

**NDSU** AGRIBUSINESS AND  
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## Economic, Social and Environmental Policy Challenges in the Bakken Oil Field

North Central Regional Center  
for Rural Development Webinar

February 2016  
Aaron De Laporte  
David Ripplinger

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## Outline

- Part I: The Bakken
- Part II: Bakken Researchers Convening
- Part III: Bakken Challenges
- Part IV: Conclusions, An Update, & Next Steps

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# The Bakken

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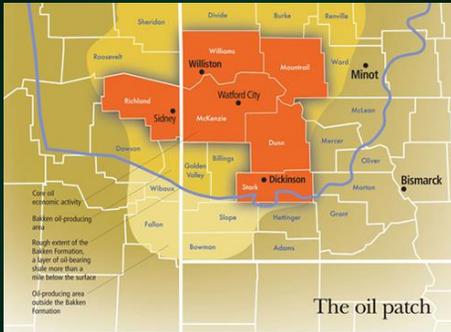
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The oil patch

Minneapolis Federal Reserve

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# Horizontal Drilling



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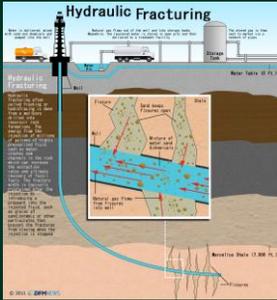
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# Fracking



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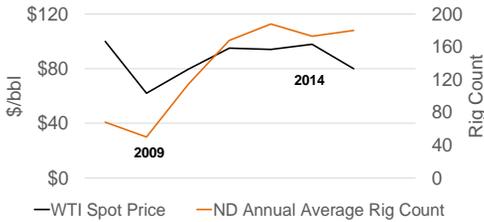
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WTI Spot Price and North Dakota Oil Rig Counts



Energy Information Administration

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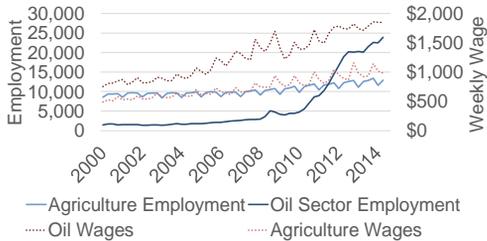
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North Dakota Employment and Wages



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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## Bakken Researchers Convening

Organized by the Strom Center at Dickinson  
State University and the Minneapolis  
Federal Reserve

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## Purpose

- Highlight completed and ongoing research in the Bakken and improve future communication among researchers to better address the interdisciplinary problems faced by communities in the Bakken moving forward.
- May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Dickinson, ND.

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## Bakken Researchers

- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Montana
- Minnesota
- State and Federal Government
- Local Stakeholders

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## ThinkTank Technologies

- **thinktank** 4 by GroupSystems
  - Brainstorming program
  - Multiple opinions communicated with little confusion
  - Extensive report of participant contributions
  - Remote connections from additional participants

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## Funding

- Who may be interested in funding research on the economic and community impact of the Bakken?
  - Federal and state agencies, foundations
- What challenges have you faced in securing funding for research projects?
  - Community buy-in, competition, time consuming proposal process, funding too slow for time-sensitive topics, collaboration
- How have you overcome funding challenges?
  - Grant targeting, pre-organized teams, pre-organized literature and research

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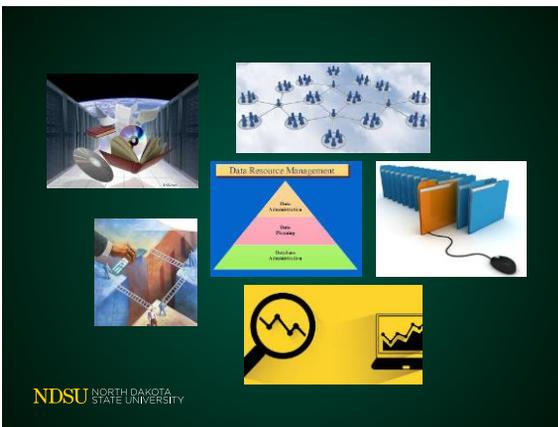
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## Data Resources

- What data resources have you used or plan to use as part of your projects?
  - Large scale datasets, custom data, survey data, municipal data, cell phone ping data.
- What data resources would be helpful that are currently not available? How could we get these data?
  - Well site data, spatial money transfers, rental occupancy rates, recoverable oil.

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## Field Work

- What surveys have participants fielded in the Bakken as part of their research? What challenges have you faced in fielding the survey?
  - Surveys about many issues conducted with Native American tribes, local residents, industrial and community leaders, migrant workers
  - Survey fatigue was the most reported issue
- Which groups or individuals have been most affected by/pursued by researchers?
  - Long-term residents, oil workers, service providers, county administrators

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## Research Needs

- From an academic perspective, what important research questions regarding the economic and community impact of the Bakken energy boom should be investigated?
  - Migration (in and out), transience, international workers, developmental planning, commuting, visas, wage rates, layoffs, non-oil business, who benefits, environmental degradation, emergency preparedness, long term impacts

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## Communication and Dissemination

- What information would researchers find helpful to share across the group?
  - News, conferences, papers, data, contacts, assistance, syllabi, funding opportunities, field work issues, previous and current research
- What mechanism would work best to share that information? How do you currently share your research?
  - Listserv, conference, journal articles, reports
- Your research is valued to local communities. What barriers exist to sharing research? How do we overcome those barriers?
  - Academic outputs need to be made relevant to contacts in the community and use community resources for dissemination

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## Research Conference

- What should be the goals of a public research conference? What should be the scope? Who should be the audience? Where should it be located? How should it be organized?
  - Effective communication of results to community stakeholders
  - Panel discussions with community leaders and academics
  - Dependent upon the call for papers
  - Located in Dickinson in 2016

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## Conclusions, An Update, & Next Steps

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## Conclusions

Purpose: To coordinate research in the Bakken, build toward a conference and maintain communication.

ThinkTank Technologies were useful but were not always well utilized.

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## An Update

Oil prices (WTI) have fallen from around \$55 dollars during May 2015 when the Summit was held to \$30 today.

The rig count has fallen from 84 to under 50.

Few wells are being completed.

Production has plateaued near 1.2 million barrels per day.

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## Next Steps

Conference being planned

Dickinson, North Dakota

Hosts:

Strom Center

Minneapolis Federal Reserve

October/November 2016

Practitioner oriented 150-200

local and regional leaders

Experts from around the nation

Results from summit critical

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## Another Round of Thanks

Support from NCRCRD was critical to bringing experts to Dickinson for the summit.

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## Questions?

• Please feel free to direct additional questions and comments to:

– Aaron De Laporte: [aaron.delaporte@ndsu.edu](mailto:aaron.delaporte@ndsu.edu)

– David Ripplinger [david.ripplinger@ndsu.edu](mailto:david.ripplinger@ndsu.edu)

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