



NEWS RELEASE

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**DAKOTA BUSINESS LENDING AND THE FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURAL
AND RURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (FARRMS)
ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP**

FARRMS loans to be serviced by Dakota Business Lending

TUTTLE, N.D. – The Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resource Management and Sustainability (FARRMS) and Dakota Business Lending are excited to announce their recent partnership to streamline the FARRMS loan process and create a more sustainable loan program for sustainable agriculture businesses in North Dakota. The two organizations decided to team up due to their shared mission of promoting the development and sustainability of businesses throughout the state.

The direct connection between FARRMS’ knowledge and expertise of the sustainable agricultural industry and Dakota Business Lending’s lending experience allows this partnership to better serve their clients and further their missions in an efficient way. Dakota Business Lending will be using their lending expertise to service the loans that FARRMS offers for farmers, ranchers, and agricultural entrepreneurs in North Dakota. *“The loans are still made by the people you trust at FARRMS, the people who understand the unique challenges in sustainable agriculture. We’ve partnered with Dakota Business Lending so that the program will be more sustainable moving forward,”* explained Stephanie Blumhagen, Executive Director at

FARRMS. *“Dakota Business Lending brings expertise and efficiency so that the FARRMS loan program will be around for the long-term.”*

Dakota Business Lending was pleased to be invited into this partnership as a way continue to support small business owners in an industry so prevalent to North Dakota communities. *“As a lending institution designed to provide financing solutions through collaborative partnerships to grow the economy, we are excited to partner with FARRMS and assist with the longevity of their programs for years to come,”* said Steve Dusek, President & CEO of Dakota Business Lending. The partnership between the two entities is effective immediately and will be revisited after one year.

FARRMS provides educational programs and support to grow sustainable agriculture and local food systems in North Dakota. They work to enhance the sustainability of farms and ranches in their communities and currently operate from the Tuttle Rural Innovation Center in the Tuttle School in Tuttle, ND.

Founded in 1982, Dakota Business Lending is the oldest, largest, and most experienced 504 CDC in North Dakota. With staff throughout North Dakota and in Lewistown, Montana, Dakota Business Lending serves North Dakota, Montana, and five counties in western Minnesota. The mission of this private, not-for-profit entity is to provide small business financing solutions through collaborative partnerships in a supportive, creative environment that grows the economy and creates or preserves quality jobs. Since inception, Dakota Business Lending has provided over \$500 million in loans with total project impact exceeding \$1 billion to small businesses and local economies.