

2020 SDSGA Convention Speakers



Bill Bullard **R-CALF USA**

Bullard has testified on behalf of R-CALF USA members before Congress and executive branch agencies, has managed numerous lawsuits on behalf of the organization, and is the organization's registered lobbyist.

Bullard, formerly a cow/calf rancher in Perkins County, S.D., served as the Executive Director of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission from 1995-2001. He has a B.S. in Political Science from Black Hills State University and completed a year of graduate studies at the University of South Dakota.

Bullard and his wife Jeanne have three children: Cameron, Candace, and Callie.



Jeremiah M. Murphy **Legislative Update**

Jeremiah has been the lobbyist at the South Dakota legislature since July of 1999. He does grass roots and grass tops development and organization in South Dakota as well as political campaign work. He has provided legislative and regulatory analysis for the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association and worked to advocate for legislation that is important to the members of the South Dakota Stockgrowers. Jeremiah works with several other clients including Indian gaming issues at the state and federal level and perform business development analysis regarding gaming projects.



Larry Rhoden (Invited) **Lt. Governor and SD Secretary of Ag**

Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden is South Dakota's 39th lieutenant governor. Lt. Governor Rhoden is a lifelong West River rancher, a dedicated husband and father, and a proven leader with a record of service for South Dakota.

Growing up, Rhoden understood true service at a young age. After graduating high school, he joined the South Dakota National Guard, serving six years and carrying on a family legacy of military service that began in the Revolutionary War. While his children were young, he served as a church trustee, earned a seat on the local school board, and led the Board of Directors for the area Cenex.

In 2000, Rhoden was elected to the state legislature. During his time as a citizen legislator, his peers repeatedly selected him to serve in leadership, and he's shown an aptitude for getting things done. Rhoden has served as House Majority Leader and has chaired both the Senate and House State Affairs Committees.

Rhoden worked with Noem to reform South Dakota's tax code, led efforts to repeal the so-called "Trucker's Tax," and shaped legislation to limit the government's eminent domain authority. His work earned him the American Conservative Union's highest ranking in 2017.

Lt. Governor Rhoden, who currently runs a cow-calf operation and custom welding business, continues to live on the ranch where he was born and raised. He and his wife, Sandy, have four boys, three daughters-in-law, and two grandchildren.



Logan Penfield, Legislative Aide **U.S. Senator Mike Rounds**

Logan grew up on a farm/ranch outside of Cresbard, SD, and graduated from Northwestern HS in 2008 and SDSU in 2012, with a degree in Political Science. He worked from 2012-2015 for Senator Thune in various roles and has been with Senator Rounds since 2015. Logan handles Senator Rounds' agriculture, energy and environment policy portfolio. His title is Legislative Assistant and EPW Subcommittee Staff Director



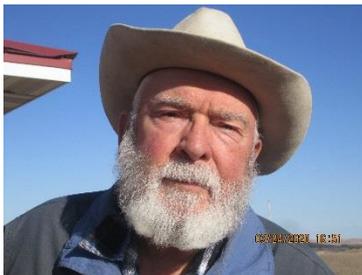
Rob Skjonsberg
Chief of Staff, U.S. Senator Mike Rounds

Skjonsberg (Shawns-burg) is the chief of staff for Senator Mike Rounds, a position he also held while Rounds was governor. Skjonsberg and his family own and operate a farm/ranch/hunting business in Jones County. They own/raise cattle, horses and too many dogs. Recently, he has partnered with another rancher to feed and finish cattle. Skjonsberg is a founding member and treasurer of the South Dakota Landowner and Outfitter Alliance and considers himself a staunch defender of property rights. Skjonsberg is a graduate of South Dakota State University. He and his wife Larissa, live in Ft. Pierre with their kids, Spencer, Sam and Gracyn.



Ryan Donnelly
Legislative Aid for U.S Senator John Thune

Ryan Donnelly is a legislative assistant for U.S. Senator John Thune responsible for agriculture, agricultural trade, conservation, nutrition, and Indian affairs. He previously served as a legislative correspondent and then as a legislative aide for Senator Thune. Ryan graduated from South Dakota State University with an Agricultural Business degree in 2016. He grew up on a corn and soybean farm near Elk Point, South Dakota.



Hugh Thompson
Rancher and Former USFS District Ranger

Hugh grew up on a ranch in Butte County. He graduated in 1965 from Colorado State University with a degree in Forest and Range Management. He has worked with Elk Management from a rancher's perspective, a State Ranger perspective and as a Federal Ranger for over 50 years. He was Ranger over 2 districts for 12 years in NM and AZ, then to the Hella Forest in NM, followed by Dixie National Forest in Southern UT for another 12 years, and then 6 years as Deputy Director of UT National Resources. Hugh is currently living on his acreage near Aladdin WY.



John Weber
Legislative Aid for U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson

John is a native of St. Paul, MN and Sanborn, MN where he spent a majority of his childhood showing cattle through 4-H and working on his family's feedlot. He currently serves as Senior Policy Advisor for U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson focusing on issues coming before the House Agriculture Committee. He has a BS in Animal Science from South Dakota State University where he was active in Little International, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Block and Bridle, and was a member of the collegiate livestock judging team. After graduation, he took a position with U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem in her Washington, DC office. Soon thereafter, he joined the House Agriculture Committee as Legislative Assistant for Chairman Mike Conaway. During his time with the Agriculture Committee, he worked on Conservation, Forestry, Livestock, Energy, and Credit issues, as well as drafting and negotiating the 2018 Farm Bill.



Deanna Robbins
MT Rancher fighting the American Prairie Reserve

Deanna Robbins ranches with her husband Mark in Central Montana, near where her grandfather homesteaded in 1916. Their ranch lies partially within the executive boundaries of both the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. She is a co-founder and director of United Property Owners of Montana, a property rights advocacy organization, and one of the original architects of Save the Cowboy STOP American Prairie Reserve. Deanna and Mark have two sons; Liam is a veterinarian based in Baker where he lives with his wife and twin sons, and Lance is a physician in Miles City. All are active in the family ranch.



Aurelia Skipwith
Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Invited)

Aurelia is an American attorney, businesswoman, and biologist serving as the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Howard University in 2003, a master's degree in molecular genetics from Purdue University, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law.



Dayle Hammock
SD State Representative for District 31

Hammock has served in law enforcement for 27 years and has given his time and talent to other public service roles including the Meade County Commission, Meade County Planning Commission, and the Ellsworth Task Force.



Chuck Spring
SD Game, Fish, and Parks Commissioner, Meade County Landowner



Tom Kirschenmann –
Director of Wildlife, SD Game, Fish and Parks

A Eureka native, Tom grew up on a cow/calf operation and large animal veterinary practice. After graduating with his master's degree in wildlife management from SDSU, Kirschenmann spent 10 years working as a regional wildlife biologist for Pheasants Forever. In 2005, Tom joined South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, working as the upland game biologist out of the Huron office before moving to Pierre in 2008 to serve as the wildlife program administrator. Within a year, he was named terrestrial section chief and worked in that position for 10 years. Tom was also the Wildlife Division's deputy director for three years

before being named director.

Tom and his wife Crystal have two sons, Jett and Tate. He enjoys hunting, fishing, mentoring his sons, spending time with his family, and watching his sons participate in various sports.



Dr. Fred Provenza
PhD Professor Emeritus Utah State University