



# INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Dalrymple  
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem  
Attorney General

Doug Goehring  
Agriculture Commissioner

For Immediate Release

Nov. 12, 2015

## Industrial Commission Approves Farm Financial Stability Loan Program

BISMARCK - The North Dakota Industrial Commission approved guidelines for Bank of North Dakota (BND) to offer a Farm Financial Stability Loan Program today. The loans will assist North Dakota farmers who have been impacted by low commodity prices or below-average crop production. It may be used to replenish working capital, term out operating carryover or restructure existing term debts to provide cash flow relief.

“We have seen a significant drop in crop prices, with the trend continuing in 2015,” said Gov. Jack Dalrymple. “Agriculture is a primary contributor to the state’s economy with nearly one of every four workers employed in agriculture or an agriculture-related industry. Providing timely support is essential for our farmers and for our economy as a whole.”

According to the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at North Dakota State University, from 2012 to 2014, the average price of spring wheat dropped 34 percent, soybeans dropped 32 percent and corn decreased by 49 percent. Overhead prices remained consistent over the same period. As a result, median net farm income decreased from \$239,455 in 2012 to \$54,666 in 2014.

The borrower must be a North Dakota resident whose principal occupation is farming. Evidence of a cash flow shortage in 2014 or 2015 must be provided and there must be an operating line for the 2016 crop year approved. Interested borrowers should visit with their local lender to apply.

“BND’s new program will provide up to \$300 million in loans,” said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. “By working with local lenders, farmers are able to restructure their current debt load with lower interest rates to maintain a viable operation.”

The agricultural industry is among the primary contributors to the state’s economy. It ranks first in the nation in the production of spring wheat, durum, barley, sunflowers, dry edible beans, pinto beans, flaxseed, canola and honey. Nearly 90 percent of North Dakota’s land area is comprised of farms and ranches.

“North Dakotans have a strong agricultural heritage which continues to grow and diversify through value-added agriculture initiatives and the use of technology,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “This program advances the historic role of the Bank of North Dakota to help farmers continue this essential work.”

BND developed the program in response to requests from lenders and agriculture leaders across the state.

“Farmers should apply with their local lender. Applications will be available starting December 1 and can be

completed through June 30, 2016,” said Eric Hardmeyer, president of the Bank of North Dakota. “The originating financial institution will service the loan.”

More details about the loan program are available at [www.banknd.nd.gov](http://www.banknd.nd.gov) or by calling Bank of North Dakota at 701.328.5780.

-30-

FURTHER INFORMATION: Janel Schmitz 328.5880