

# make it happen

RLND 2011-13 Class Motto

## RLND 2011-13 Class V Summary



  
**Rural  
Leadership**  
NORTH DAKOTA  
*Supporting Agriculture and Community Development*



**NDSU** EXTENSION  
SERVICE



Greetings and welcome to the Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Class V (2011-2013) Summary Booklet.

During the past 18 months, 23 participants from across North Dakota have been challenged to learn more about themselves, their organizations, communities, state, nation and world. Class V participants expanded their knowledge by participating in 10 seminars: seven seminars in North Dakota, one seminar in Minneapolis, one seminar in Washington, D.C., and an international seminar to Brazil. Participants were exposed to new areas of the state, country and world, as well as new areas of thinking about leadership, agriculture, communities and how to “get things done.”

During their 10-day seminar to Brazil, participants learned about agricultural policies in Brazil, including international trade, agricultural practices and how infrastructure affects agriculture in Brazil. Class V participants also learned about the people of Brazil and how they live and work, as well as their customs and culture. The Brazil seminar marked the first time the RLND program has held a seminar outside of the North American continent.

Class V participants brought their knowledge and networks from the seminars back to their home communities and organizations to help move projects and initiatives forward. Class V participants have formed life-long relationships with each other. These relationships and networks will be utilized to “make it happen” (Class V motto) for their organizations, communities and the state.

Congratulations, Class V participants, on completing your RLND experience! It has been a privilege and an honor to get to know you and learn about your dreams and aspirations. I look forward to working with you as an alumni of the RLND program and a member of the RLND Alumni Association! You are indeed a group who will “make it happen” for North Dakota!

**Marie Hvidsten, Ed.D.**  
RLND Program Director

*Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself.  
When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.*  
- Jack Welch



North Dakota needs great leaders to create and maintain thriving rural economies, lifestyles and communities. In that regard, it is a true honor to recognize the Class V members of Rural Leadership North Dakota on your graduation and for your accomplishments.

During the past 18 months, each of you experienced personal development, gained leadership skills and established a new professional network. You also became well informed about important state, national and international issues, and undertook community projects. Your commitment and dedication were essential for this success.

The completion of Rural Leadership North Dakota is indeed an honor. You henceforth will be Class V RLND alumni. Rural Leadership North Dakota was a step in your leadership journey. It certainly was not the first step, and I know it will not be the last step. The transition from student to alumni will bring additional expectations because the leadership talents, skills and insights that you have honed are valuable resources for North Dakota. Your neighbors, organizations and communities will benefit from your leadership and positive attitudes.

North Dakota is clearly moving forward, and you have the opportunity - perhaps the obligation - to help shape that future. Your leadership activities and contributions, in concert with your neighbors, organizations and communities, will enrich the fabric of North Dakota. I and the NDSU Extension Service will be proud to acknowledge our association with you and your future endeavors. Class V, congratulations and best wishes!

**Chris Boerboom**, Director  
NDSU Extension Service

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*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more  
and become more, you are a leader.*

*- John Quincy Adams*

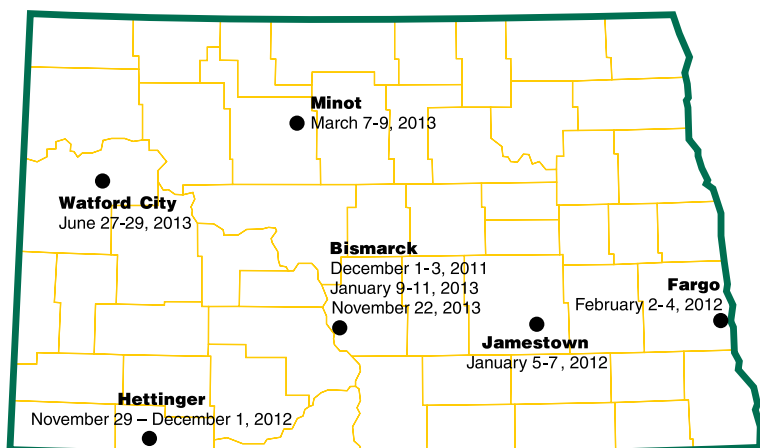
# RLND Class of 2013



Front row: Jolene Obrigewitch, Stephanie Mayfield, Gerri Makay, Stacy Artz, Andrea Bowman, Rachael Disrud, John Schneider, Breanne (Isle) Uffelman, Cassidy Kersten and Daryl Lies.  
 Middle row: Andrew Holle, Kurt Shelton, Cindy McDonald, Jessica Haak, Dan Folske, Vawnta Best, Annie Carlson, Aaron Tschosik and Jay Doan. Back row: Marie Hvidsten, Anthony Larson, Cory McCaskey, Tom Metz, Matt Danuser, Beni Paulson and Tom Bodine.

“make it happen” RLND 2011-13  
Class Motto

## 2011-2013 Seminars



- **Washington, D.C.**  
March 5-10, 2012
- **Minneapolis, Minn.**  
June 27-30, 2012
- **Brazil**  
Jan. 23 - Feb. 1, 2013

# make it happen

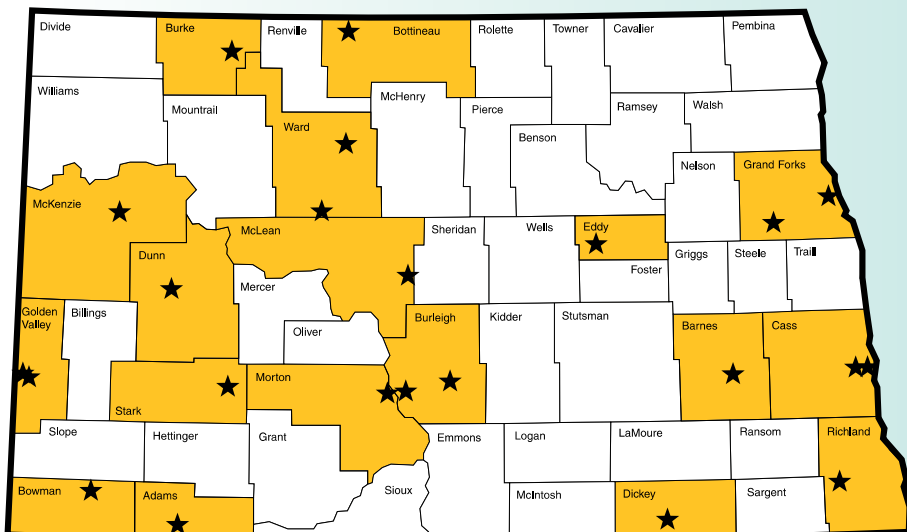
RLND 2011-13 Class Motto

## RLND Project Stories

2011-13 Class

Every RLND participant worked on a project in his or her community or organization. Some projects take a few months, while others take a few years to complete. RLND projects improve the quality of life for individuals in communities and organizations throughout North Dakota. These projects create positive change in the community, as well as the RLND participant.

### RLND Class 2013 communities



# Supporting Agriculture

## Agriculture Advocate for North Dakota

### Advocate for Agriculture



**Stacy Artz**, grain farm owner/operator, Antler

**The project:** Be a positive and credible resource for the agricultural industry locally, statewide and nationally

**The impact:** Artz was chosen in the summer of 2013 as one of 10 farmers across the U.S. to participate in the United Soybean Board's See For Yourself program. Through this program, she was able to evaluate how the U.S. Soybean Board was funding checkoff activities in Panama and Colombia, as well as across the U.S. Her goal is to become more active on local and state agricultural industry boards and volunteer projects.

*RLND was a great experience for me. I feel the program brought out a new level of confidence in me that will push me to be a positive voice for North Dakota agriculture and the issues that are important to my industry and my state. My RLND classmates were all class acts and I learned something from all of them. I recommend this program to anyone who wants to get more involved in their local and state organizations.*

– Stacy Artz



**Matt Danuser**, owner, Northern Plains Crop Consulting/seeds sales, Wyndmere

**The project:** Being an advocate for North Dakota by helping people interested in learning more about the state understand its agricultural industry and economy

**Impact:** People learn about North Dakota agriculture, including its farm and conservation policies, and issues such as genetically modified organisms, as well as its culture and economy. Receiving information from a producer perspective helps individuals break down stereotypes about what agriculture is all about in North Dakota.

*The friendships and skills I acquired through RLND have enabled me to become a stronger advocate for North Dakota. It will help me for years to come as I get involved on various community projects. – Matt Danuser*



# Supporting Agriculture



## Agritourism in North Dakota



**Jay Doan**, rancher, Black Leg Ranch, McKenzie

**The project:** Develop and enhance an agritourism operation in rural North Dakota as a way to provide more opportunities for people to remain in rural areas

**The impact:** Black Leg Ranch, a family business, has diversified into a multifaceted agritourism operation. It offers a variety of activities, including guided hunting and ranch vacations, as well as lodging and a site for corporate events, team-building activities and weddings. Doan hopes the ranch's efforts will inspire other operations to diversity and provide more opportunities for future generations.

*RLND is a great asset to North Dakota by bringing a very diverse group of individuals together for the better good of North Dakota. – Jay Doan*

## Local Food, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture



**Annie Carlson**, owner, Morning Joy Farm, Mercer

**The project:** Raising awareness of local food availability and sustainable and organic farming practices, and recruiting and training new farmers

**The impact:** As the result of work during the 2013 legislative session, North Dakota Food Freedom, a group of concerned consumers and producers, was formed to make government agencies, regulators and legislators aware of how these goods are produced and encourage size-appropriate regulation. Other issues include making connections among regulatory agencies, producers and consumers, and the generational transfer of farming operations, especially when it involves bringing new farmers into the business. North Dakota Food Freedom is working on identifying issues for the 2015 legislative session, and Carlson is working to develop land access and capital investment opportunities for beginning farmers.

*Through RLND, I became more confident in my own voice, more knowledgeable regarding issues facing our state and communities, and more passionate about speaking up and speaking out. – Annie Carlson*

# Supporting Agriculture

## North Dakota Angus University



**Breanne (Ilse) Uffelman**, Montana State University Extension agent, Big Horn County, Hardin

**The project:** The NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC) and North Dakota Angus Association (NDAA)

collaborated to establish the North Dakota Angus University calf feed-out program, which allows Angus producers to consign cattle to the center for use in feedlot research trials

**The impact:** The North Dakota Angus University is helping generate information on livestock production and cattle's genetic performance in feedlot finishing trials that's necessary to further develop the cattle feeding and finishing industry in the northern Plains. The program also capitalizes on the region's cattle genetics and the state's immense but underutilized feed resources. North Dakota Angus University will have its second annual feed-out in 2014, creating a long-term relationship with the CREC and NDAA.

*RLND provides professional development without borders to develop leaders without limitations.*

– Breanne (Ilse) Uffelman

## Rural and Agricultural Education Supplies



**Cassidy Kersten**, director, SRT Communications, Minot

**The project:** Develop a program that

provides elementary-aged children with a book that has an agricultural or rural theme as a way to support North Dakota's No. 1 industry and give children a book of their own

**The impact:** North Dakota has undergone many changes in recent years, and many new residents don't come from an agricultural background. This book will allow children to get a better understanding of North Dakota, where its citizens' roots are and the importance of agriculture in the residents' daily lives.

*Rural Leadership has afforded me the opportunity to gain an in-depth perspective about the many thriving industries in our state. In addition, I have had the privilege to expand my network and see the collaboration that takes place throughout North Dakota. My RLND experience will help me indefinitely, and I look forward to contributing to our great state's future.* – Cassidy Kersten

**North Dakota Angus University  
Calf Feed-Out Program  
May 2013**

A cooperative feeding program of the  
North Dakota Angus Association and  
the NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center

Do you use Angus Sires in your Operation?  
• Would you like to know how your calves perform and grade when fed to a finish weight?  
• Are you interested in the potential profitability available through retained ownership?

**For more information or to consign cattle contact:**  
NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center  
Dr. Vern Anderson  
Dr. Karl Hoppe  
Chanda Engel  
Phone: 701-652-2951  
ND Angus Association  
Mike Wendel, board member:  
Phone: 701-710-0425



# Enhancing Lives

## Diversifying North Dakota's Community Forests

### Putting Out Fires



**Tom Metz**, precision agriculture adviser, Uglem-Ness Co., Northwood

**The project:** Improve the Northwood Fire

Department's financial condition and upgrade its equipment

**The impact:** Fund raising events are under way. A truck purchasing committee is working on pricing and funding for a new brush truck, which will help the department fight grass and tree fires in the area.

*Being part of RLND Class V has allowed me to realize that even when you think an issue has nothing to do with your current situation, there is a very good chance that it can and will affect your situation in some way at some time. – Tom Metz*



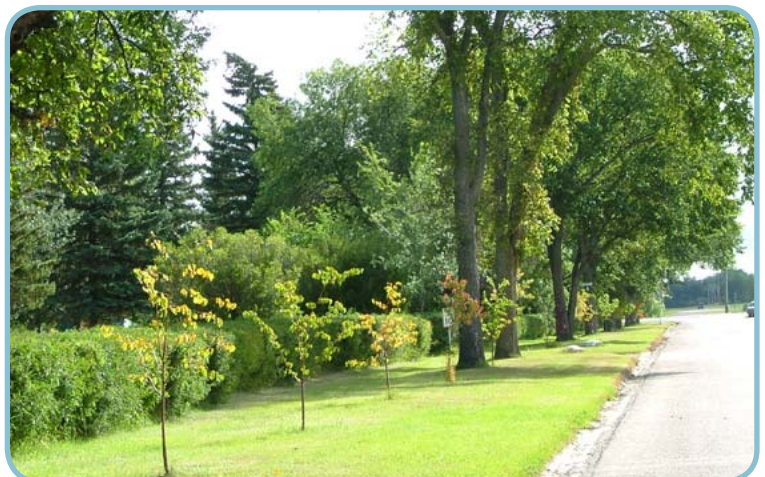
**Gerri Makay**, Community forestry program manager, North Dakota Forest Service, New Rockford

**The project:** Conduct inventories of trees growing along community streets, develop tree management

plans and plant a variety of trees in an effort to diversify communities' tree species

**The impact:** Species diversification is the best defense against emerald ash borer (EAB), which has killed more than 50 million ash trees in 22 states, although none yet in North Dakota, and other invasive pests. Street tree inventories have been conducted in two dozen communities throughout the state to assess their ash trees and ready these communities for the development of EAB preparedness plans. Efforts will continue, with the assistance of North Dakota Forest Service community forestry grants, to conduct inventories, develop management plans and complete tree planting projects.

*Participation in the RLND program has been an adventure, a privilege and an inspirational learning experience. The ability to empower others — that is my achievable goal. – Gerri Makay*



# Enhancing Lives

## Home on the Range Ranch and Job Experience



**Jolene Obrigewitch**, development director, Home on the Range, Beach

**The project:** Introduce youth at Home on the Range, a treatment facility for abused and neglected adolescents, to the ranching environment and teach

them job skills

**The impact:** The youth participate in ranch work and are exposed to cattle management, develop a positive work ethic and learn about animal stewardship. While helping with ranch chores, the youth also learn valuable job skills such as accountability, leadership, the importance of following rules, responsibility and team work, which they can use when they are seeking employment.

*RLND is an amazing and educational program. It pushed me out of my comfort zone, gave me more confidence, helped me grow as a leader, and made me a stronger advocate for agriculture and my community. I'm grateful for the entire experience and would highly recommend it.*  
– Jolene Obrigewitch



## Protecting Lives and Property



**Dan Folske**, Extension agent, Burke County, Bowbells

**The project:** Upgrade fire protection equipment in Bowbells

**The impact:** With a combination of money from oil impact grants, income from the sale of property formerly used as a high school football field and other locally raised funds, the Bowbells Volunteer Fire Department has upgraded to a 1999 Freightliner pumper truck. It also replaced one of its grass fire units, a 1987 Chevy 2500, with a 2008 Ford F550 and added a minipumper on a Ford F450 chassis. While none of these are new vehicles, they are a huge jump forward and should provide many years of service.

*The RLND experience has reinforced my belief in the value of friends and networks as valuable partners in the things I do every day at work, at home and in the community.*  
– Dan Folske

# Enhancing Lives

## Mentoring Youth



**Rachael Disrud,**  
president,  
Lord's Landing, Fargo

**The project:** Connect  
young people with  
adults who can show

them a trade and how to continue  
their education, pursue meaningful  
employment, develop wisdom and  
manage finances, and give them the  
opportunity to experience the security  
of someone to guide them in life

**The impact:** Disrud, who has been  
mentoring young people for 35 years,  
continues to encourage leaders in  
all generations to mentor youth and  
young adult leaders who are growing  
in their community influence.

*It has been a pleasure to be in  
class V of RLND. It has been an  
amazing experience to gather  
with people whom I call friends  
from all over North Dakota. There  
has been an opportunity to be  
exposed to the culture of North  
Dakota and watch young leaders in  
rural communities make a positive  
difference in the lives of those  
around them.*

– Rachael Disrud



## Cass Clay BackPack Program



**Cindy McDonald,** executive assistant,  
John Deere Electronic Solutions,  
West Fargo

**The project:** Fill backpacks with food  
to meet the needs of hungry children  
when school-provided lunches are not

available, such as on weekends and during school  
vacations

**Impact:** John Deere Electronic Solutions employees  
packed more than 8,000 backpacks of food, providing  
meals to approximately 600 children in the Cass-Clay  
community. Teachers or principals recommend students  
with nutritional needs for this program. Backpacks filled  
with child-friendly, nonperishable and easily consumed  
food are given to the children discreetly on the last day  
before the weekend or school holiday.

*My involvement with RLND provided an avenue for  
personal growth, professional development and a  
network of exceptional leaders throughout the state.  
The RLND program has strengthened my desire to  
be heard and to make a difference.*

– Cindy McDonald

# Building Communities

## Building Community Capitals for a Sustainable Future

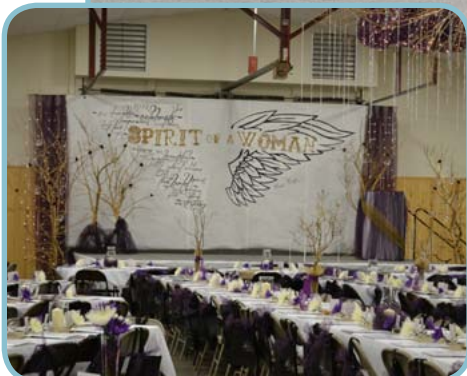


**Andrea Bowman**, Extension agent, Bowman County, Bowman

**The project:** Identify community needs and build capitals to address those needs

**The impact:** Bowman has gained a child-care center with new landscaping and square-foot gardens. The community continues to encourage young people to get involved and will host a leadership short course this winter. Also, the community hosted the 11th annual Rural Women in America Conference. The one-day event inspires, motivates and educates women.

*The RLND experience has driven me to focus on projects that have a lasting impact on the community and motivated me to try new things. – Andrea Bowman*



## Connecting Commerce and Community



**Cory McCaskey**, owner, Business Buddy, Beach

**The project:** Develop an interactive Chamber of Commerce website for the Beach area to

highlight businesses and community activities

**The impact:** The website, [www.beachndchamber.com](http://www.beachndchamber.com), allowed the Beach Area Chamber to branch out from a one-page listing on a community website to having a full-fledged, stand-alone Web presence. Chamber administration can change photos and text quickly and easily, track members and manage renewals, and post the latest news and information, which can be integrated into newsletters. The events calendar supports public and private events and sends updates to registered attendees. Chamber members can log into their online account to join or renew memberships, update their “mini-website” business directory listing, participate in forums, offer business-to-business incentives and advertise on the website.

*My RLND experience provided me with the resources to be a more effective leader on a personal and professional level. – Cory McCaskey*

# Building Communities

## High Plains Cultural Center



**Benjamin Paulson,**  
rancher, Paulson Ranch,  
Richardton

**The project:** Construct the High Plains Cultural Center, a multipurpose building, in

Dunn County

**The impact:** The center will provide space for community recreational activities, 4-H and school functions, meetings, concerts, weddings and numerous other events. This facility will meet the demands and needs of a population in western North Dakota that is growing as the result of oil development.

*The knowledge, skills, relationships and experiences gained through the RLND program have had and will continue to have positive impact on my personal life and my effectiveness as a leader. The opportunity to participate in the program with a group of like-minded people made the experience even more valuable and enjoyable.*  
– Benjamin Paulson

## Scruffy's Drive-up



**Anthony Larson,** ag banker,  
Dacotah Bank, Hettinger

**The project:** Purchase and reopen an empty restaurant

**The impact:** The renovated and modernized restaurant provides a needed service and product in the community, and a vacant building is alive with activity. Young people hired to work in the restaurant receive valuable customer service training and work experience.

*I am very grateful for the opportunity that I have had to learn and grow alongside other dedicated leaders from across the state over the past two years. Excellent examples of quality leadership have been displayed throughout the program from seminar presenters, fellow classmates, and our RLND director, alumni and council. This program has provided me with additional tools, resources, confidence and motivation to have an even greater impact on my family, community, workplace and state.*  
– Anthony Larson



# Building Communities



## Pioneer Park Trail



**Stephanie Mayfield**, administrative assistant, Barnes County Municipal Airport, Valley City

**The project:** Develop Pioneer Park to accommodate many recreational opportunities for the community because it is the only large park that remains dry when the Sheyenne River is high

**The impact:** A new steel bridge has been installed over the natural spring in the park, and a multiuse trail will be completed by this winter. The quarter-mile trail can be used for biking, walking and in-line skating. Future projects may include adding an arboretum and outdoor fitness equipment, repairing the amphitheater, installing restrooms and a large parking area, and creating a sledding area.

*RLND taught me the importance of taking risks and building relationships that can positively impact our communities.*  
– Stephanie Mayfield

## Young Entrepreneurial Grant Program



**John Schneider**, executive director, Agricultural Products Utilization Commission, North Dakota Department of Commerce, Bismarck

**The project:** Develop a grant program for young entrepreneurs from age 18 to 29

**The impact:** The program has \$350,000 that can be used to pay startup costs for new businesses. Each business is eligible to apply for up to \$25,000. The grants must be matched dollar for dollar, and the businesses must be in North Dakota and in or near a rural community. The grant program is meant to inspire and cultivate the talent and innovation of young North Dakota entrepreneurs.

*Because of my Rural Leadership North Dakota experience, I developed an invaluable network of leaders from around the state. – John Schneider*

*Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.*  
– John F. Kennedy

# Building Communities

## Community Youth Engagement



**Kurtis Shelton,**  
program specialist,  
RSVP+ Northeast,  
Grand Forks

**The project:** To engage youth across the state in their communities through service learning

**The impact:** Through community partnerships, including schools, government, and various local and regional agencies, students engage in service-learning projects to aid and better know their communities. Youth throughout the state will become active stakeholders in making their communities dynamic and responsive to local, regional, statewide and national issues and needs.

*This has been a great way to learn about North Dakota and build a network of friends and resources to do the work of community building throughout the state.*

*– Kurtis Shelton*



## Cowboys and Crude: The McKenzie County Story



**Vawnita Best,** ranch owner/  
operator, Watford City

**The project:** Create a documentary about McKenzie County to offset an image problem resulting from the rapid growth and significant changes to its communities, landscape and socioeconomic condition due to the oil boom

**The impact:** The goal of the documentary is to redefine the image of the area, re-establish regional tourism, and recruit professionals and working families to the community by showcasing its numerous resources and opportunities. The documentary also will serve as a historic piece for the numerous McKenzie County natives who will return to the area for the Watford City Centennial and all-school reunion in June 2014.

*RLND provided the opportunity for exposure to and networking with agriculturalists and community leaders, allowing for personal and leadership growth and resource discovery.*  
*– Vawnita Best*



# Learning for Life

## Increasing Youth's Ag Knowledge



**Daryl Lies**, owner, DJ Auction Service and Daryl's Racing Pigs, Douglas

**The project:** Enhance youth's involvement in and knowledge of agriculture

**The impact:** Youth on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation raise and care for lambs and pigs and prepare the animals for shows. The animals later become food for the youth and their families. This is a collaborative effort involving the Fort Berthold Community College and pig and sheep breeders, who provide the animals for the youth to raise and give them the technical and educational support they need to care for the animals. About 25 to 30 youth participated this year. The goal is to have 50 to 60 in the program next year.

*The opportunity provided to network with people across the state is one of the most important benefits of the RLND program. You never have enough networking. I've always believed that. – Daryl Lies*

## Youth Football



**Aaron Tschosik**, market president, Starion Financial, Ellendale

**The project:** Start a football program for grades four through six

**The impact:** The program, which began in June 2012, teaches youth about sportsmanship, teamwork and being a leader on and off the field, as well as football fundamentals and skills. In addition, the athletes develop new friendships, and build and strengthen their self-esteem by recognizing their capabilities. The program is open to boys and girls from Ellendale and surrounding communities, including Forbes, N.D., and Frederick and Leola, S.D.

*RLND provided me the opportunity to learn about many different areas of North Dakota, but more important to me is the networking and friendships with my classmates. The knowledge and experience that I now have access to is something I will draw on for a long time. – Aaron Tschosik*

*You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do.*

*– Eleanor Roosevelt*



# Learning for Life

## Experiencing Life on the Farm



**Andrew Holle**, co-owner,  
Northern Lights Dairy, Mandan

**The project:** Develop the dairy to  
better educate visitors to the farm

**The impact:** The goal is to  
invest in some design and facility

changes that allow the dairy to better facilitate groups of people who tour the farm. Northern Light Dairy offers tours year-round to groups from young school kids to international entrepreneurs. To make sure those who visit the farm have an amazing experience and learn something about life and animals on a farm, plans are to set up a birthing center so visitors can see animals being born, develop an education center filled with pamphlets and handouts that kids and adults can take home and learn more about dairy, and provide coloring books and recipes to help visitors learn more about dairy when they return home.

*All people have the same basic wants, needs and desires. It is through the RLND program that we learn the building blocks that help us lead people to achieve their desires, dreams and goals. – Andrew Holle*



*What you do has far greater impact than what you say.  
– Stephen Covey*

# Council Members (2011-2013)

RLND Council members are individuals who volunteer to serve up to two three-year terms. Council members' responsibilities include providing direction, creating policies and procedures, advocating for the program, maintaining appropriate fiscal policies and assisting with class selection. RLND Council members are individuals who "walk the talk" of leadership through their service to the RLND program.



**Jerry Doan**  
Chair  
Rancher/Producer,  
McKenzie, ND



**Keith Trego**  
Vice Chair  
Executive Director,  
North Dakota Natural  
Resources Trust,  
Bismarck, ND



**Michael O'Keeffe**  
Secretary/  
Treasurer  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Farm Credit Services  
of Mandan,  
Mandan, ND



**Melissa Beach**  
Executive Director,  
Traill County Economic  
Development  
Commission,  
Hillsboro, ND  
RLND Class IV



**Jody Hauge**  
Producer,  
Mandan, ND



**Pamela Musland**  
Membership Education  
Coordinator, North Dakota  
Farmers Union,  
Jamestown, ND



**Tim Bryan**  
Producer,  
Bowbells, ND



**John Jacobson**  
Director of Leadership  
Development, North  
Dakota Farm Bureau,  
Fargo, ND



**Kathleen Tweeten**  
Director,  
Center for Community Vitality,  
NDSU Extension Service  
Bismarck, ND



**Chris Boerboom**  
Ex-Officio Council  
Member,  
Director, NDSU  
Extension Service  
Fargo, ND



**April Jepson**  
Producer/Rancher,  
Killdeer, ND  
RLND Class III



**Greg Vetter**  
Executive Vice President,  
University of Mary,  
Bismarck, ND



**Dr. D.C. Coston**  
President,  
Dickinson State  
University,  
Dickinson, ND



**Janel Lee**  
Vice President/Cashier,  
McKenzie County Bank,  
Watford City, ND  
RLND Class II



**John Warner**  
Senator, Fourth Legislative  
District,  
Ryder, ND

Not pictured:  
**Terry Goerger**  
Owner,  
Goerger Seed & Supply Co.,  
Mantador, ND

**Former RLND Council members:** Gene Veeder, Keith Bjerke, Maynard Helgaas, Connie Nicholas, Lynette Nieuwsma, Carol Goodman, Julie Burgum, Paul Govig, Connie Sprynczynatyk, Dennis Hill, Craig Larson, Deborah Kantrud, Myron Eighthy, Vicki Monsen, Allan Orwick, Al Gustin, Mark Johnson, Michelle McMormack, Ryan Taylor, Kayla Pulvermacher, Tom Bodine

# Contributors

The organizations, businesses and individuals listed have graciously contributed to the RLND program from October 2011 to September 2013. These contributors have made offering the RLND program to individuals across North Dakota possible. They understand that people are the greatest resource North Dakota has to strengthen communities and organizations across the state. We greatly appreciate all of their generous contributions!

We've made every effort to list the names correctly. In the event we have made an error or omitted a contributor, please contact the RLND office.

## Leader Corps

Leader Corps contribution categories begin at the \$1,000 giving level. Leader Corps contributions exclude RLND tuition payments.

### Leader Corp Visionary – \$50,000+

North Dakota Mill and Elevator

### Leader Corp Innovator – \$20,000+

North Dakota Department of Commerce

### Leader Corp Benefactor – \$10,000+

Cenex Harvest States Foundation

### Leader Corp Investor – \$5,000+

### Leader Corp Sponsor – \$2,500+

Farm Credit Services – Fargo-Mandan-Minot  
QEP Resources, Inc.

### Leader Corp Member – \$1,000+

Cass County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
North Dakota Department of Commerce – APUC  
Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Steffes Corporation

## Founders Corps

The Founders Corps honors individuals, organizations and businesses for their cumulative contributions to the Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Program. Founder Corps contribution categories begin at the \$10,000 cumulative giving level. Contributors in this category have made investments in the RLND Program from the beginning of the program, January 2003, to the writing of this summary booklet. The generosity of Founder Corps members is greatly appreciated.

### \$100,000+

North Dakota Department of Commerce

### \$50,000+

North Dakota Mill and Elevator

### \$20,000+

Craig and Shelley Larson  
Julie and Brad Burgum

### \$10,000+

SW REAP Development Zone/CONAC  
CHS Foundation

## Tuition Sponsors Class V

The Tuition Sponsors are individuals and businesses who sponsored tuition for participants of RLND Class V. The generosity of Tuition Sponsors is greatly appreciated.

Business Buddy  
City of Carrington  
Dunn County JDA  
FAARMS  
Farm Credit Services of Mandan  
Home on the Range  
Maeve MacSteves

McKenzie County JDA  
N.D. Natural Resources Trust  
ND Association of Rural Electric  
Cooperatives  
North Dakota Corn Growers  
North Dakota Department of  
Commerce

North Dakota Farm Bureau  
North Dakota Farmers Union  
North Dakota Forest Service  
North Dakota Soybean Council  
NDSU Extension Service  
Phoenix International

RSVP+  
SRT Communications  
Starion Financial  
Uglen Ness  
Valley City Chamber of Commerce

## Contributors

Contributor contribution categories begin at the \$500 giving level.

### \$500+

Ag Country Farm Credit Services  
AgriBank  
American Bank Center  
American Crystal Sugar  
Anthony and Jodi Larson  
Basin Electric  
Best Angus & Quarter Horses  
Business Buddy  
Butler Machinery  
Charlene Wolf-Hall and Cliff Hall  
Clay Jenkinson  
Great River Energy  
Jim Artz Insurance  
Lakeside State Bank  
Lynette and Lon Flage  
Marie Hvidsten  
Matthew Danuser  
McKenzie County Bank  
MDU Resources Foundation  
North Dakota Farm Bureau  
North Dakota Farmers Union  
Northern Plains Crop Consulting, Inc.  
Paulson Gravel  
Proseed  
RLND Alumni Association  
Target Logistics  
Tom and Jennifer Metz

### \$200+

Adams County Development Corporation  
Black Leg Ranch  
Bowman County Development Corporation  
Bowman County Extension Service  
Bowman Ranch  
Bowman Slope Soil Conservation District  
Burke County Agriculture Improvement  
Association  
Jones Public Affairs, Inc.  
Charging Eagle Enterprises  
City of Beach  
Dacotah Bank  
Dakota Western Bank  
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative  
FAARMS  
First International Bank and Trust  
GW Dairy Consulting, LLC

Gene Veeder  
Hettinger School District  
Hubbard Feeds  
Jerome Distributing  
Jesse Veeder  
John Bang Construction  
Kadmas, Lee and Jackson  
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
NCC  
North Dakota Department of Agriculture  
North Dakota Forest Service  
North Dakota Petroleum Council  
North Dakota Soybean Council  
Northern Lights Dairy  
Outlaws Bar and Grill  
Prairie Winds Motel  
Red Rock Transport  
Starion Financial  
Verendrye Electric Cooperative  
Watford City Chamber of Commerce

### \$100+

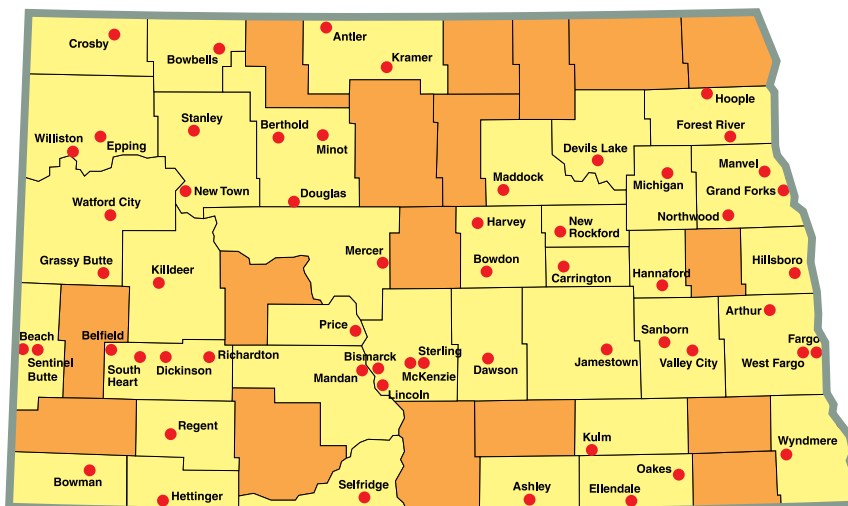
A & L Truck Sales  
Allen Ryberg  
Bottineau Farmers Elevator  
Burke Soil Conservation District  
Cheiftain Conference Center  
Farmers Union Insurance  
Kathleen and Howard Tweeten  
Mary and Arnie Siverson  
Meyer's Department Store  
Monjore's Studio  
Mountrail County Abstract and Title Co.  
People's State Bank  
Red River Farm Network  
State Bank of Bottineau  
Stockmen's Supply West  
Union Bank of Halliday  
Valley Sales Co Inc.

### \$99 and under

Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative  
Flaxton Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co  
Home on the Range  
Mertes Implement  
Mill's Fleet Farm  
Northwest Veterinary Services  
Patrick and Amy Artz

# RLND Alumni 2003-2013

The RLND alumni map highlights the communities and counties where RLND alumni are located in North Dakota. The alumni include the classes of 2003-05, 2005-07, 2007-09, 2009-11 and 2011-13. The goal of the RLND program is to have an RLND graduate in every community in every county in North Dakota.



## RLND Staff



**Marie Hvidsten, Ed.D.,**  
RLND Program Director

Marie Hvidsten is the rural leadership specialist and Rural Leadership North Dakota program director with the NDSU Extension Service. She has been in her Extension position since October 2002. Prior to coming to NDSU, Marie

was the corporate learning and development manager at Digi-Key in Thief River Falls, Minn., for eight years.

Marie holds a bachelor's degree in music from Bemidji (Minn.) State University, a master's degree in educational administration from the University of North Dakota, and a doctorate in education in the area of Organization Development from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis.



**Cindy Selstedt,** RLND Program Coordinator

Cindy Selstedt began working for Rural Leadership North Dakota in December 2004. Before coming to RLND, Cindy worked for Counseling and Disability Services, NDSU.

Cindy and her husband, Randy, have three children and farm near Walcott, N.D.



**Rural  
Leadership**  
NORTH DAKOTA  
*Supporting Agriculture and Community Development*

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