



North Dakota
Livestock Alliance

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My name is Amber Boeshans, I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Livestock Alliance (NDLA). NDLA was founded in 2017, with the mission to support, enhance and promote animal agriculture our state. Our Board of Directors consists of the ND Pork Council, ND Corn Utilization Council, ND Soybean Council, ND Farmers Union, Midwest Dairy – North Dakota Division, Northern Pulse Grower’s Association and the North Dakota Ethanol Council. Our Board of Advisors is the Northern Crop Institute, NDSU Extension, NDSU Department of Animal Sciences, ND Stockmen’s Association and the ND Department of Agriculture. NDLA memberships also include individual farmers and ranchers, the Milk Producer’s Association of ND and the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association.

First, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the creation of the Livestock Development positions. We are very excited to meet the new hires and to welcome them to the livestock development space.

In our 2019 SBARE presentation, we agreed to facilitate a NDSU Dairy Barn Working Group to develop a plan for improvements. The group consists of ND dairy farmers, NDLA board members and staff, an agricultural engineer, NDSU Dairy Barn staff and NDSU Animal Science faculty. After several visits to the barn and extensive conversations with this excellent group of minds, they laid out a prioritized list. Those of highest priority continue to be ventilation improvements throughout the facility, update lighting in the calving and maternity area, add headlocks to the lactating barn and build a new barn to house heifers. The agricultural engineer, Nathan Pesta of DeHaan, Grabs and Associates laid out plans for the above improvements to the existing facility and designed and sited the proposed heifer barn. The new heifer barn will provide several benefits including updated housing to meet the needs of the heifers and dry cows, which will open up space in the freestall barn to allow for more milk producers. It will also provide space to bring calves indoors from their outside huts. All of these improvements are directly correlated with increases in milk production, animal care and employee safety and well-being. These changes will bring this herd into a realistic line with other dairy farms across the country, preparing students for a future in dairy farming.

NDLA is in support of Carrington Research Extension Center’s (CREC) request for facility improvements. The CREC is an important and trusted resource for beef feedlot producers, as well as, nutrition and

The North Dakota Livestock Alliance is a non-profit, non-partisan organization developed to provide assistance to farmers, ranchers and communities with the development or expansion of the livestock industry and to strengthen our connection with consumers to instill confidence in the practices we use and the food and products we produce.

manure information for all livestock species. The addition of Covered Feeding research would be very useful to the increasing number of North Dakota beef producers that are interested in new cattle housing methods and those who are newly diversifying into finishing cattle.

In addition to the aforementioned dairy barn changes, the swine facility has some opportunities to continue their upgrades. As swine genetics and management practices continue to advance, more piglets are being produced per sow, resulting in a need for more growing and finishing capacity per farrowing sow space. The NDSU Swine Unit now has the capacity to farrow more sows but is limited by their growing and finishing space. These updates will increase pig sales and will keep the NDSU Swine Unit consistent with other production facilities, giving students practical experiences to apply in their swine careers.

NDLA is also in support of the request from Hettinger Research Extension Center (HREC). NDLA has seen an uptick in producers interested in expanding or starting new sheep flocks, especially with the increasing desire for lamb in emerging ethnic markets. Our member organization, the ND Lamb and Wool Producer's Association, regularly voices the tremendous value of the HREC to the success of their members. Expanding the lamb research and outreach will directly impact the expansion of lambs on feed in ND, which will lead to better utilization of local forages and crops. We also support the proposed integrated livestock management at NDSU RECs to assist with the continued expansion of our state's livestock industries.

In conclusion, NDLA is in support of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Extension epidemiology to assist with timely and informative health messages, data analysis and the creation of Extension animal health programs. This will be especially valuable for communication with consumers, in partnership with the ND pork industry, if African Swine Fever (ASF) reaches the United States. NDSU will be a vital and trusted resource to assist with communication with consumers and to assisting producers at this most challenging time.

Thank you for your time today and best wishes for a successful 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber E Boeshans

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