



May is Beef Month!

By Kathryn Slavick,
McHenry County Extension

May is Beef Month, a time to recognize the dedication of our local cattlemen and cattlewomen who help provide safe, nutritious beef to consumers. We thank all those involved in the beef industry for their continued efforts to improve cattle care and food production.

As we celebrate their contributions, it's also a great time to spotlight best practices that uphold beef quality and animal health. One such practice is the proper administration of cattle injections – a timely topic as we prepare for pasture turnout and begin spring vaccination protocols that are essential to maintaining herd health.

Local youth are also learning these skills. In March, 4-H members attended Livestock Quality Assurance training, gaining hands-on knowledge about proper injection sites and animal care – important lessons for the next generation of producers.

To protect the value of high-quality beef cuts, it is critical to read the label of selected health products and utilize proper dosage and administration routes. Intramuscular (IM) and subcutaneous (SubQ) injections are recommended to be administered in the “injection triangle” area of the animal's neck as the diagram shows below. Avoid administering injections into the top butt or rump area, as this can damage premium cuts and reduce carcass value.

Needle choice matters too. Use the appropriate sized needle based on the animal's size, weight, and administration technique. For example, the Beef Quality Assurance program recommends an 18 gauge, ¾” needle for calves less than 400 lbs. A well-matched needle helps prevent bending or breaking.

Lastly, be mindful of product storage. On long workdays, keep vaccines out of the sun and at proper temperatures as indicated on the label to maintain effectiveness.

As we celebrate Beef Month, let's recognize the producers who work hard to provide beef to consumers! Safe, healthy beef starts with smart, responsible practices – from pasture to plate.

Questions? Call McHenry County Extension @ 701-537-5405
Source: NDSU Extension Beef Cattle Injection Sites
(Kathryn Slavick, M.S., is a North Dakota State Extension Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Agent in McHenry County.)



Rugby Track Meet: From left to right, Hudson Torr (Rugby), Brady Hauff (VDA) and Andrew Williams (HWC) in the 300 meter hurdles where they placed 5th, 4th, and 2nd respectively. (Photo by Krystal Hauff)

Burn rules and regulation reminders during an active spring fire season

During this season of elevated and elongated fire risk, several state agencies are working to provide a cohesive picture of fire regulations for the safety and health of the citizens of North Dakota.

Burn Restrictions are related to if you can burn – see the map with fire danger ratings and burn restrictions at [NDResponse.gov/burn](https://www.nd.gov/ndresponse).

Burn Variances are related to what you're burning – see full guidance and application instructions from the Department of Environmental Quality.

Fire Danger Ratings and Burn Restrictions, In Depth

The Fire Danger Ratings are calculated using inputs such as long-term climate information; short-term weather patterns; and indicators like relative humidity, temperature, wind

speed, and fuel conditions on the ground (how dry the grasses are, for example). Weather information inputs to the Fire Danger Ratings are provided by the National Weather Service, while fuel conditions are based on a variety of inputs and modeling.

The ratings are low, moderate, high, very high, and extreme. Additionally, there are fire weather watches and red flag warnings that can be issued for heightened public awareness of critical fire weather conditions.

The fire danger ratings are indicative of the threat of fire growth, not necessarily the threat of fire starts. Should a fire ignite, it is more likely that it will spread rapidly during higher fire danger rating days.

Next, jurisdictions may put forth

a Fire Emergency Declaration. These are similar to any emergency declaration and are issued by the appropriate authority such as a mayor, council, or governor. Usually, this is done to allow access to special emergency funds for response activities. These declarations can also serve to heighten public awareness of the threat. Fire Emergency are necessary to have in place in order to enforce Burn Restrictions.

Finally, Burn Restrictions are legal restrictions on outdoor fire activities that are usually tied to Counties, tribes, state, federal land management agencies, and even some cities can decide what restrictions should be in place for each level of the fire danger ratings.

Restrictions may change throughout the day so always check right be-

fore you intend to burn.

If you can burn what you intend to burn, always give a heads-up to your local first responders:

Open [NDResponse.gov/burn](https://www.nd.gov/ndresponse)
Open the North Dakota Fire Declarations and Burn Restrictions map
Navigate to the 'Declarations' tab at the top

Click on your jurisdiction on the map

Follow the contact instructions in the popover to let them know you've obtained a burn variance and the time and place you intend to do your open burn.

By following rules for burn variances and burn restrictions, we can safely enjoy fire, reduce the threat of wildfires, and help keep our air, lands, and waters clean.

Session bills that have been signed by Governor

By Ann Estvold,
NDNA Legislative Intern

Gov. Kelly Armstrong has now signed 536 bills into law as Friday, May 2, 2025. Below are summaries of some of the bills signed into law in the past week:

Courts

HB 1032 authorizes cities to sign agreements to share municipal courts. The municipal court would have jurisdiction over ordinance violations of any city served by the court. In a city with fewer than 5,000 people, a municipal judge may be part-time and not licensed to practice law.

Under HB 1425 the state's attorney for each county may create and administer a prosecution-led diversion program. A prosecuting attorney and the defendant would need to agree to suspend prosecution and eventual dismissal of an offense, on the condition that the defendant does not commit any new criminal offense during the agreement.

Education

House Bill 1160 bans student cell phone use from “bell to bell”

while on school grounds. School districts are required to implement policies that deny students access to personal electronic devices during instructional time. The bill allows schools to make their own decisions about student phone use during school-related activities, including bus rides, field trips and sporting events. Students who need personal electronic devices for medical reasons, or as part of their individual education program, are exempt from the law.

Under HB 1247, a school district would have to develop a safety plan to protect a student who has been sexually assaulted by another student in the school. The plan must include provisions to prevent the assaulter from having contact with the victim; an expulsion hearing for a convicted student; the possibility of transferring the convicted student to an alternative education or virtual education program; or transferring the convicted student to another school or building in the district. The school would need to determine the duration of a separation based on the victim's wishes,

the age of the convicted student, i the nature and severity of the offense, and input from the students' legal guardians.

HB 1498 allows a school board to offer a first-year signing bonus for a first-year teacher who has signed an employment contract and did not teach in North Dakota in the past year.

HB 1533 says each school district must require each student to complete a half-unit of financial literacy or ensure that its curriculum for economics or problems of democracy includes instruction in personal finance. The curriculum would need to include budgeting and management of money, credit and debt, as well as instruction in saving, investing, financial services, taxation, insurance and risk management, and career and retirement planning.

Under HB 1542 a record of an individual's college admission application is exempt from the state's open records laws and must be destroyed on request of the applicant or their parent or guardian.

First Responders

Under HB 1139, fire departments are exempt from paying sales tax on goods that are related to fire protection.

HB 1193 allocates \$3.5 million to pay retention bonuses for law enforcement and correctional officers, and to provide tuition and fee payments for trainees.

Under HB 1322, an ambulance service provider may not collect or bill more than the covered individual's deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or other cost-sharing amount the covered individual would be responsible for paying.

Agriculture

Under HB 1318, labels approved by the Environmental Protection Agency provide sufficient warning about pesticide hazards. Additional warnings are not required.

HB 1332 creates a value-added agricultural production facility incentive program to provide grants for new facilities that produce new products or diversify the agricultural products market. Grants are limited to \$30 million and must be used for infrastructure and construction expenses.

Under SB 2086 a pesticide certification may be denied, removed or suspended if a person is convicted of a crime, is subject to a civil penalty, or has been found to have violated a state law or regulation about pesticide use.

SB 2342 creates a value-added milk processing facility incentive program to provide grants for the reimbursement of infrastructure or other constructions costs for the facility. The grant will be awarded after the facility achieves 100% of the facilities' processing capacity.

Transportation

Under HB 1053 the state highway system may not be more than 7,700 miles long.

Under SB 2133 blackout plates may be used for an additional fee of \$25 per registration period. Blackout plates must have a solid black background and white numbers and letters.

Miscellaneous

Under HB 1181, words used in state law to reference an individual's gender have the same meaning as those that refer to the individual's sex.

Under HB 1226 an individual may not wear a mask, hood or other item that covers, hides or conceals any portion of the individual's face to conceal their identity while congregating in a public place with others wearing a mask, hood or other face covering.

HB 1442 creates a legislative task force on government efficiency to review and analyze budgets and reports, review the effectiveness and necessity of programs and laws, conduct program evaluations, and submit an annual report detailing its findings and progress in implementing cost-saving measures and efficiencies, along with recommended legislation.

SB 2180 requires every regular meeting of a governing body of a city, county, township, school district, park district or water resource district to include an opportunity for an individual to provide public comment. The governing body may adopt a policy to regulate public comment to ensure it is pertinent to subjects regulated by the governing body.