

NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center

Open House Listening Session - Dickinson, ND
November 9, 2023



Providing innovative Research and Extension programming in Agronomy, Weed Science, Wildlife & Range Science, and Sheep and Cattle Production.

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HETTINGER
RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

Hettinger REC in Brief

- Integrated crops, livestock, and range research and extension
- Variety, herbicide, and crop production research
- Lamb and beef feedlot nutrition and management
- Reproductive management of fall, winter, and spring lambing ewes
- Multiple-land use management including cropping systems, livestock, and wildlife as potential outputs
- Livestock Extension in Ruminant Systems Management

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Capital Projects

Livestock Processing Facility and Feed Efficiency Sheep Feedlot

\$3.4 million funded through a special session. An update will be provided later.

Staff

Research Technicians

The HREC currently has 4 research scientists, but only 2 FTE in Research Technicians. Animal Science has never had a research technician, and the Agronomy Program lost theirs in 2018 due to budget reductions. Additional technical support is needed to provide stable labor for research. We currently have Rangeland and Wildlife technician this is open and we will be recruiting for it this fall.

Animal Science Interns

The HREC annually hosts 3-5 interns from the University of Puerto Rico for 6-12 weeks. The timeframe is during the fall and winter lambing seasons and during the summer as a ranch experience internship.

New Staff

We recently hired Dr. Rachel Gibbs from the University of NE as the new Livestock Extension Specialist in Ruminant Systems Management. She will be starting June 3, 2024 after completing her Post-Doc.

Operating Support and Deferred Maintenance

Inflation continues to be a strain on our annual operating budget, as well as maintenance on roads, fences, and houses built in the early 1900's. Any additional operating or deferred maintenance support is appreciated.

Land Resources

Current Land Base (only 28% of the land HREC operates on is owned)

- 4,249 acres for grazing, forage, livestock research, and agronomic research.
- 1,200 acres of owned land and 3,049 acres of rented land (1,379 acres located near Bismarck and Mandan, ND on State Prison Lands).
- The majority of the land around Hettinger is in its 3rd generation of rental contracts.

Land Purchase

- We are finalizing the paperwork on the recent legislative bill authorizing the purchase of approximately 610 acres of land from a long-time family rental.

Apiary Program Request

- ND has approximately 18% (495,000) of the total U.S. colonies (2,706,000), which makes up 26% of the US honey production (38,610,000 pounds).
- ND honey production is valued at approximately \$81 million, not including pollinator services and other income (over \$300 million nationally).
- ND Beekeepers Association has indicated they have no "point person" in the state as a resource, while the majority of the research dollars are sent to other states. Tim Hiatt will be presenting later today on behalf of the NDBCA.

Hettinger Research Extension Center

Apiary Research & Extension Program



GENETICS



**VARROA
MITES**



PESTICIDES



LAND USE



EXTENSION

**COLONY COLLAPSE
HONEY PRODUCTION
WINTER HARDINESS
MITE RESISTANCE
HYGIENE**

CONTROL

**INTERACTIONS WITH
AGRICULTURE**

**RESOURCE ALLOCATION
INTERACTIONS WITH
NATIVE POLLINATORS**

RESPONSIVENESS

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