Tomorrow's Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit will offer leadership development, career exploration programming

Registration deadline is Oct. 1 for Oct. 18-20 event

Beef enthusiasts ages 15 to 20 are invited to attend the NDSA's Tomorrow's Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit Oct. 18-20 — teacher's convention break — at the Astoria Hotel and Event Center in Dickinson. The Summit is a high-energy leadership development and career exploration event for students interested in agriculture, developing skills and making connections to propel them on their educational and career journeys.

"The NDSA recognizes the importance of educational youth activities and is excited to offer the Summit for a third time to students with an interest in the beef industry," explained NDSA Special Projects Director Elizabeth Neeshem. "With an impressive array of speakers, career specialists and beef-related tours, there will be something of interest to every participant."

"Being part of Tomorrow's Top Hands was a truly unforgettable experience," recalled Jordan Kostek of Crosby, who was part of the inaugural Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit class. "I learned more than I ever imagined, grew my leadership skills and had a blast in the process."

Here are a few highlights of this year's schedule:

**Thursday, Oct. 18**
VJ Smith, an award-winning speaker and author, will kick off the

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Mandan Veterinary Clinic
Pat Bierman, DVM • Shaun Bouzis, DVM

We offer reproductive ultrasound services for cattle. Now is the time to make plans to have your cattle ultrasound. The advantages for using ultrasound in cattle are early pregnancy diagnosis (28 days), verification of AI pregnancies, accurate fetal age determination and fetal sexing. The best time to ultrasound is 75-80 days after AI or turnout of bulls.

Call (701) 665-5310 or (701) 220-7754
event on Oct. 18 with his keynote address, "The Richest Man in Town," where he will share the story of Marty, a Walmart cashier whose simple philosophies show what happens when you take the time to be kind, compassionate and grateful.

NDSA District 6 Director Shane Anderson of Towner, who is serving as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Young Beef Leader representative, will moderate a career panel featuring Levi Helmuth of Dickinson, a farm business management instructor; CJ Thorne of Watford City, a cow-calf producer and feeder; and Vawnitia Best of Watford City, a seedstock producer and county commissioner. The trio will offer insight into their beef-related occupations and leadership roles and offer advice to prepare students for college and their careers.

Michelle Wall of Dale Carnegie will follow the panel with her presentation, "Leadership Styles and Tendencies." Wall will help participants identify the characteristics of four different leadership styles, including their own, and learn how to harness their strengths and build on their weaknesses to be the most effective when working with others.

The day will conclude with interactive leadership development games led by a U.S. Army official.

**Friday, Oct. 19**

On Oct. 19, Dickinson State University Agriculture and Technical Studies Chair Dr. Chip Poland will highlight agricultural career opportunities and Katie Heger of Heger Family Farms of Underwood will discuss the importance of agricultural advocacy and outreach. Ashley Tillman, Dickinson State University career specialist, will also give tips on building resumes and cover letters and discuss the value of internships.

Later, the group will embark on a day full of industry tours. Weston and Teresa Dvorak will host the first stop at their ranch and feedlot near Manning, where students will learn about the operation and its innovative use of by-products. Next, the group will visit the Dickinson Research Extension Center's Manning Ranch, where Doug Landblom, a beef cattle specialist, and the ranch staff will highlight some of the research taking place. Next will be a tour of Stockmen's Livestock Exchange and a discussion with one of the market owners, Larry Schnell. The NDSA's brand inspection team at the market will also explain the inspection program and processes before the final tour stop at Heart River Genetics, an embryo transplant center near Belfield, with owner Annette Steffan.

The day will end with supper and a fun night of bowling.

**Saturday, Oct. 20**

On Oct. 20, incoming NDSA President Dan Rorvig of McVille will discuss ways youth can get involved in the organization.

Watford City author, musician, fourth-generation cattle rancher and North Dakota advocate Jessie Veeder will share her inspiring story of coming home to what is now a boomtown and help students appreciate the landscape, the culture and the people of small-town America.

Finally, Tasha Schuh, who was paralyzed after a tragic accident, will capstone the event by recounting her accident and recovery and what she learned about purpose, attitude and transformative hope.

Past Top Hands participants have found value in the event and encourage other youth to take part. Two-time participant Shaye Koester of Steele said, "The Tomorrow's Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit is an outstanding conference for young adults to improve their leadership and professional skills while gaining more knowledge of the beef industry. This event is sure to be fun and worthwhile and will leave you with lasting connections and friendships."

Her older sister, Kacey, agreed, saying, "The conference really opened my eyes to the complex and diverse beef industry, as well as opportunities available in these fields."

Emily Fauck, who was part of the 2016 class, echoed the sentiment and said, "The Top Hands Leadership Conference was a fun-filled weekend connecting with others in the beef industry while focusing on skills to better communicate with the public about beef products. Through the activities, tours and speakers, I made lifelong friends and found tools that I look forward to taking with me into my career."

Registrations are now being accepted. Downloadable forms are available at www.ndstockmen.org or by calling (701) 223-2522. The cost to attend is $150 for NDSA student members and $170 for non-members. The registration fee includes lodging, meals, programming and transportation during the conference.

The registration deadline is Oct. 1. On-site registrations will not be accepted.
# Tomorrow's Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit

## Registration Form

**October 18-20, 2018 | Astoria Hotel & Event Center**  
363 15th St W, Dickinson, ND 58601

### Personal Contact Information

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<th>Name:</th>
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<td>Address:</td>
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<td>Home phone:</td>
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<td>E-mail address:</td>
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<td>School/College/University:</td>
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<td>T-Shirt size (adult sizes only):</td>
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### Medical Information

- **Participant's allergies (medication, food or other, if any):**
- **Dietary restrictions (if any):**
- **Participant's existing medical conditions (if any):**
- **All medications currently used by participant (if any):**
- **Emergency contact:**  
  **Relation:**
- **Home phone:**  
  **Cell phone:**
- **Alternative emergency contact:**  
  **Relation:**
- **Home phone:**  
  **Cell phone:**
- **Health insurance policy:**  
  **Phone:**
- **Participant's regular doctor (if any):**  
  **Phone:**
- **Participant's regular dentist (if any):**  
  **Phone:**

### Registration & Fees

The Tomorrow's Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit is open to NDSA student members age 15 to 20 years old. If you are not a current member, please enclose $20 for dues. The registration fee includes lodging and all meals beginning with supper Thursday evening and ending with breakfast Saturday morning, evening entertainment, speakers, transportation and an event t-shirt. Call the NDSA at (701) 223-2522 with any questions.

- **Registration Fee...............** $150
- **NDSA Student Membership ......** $20  
  **(If not current member)**
- **TOTAL ...................** $

Please make checks payable to:  
North Dakota Stockmen's Association  
407 S 2nd St. • Bismarck, ND 58504

- Return registration fee and forms by Oct 1, 2018.
- No on-site registration accepted.
Personal Conduct Agreement

While participating in the Tomorrow's Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit, managed by the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA), a participant represents the NDSA. The NDSA has, therefore, established certain behavioral expectations that must be observed by all participants to maintain good standing with the NDSA and participate in this program.

All participants in the Tomorrow's Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit are prohibited from involvement in unsafe, irresponsible and/or illegal conduct.

The NDSA reserves the right to immediately terminate from the conference any participant who is found to have violated these behavioral expectations. Participants terminated from the conference will be sent home at their own expense and will be responsible for all other expenses associated with their termination.

AGREEMENT
In exchange for being allowed to participate in this program, I, and if I am not yet 18 years old, my parent(s) or legal guardian(s), agree to be bound by the behavioral expectations set forth above and in each of the following:

1. I agree to participate in the NDSA's Tomorrow's Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit according to the guidelines set forth in the Personal Conduct Agreement.
2. I understand that the NDSA reserves the right to immediately terminate my participation in the Tomorrow's Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit at the sole discretion of the NDSA, through its representatives, if I engage in behavior that is unsafe, irresponsible, illegal, or otherwise contrary to the NDSA policy as expressed above.
3. I understand that if my participation in the Tomorrow's Top Hands Beef Leadership Summit is terminated pursuant to the preceding paragraph, I will be solely responsible for all costs associated with my early termination, including my travel expenses.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read this Personal Conduct Agreement, understand the behavioral expectations of the NDSA and agree to abide by them.

Participant's Printed Name ___________________________ Signature ___________________________ Date ____________

If the participant is not 18 years of age, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the participant must sign below.

I understand these rules and will uphold and support the decision of the NDSA staff on-site.

Parent's or Guardian's Printed Name ___________________________ Signature ___________________________ Date ____________