

MINUTES
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
BRAND BOARD
2 p.m. CT • Monday, March 9, 2026
NDSA Headquarters • 4520 Ottawa St., Bismarck, N.D.

North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) Brand Board Chairman Joe Schettler called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. Other Brand Board members present included Scott Katus, Justin Maddock and Riley Schriefer. Others present included Corey Bergrud, Jeff Bowman, Isaac Cadet, Julie Ellingson, Tim Erbele, Jason Leiseth, Nick Marolt, Randy Schmitt, Rick Van Beek, Corby Ward and Joan Zimmerman.

Agenda

Joe Schettler asked if there were any items to be added to the agenda, but there were no items.

Welcome New Board Member Riley Schriefer

Riley Schriefer was welcomed as the new member of the Brand Board. He replaced Shane Anderson, who had completed two terms and was no longer eligible for reappointment.

Presentation to the Brand Board

Jeff Bowman, a former employee, addressed the Brand Board regarding potential reemployment. No action was taken.

Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the Dec. 2, 2025, meeting. *1st Justin Maddock, 2nd Riley Schriefer, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.*

Financial Reports

Julie Ellingson reviewed the NDSA Budget Committee's proposed budget for the brand-related programs of the organization, as well as the February 2026 profit-loss statement and balance sheet. *1st Justin Maddock, 2nd Scott Katus, to recommend a policy to pursue a fee increase when the brand inspection reserves fall below a \$750,000 threshold. Motion carried.*

Staff Reports

Technology support director: Corey Bergrud, the technology support director, reported on the progress on the permanent horse permit application, as well as the auction market system, including that for the multi-computer markets.

Deputy brand inspector: Deputy Brand Inspector Nick Marolt reported on his work, which has included inspection support in the field, at production sales and the markets, and case work, including a large-scale alleged cattle theft case in Richland County. Isaac Cadet, another deputy brand inspector, noted that he had completed his law enforcement academy work, had helped redesign some inspection-related forms and was working on three cases with state's attorneys.

Chief brand inspector: Corby Ward, chief brand inspector, noted a new hire, Delaney Davis, who would be working in Bowman and Dickinson, and confirmed that the regional trainings on the auction market computer program would take place in Dickinson, Mandan, Napoleon and Rugby in April. The original idea of having the training at the Annual Brand Inspectors Meeting was abandoned, as the inspectors will not have their computers with them. Corby Ward noted that May 1, 2026, is the official start date for the use of the computers at the market brand offices. One exception, however, will be those that require multiple computers, as that programming will take additional time. He noted the law enforcement team's attendance at the Western States Livestock Rural Enforcement Association Conference in Reno, Nev., and that Dane Clarys and Arly Schumacher are temporarily covering brand inspection at Hub City Livestock and Sisseton Livestock until a permanent replacement or plan is developed. *1st Scott Katus, 2nd Riley Schriefer, to compensate Dane Clarys \$1,225 a month additional for his work at Hub City Livestock and Sisseton Livestock, ending May 1. Motion carried.* He inquired about maintaining North Dakota inspection in Sisseton per North Dakota Administrative Code 48.1-03-11. He noted that 210,623 inspections have been conducted so far in 2026. Corby Ward asked if he could take one full-time brand inspector to the International Livestock Identification Association Convention. The Brand Board approved that action by consensus.

Brand recorder: Joan Zimmerman, brand recorder, reported on the current renewal, noting that 18,624 brands have been renewed as of the day. That is a similar number as compared to 2021, when 18,430 brands were recorded, and 2016, when 18,980 brands were recorded. Thirty-eight permanent horse permits have been completed for 2026. The brand books will be available in late March. There is a binder in the brand recording office that includes brands that were not renewed, but have been signed off on to be transferred, which brand seekers can use. Zimmerman indicated that she would like to see the cost of the duplicate brand cards increased to \$10.

Annual Brand Inspectors Meeting Planning

The Brand Board discussed plans for the Annual Brand Inspectors Meeting. After lengthy discussion, the group decided upon a virtual Brand Board meeting on July 6 and an in-person Annual Brand Inspectors Meeting on July 7. Corby Ward was directed to look into trap shooting or bowling as a team-building activity after the business meeting. Julie Ellingson was asked to check with Lisa Pederson about the status of the Beef Quality Assurance certificates for the participating inspectors, staff and volunteers at last year's meeting.

Brand Recording Discussion with the Brand Board

Rick Van Beek addressed the Brand Board about a denied brand application. The group brainstormed other possibilities that may be registerable.

Adjourn

1st Justin Maddock, 2nd Riley Schriefer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Julie Ellingson, Secretary

Randy Schmitt, President