

2025 SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR'S AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT

JUNE 17- 18, 2025
HISTORIC DEADWOOD, SD

Friends,

Welcome to the 2025 Governor's Agricultural Summit! As a lifelong West River rancher, I know firsthand the challenges and opportunities that farmers and ranchers face. I am a fifth-generation South Dakotan on my mom's side and a fourth-generation South Dakotan on my dad's. And for the first time in a long time, this Summit is being held in the beautiful Black Hills – which happens to be right in my backyard!

The farmers and ranchers across our state are a strong community. We do our best when we work with one another, and I'm proud to bring everyone together at this Ag Summit.

The Ag Summit is a place to celebrate South Dakota's number one industry. Ag is King in South Dakota, and I am deeply committed to guaranteeing that it thrives. My commitment to ongoing engagement with industry leaders will ensure that South Dakota's agriculture community has a seat at the table when important decisions are made. I will continue to work closely with ag organizations, producers, and other stakeholders to make sure that their voices are heard in the policymaking process.

The annual Ag Summit is the perfect forum for leaders in our ag community to discuss solutions to the critical issues we face. You will hear updates from national and state leaders regarding cattle inventory trends, consumer behavior, estate planning, forestry management, and more. By working together, agriculture will remain strong, and South Dakota will continue to be a state that is "Open for Opportunity!"

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting South Dakota's agriculture community. This event is not possible without you. Thank you to our participants for attending the conference and remaining active in our thriving ag industry. I know there are no days off on the farm, and I appreciate you making time for the Ag Summit. I hope you all learn something new and enjoy this event. God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Rhoden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" and last name "Rhoden" clearly distinguishable.

Larry Rhoden
Governor



JUNE 17

- 7:30 AM** **Registration | Breakfast**
- 8:30 AM** **Welcome Address**
Secretary Hunter Roberts, South Dakota
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- 8:35 AM** **Governor Policy Update**
South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden
- 8:55 AM** **5 Minute Break**
- 9:00 AM** **Keep Farmers Farming Program Overview & Panel**
Alan Hojer, South Dakota Agricultural Foundation
Charles Mogck, Producer from Olivet, SD
Betsy Pravecek, Producer from Winner, SD
- 10:00 AM** **Networking Break**
- 10:20 AM** **Bucking The Trends**
Bernt Nelson, Economist, American Farm Bureau
- 11:20 AM** **Building a Bigger Appetite for Protein**
Dr. Brett Kaysen, National Pork Board
- 12:05 PM** **Lunch**
- 12:50 PM** **When the Gunsmoke Clears: A Wild West Welcome Back**
- 1:05 PM** **Governor's Ag Ambassador Award**
South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden
- 1:25 PM** **5 Minute Break**
- 1:30 PM** **Forestry Roundtable**
Troy Heithecker, U.S. Forest Service
Marcus Warnke, SD State Forester
Jeremy Dedic, WY Forestry Partnership Coordinator
- 2:15 PM** **Animal Agriculture Under Attack**
Jack Hubbard, Berman and Company
- 3:00 PM** **Networking Break**
- 3:20 PM** **South Dakota: 'Open for Opportunity'**
Bill Even, Commissioner, SD GOED
- 3:40 PM** **Federal and International Policy: What's Going On?**
Ted McKinney, NASDA CEO
- 4:25 PM** **Closing Remarks**
- 4:30 PM** **Social Hour - Deadwood Mountain Grand Event Center**
- 7:00 PM** **Live Performance by Brandon Jones at Outlaw Square**
Enjoy the Show from the Silverado Deck

JUNE 18

7:30 AM **Registration | Breakfast**

8:20 AM **Load Busses - Deadwood Mountain Grand**

Forestry Stop #1

Highlight recent fuel reduction activities and successful forest management partnerships with local recreational groups.

Forestry Stop #2

Highlight how effectively managed forests improve fire resilience and support sustainable, healthy forests.

Forestry Stop #3

Observe Mountain Pine Beetle populations in the Northern Hills and discuss how effective forest management can minimize insect spread.

11:30 AM **Lunch**

12:30 PM **Spearfish Forest Products Mill Tour**

2:30 PM **Conclusion of the 2025 Governor's Ag Summit**

***Tours will be conducted on a rolling schedule
All times listed are in Mountain Time**

2025 SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR'S AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT

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WELCOME ADDRESS



**SECRETARY
ROBERTS**

SD DANR

Hunter Roberts currently serves South Dakota as the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR). In this role, he is committed to fulfilling DANR's mission to protect and preserve South Dakota's agriculture, environment, and natural resources through effective regulatory services, natural resource conservation, and financial and technical assistance.

Hunter is an active member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and the Environmental Council of States (ECOS). He also serves on the boards of directors for Food Export-Midwest and South Dakota Agriculture and Rural Leadership (SDARL).

He began his public service career in 2007 with the Governor's Office of Economic Development, focusing on energy policy and development. He later served as a policy advisor to Governor Dennis Daugaard and as Deputy Secretary and Director of Labor and Management at the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation.

Hunter leads with a strong belief in service, communication, collaboration, and hard work. He strives to set a positive example and firmly believes in the power of a "can-do" attitude.

He holds a Master of Business Administration and a Juris Doctor from the University of South Dakota. A fifth-generation farmer and rancher, Hunter lives in Pierre with his two children. He and his family own and operate a diversified grain and cow-calf farm and ranch southeast of Fort Pierre.

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**JAMES
HALVERSON**


MASTER OF CEREMONIES

James Halverson grew up on the outskirts of Fairview, SD and graduated from Canton High School. It was during this time that he found the value of hard work and love for agriculture by bailing countless small square bales and walking beans for miles and miles. He was active in various sports year-round as well as in FFA. He earned a college wrestling scholarship and served as a state FFA officer.

While attending South Dakota State University, James continued to be active in FFA, Ag/Bio Ambassadors, Prexy Council, and many other activities. He earned a degree in Ag Education and Animal Science before beginning his 15-year career as a high school agriculture instructor, FFA advisor, and coach in Belle Fourche, SD and later in Sundance, WY. He also earned a Master of Science degree in Rangeland Management from Colorado State University during this time.

After a successful teaching career, he was hired on as the Executive Director of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association where he advocated for cattle producers. During the pandemic, James and the crew at NewsCenter1 media group in Rapid City launched the hit TV series "Homegrown" which ran for four seasons and had hundreds of thousands of views.

Always wanting to be a cowboy, James and his wife started in the cattle business as first-generation producers and now own and operate Rifle Pit Ranch. Recently, he was appointed by Governor Larry Rhoden to the Board of Directors for the Second Century Habitat Fund. He also serves on the board for the Black Hills Stock Show-Central States Fair, and the Black Hills Nationals Wrestling Tournament.



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KEEP FARMERS FARMING PANEL




**ALAN
HOJER**


Alan Hojer is the Manager and Legacy Consultant of the "Keep Farmers Farming" program with the South Dakota Agricultural Foundation.

With over a decade of experience, Hojer has guided nearly 400 farm and ranch families through the complexities of estate and generational transition planning, helping ensure the continuity of agricultural operations across South Dakota.

Having spent this much time working with farms and ranches, you can expect to hear information that will be thought-provoking, ground-breaking, and proven to work regardless of an operation's size or complexity. Agriculture has never faced generational transition on this scale, and we are just at the beginning.

KEEP FARMERS FARMING PANEL



**CHARLES
MOGCK**

Charles Mogck is a fourth generation rancher and farmer near Olivet, South Dakota and co-owner of Mogck & Sons Angus. The Mogck family's involvement in Angus cattle breeding began nearly 90 years ago with Charles's grandfather, Adolph Mogck and Charles' father, Duane Mogck, expanding the enterprise.

Today, Charles and his wife, LeAndra continue alongside their children, Christina and her husband Logan, Chase, and Ty.

Currently, the Mogck & Sons Partnership consists of a registered herd of 400 Angus cows and 2500 acres of crop ground.

Also, the Partnership purchases their customers' feeder calves which are custom fed at various feedlots. Charles and his three children are graduates of South Dakota State University. After college, Charles also spent 11 years working for First State Bank as a loan officer and A.V.P./Branch manager.



**BETSY
PRAVECEK**

Betsy Pravecek is the CFO of Winner Circle Feedyard, a sixty thousand head organization with four feedyards in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

She and her husband Dan, own Pravecek Farming Feeding & Fertilizing, a fourth generation family enterprise that encompasses cow/calf operations, background feedyard management, row crop and diversified hay production, trucking and custom farming.

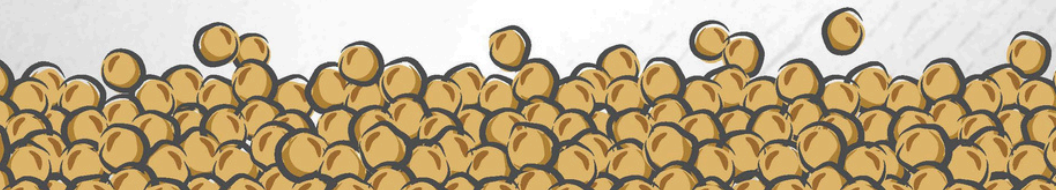
Also, with a deep commitment to her community, she serves as the President of the board of Winner Regional Healthcare Center.

Betsy is a proud mother of three ambitious children, all deeply passionate about agriculture, a testament to her family's dedication to the industry.

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▶ Photo of Agropur's Lake Norden, SD facility

BUCKING THE TRENDS



BERNT NELSON

AMERICAN FARM
BUREAU

Bernt Nelson, economist at the American Farm Bureau Federation, will layout the current trends in cattle inventory, why it matters, and how family farms can lead their business through this “hypercycle” in the cattle industry.

Bernt originally comes from a family farm in rural Fullerton, ND where he grew up with his two younger brothers.

The farm is still active today. Bernt got both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Agricultural Economics from North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND before spending five years working with Clemson Cooperative Extension in South Carolina.

Now living in Washington D.C., Bernt combines his experience growing up on the farm with his expertise as an economist to provide analysis and advocacy in livestock markets, rural development, finance and ag research.



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DR. KAYSEN

**NATIONAL PORK
BOARD**

Brett L. Kaysen, Ph.D., is the senior vice president of producer and state engagement for the National Pork Board (NPB). He leads the organization's grassroots efforts, empowering state associations to address the evolving needs of pork producers while driving long-term success for the U.S. pork industry. In this role, Dr. Kaysen draws on his extensive teambuilding and business development background to support signature leadership initiatives like the Elevate and Immersion programs.

These programs equip both emerging pork industry professionals and state executives with essential skills to advance their careers. He has helped reshape the state grant program and implement a more customized approach for working with state associations to meet their unique needs. Additionally, Dr. Kaysen contributes his expertise to the Animal Agriculture Alliance, where he has served on the Executive Board since 2025.

Prior to joining NPB staff, Dr. Kaysen served on the board of directors for the organization. His background includes working for Zoetis as the Western Regional Business Director for the U.S. Pork Business and as a Dairy Production Specialist. Before Zoetis, his career spanned an impressive 18 years at Colorado State University (CSU), where he served as Interim Undergraduate Teaching Coordinator for five years and held various instructor positions for 13 years.

Dr. Kaysen earned his degrees from Colorado State University. He holds a B.A. in Animal Science, an M.A. in Agricultural Extension Education, and a Ph.D. in Animal Sciences, Management Systems. He resides in Iowa, where he, his wife, and their two daughters raise pigs which they enjoy showing locally and nationally.

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THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS OUT WEST, I’M
PROUD TO LINK FARMS-TO-TABLES ACROSS
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FORESTRY ROUNDTABLE



**MARCUS
WARNKE**

Marcus Warnke is the State Forester for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Marcus has been with the Department since May 2012 and was promoted to his current role in June of 2022. Marcus received his B.S. in Forest Resource Management from the University of Montana, Missoula, and completed the Governor's Leadership Development graduate program with the University of South Dakota.

He has nearly 20 years of professional forestry experience including timber management, hydrology, forest health, wildland firefighting, and natural resources planning. Marcus is actively involved in the Dakotas Society of American Foresters and previously served on the Rapid City Urban Forestry Board for over a decade. He is married with two children and enjoys spending free time hiking, traveling, camping, woodworking, and brewery touring.



**Jeremy
Dedic**

Jeremy Dedic has worked with the Wyoming State Forestry Division since 2008, overseeing forest management across 54,000 acres of state trust lands, leading timber sales, and implementing forest improvement projects. He has also provided critical support to 320,000 acres of private forest landowners in developing and executing active forest management strategies. Jeremy has played a key role in major collaborative efforts, including serving as a core member of the Northeast Wyoming Emergency

Mountain Pine Beetle Response, contributing to the Oil Creek Fire Rehabilitation, and leading the first Good Neighbor Authority timber sale in the Black Hills National Forest. His work reflects a deep commitment to cooperative forest stewardship. Jeremy firmly believes that effective landscape-scale forest management depends on the active involvement of all landowners.

FORESTRY ROUNDTABLE



**Troy
Heithecker**

Troy Heithecker has served as Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region of the USDA Forest Service since June 2024. He is responsible for the stewardship of 17 National Forests and 17 National Grasslands across more than 22 million acres in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

He has provided a strategic vision to create and maintain resilient landscapes, deliver world-class recreation opportunities, and foster a work environment that values and respects all employees. Prior to Troy coming to Region 2, he was an Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System where he oversaw national programs for Forest and Rangeland Management, Vegetation Ecology, Lands, Minerals and Geology, and the National Partnership Office. Troy has served in numerous leadership positions throughout his career with the Forest Service including roles as Forest Supervisor of the Ouachita National Forest in Hot Springs, AR, Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Tongass National Forest and has held temporary assignments as Deputy Regional Forester in the Rocky Mountain Region, Forest Supervisor on the Tongass National Forest, and many other diverse roles during his Forest Service journey.

Troy started his career with the Forest Service in 1997 as a volunteer with the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Juneau, Alaska working as a field technician in research silviculture. While completing college Troy spent his summers implementing research silviculture projects on the Tongass and Gifford Pinchot National Forests where he learned the complex dynamics of managing public lands for multiple uses.

A native Texan, Troy earned a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Colorado State University and a Master's Degree in Forest Ecology from the University of Washington. Troy enjoys all things outdoors, playing music and spending time with his wife and two kids.



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ANIMAL AGRICULTURE UNDER ATTACK



**JACK
HUBBARD**
BERMAN &
COMPANY

Jack provides advice and counsel to CEOs and senior executives seeking to “Change the Debate” on key industry issues.

Jack regularly delivers speeches to industry groups and provides insights on managing public opinion, legislative strategies, and crisis communications.

He studied political science at Davidson College in North Carolina and served on several Boards including the U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Poultry & Eggs.



THE DAIRY CHECKOFF INVESTMENT AT WORK

Fueling Sales at Retail

Our team focuses its efforts on providing insights and expertise to retailers to drive dairy sales and encourage consumers to put more dairy products in their carts. By revitalizing the dairy case, retailers experience increased sales and consumers are more satisfied with their shopping experience.

Increasing Access to Dairy in Schools

Building on the success of the Fuel Up to Play 60 program, our team continues to work with school food nutrition partners to increase the selection of dairy foods offered to students at various points throughout the day. Whether it's grab-and-go-breakfasts, after school snacking programs or smoothie bars and coffee stations, students, who are tomorrow's dairy consumers, can enjoy a wider variety of their favorite dairy foods all day long.

Dairy Research

Understanding what's important to today's consumers is key to bringing insights that fuel innovative product development that keeps consumers coming back to the dairy aisle. We also fund a wide variety of research projects to provide solutions to challenges throughout the industry.

Building Consumer Confidence

Midwest Dairy is fully engaged in the industry-wide Undeniably Dairy campaign. We also work to bring dairy foods and experiences to unexpected places to continually remind consumers how enjoyable dairy foods are and how they are key to many of life's most memorable experiences.

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Assure and Enhance a Sustainable Dairy Environment in South Dakota

Policy

The voice of dairy families with legislative and policy leaders in Pierre and in Washington D.C.

Growth

By cooperating with other agricultural groups and stakeholders. South Dakota Dairy Producers is encouraging growth and opportunities for dairy in South Dakota.

Education

Providing information to dairy farmers through SDSU Extension, the I-29 Moo-University and at the State Annual Meeting.

Consumer Confidence

WORKING TO:

- Support policy initiatives
- Build sales and trust in dairy
- Protect your license to operate



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SOUTH DAKOTA: 'OPEN FOR OPPORTUNITY'



**COMMISSIONER
BILL EVEN**

SD GOED

Bill Even is the Commissioner of the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development where he leads a team whose mission drives the economic development environment that ensures the next generation can succeed in South Dakota. Prior to his leadership role with South Dakota Economic Development, Bill served nine years as CEO for the National Pork Board where he had responsibility for leading Pork Checkoff-funded research, promotion and education projects on behalf of America's 60,000 pork producers.

Preceding his CEO tenure, Bill served as the Global Industry Relations Lead and Commercial Unit Lead for DuPont Pioneer/Corteva from 2010 to 2016.

Bill also served as South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture from 2007 to 2010 where he managed six department divisions: Agriculture Regulatory Services, Agriculture Development, State Fair, Wildland Fire, Resource Conservation and Forestry, and Agricultural Policy.

Bill also served as Deputy Secretary of Tourism and State Development, Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, State Energy Policy Director, and Policy Advisor and Executive branch lobbyist for South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds.

Bill holds an A.S. in Agricultural Production from Lake Area Technical Institute, a B.S. in Agricultural Business from South Dakota State University; and a Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School.

While in law school, Bill served as Executive Editor of the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, clerked for the law firm of Hefner and Bergkamp, P.C., and interned with the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee in Washington, D.C.

Bill and his family own and operate a diversified crop and livestock farm near Humboldt, SD. The farm was homesteaded in 1884 by his great-grandfather and Bill began farming in 1983. Bill and his wife, Janell, have three children and live in Tea, SD.



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FEDERAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY: WHAT'S GOING ON?



**TED
MCKINNEY**

NASDA CEO

Ted serves as the Chief Executive Officer of NASDA, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, a position to which he was named in September 2021. Prior to NASDA, he was also the first U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs from 2017-2021. In that role, Under Secretary McKinney led the development and implementation of the Department's trade policy, oversaw and facilitated

foreign market access, and promoted opportunities for U.S. agriculture through various trade programs and high-level government negotiations. He also oversaw the U.S. Codex Alimentarius staff and functions. After his USDA service, McKinney was engaged in foreign affairs and outreach involving the US food and agriculture industry and its engagement with the United Nations Food Systems Summits.

In 2014, McKinney was appointed by then-Governor Mike Pence to serve as Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, a position he held until joining USDA in 2017. His career also included 19 years with Dow AgroSciences, where over time he served in nearly all Government & Public Affairs roles, and 14 years with Elanco, at that time a subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company, where he was Director of Global Corporate Affairs.

McKinney grew up on a family grain and livestock farm in Tipton, Indiana, and was a 10-year 4-H member and an Indiana State FFA Officer. He graduated from Purdue University with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics in 1981, at which time he received the G.A. Ross Award as the outstanding University senior male graduate. In 2002, he was named a Purdue Agriculture Distinguished Alumnus and, in 2004, received an FFA Honorary American degree. He has also received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Indiana Governors Pence and Holcomb.

He and his wife, Julie, have three children and seven grandchildren, and reside in Alexandria, Virginia.



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2025 GOVERNOR'S AG AMBASSADOR AWARD



Governor Larry Rhoden is pleased to recognize an individual or organization that has made a positive contribution to South Dakota's agricultural industry.

South Dakotans have long valued servant leadership, hard work, honesty, humility, and respect for others.

This award recognizes a South Dakota citizen who embodies these qualities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AG AMBASSADOR

- Provides visionary leadership to South Dakota's agricultural industry.
- Champions growth and prosperity of the state's number one industry.
- Advocates for agriculture and responsible stewardship of livestock and land.
- Highlights the significance of South Dakota agriculture to our global food system.
- Influences decision makers to develop and implement sound agricultural policies.

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

| | |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 2024 | Jerry Oster |
| 2023 | Nef and Gonzenbach Families |
| 2022 | Walt Bones |
| 2021 | Jeff Lakner |
| 2019 | Paul Casper |
| 2018 | Roger Scheibe |
| 2017 | Lake Area Technical College |
| 2016 | Michelle Rook |
| 2015 | Dr. Bob Thaler |
| 2014 | Brad Greenway |
| 2013 | Mike Held |
| 2012 | Jim Woster |
| 2011 | Dr. Dan Gee |

2025 GOVERNOR'S AG AMBASSADOR AWARD



Glenn Muller of Davis, South Dakota, has been selected as the 2025 Governor's Ag Ambassador for his lifelong contributions to the pork industry and South Dakota agriculture.

Glenn grew up on a farrow-to-finish swine operation near Davis, South Dakota, where he and his family still reside.

He earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from South Dakota State University and held multiple agriculture education roles before joining Smithfield Foods.

Glenn has long been involved with the South Dakota Pork Producers Council (SDPPC) serving on the board and as board president from 1991-92. Since 2010, he has served as their Executive Director, playing a key role in supporting agricultural growth, advocating for responsible and practical regulations, and developing industry-wide collaboration.



**GLENN
MULLER**
2025 GOVERNOR'S
AG AMBASSADOR

"Ag is king in South Dakota, and I am incredibly proud of the dedicated individuals like Glenn who keep our number one industry thriving," said Governor Rhoden. "Glenn represents the very best of our ag community - someone who is thoughtful, hard-working, and deeply rooted in service to others. His decades of commitment to the pork industry and South Dakota agriculture have made a lasting impact across our state."



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NOTES





MISSION

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VISION

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