

Testimony to State Board of Agriculture Research and Education

The North Central Research Extension Center (NCREC) was established in 1945 and is currently one of seven Research Extension Centers (REC) located across ND. The NCREC benefits the agricultural region of north central North Dakota and the entire state by providing unbiased scientific information in these primary areas: agronomy, weed science, Foundation-grade seed production, pulse crops breeding, winter hardy grape evaluation, and Extension education in the areas of crop protection and cropping systems.



We appreciate your support and advocacy of previously determined needs within our system. The Livestock Initiative from the previous session, ultimately resulted in the ND Legislature providing funding for two Extension FTEs. These positions will focus in areas specifically important to expanding and protecting livestock production in ND. One of these Extension FTEs will be housed out of the NCREC and will focus on Integrated Livestock Management. We are actively recruiting for this position.

The critical needs of the NCREC are increased technical support and operating funds. Research specialists and agriculture research technicians are critical to complete our research and Extension missions at the NCREC. These positions are instrumental in completing tasks such as planting and harvesting field trials, collecting soil samples, welding broken equipment, analyzing seed samples for protein content, applying pesticides, data collection, hybridizing field pea lines, and compiling information for research reports. Currently, the NCREC receives state-appropriated funds to cover approximately 23% of our current technical positions.



Additional appropriated monies designated to the NCREC will help alleviate the stress associated with funding these positions via outside sources. Additional technical support will give our scientists more time and energy to establish new collaborations and to develop new relationships with other RECs and main campus. The NCREC will soon have four Extension Specialists housed out of the NCREC, with at least three of them having field-based research and demonstration activities. The current staff will have limited ability to support these efforts without additional funding and support.



We often hear the term sustainability as we discuss holistic approaches to protect our environment and resources while producing food, fiber, feed and fuel. Within our system, we have many researchers that study regenerative practices, however, we have no program designated to combine efforts. As we move forward, it will be essential to provide information from an unbiased scientific source such as NDSU, while still accounting for field demonstrations and anecdotal reports. A research scientist and technical support with a primary focus of identify opportunities, using science-based techniques to test and work with local farmers and ranchers, would support this effort and make a significant impact to people, animals, and the planet.

Updated equipment and seed storage facilities are needed at the NCREC. Our capital equipment assets and Foundation-grade seed require enclosed buildings and updated bins to maximize their life spans and protect them from harsh weather. Protecting these investments are critical.



We appreciate your time and support of NDSU and the NCREC. Thank you for all you do to advocate for North Dakota agriculture.

For more information:

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