



**North Dakota State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
December 12, 2023**

Good Morning Chair 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 this opportunity to discuss the North Dakota Corn Council's research and education priorities.

We were approached by NDSU Animal Science to help with a remodel of the existing swine barn. and after we discussed the project, it was determined that we would like to invest in a larger and more modern swine facility. The ND Corn Council made a large investment in this project and helped set the direction for the new barns. The ND Corn Council realizes that if we want to grow animal agriculture in this state, we need to get our young people excited about the swine industry.

Approximately one-half of North Dakota's corn crop is used for ethanol production. Approximately 40% of the corn leaves the state for export to the Pacific-Northwest and Canada. Livestock production in North Dakota utilizes a little over 10% of our corn crop. Our number one priority has been and continues to be the increase of animal agriculture in this state. We have invested in research, invested in new swine barns, and we helped to establish and fund the North Dakota Livestock Alliance. Students need access to modern equipment, modern facilities and educators that will get them excited about animal agriculture. The new generation of livestock producers will reinvent animal agriculture. By analyzing animal data gathered from sensors and images collected from pens, pastures, and barns, today's farmers will be better able to track animal location, their health, nutrition, reproduction, and make better animal health/welfare management decisions. **With the addition of a NDSU precision livestock management team, which includes extension,** NDSU will be at the center of outreach and education to producers and students on how to make livestock production more environmentally friendly and sustainable, increase carbon sequestration and reduce nutrient load through appropriate management practices. Agriculture is a rapidly changing field and NDSU Animal Science needs to have the tools and staff to be able to lead current farmers as well as the farmers of the future. **We believe that precision livestock farming equipment and expanding faculty positions in this area will help encourage our young farmers to add animals to their farming operations.**

As the corn industry looks to the future in carbon capture and sequestration of our ethanol industry and the potential for sustainable aviation future in the future, we need an extension specialist to focus on climate smart technologies that can bridge the gap to farm

4870 Rocking Horse Circle S. • Fargo, ND 58104

Phone: 701.566.9322 • Web: www.NDCornCouncil.org



economics. We have looked at soil health practices for the good of creating soil organic matter, but we need to be able to help farmers understand the cost-benefit to consider climate smart practices. With end-users of our products asking for low-CI score feedstock for ethanol and sustainability protocols by buyers abroad, North Dakota farmers need to respond by providing the feedstock that will be required by the marketplace. Farmers also need to be able to sustain their farms financially. Once farmers observe that changing on-farm practices will benefit them financially we will be able to respond to market pressure. **We need an economist that can work with farmers and provide educational materials on climate smart practices as we face increased pressure from the marketplace.**

The U.S. ethanol industry faces fierce competition from Brazil and the CI score from Brazilian ethanol is significantly lower than the United States. Brazilian ethanol plants are powered by the burning of biomass and the corn crop used in ethanol production is from their second safrinha crop. Therefore, the carbon scoring for Brazilian corn ethanol is virtually zero. At a recent U.S. Grains Council meeting we discussed the possibility of the U.S. importing Brazilian ethanol as a feedstock for U.S. sustainable aviation fuel rather than utilizing higher carbon scored U.S. ethanol. This possibility would be devastating to our ethanol industry in this country. As we begin to think about the future integration of agriculture and energy in North Dakota, our policy makers and stakeholders will need information and insight to navigate complex global, federal, state policies and markets. **The Center for Agriculture Policy and Trade Studies will be instrumental in providing this information. We believe that stable funding for the Center and the addition of three positions to the Center will enable quick turnaround on policy information which will enable the U.S. and North Dakota to remain competitive in an ever-changing renewable energy environment.**

Recently the ND Corn Council held our annual Research Summit. It was very refreshing to see many new NDSU faculty and new in their career faculty come to us with their projects. We saw a renewed sense of energy in agricultural research and a strong desire to help North Dakota's producers. 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 and we want to thank you for helping to move the agriculture industry forward.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean Henning
ND Corn Utilization Council