



North Dakota Pork Council | 3320 45th Ave | New Salem, ND 58563

North Dakota State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
December 7, 2021
Dickinson Research Extension Center

My name is Tamra Heins, I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Pork Council. The North Dakota Pork Council is committed to promoting pork and supporting pig farming and youth swine activities in North Dakota.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for their dedication to North Dakota Agriculture by giving their time to this board.

I am here today to ask the board to consider the hiring of a North Dakota Swine Extension Specialist to the list of their priorities.

Since the departure of Dr. David Newman in 2016, we have struggled to fill a gap in our outreach in the swine industry at a time when interest in building and expanding farms has never been greater. We are seeing many North Dakota farmers interested in adding pigs for increased profitability and reducing resources for their farm.

The lack of a scientific presence in the North Dakota swine community is costing us opportunities in research money for projects that include air and water quality, soil health and crop production improvement. Also, the need for scientists that are familiar with the pork industry is critical to our growth in terms of permit siting and freedom to operate issues that keep North Dakota farmers from pig farming.

North Dakota can grow an industry that creates income potential in small communities with increased prices for crops, a stable market for soybean meal, increase in revenue for electric cooperatives and local job opportunities.

The growth of the local direct-sell meat market, fueled by the pandemic, has increased our niche market of small farmers for those that wish to capture that value. Without a Swine Extension Specialist for a resource for those new to pig farming and marketing, how can we expect the industry to continue to grow in our state?

Farmers, big and small are needing outreach that is uniquely provided by North Dakota Extension.

I thank you for your time today.

North Dakota Pork Council
Tamra Heins
State Executive Director