Week Breakfast
April 2, 2026 • 7 to 10 a.m.
Cando Armory

Courthouse tours available!
Thank you to Butler Machinery, True North Steel, and Wold Engineering for donations of breakfast items!

Legacy Cooperative Annual Meeting
will be held on
Tuesday, March 31, 2026
at 6 p.m.
Rock Lake School Building

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO TRANSACT ALL BUSINESS WHICH MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE IT.

- Election of Directors
- Door prizes
- Dividends to be distributed
- Meal to follow

Legacy Cooperative
Growing Value Together
February 25th, 2026 • Cordell Beaver, Secretary

Record Herald's Hours:
T-Th: 10a.m. to 5p.m.
M&F: No set hrs/By appt
If you need assistance prior to or after those hours, call 701-477-6495.
Closed Holidays & Weekends