

Press Release



100547 Airport Rd, PO Box 280 Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0280
PH: 308-632-2749 FAX: 308-632-4346 www.npnrd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Scott Schaneman, General Manager at 308-632-2749

2026 North Platte NRD Ag Symposium

On Tuesday, February 10th, 2026, at the Gering Civic Center, the North Platte NRD held its third annual Ag Symposium. The event brought together producers, industry professionals, and local partners for a full day of presentations focused on agronomy, resource management, health, and District updates.

This year's guest speakers included Tyler Kroupa, Robb Dedman, and Dr. Jesse Bell. Tyler Kroupa, who grew up on a cattle ranch in White Lake, South Dakota, graduated from South Dakota State University in 2015 and has worked across agricultural retail, agronomy, regional management, and farming. Now representing MWL across a five-state territory, he brings a broad, hands-on perspective to supporting producers and developing practical, results-driven solutions.

Robb Dedman, Director of Agronomy at AgroTech USA, shared insights from his nearly three decades as an independent crop consultant. With experience advising growers in more than 25 states and across a wide range of crops including rice, cotton, canola, walnuts, and major row crops, Robb now works with producers and corporate partners nationwide to strengthen fertility programs and improve return on input investments.

Jesse Bell, Ph.D., the Claire M. Hubbard Professor of Water, Climate, and Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, presented on the connections between climate, environmental change, and human health. Dr. Bell directs the Water, Climate and Health Program at UNMC and the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute and has authored more than 80 scientific publications. His background includes an interagency role with NOAA and the CDC, where he helped integrate climate data into public health decision-making.

In addition to the keynote speakers, several NRD staff members provided updates on district programs and resource management efforts. Craig Uhrig presented on the Water Department, Todd Filipi discussed the Resource Conservation Department, Keelie Williamson covered nitrates in the District, and Paul Safford presented on Wellhead Protection Areas.

North Platte NRD General Manager Scott Schaneman delivered a presentation on local action and protecting groundwater within the District. He reviewed the NRD's updated Rules and Regulations and answered questions from attendees regarding implementation and compliance.

The North Platte NRD recognizes the individuals and operations who continue to demonstrate leadership and commitment to conservation in the region. Their efforts support the long-term health and sustainability of agriculture in the Panhandle of Nebraska.

All presentations from the symposium were recorded and will be available on the North Platte NRD website.

The North Platte NRD holds its Board Meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the District office, located at 100547 Airport Road in Scottsbluff, at 3 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, contact the office at (308) 632-2749 or visit www.npnrd.org.

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