



North Dakota
Livestock Alliance

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My name is Amber Wood, 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, North Dakota Corn Growers 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 reinstatement of the NDSU Swine Extension Specialist. I had the privilege of viewing the candidates' presentations and to participate in the stakeholder input sessions. NDLA looks forward to welcoming the new hire as soon as they are announced.

NDLA would also like to voice our support for the Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) project being presented today by Dr.'s Scaglia and Schumacher. We see many advantages to this initiative for the producers of all species of livestock across North Dakota. Technologies, like those described in the PLF proposal, are integral to the daily lives of producers and directly enable them to further expand care for their animals, increase productivity and to attract employees. In our 2021 SBARE testimony, we discussed the results of the NDLA Dairy Barn Working Group. The group was assembled to develop a plan to update the NDSU Dairy Barn to bring it in line with today's modern dairy farms. The Precision Livestock Farming project addresses several of the group's recommendations with the proposed heifer development barn, automated calf feeding and robotic milking stations. The PLF also addresses an issue of the highest priority to the group which was ventilation improvements throughout the dairy facility. Paired with the pending NDSU swine barn updates, these initiatives will better prepare students for their future careers in North Dakota's expanding modern livestock industries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber E Wood

Amber Wood
Executive Director