Our program

The Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Program is a 18-month dynamic leadership development program. The program curriculum is designed to be immediately applicable to both active and inexperienced leaders. Each seminar features a mix of personal development, leadership study and location-related subject matter. The RLND Program is designed for men and women who are dedicated to strengthening the agriculture community, their community and the state of North Dakota for the future.

For more information:

Contact the NDSU Extension Service's RLND office or go to our website at www.ag.ndsu.edu/rlnd.

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Our Mission

To prepare and develop effective leaders to strengthen rural North Dakota.

RLND Class VIII Seminars

- **Orientation to the RLND Program**  Nov.30-Dec. 2, 2017 – Bismarck, ND
- **Personal Leadership Development**  Jan. 10-12, 2018 – Bottineau, ND
- **Agriculture’s Future in North Dakota**  Feb. 14-16, 2018 – Fargo, ND
- **National Trends in Agriculture and Rural Issues**  March 19-24, 2018 – Washington, D.C.
- **Regional Agriculture and Rural Issues**  June 19-22, 2018 – Minneapolis, Minn.
- **Exploring the Relationship Between Agriculture, Communities and Natural Resources**  Nov. 14-16, 2018 – Bowman, ND
- **Understanding North Dakota Ag and Rural Policies**  Jan. 9-11, 2019 – Bismarck, ND
- **Understanding International Ag and Community Issues**  (11 days within Feb. 4-23, 2019)
- **Economic Development and Leadership**  March 20-22, 2019 – Watford City, ND
- **Civil Engagement/Looking Ahead**  June 19-21, 2019 – Grand Forks, ND
- **Graduation Gala**  Nov. 22, 2019 – Bismarck, ND

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RLND Class Participants of 2017-2019

Chris Adams
Partner, Adams Family Farm, Grand Forks

Matt Dahlke
Loan Officer, Farm Credit Services of Mandan, Lincoln

Mandy Kvale
Credit Officer, Farm Credit Services of Mandan, Thunder Hawk, SD

Bjorn Solberg
Business Owner, Hugh’s Gardens, Horace

Paula Anderson
Director, Consolidated Telecom Board, Regent

Whitney Gonitzke
Director, Bottineau County EDC, Kramer

Shanda Morgan
Business Owner, Branded Envy, Bismarck

Brenda Stallman
Unit Administrator, Traill District Health, Hillsboro

Jon Bertsch
Managing Partner/President, Bertsch Farms/ Bertsch Trucking, Hillsboro

Stephanie Goeller Johnson
Data Analyst, Essentia Health RN/Trauma, Luverne

Doug Naze
Sales Manager, Dakota Agronomy Partners Seed, Surrey

Searle Swedlund
Executive Director, Jamestown Tourism, Valley City

Kasey Bitz
Owner/Teacher, Bitz Farms/ND Center Distance Ed, LaMoure

Suhail Kanwar
Public Works Administrator/County Engineer, Watford City

Annika Plummer
Administrative Secretary, Dickinson State University, Dickinson

Tammy Jo Taft
Communications Specialist, AE2S, Arthur

Tyler Bowen
Territory Sales Rep., Dow Agrisciences, Bismarck

Brooke Kessel
Executive Director, Adams County Farm Service Agency, Hettinger

Trudy Ruland
Owner, Ruland Ranch, New Town

Marsha Van Laere
Northern Plains Sales Rep., Gowan USA, Northwood

Ruth Buffalo
Consultant, Fargo

Kristen Knudtson
Program Specialist, USDA Farm Service Agency, Fargo

Chris Smaaladen
Technical Manager, Ulteig Engineers, West Fargo

Heather VanGelder
Community Relations Coordinator, ONEOK Rockies Midstream, Sidney, MT

Gwen Crawford
Auditor, City of Lisbon, Kathryn