

Chris Kubal
McKenzie County Ag Expo
Director
701-580-2976
ckubal@co.mckenzie.nd.us

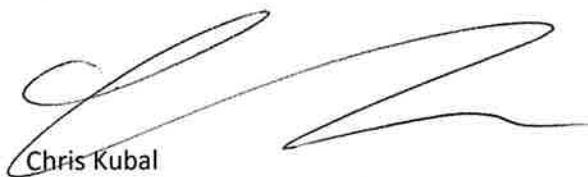
To The Senate Appropriations Committee,

The McKenzie County Ag Expo was opened in the summer of 2023. It is a brand-new facility in a brand-new location. I believe what the Expo has done for McKenzie County is huge and can be replicated at other fairground facilities around the state. Just some bullet points of our first full year in business in 2024

- We had over 118 different events throughout the year
- With those events we had over 220 days booked and some of those events happened on the same day
- In 2024 we had over 60,000 visitors through the doors, Watford City has a population of 6,700 in the last census
- Out of the 60,000 visitors, over 41% of those were from outside of McKenzie County
- With these numbers it equates to close to \$4,000,000 in economic impacts to Watford City and McKenzie County
- The Ag Expo also creates jobs in McKenzie County with soon to be 10 full-time employees and 12 event staff
- The future is bright at the Ag Expo with the numbers forecasted for the 2025 events we are going to easily surpass 2024 numbers

Every fairground around the state plays a huge part in supporting the future youth through the 4-H and FFA organizations. Every fair for a few days brings in a bit of friendly competitions and entertainment for their communities. They also have the opportunities to use their facility throughout the year for other community events that bring in economic growth for everyone.

Thanks for your consideration and support of all fairgrounds throughout the state

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Kubal', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Kubal
McKenzie County Ag Expo Director