



### 1 Restore Budget to 2015-17 Original Appropriation

**Need:** Restoration of 10 percent budget cut - \$2,977,569

### 2 Enhancing Extension Infrastructure

**Situation:** This initiative to enhance Extension's infrastructure is centered on increasing annual operational support for Extension programs to address new and emerging issues that warrant immediate attention. This initiative will be innovative, invest in North Dakota citizens and regularly inform stakeholders on the impacts made through Extension programs. Funding to provide operational support for NDSU Extension's infrastructure will provide long-term assistance to respond to critical issues affecting North Dakota. This initiative will:

- Innovate - Enhance the needs assessment process and the support to act on suggestions from the public, and provide a flexible and nimble response to enhance engagement through applied projects and educational programs
- Invest - Develop a competitive funding process to meet new and emerging issues in a timely manner and provide short-term investment in areas of high potential for success
- Inform - Provide impact reports upon completion of the projects that were funded through the competitive process and prioritize the development of enhanced access to NDSU Extension project data and research, as well as results and recommendations to the public through an improved web presence, searchable databases and smartphone applications

**Need:** Operating - \$900,000



### 3 Farm Safety Education

**Situation:** This specialist will launch a new statewide farm safety educational program to reduce agricultural and related on-farm accidents, which kill and injure too many North Dakotans. Multi-faceted educational programs will target farmers and youth.

The farm safety initiative responds to a dire need of agriculture in North Dakota. Farm accidents have been increasing steadily in the Midwest. About 374 farmers and 113 youth (age 16 to 19) die each year from farm-related accidents. Approximately 167 workers suffer from farming-related injury every day. North Dakota is not immune to these statistics. Most farmers in North Dakota have experienced or know of someone who lost a life or was injured in a farm accident. The most common accident is tractor rollover. ATV, grain bin and electrical accidents also are common. Farm safety education is effective in reducing farm accidents in other states. Leadership is needed to develop a comprehensive, persistent educational program, which can be delivered in conjunction with Extension agents to create a culture of safety on the farm.

**Need:** Farm Safety Education Specialist (1.0 FTE) - \$240,000; operating - \$60,000





### 4 Enhancing the Agricultural Economy

**Situation: Extension Farm Financial Management Specialist** – This specialist will develop and deliver Extension programs that enhance the financial management skills of farmers, ranchers and agricultural professionals, and increase the likelihood of maintaining successful farm and ranch enterprises. • Farm profitability is a priority issue in agriculture today. Low crop prices, declining livestock prices and high production costs have created an environment in which the financial condition of many farms is deteriorating rapidly. This is especially affecting the younger generation of farmers. Financial management education, including investment analysis (using your money wisely), risk analysis (how much could be lost), financial structuring (financial sources and terms) and business strategy (can the enterprise mix be improved), is a critical need. A farm financial management specialist will be able to improve the financial management skills of farmers and agricultural professionals and increase the efficiency of operations.

**Need:** Extension Farm Financial Management Specialist (1.0 FTE) - \$240,000; operating - \$60,000

**Situation: Extension Water Quality Specialist** – This specialist will provide statewide education on water quality and quantity related to human and livestock use, energy production, nutrient management, etc. The water quality specialist was a ranked SBARE need in the last two legislative sessions. • Water is a critical element to life in our state. Science-based answers are needed on topics such as water quality for human and livestock consumption, impacts of saltwater spills, and best management practices to prevent nutrient movement to surface water. Educational programs and information are needed to assist land owners and citizens in making informed decisions when using and protecting our precious water resources. The water quality educational program will work in cooperation with agricultural and conservation groups and state regulatory agencies.

**Need:** Extension Water Quality Specialist (1.0 FTE) - \$240,000; operating - \$60,000

**Situation: Extension Value-added Cropping Specialists** – These specialists will develop programs to build the management skills of new and existing farmers to overcome the unique production challenges of these crops and systems. This will build the capacity of North Dakota to meet opportunities in the marketplace. Positions will be located at the Dickinson and Carrington Research Extension Centers to service the state. • The lagging agricultural economy highlights the need and opportunity for diversification, including value-added crops and production systems. Many value-added crops and production systems have high rates of return. The industry is aggressively seeking farmers to fill these increasing demands. North Dakota agriculture can aggressively pursue and invest in alternative crops and production systems to increase the profitability of its producers. Value-added cropping specialists can educate farmers on the specialized management that is needed to produce these crops and transition into these production systems successfully.

**Need:** Extension Value-added Cropping Specialists (2.0 FTE) - \$400,000; operating - \$120,000

**Situation: Extension Pollinator Specialist** – This specialist will provide leadership for statewide education on best management practices for beekeepers and other pollinators. These educational efforts will support the North Dakota Pollinator Plan. • Pollinators, most often honey bees, are beneficial to the production of many of North Dakota's crops. In addition, North Dakota leads the nation in honey production, which has a value of \$84 million. Unfortunately, beekeepers are suffering significant colony losses from a multitude of factors. Extension can provide educational programs on best management practices for beekeepers and education on the North Dakota Pollinator Plan for the mutual benefit of the honey industry, commercial agriculture and North Dakota residents.

**Need:** Extension Pollinator Specialist (1.0 FTE) - \$240,000; operating - \$60,000