

Neil William Smeenck was born in Rapid City on May 15, 1951, the fifth of six children, to Doris (Maass) and William Smeenck. Neil was raised on the family farm on Horse Creek, west of Newell. He would gleefully dive into the middle of a fight with his three brothers--this likely helped create his tough and stubborn spirit.

Neil attended elementary at the Horse Creek School and high school in Newell, graduating from NHS in 1970, and then attended BHSU. Following his time at BHSU, he went to work for his sister and her husband, Shirley and Jesse Hoese, at their ranch at Carlisle, WY. It was during this time that Neil learned that his purpose on this earth was to be a rancher. Jesse says that Neil learned how to ranch well in the tough Castle Rock country, not "forcing" the land.

Neil married Jane Common on August 20, 1974, in Sturgis, SD. Neil and Jane raised sheep, cattle, and their two children, Brandy Ruth (1976) and Ryan William (1978), on his beloved ranch at Castle Rock, along with Neil's parents, Bill and Doris. Neil earned the Master Lamb Producer for the State of SD in 1988. During his time on the ranch, he built his family's home. He was a self-taught carpenter and mechanic with many other talents including being a seasoned stockman and roping competitor.

On November 19, 2000, Neil married Denise Schipke in Piedmont. With the marriage, he gained a stepdaughter, Dominique, a granddaughter, Nikita, and a stepson, Demian. About this time, Neil and son, Ryan, started Castle Rock Backhoe Service. They kept very busy and soon employed Neil's brother, Lyn Smeenck, Neil's son-in-law, Matt Mooney, and his stepson, Demian Heinert. The ranch was sold in 2011 and they moved to the Schipke house west of Newell.

Neil enjoyed hunting, fishing, the ranch life, branding, and his family. His children and grandchildren brought him the greatest joy. He was always proud of their accomplishments and enjoyed watching them in their chosen activities. Neil had a great love for children who could sense his gentle, generous nature and sense of them.

In the spring of 2019, he lived with his son, Ryan, and his family, at Vale, spending his final days with his nephew, Will Johnson. On June 14, 2019, Neil passed away on the prairie he so dearly loved.

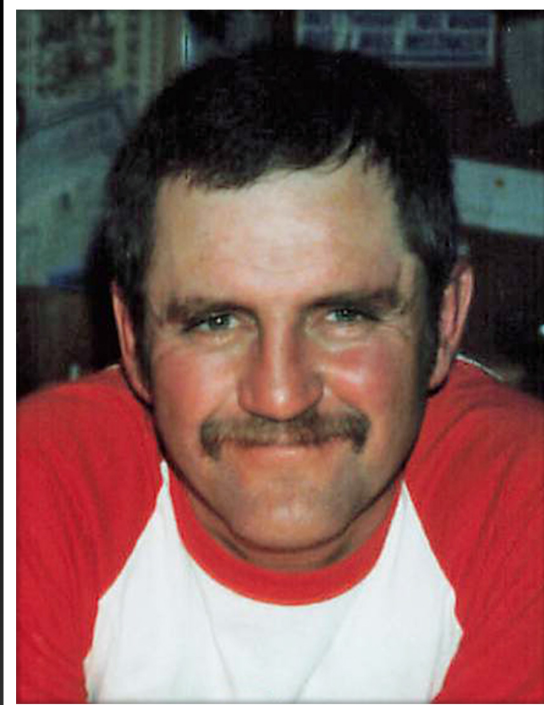
Grateful for having been a part of Neil's life are his daughter, Brandy (Jonathan) Smeenck, of Martin; his son and his wife, Ryan and Jamie Smeenck, of Vale; his beloved grandchildren, Kurtis and Haley Mooney, and Tayten, Tanner, and Tillee Smeenck; step-children, Dominique (Michael) Sterrett and Demian Heinert; step-grandchildren, Nikita Heinert and her children, Alayna and Daxtyn, Michael Sterrett, III, Hannah Sterrett, Logan Sterrett, Abrym Heinert, and Whitney Casteel; his siblings, Shirley (Jesse) Hoese of Carlisle, WY, Joan (Jim) Johnson of Spearfish, SD, Steve (Kay) Smeenck of Newell, SD, Lyn (Susan) Smeenck of Belle Fourche, SD, and Dean (Sue) Smeenck of Alexander, IA; as well as many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Preceding Neil in death were his parents, Bill and Doris Smeenck; special friend, Susan Fettig; and several aunts and uncles.

Memorials have been established at First National Bank for Neil's grandchildren and the Castle Rock Fire Department.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

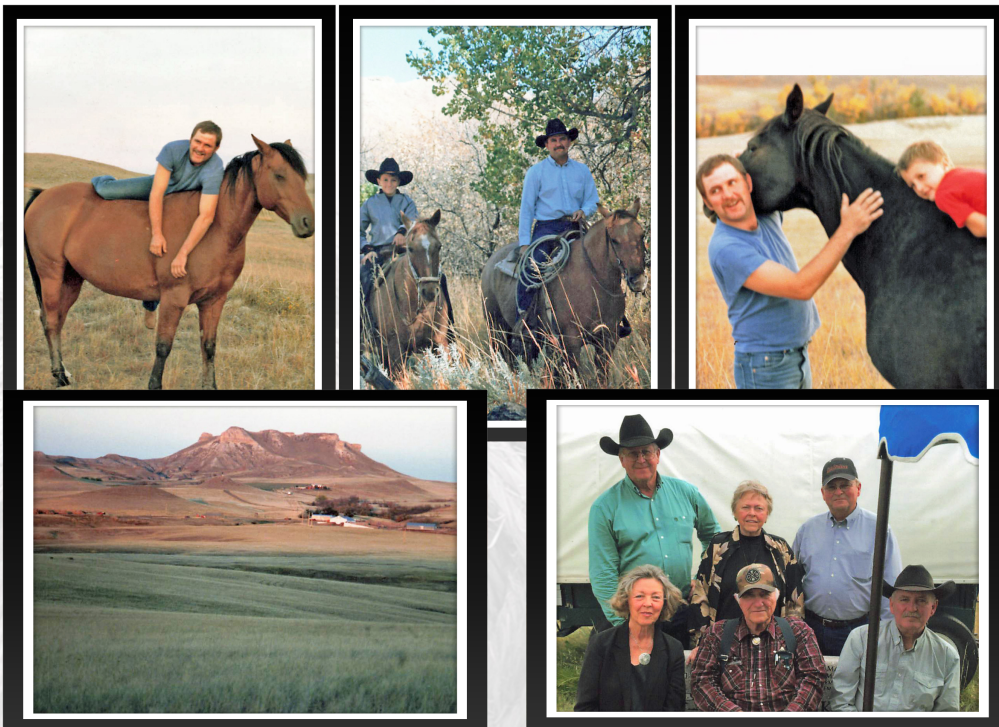
The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch at Oscar's Outback immediately following the graveside service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.



In Loving Memory

Neil William Smeenck

May 15, 1951 ~ June 14, 2019



Cowboy's Prayer

*O Lord, I've never lived where churches grow:
I've loved creation better as it stood
That day You finished it, so long ago
And looked upon Your work and called it good.*

*Just let me live my life as I've begun!
And give me work that's open to the sky:
Make me a partner of the wind and sun,
And I won't ask a life that's soft and high.*

*Make me as big and open as the plains;
As honest as the horse between my knees;
Clean as the wind that blows behind the rains;
Free as the hawk that circles down the breeze.*

*Just keep an eye on all that's done and said;
Just right me sometime when I turn aside;
And guide me on the long, dim trail ahead - -
That stretches upward towards the Great Divide.*

In Memory Of Neil William Smeenck

Date of Birth

May 15, 1951
Rapid City, South Dakota

Date of Death

June 14, 2019
Gustave, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.
Austin Auditorium
Newell, South Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Harold Delbridge

Musician

Vonda Mahaffy

Songs

"God Must Be A Cowboy"
"Home on the Range"

Pallbearers

Jesse Hoese Jim Johnson Steve Smeenck
Lyn Smeenck Dean Smeenck Kurtis Mooney
Tayten Smeenck Tanner Smeenck Abrym Heinert
Michael Sterrett, III Logan Sterrett

Honorary Pallbearers

Dan Pelle Bill Wahlfelt Jeff Smeenck
Christopher Smeenck Charlie Smeenck Doug Smeenck
Jim Smeenck Todd Hoese Will Johnson Matt Johnson

Final Resting Place

Smeenck Ranch Cemetery
Newell, South Dakota