North Dakota State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
November 3, 2021
Memorial Union, North Dakota State University

Good Morning, Chairwoman Lovas and the State Board for Agricultural Research and Education. I am Jean Henning and I serve as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council. I appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to discuss the North Dakota Corn Council's research and education priorities.

I would like to thank you for the additional livestock development positions at North Dakota State University. The Corn Council is a founding member of the North Dakota Livestock Alliance and we are pleased to see that there is momentum building in expanding animal agriculture in the state. These positions will add energy as we all work to grow this industry.

Livestock production in North Dakota accounts for approximately $1.5 billion in gross revenue per year. With the work and energy behind current efforts to expand animal agriculture the North Dakota livestock industry's economic contribution to the state will increase over time. In the last few years, the Carrington Research Extension Center lost two beef animal scientists working on Corn Council funded research to another University and to the USDA. The retention of staff at our Research Extension Centers (REC) is critical to an industry poised for growth. A Multi-Use Feedlot Research Support facility, feedlot pen expansion, covered hoop barns and a smart feed technology system at the Carrington Research Extension Center will provide more controlled conditions for nutrition studies, allow for the research of extreme weather conditions and allow for more extensive data collection. The Carrington REC is the primary outstate program for beef feedlot research and evaluation of feed for beef production. Facilities which allow for our state's animal scientists to do their best work is critical to their retention. It is a priority of the ND Corn Council to build demand for North Dakota grown corn through a thriving livestock industry. This research on nutrition efficiencies will be required as the livestock industry grows.

Solving on farm problems related to pests, diseases and weeds continue to be a priority. The Corn Council has been involved in research on sodic and saline soils, water management and erosion mitigation. As crop diseases become more prevalent and varied due to extreme weather events it is necessary to have the resources for our state pathologists and soil scientists to respond quickly. Research on Goss' Wilt along with education and outreach provided by NDSU has been critical to contain this disease. Nutrient efficiencies and fertility management will play a large role for a farms bottom line as the costs for these inputs has

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become significant. We are also seeing increased scrutiny to how these inputs are affecting our natural resources and greenhouse gas emissions. As agriculture moves toward carbon offset programs and on-farm carbon accounting to sell into specific markets it will be necessary for NDSU to lead by helping farmers understand the costs and benefits of participating in these markets. Having a facility which serves as a transition between field operations and wet laboratory analysis that allows for proper dust mitigation of seed and soil samples is critical for this research. Staff retention in our Plant Science, Plant Pathology, Ag & Biosystems Engineering and the School of Natural Resources is vital to the success of NDSU responding to a changing industry.

Soil Testing Lab staffing needs, the Corn Council has been involved in soil health research for the last ten years. Promoting soil testing and related activities can have large returns on investment for farmers. Non-biased testing can provide understanding to help farmers build organic matter and promote nutrient use efficiencies. As we move into carbon offset programs and carbon accounting in the soil, this lab will have an expanding role in the future.

The Corn Council requests continued support for our REC's. These Research Extension Centers link the University system throughout the entire state. The REC's add to the quality of life in these regional locations and provide direct access to checkoff research that is being conducted at these locations.

The Corn Council continues to prioritize new use research for both corn and corn by-products. Roughly ½ of our research budget has been allocated to new use projects including latex adhesives, corrosion inhibitors, sustainable jet fuel, dust mitigators and many more. We will continue to work to drive market demand through investigating new-use research.

Our collective investments in research and education provide immediate returns for current issues but also serve a greater purpose by training and educating the future agriculture leaders in North Dakota. The North Dakota Corn Council supports SBARE in your efforts to enhance the future of agriculture in this state.

Thank you for your service and giving me this opportunity to speak with you today.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean Henning
ND Corn Utilization Council

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