

Agronomy Seed Farm SBARE Testimony

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History:

- Began operations in 1950
- Established through a fund drive by ND Crop Improvement Association
- Entirely self-supportive through its seed sales
- Involved in initial increase of new varieties
- Primary mission is to produce Foundation seed for seed growers of ND
 - Other duties include providing assistance to main station researchers
 - Tours, outreach, etc.

Current Operations:

- 1400 acres of cropland managed
 - 1100 acres for seed production
 - 300 acres for research
- Manage land at Casselton, Prosper and Fargo
- 3 FTE's
- Foundation seed production of wheat, barley, oat and soybean
 - Approximately 25 varieties per year
 - 10-15 varieties carried over each year
- Directly involved with distribution of new varieties each year
- Average 32,000 bushels seed sold per year
- Crop research carried out by the main station scientists
 - ASF provides assistance to the scientists
 - Primarily Plant Science & Plant Pathology

Ag Research needs affecting ASF

- Storage sheds for new equipment
 - Many research projects adding expensive high-tech plot equipment
 - Storage space is very limited
- Precision Agriculture
 - Increased interest in drones
 - Data collection & mapping
- Plant Breeding support
 - Continued development of improved varieties
 - Important to Certified Seed Industry