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SEP 16 2019

MILLER GOLDEN ACRES, INC. FARM  
DONNYBROOK, ND

Dear SBARE Board Members,

Thank you for your invitation to be involved with the goals you have for the future of agriculture in North Dakota. The research that has been done in the ND Research centers and the work of the Extension centers have done to disseminate these results of that research to the agricultural community has been a big part of the success farmers have experienced in growing record yielding crops in ND. The funding and advancement of these brain tanks and work centers is by far at the top of my list for your support.

The health and well being of the North Dakota farmers is another area that is very important to the future of agriculture. Health and success go hand in hand. Since I lost my left hand to a harvesting accident in 2013, I have done some research on accidents in agriculture. First of all you may know agriculture is the most dangerous occupation in the world. Of all fatalities in the workforce in the world, agriculture accounts for roughly 50% of those fatalities. Tractor accidents claim close to 275 lives each year and nearly 300 children are killed each year in farm accidents in the United States alone. What can be done to stop at least some of these tragic deaths from happening.

Do you agree that safety education and safety training may be a good place to start? Here again the reliance to set up some training programs could be researched and administered through the NDSU research and extension centers; programs that could teach tractor/equipment safety and all around the farm safety. Programs could be designed to target youth, hired workers and individual operators. The programs could be set up with some seed money from the state, but insurance, implement and other companies that have a vested interest in the safety of their clients and customers would step up to help fund such a worthwhile effort.

This idea may be carried forward by SBARE putting farm safety as a priority and establishing a position of a "Safety Technician" to run this program in the NDSU research and extension centers. Please give this some serious thought and consideration,

Thank You, 

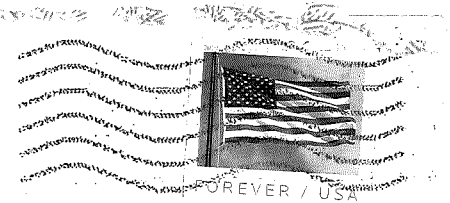
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