



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD MINUTES OF ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21ST 2025

8:32 a.m. Bryan Nagel called the meeting to order. Board members present were Bryan Nagel, Lynn Boadwine, Scot Eisenbraun, Joshua Kitzan, Kevin Larson, Steven Rommereim, Dr. Stephine Stevens, and Zacky Waldren. AIB staff members present were Drs. Beth Thompson, Mendel Miller, Chris Parmer, Tammy Anderson, Marc Hammrich, Carolyn Geis, and Jessica Christensen; Terry Johnson, and Kara Anderson. Others present were Dr. David Zeman/SDPIA, Bob Mercer/Kelo News, Kent Fjeldheim/Hub City Livestock, James Simko/Attorney, Kevin Wientjes/Banker, Bryce Dibbern/LMA, Rick Hellwig/Hub City Livestock.

President Nagel determined that a quorum was present and asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. It was suggested to move up the meat inspection updates to fill time before the rules hearing. Steven Rommereim moved to approve this change to the agenda. Joshua Kitzan seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion passed.

President Nagel verified that all board members had received the minutes for the July 15, 2025 board meeting. Scot Eisenbraun moved to approve the minutes. Joshua Kitzan seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion passed.

Introductions were made for the benefit of all present and new board member Zacky Waldren.

Dr. Anderson updated the Board on the state meat inspection program. The yearly self-assessment and on-site review which is conducted by FSIS every 3 years has been completed. The exit interview for the on-site performed in June 2025 was conducted at the beginning of September. The "at least equal to" letter is expected to be received before the end of the year. A new Inspector has been hired and trained in the Huron area. Currently there is one open inspector position in the Pierre area.

Dr. Parmer provided an update on South Dakota's Electronic Identification tag (EID) allocations. South Dakota's first allocation in FY25 was for 198,000 tags. A second allotment of 240,000 was provided from the USDA. Michigan had been allocated more tags than was needed and they chose to transfer tags to North Dakota and South Dakota. South Dakota received 79,000 from Michigan. With this an approximate total of 519,000 tags have been received. To date, all wait list orders have been fulfilled. At this time there are 64,000 no-cost EID tags remaining. There was discussion between board members on the implementation of technology and its benefit to auction markets.

Dr. Parmer advised the board on August 21, 2025, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced its new initiative to provide no cost RFID ear tags for show and exhibition swine beginning fall of 2025. Once available, producers and State animal health officials will be able to order swine tags on the Merck Animal Health website. The board discussed that this will be beneficial but stressed the importance of notifying the producers. Questions were posted on the likelihood of other species being included in the free EID tag program. No plans as of now but Dr. Parmer will continue to monitor and keep the board informed.

9:00 a.m. A public rules hearing was held to consider the adoption and amendment of the rules pertaining to 12:68 inclusive. The effect of the proposed rule changes will update style, form, and provide clarity. The hearing is audio recorded and on file. There were no opponents, or other proponents present for the hearing, or written testimony. Steven Rommereim moved to adopt and amend the rules pertaining to 12:68 inclusive. Lynn Boadwine seconded. A voice vote was taken. The motion passed. The hearing adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

9:12 a.m. Bryan Nagel called for a 15-minute break.

Dr. Parmer provided an update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). The poultry industry in South Dakota has been significantly impacted by HPAI. The first case this year was identified on March 5, 2025, at a turkey farm and the latest confirmed case was on October 19, 2025, also at a turkey farming operation. During the outbreak since 2022 a total of 155 premises were affected which affected 128 commercial poultry businesses along with 19 non-poultry operations. In the federal fiscal year of 2025, 34 operations have been affected. A total of 7,335,440 birds have been impacted during this outbreak. Questions were posed by the board on how the HPAI spreads. It is not completely known how the disease enters the barns but could be transmitted through water, wind and rodents. Audits show barns are taking necessary precautions but due to South Dakota's location under the major migration mid-continent flyway outbreaks continue to occur. Turkey farms are affected more than chicken farms due to having to raise the turkeys for longer giving more of a chance for exposure. Indemnity was discussed, and it is felt producers are likely losing money this way and many operations cannot continue to lose money while remaining in operation. Discussion was had on potential of a vaccination.

9:58 a.m. A public hearing was held to consider the request for an auction market license for Hub City Auction Inc, Kent Fjeldheim applicant. Present for this hearing was Kent Fjeldheim, James Simko, Kevin Wientjes, Bryce Dibbern, and Rick Hellwig. Proponents for Linch Livestock were Bryce Dibbern, LMA. The hearing is audio recorded and on file. There were no opponents present for the hearing or written testimony. Lynn Boadwine moved to issue an auction agency license to Hub City Auction Inc. Steven Rommereim seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion passed. Hearing adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Kent Fjeldheim requested the board approve the addition of his spouse Brandee Fjeldheim to the Hub City Auction Inc and Herreid Livestock Auction as a 50% owner. Clarifications were made on her role and ownership of the market. Steven Rommereim moved to approve the request. Scot Eisenbraun seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion passed.

Dr. Miller gave an update on Bovine tuberculosis (TB) in South Dakota. In May of 2025, Texas notified South Dakota that a 3-dairy complex in their state had tested positive for TB. South Dakota received shipments of approximately 2,600 animals from this dairy network in Texas between 2020-2022 to 4 dairies in the state. All animals have been removed and are no longer at the receiving dairy. Sixteen necropsies were preformed all were negative. The remaining cattle were marked for slaughter. Three hundred twenty-three animals have been tested, and no positive reactors have been found. Texas will continue to follow their required testing schedule, and their most recent report is expected shortly.

Dr. Miller advised the board on August 11, 2025, 46 bison from South Dakota were sent to Colorado for slaughter. The Bison were separated into groups of 26 and 17. The group of 26 all tested negative for Brucellosis while the group of 17 all tested positive. It was commented how it was strange that animals from the same herd had traveled together but did not receive the same result after being separated at the destination. The herd also sent 4 bulls for slaughter a month later. All 4 tested negative. The veterinarian for the herd called the AIB to discuss the tests and create a plan to address the concern. The herd veterinarian will visit the herd in November and take blood samples. The USDA will also be consulted when they reopen.

Dr. Thompson Provided an update on New World Screwworm (NWS). NWS originating from South America. The fly will lay its eggs in any open wound and the larva will then eat the healthy flesh of the host as it grows. NWS is especially a concern for cattle moving from Mexico into the United States. For this reason, the border has been closed to livestock movement. There is differing opinions on if the border should re-open due to its impact on ranchers who rely on the cattle movements. Treatments are available though eradication is the best course of action. Currently, sterile flies are being released in strategic locations to prevent the northern spread of NWS infestations. The USDA has released a playbook on how to address the concern and it is available online.

No public comments were received.

11:22 am Steven Rommereim, moved to enter executive session. Lynn Boadwine seconded. A voice vote was taken.

Executive session ended at 1:00 p.m.

Bryan Nagel, President
Animal Industry Board

Mendel Miller, DVM
State Veterinarian and Executive Secretary