

# Department of Agriculture

**Interim Report** from the Agriculture Commissioner regarding postproduction royalty oversight program (2023 Senate Bill No. 2194 § 1) (NDCC 4.1-01-26).

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) is accomplishing the requirements of NDCC 4.1-01-26. NDDA contracts with two companies for ombudsman services to provide technical assistance and follow up on royalty payment issues.

The program provides technical education, support, and outreach on royalty payment-related matters. Information regarding case eligibility is provided to mineral owners on the department website along with contact information to the appropriate staff. Mineral owners may submit a request for assistance by completing an online form. The information provided helps staff determine eligibility within the scope of the program. Requests are reviewed for legal and regulatory activity in partnership with Department of Mineral Resources and assigned to program contractors.

Issues mineral owners reported were: (50) not receiving payment within 150 days, (27) unable to reach well operator, (13) royalty amount/percent is incorrect, (3) royalty owner and well operator communication problems, and (12) with issues not categorized above.

<b>Postproduction Royalty Oversight Program</b> 7-1-2023 to 5-29-2024	
<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
Williams	42
McKenzie	30
Burke	8
Mountrail	8
Stark	8
Billings	4
Dunn	3
Ward	2
<b>*Total</b>	<b>105</b>

\*Total expenditures were \$44,834.50