

To: State Board of Agriculture Research and Education

Re: Support of NCREC Agronomy Research Specialist

As the NDSU North Central Research Extension Center Board of Visitors, we are directly affected by the research and Extension programs provided by the NCREC. We rely on the unbiased, scientific information that the NCREC provides. Some personal feedback from the board:

- I personally use Brian Jenks often. We discuss his findings on new chemicals that have been released. I can't always believe the ratings that the Chemical company puts on for control or suppression of certain weeds.
- Dr. Jenks will let me know what to expect after the chemical has been applied. This knowledge is essential on my farm as well as my recommendations to my Growers (customers). No one likes to be blind-sided by a result.
- I also pull yield data along with disease reports on wheat, barley, canola, corn and soybeans. Every commercial company has the 'best' product to sell. If I was selling a product of my own, I would probably make it sound bullet proof as well. I can pull up the Center's data and know that it is actually looked at and compared to other products without a biased opinion. This has helped me pick products that will help myself and my growers succeed. Very important part of staying around to farm another year in this fast-paced world.

We fully support a state-appropriated research specialist to expand their current agronomic research capabilities. In addition, the ND Crop Improvement and Seed Association voted to support this position at their 2023 annual meeting. We see the value in the ability to expand research, which is specific to our needs. The only way to expand the current research needs is with a state-appropriated position. The NCREC research program already supports two soft-funded research specialists.

We ask that you please consider a state-funded research specialist at the NCREC and provide money to the NCREC operating budget to support them. This research specialist will actively work with all crops, which will have significant impact to all farmers and ranchers in ND. The newly-hired NCREC research agronomist, Dr. Leandro Bortolon, has a strong agronomic and soil-based research background. His program would like to expand the NCREC's research capabilities. We see this as a benefit to the farmers of our region and the whole state.

We ask that you to prioritize and support the NCREC and their critical need for a state-appropriated research specialist to expand their current agronomic research capabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Woodbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

John Woodbury, NCREC Board of Visitor Chair