

2013-15 Program Initiatives as Ranked by SBARE



1 Agents-in-Training and Summer Internships

Situation: NDSU Extension continues to experience historic levels of retirements. Extension work can be extremely complex and challenging for recent college graduates. Agent-in-training positions can equip candidates with the skills to be a successful Extension agent. Summer internships are effective at recruiting students for future Extension careers.

Need: Salary pools for four 12- to 18-month agent-in-training positions and five eight- to 12-week summer student internships - \$500,000



2 Livestock Development

Situation: The livestock industry is faced with many marketing and production challenges, but great opportunities exist in North Dakota to grow the beef industry. Enhanced capacity is needed to tackle a focused initiative on industry development. Current staff will be highly synergistic with a new initiative.

Need: Area livestock specialists (2.0 FTE) and operating funds, and support for Extension programming in livestock production economics (no FTE) - \$590,000



3 Crop and Resource Protection

Situation: Crops are the major contributor to North Dakota's agricultural economy. Insect pests, plant diseases and weeds continue to evolve, threaten our diverse crops and require attention. Federal integrated pest management (IPM) program funds are not stable, and increased crop protection capacity is needed. Federal funding cuts have reduced Extension's program on protecting water quality.

Need: Partial funding for the state Extension IPM and Plant Diagnostic Lab coordinators; IPM state entomology specialist (1.0 FTE) and operating funds; increased technical support for the weed science and potato programs (2.0 FTE) and crop management at the NCREC (1.0 FTE); support and operating for the state water quality specialist - \$960,000



4 Community Sustainability

Situation: The economic, environmental and social well-being of many North Dakota communities is in danger if they do not take steps to shape their future. Energy growth in the west poses challenges due to rapid growth while many other small towns are suffering from record population and service losses. Demand for Extension community development assistance can be addressed more effectively through community-based leadership, public dialogue, planning processes, organized public forums and informed decision making.

Need: Two area specialists (2.0 FTE) at the Dickinson and Williston RECs and operating funds to work directly with local communities; and increased technical support to increase tools and accessibility to Extension resources and training (no FTE) - \$620,000



5 Gearing Up for Kindergarten/Parent Education/Nutrition

Situation: Research indicates that entering school is one of the most significant transitions for a child and family. A program called Gearing Up for Kindergarten is making a difference. Parent Resource Centers (PRC) help implement Gearing Up and other programs that address other key transitions for families. Nutrition, wellness, obesity and aging are critical issues for North Dakota families. Extension needs additional staff to lead programming on these issues.

Need: Salary support for the grant-funded portions of PRC staff (existing FTEs); Extension nutrition/wellness and aging specialists (1.0 FTE) and operating funds - \$750,000

Funding support to expand the Gearing Up for Kindergarten program across the state, and ongoing research and evaluation (no FTE) submitted with Department of Public Instruction budget.



Western North Dakota 4-H Camp

Western North Dakota 4-H Camp, along the Missouri River near Washburn, N.D., is used extensively during summer months for day and overnight youth camps, and secondarily for Extension staff training. The three cabins and main lodge need renovations to fix run-down facilities, meet handicap accessibility and privacy needs for youth campers and adult counselors and volunteers. The renovations will reduce the lodging capacity, so additional lodging space is required in a new multipurpose camp building. The multipurpose building also will provide additional indoor activity space that is needed for camp programs during inclement weather. Plus, it will serve as a storm shelter, which is not available at the camp site. Improvements such as an archery range, ropes course and a small barn for livestock will be made to the infrastructure for camp programs. These renovations, new building and camp improvements will increase the capacity of Extension to provide excellent youth development programs through camp experiences. Funding of this capital request would provide the renovations to improve the facilities and safety for youth education programs and will increase the overall utility and value of the Western North Dakota 4-H Camp facilities by extending its use to about eight months of the year. - \$1,900,000 (\$950,000 general fund request and \$950,000 other funds)

One-time Request

Replace 14 outdated, unsupported videoconferencing systems used for Extension programs including pesticide training, ag economics educational programs, marketing clubs, departmental seminars, and faculty and staff interviews - \$110,000

Additional Request

Funding to provide technical assistance grants to soil conservation districts to help landowners reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance tree plantings, grazing lands and wildlife habitat - \$150,000