

Message from President Cook

July 13, 2023

Hello everybody. It's that time of year again. We're doing our field day trip across the state. It's pretty exciting. So, today I'm at the NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center.

Obviously, out in Dickinson. It seems like yesterday that we were out here. The whole crew was out here a year ago. Absolutely beautiful facility. Great day for it, great crowds here, everybody's checking things out. Big kudos to Dr. Chris Augustine for just doing an amazing job out here.

So, the tour across the state for me started yesterday. I spent a lot of time in Bismarck, got to Dickinson last night meeting with some community leaders, some alumni who care a lot about NDSU. I'm meeting with some legislators a little bit talking about the next session already believe it or not. And also, had a great tour of Dickinson State University so, a special thanks to President Steve Easton for giving me the tour. I learned that we have faculty here at the REC that help teach classes including our Director we're out here Chris Augustine. So, really love the relationship and the partnership that we have with them and that's so critical to, of course, our land grant mission.

So, busy day out here. This morning has started with the horticulture field day presentations. If you look behind me you can kind of see them in the distance, I think. They're doing some of those presentations. So, we have our faculty that were, that are out here, some community leaders, but the best part is that we have some of our students, graduate students out here helping educate the community about some of their areas of Interest. So, this morning it's been about horticulture.

This afternoon, which I'm real excited about, will be about agronomy. One of those students is Ria McLaughlin. Ria is one of our master's students in Resource Management. she'll be speaking on how fertilizer impacts, how it has an impact on forage nitrates among a bunch of other topics. So, a lot of fun. It's kind of what I remembered from last year. It's a great way to get to know people out here and a lot of energy behind that.

And so, after that we have another big event where we'll have a groundbreaking ceremony out here for our new agricultural lab workshop facility. It'll be, it's right here on the REC. So, that will be a lot of fun. That'll bring a lot of community leaders together. And then, after the groundbreaking, we have a big Bison Social out here so hopefully, we will see a bunch of you out here in the southwest part of the state, out at the Bison Social. I know there's a lot of Bison out here who care deeply about NDSU and of course, love the land grant mission and love to see how we live that mission every day. Especially around agriculture and it's fun to be out here to see that specifically.

So, that's kind of this week I get back to Fargo on Friday and the next two weeks is pretty busy. Maybe you'll see me again we'll see. But, start on Monday out in Casselton at the Agronomy Seed Farm. I remember being there last year. And then from Casselton, we'll head to the Carrington Research Extension Center on Tuesday morning which should be a lot of fun. And then, the next step on the way is going to be heading out to Minot which will be a lot of fun. To the north, to the center out there, and I think we might even be doing a little bit with the state fair.

Last year if you remember I showed a meat goat. Competed against my wife who showed a dairy goat. And so, we'll see what happens this year if we're going to compete there. But anyway, at

the end of the day, it's another great two weeks traveling around the state. Living out the NDSU mission. Meeting a lot of people who have a lot of strong interest and support for the institution and I'm out here, you know, learning and listening like I did last year to see what they want from, I guess sort of the new president, right? What we can do better, what the future holds, and especially what we can do to help with workforce, and of course, research out here across the state.

So, hopefully, I'll see you in my travels in the next two weeks, and Go Bison!