

NDSU Agriculture and Extension

*Faculty and Staff*  
**Awards**

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**Thursday, December 7, 2023**

**3 p.m. CST**

NDSU Memorial Union Ballroom A  
and by Zoom Webinar

**NDSU**

VICE PRESIDENT FOR AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

# Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award

*This annual award established by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station recognizes outstanding faculty and Research Extension Center principal investigators with 10 or fewer years of service. The recipient must have made a significant research contribution that addresses an applied problem or increases the basic knowledge of the area investigated.*

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## ■ Samat Amat

Assistant Professor  
Department of Microbiological  
Sciences

*“Dr. Amat has achieved a huge amount in a short time at NDSU. He leads a large and prodigiously productive interdisciplinary research program that is performing pioneering research in livestock production.”*

Samat Amat joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2020.

The goal of Amat’s research program is to harness the bovine microbiome to improve animal health and productivity, reduce reliance on antibiotic use and mitigate methane emissions.

The cattle sector faces unprecedented challenges in the coming years, including elevated demand for output to feed the world’s rapidly growing population, antimicrobial resistance and increasing concerns over the environmental footprint of beef production. The outcome of Amat’s research will contribute to the industry’s ability to address these challenges.

Amat has authored or co-authored 35 refereed journal articles, made 14 presentations and helped generate more than \$750,000 in grants.

Amat earned a B.S. degree from Xinjiang Agricultural University in China, M.S. degrees from Xinjiang Agricultural University and the University of Saskatchewan, and a Ph.D. from the University of Calgary.

## ■ Chris Byrd

Assistant Professor  
Department of Animal Sciences

*“Chris is a passionate researcher, committed educator and a shining example of a future research leader at NDSU.”*

Chris Byrd joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2019.

Byrd’s goal is to optimize animal care and the environments in which they are raised. The optimal result would be to allow animals the opportunity to interact positively within their environment and to live healthy, productive lives with few stressors.

Byrd identified that on-farm pig welfare is a multifaceted undertaking. His research in swine production provides insight into group penning during gestation and the overall effects and welfare concerns for low-ranking sows. The work done in his laboratory focuses on the use of precision technologies for characterizing group hierarchies with the hope that producers will soon have the ability to automatically identify low-ranking sows and mitigate risks and poor welfare.

Byrd has authored or co-authored 17 refereed journal articles, 23 abstracts and meeting proceedings, two publications and seven presentations, and helped generate over \$1 million in grants.

Byrd earned a B.S. from Iowa State University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue.

## ■ Jiajia Rao

Associate Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*“Dr. Rao is an accomplished researcher who has developed a vibrant externally supported research program that addresses consumer needs and maintains a safe, nutritious, sustainable food supply.”*

Jiajia Rao joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2016 and became an associate professor in 2022.

The primary mission of Rao’s research is to foster long-term economic benefits for North Dakota through development of value-added and high-quality agricultural products. She launched a food biopolymer and ingredient laboratory and formed a research team to utilize current processing streams to increase value and revenue.

Her research on the modification of pulse-based protein for improved functionality and flavor profile improves the value of pulse crops grown in the state and helps promote the use of North Dakota-grown pulse seed as functional food ingredients.

Rao has authored or co-authored 105 refereed journal articles and two book chapters, made 28 presentations and helped generate more than \$3 million in grants.

Rao holds a B.S. degree from Sichuan University of Science and Engineering, China; an M.S. degree from Chongqing University, China; and a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

## Larson/Yaggie Award (continued)

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### ■ Sandro Steinbach

Associate Professor  
Department of Agribusiness and  
Applied Economics

*“Dr. Steinbach’s work has advanced knowledge, informed policymaking, improved agribusiness practices, boosted economic well-being and fostered interdisciplinary collaboration in the academic community.”*

Sandro Steinbach joined NDSU in 2022 as an associate professor.

Steinbach’s primary research areas are international trade, agriculture policy and interdisciplinary approaches. These areas represent critical areas of the agribusiness and economics landscape, and his work has contributed to the understanding of these complex and interconnected issues.

Steinbach’s research has significantly advanced the discipline of agribusiness and applied technology. The most impactful effort of his work is his research on regional policymaking. His work has provided valuable insights into decision-making and has enabled more effective and informed policies for the support, growth and sustainability of the agriculture world.

Steinbach has authored or coauthored 23 refereed journal articles and four book chapters, made 65 presentations and helped generate \$11.1 million in grants.

Steinbach holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany; an M.S. degree from the University of California, Davis; and a doctoral degree from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland.

### ■ Xin Sun

Associate Professor  
Department of Agricultural and  
Biosystems Engineering

*“Dr. Sun is a nationally recognized researcher of precision agriculture technologies who is highly respected by students as an educator and is active in outreach programs.”*

Xin (Rex) Sun joined NDSU as a research scientist in 2015. He became an assistant professor in 2018 and an associate professor in 2023.

Sun focuses his research efforts on precision agriculture technologies for improving livestock, crop and food production in the Red River Valley. His impact on developing precision agriculture research and educational programs has resulted in a successful NDSU precision agriculture program.

He has developed three different versions of robots to identify and selectively spray weed species in the field. Currently, he is in the process of developing NDSU’s first agriculture robotic autonomous vehicle. He also developed an algorithm that can monitor beef cattle behavior through thermal and video image technologies.

Sun has authored or co-authored 44 refereed journal articles and two book chapters, made 69 presentations and helped generate more than \$20 million in grants.

Sun earned a B.S. degree from Yantai University, China, and a Ph.D. from Nanjing Agricultural University, China.

# Dahl Excellence in Research Award

*This annual award established by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station recognizes outstanding faculty and Research Extension Center principal investigators in their 11th or more years of service. The recipient must have a distinguished research program in basic or applied sciences that has gained significant recognition in the state, region or nation and/or internationally.*

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## ■ Carl Dahlen

Professor  
Department of Animal Sciences

*“Dr. Dahlen’s visionary approach to multigenerational experiments and knowledge gained from his research will advance management practices and provide important insights to improve performance in beef cattle.”*

Carl Dahlen joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2010 and was promoted to professor in 2023.

Dahlen’s research works to improve fertility in livestock and to evaluate nutrition and management strategies on reproductive performance as well as the effects of these strategies on offspring. His research background and practical experience have led to several novel research techniques, data collection efforts and training methodologies, and have allowed his research to span from very applied to very basic.

Dahlen is one of the first in the world to design research to evaluate the effects of maternal nutrition in beef cattle and is pioneering the area of paternal nutrition during sperm development and the subsequent impacts on offspring outcomes.

Dahlen has authored or coauthored 108 refereed journal articles and three book chapters, made 82 presentations and helped generate \$4.7 million in grants.

Dahlen earned B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota.

## ■ Luis del Rio Mendoza

Professor  
Department of Plant Pathology

*“Dr. del Rio has worked diligently to develop research ideas to combat important diseases in canola. He is making great strides in disease management.”*

Luis del Rio Mendoza joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2001. He became an associate professor in 2007 and was promoted to professor in 2016.

Del Rio researches the biology and management of diseases affecting canola production. During his time at NDSU, North Dakota canola acreage has increased from about 400,000 acres to 2.2 million acres. He is the only full-time canola pathologist in the nation.

His program focuses on three fungal diseases: Sclerotinia stem rot, blackleg and clubroot. His research helped create the National Sclerotinia Initiative, a USDA-ARS program that allocates over \$1 million yearly to Sclerotinia research. After the onset of clubroot disease in North Dakota, he coordinated with Langdon Research Extension Center researchers to map its prevalence and detected genetic markers associated with resistance.

Del Rio has authored or coauthored 86 refereed journal articles and five book chapters, made 187 presentations and helped generate over \$4 million in grants.

Del Rio earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Puerto Rico and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

## ■ Asunta Thompson

Associate Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*“Dr. Thompson’s diligence, creativity, applied practical knowledge and plain hard work have led her program to a high level of excellence.”*

Asunta (Susie) Thompson joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2001 and became an associate professor in 2008.

The focus of her research is breeding and genetic enhancement of potato through hybridization with the outcome of releasing superior cultivars for grower, industry and consumer adoption, and addressing shortcomings of current cultivars. Thompson’s expertise in agronomy and potato physiology aids in the development of cultivar-specific management profiles for promising selections and new cultivars, providing more opportunities for success by seed and commercial growers.

Recently, Dakota Russet, selected and developed by Thompson and the potato improvement team, was accepted by McDonald’s for french fry production by Midwest processors. Dakota Russet possesses moderate resistance to two important diseases for North American growers.

Thompson has made 129 presentations, authored or co-authored 26 refereed journal articles and one book chapter, and helped bring in more than \$3.1 million in grants.

Thompson earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Idaho.

# Earl and Dorothy Foster Excellence in Teaching Award

*This annual award recognizes outstanding teaching faculty with 10 or fewer years of service in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. The award encourages and rewards excellence in teaching at all levels and among all disciplines.*

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## ■ Raymond March

Assistant Professor  
Department of Agribusiness and  
Applied Economics

*"Few other faculty at NDSU approach his excellence as a teacher."*

Raymond March joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2017.

March's health economics course utilizes contemporary health issues to analyze major challenges in the U.S. healthcare system. Recent topics include insulin prices, externalities of COVID-19 vaccination and agency issues within the patient-physician relationship. He directs FDAReview.org, an educational website about the Food and Drug Administration that provides articles, information and teaching tools about the agency.

March's teaching evaluations are frequently far above department and university averages. He has participated in two peer-review groups to improve his teaching. He has had peers review his courses five times and has never received a critical comment. He has been nominated for the Odney Excellence in Teaching Award, the highest teaching award available at NDSU. He is the only person to be named a finalist for the award while still at the assistant professor level.

March earned a B.S. degree from Florida Gulf Coast University and a Ph.D. from Texas Tech University.

## ■ Ewumbua Monono

Assistant Professor  
Department of Agricultural and  
Biosystems Engineering

*"Dr. Monono is an outstanding teacher who has made significant impact on the students he has taught and is a positive influence in the department."*

Ewumbua Monono joined NDSU as a research specialist in 2015 and became an assistant professor in 2020.

Monono demonstrated his mastery and experience managing the NDSU Pilot Plant by developing two hands-on processing lab sessions for ABEN 110, an introductory class taught by another faculty member. The labs develop the students' knowledge of processing and the importance of moisture in bioprocessing, a concept they will study in depth in the upper-level processing classes he teaches.

He has demonstrated himself to be fair and objective in his evaluations by providing a clear grading metric and constant feedback to the students. He has worked or coordinated with other faculty in the department to improve skills students learn before and after his classes, and he brought in a new teaching style which helped in the learning process.

Monono earned an agricultural engineering diploma from the University of Dschang, Cameroon, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from NDSU.

## ■ Blaine Novak

Lecturer  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Blaine possesses a unique ability to make complex subjects comprehensible and relatable. He fosters a deep understanding and curiosity for the subject matter."*

Blaine Novak's technical understanding of stockmanship allows him the ability to readily digest the topic to meet learners where they are regardless of their experience. He invests significant energy into youth programming and development education. He has a consistent history of collaborating with youth-serving organizations like 4-H, FFA and Extension programs across the Midwest to provide high-quality youth programming. He provides a youth livestock safety and handling workshop in collaboration with Extension's Tractor Safety Camp.

Novak celebrates students regardless of their backgrounds. While his current appointment does not encompass a research appointment, he and two colleagues reinstated a paused study evaluating the impacts of background and experiences on student success in introductory animal science courses. His inspiration for revitalizing this project was to better understand student motivation and academic support needs to create equity within the teaching environment.

Novak earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU.

# H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award

*This annual award recognizes outstanding teaching faculty in their 11th or more years of service in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. The award encourages and rewards excellence in teaching at all levels and among all disciplines.*

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## ■ Edward DeKeyser

Professor  
School of Natural Resource Sciences

*“Dr. DeKeyser has the rare talent of understanding how to not only push a student to realize the full potential of their knowledge but also how to support and encourage a student in gaining confidence within their own minds.”*

Edward (Shawn) DeKeyser joined NDSU as a research specialist and lecturer in 2000. He became an assistant professor in 2007, an associate professor in 2011 and a professor in 2017. He also serves as curator of the NDSU Herbarium, program leader for Natural Resources Management (NRM) and director of the NRM graduate program.

Incorporating applications of theories learned in class is important to DeKeyser. He has developed three courses stemming from real-world experience of current research, job markets and ecological issues.

DeKeyser is involved in curriculum development and integration of the NRM major with other programs. He has helped develop major learning outcomes that overarch all the School’s programs. His students say he is passionate about his work and always open to questions and new ideas.

DeKeyser earned a B.A. from Jamestown College and an M.S. and Ph.D. from NDSU.

## ■ Zhulu Lin

Associate Professor  
Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

*“Zhulu’s commitment to student learning and teaching effectiveness has been tremendous to our academic programs. He is a constant support, mentor and guide to his students.”*

Zhulu Lin joined NDSU in 2008 as an assistant professor and became an associate professor in 2018.

Lin is an effective teacher who not only strives to provide students with hands-on computing experience but also enhances their learning experience through a carefully designed curriculum. He also likes to bring real-world engineering problems into the classroom to stimulate students’ interest in addressing the challenges our world faces.

He believes that students can grow more holistically when they know their professors sincerely care about their well-being and personal growth. Lin is the designated teaching faculty to meet with prospective engineering students and their parents. His students say he is approachable and understands the learning experience through their perspective.

Lin obtained B.S. and M.S. degrees from East China University of Science and Technology, and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.

## ■ Tara Swanson

Senior Lecturer  
Department of Animal Sciences

*“In an effort to reach every student, Tara incorporates a multitude of teaching and learning styles in her courses.”*

Tara Swanson joined NDSU in 2006 as a lecturer and became a senior lecturer in 2020.

Swanson incorporates active learning, guest lectures, field trips and hands-on application of subject matter that focus on core material, current events, best practices and global perspective discussions. Her courses use a combination of hands-on activities and self-assessment to enhance the student experience. She does this by using reflection journals, critical-thinking applications and group work to enhance student communication and interpersonal skills.

Her students say she makes her courses engaging and interactive while still being thorough and concise when teaching. She encourages them to ask “why” and makes interacting with each of her students a priority.

Swanson wants each student to leave her class retaining information – not just regurgitating content. Helping students understand how topics are connected and having the ability to use the information and make informed decisions is the end goal.

Swanson earned a B.S. from the University of Nebraska and an M.S. from NDSU.

# William J. and Angelyn A. Austin Excellence in Advising Award

*This annual award recognizes the contributions of faculty and staff who have demonstrated excellence in advising undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources and/or its student organizations.*

## Lund Award (continued)

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### ■ Cheryl Wachenheim

Professor  
Department of Agribusiness and  
Applied Economics

*“Dr. Wachenheim’s lifelong passion is teaching. She wants all of her students and colleagues to succeed. She is willing to do everything she can to help them find and live their dreams.”*

Cheryl Wachenheim joined NDSU in 1998 as an assistant professor. She became an associate professor in 2003 and was promoted to professor in 2010.

Wachenheim maintains currency in her courses so they are up-to-date and provide rigor and experience to facilitate student readiness for their careers or additional schooling.

Wachenheim believes her most important responsibility toward enhancing student experience and stimulating intellectual and personal growth is to know her students. Because she works to ensure that course activities not only set students up for subsequent academic and career success but also help them facilitate their goal accomplishment, she takes the time to learn those goals. For example, regardless of class size, she has each of her students introduce themselves and present their aspirations and whatever else is important to them in written, audio or video form.

Wachenheim earned a B.S. from the University of Minnesota and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University.

### ■ Bingcan Chen

Associate Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*“Dr. Chen is a supportive, equitable, accessible, encouraging and respectful advisor who is exemplary of NDSU advising faculty.”*

Bingcan Chen joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2015 and became an associate professor in 2022.

Chen believes that his success as an advisor is judged on the success of advisees finding a job in their field and being successful in their chosen career. He will ask the students about their preferred career paths early in their graduate school tenure to help them gain experience and skills needed to succeed.

Chen encourages and supports his students to attend state, regional and national conferences and meetings to learn more about their field, network with colleagues and future employers, and present their research. In addition, he encourages students to be involved in different professional organizations through volunteer activities. Some of his students serve as division student representatives or session chairs in professional organizations and conferences.

Chen earned a B.S. from Sichuan University of Science and Engineering, an M.S. from Chongqing University and a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts.

### ■ Lisa Christenson

Associate Professor of Practice  
Department of Animal Sciences

*“Dr. Lisa is a wonderful professor, academic advisor and mentor who cares deeply about her students and genuinely wants to help students succeed.”*

Lisa Christenson joined NDSU as an assistant professor of practice in 2012 and became an associate professor of practice in 2018.

Early in her career at NDSU, Christenson realized that the students who most often need advising did not seek out advising meetings or respond to email requests. In response, she places an advisor hold on all first-year students prior to spring registration and meets with each of them before they can register for classes.

She ensures her students feel comfortable meeting with her, whether that means meeting them at the Memorial Union coffee shop or meeting in group settings. Her advisees say she cares about each advisee as a whole person, and many say she has been the most influential person during their time at NDSU.

Christenson holds a B.A. degree from Concordia College and a DVM from the University of Minnesota.

## Austin Award (continued)

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### ■ Thomas Krumel

Assistant Professor  
Department of Agribusiness and  
Applied Economics

*“Dr. Krumel goes above and beyond to ensure his students not only excel in the classroom but are ready to succeed in life as well.”*

Thomas Krumel joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2021.

Krumel maintains the largest advisee list in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. Most of the students requested Krumel as an advisor because they took a class from him. He has developed a reputation in the department as an instructor who is tough but fair. He has found a way to push his students beyond what they believe they can achieve while still being extremely popular with these students.

Krumel has a steady flow of students in his office during his office hours. He provides career guidance and cultivates discussions on the student’s future that often benefit the students.

Krumel holds a B.A. from Mount Union College, an M.A. from the University of Akron, an M.S. from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut.

### ■ Matthew Olhoft

Senior Lecturer  
Department of Agricultural and  
Biosystems Engineering

*“Matthew’s advising is geared to the big picture of a student’s life.”*

Matthew Olhoft joined NDSU as a senior lecturer in 2016.

Olhoft strives to visit with each advisee, learning more about where they come from and their goals. He works to ensure they get the most out of their time at NDSU and that their degree helps them get where they want to go. He encourages his advisees to take advantage of opportunities NDSU provides for them. His advisees say he cares about them and motivates them to reach their academic and career goals.

Olhoft is the primary faculty member of the Precision Agriculture Technology and Management program and serves as the advisor for most of the students in the agriculture technology side of the program. In addition, he is the faculty advisor for the Agricultural Systems Management student organization, the annual student-sponsored Agricultural Technology Expo, the Project P 3D printing club and the Bison Pullers quarter-scale tractor club.

Olhoft holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU.

### ■ Rachel Richman

Senior Lecturer  
Department of Microbiological  
Sciences

*“Rachel Richman has a passion for advising students and empowers them to not only persevere and graduate but also to go on to successful careers.”*

Rachel Richman joined NDSU as a lecturer in 2003 and became a senior lecturer in 2010.

Richman starts building relationships with most microbiology majors in the student’s first semester at NDSU. Throughout that semester, she has designed activities to help the students adjust to college life and access resources to help them be successful. She also teaches the microbiology capstone and the nonmajors’ introductory microbiology courses.

Her advisees say she spends as much time as needed to help them determine the courses they need to graduate and makes sure they stay on track. She also is knowledgeable about career opportunities and is proactive in keeping up with curriculum and policy changes that affect students’ academic plans. Many graduates use her as a reference.

Richman holds a B.S. degree from the University of Texas and an M.S. degree from the University of Minnesota.



# Excellence in Extension Early Career Award

*NDSU Extension established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension educational outcomes. Individuals with 10 or fewer years of service to NDSU Extension are eligible for nomination. Nominees must hold an Extension appointment and be in the 2000 job band.*

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## ■ Joseph Ikley

Assistant Professor,  
Extension Weed Specialist  
Department of Plant Sciences

*“Joe’s availability to take phone calls and answer emails from growers and agronomists shows that he cares about North Dakota agriculture.”*

Joseph Ikley joined NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension weed specialist in 2018.

Ikley is a sought-after speaker and has delivered over 200 presentations across the state addressing the biology and management of difficult-to-control and herbicide-resistant weeds. After many of his presentations, 90% of the respondents rated the session good to excellent. He has been a leader in helping train agents, agronomists and farmers in the identification and management of Palmer amaranth and waterhemp.

Ikley’s creativity has led to the creation of two 3D-printed Palmer amaranth plants. These 3D plants are a great way to attract attention at trade shows and educate people on the characteristics of this weed. This helps with proper weed identification without the risk of hauling live plants to meetings.

Ikley holds B.A. and M.S. degrees from the University of Maryland and a Ph.D. from Purdue University.

## ■ Bryon Parman

Assistant Professor,  
Agricultural Finance Specialist  
Department of Agribusiness and  
Applied Economics

*“Dr. Parman’s Extension programming is outstanding. What makes his program truly exceptional is how it compliments other Extension programs in various disciplines.”*

Bryon Parman joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2018.

Parman is one of the most highly requested speakers in the NDSU Extension system. Stakeholders in North Dakota, as well as regionally, find the information he provides highly valuable. Parman covers a wide variety of topics including macroeconomics, farm management, livestock production and finance, land values and rents, general agriculture finance and overall production economics.

Parman’s Extension education delivery method focuses on stakeholders being able to take the same information he sees and make their own informed decisions. He uses multiple visual aids during his presentations to help educate those in attendance. He also highlights the decision tools created by NDSU and shows participants how they are used.

Parman holds a B.A. from Peru State College, Peru, Nebraska, an M.S. degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and a Ph.D. from Kansas State University.

# AGSCO Excellence in Extension Award

*NDSU Extension established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension educational outcomes. Individuals in their 11th or more years of cumulative service to NDSU Extension are eligible for nomination. Nominees must hold an Extension appointment and be in the 2000 job band.*

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## ■ Mark Boetel

Professor, Extension Entomologist  
School of Natural Resource Sciences

*“Dr. Boetel responds quickly to producers with research-based recommendations and is recognized across the U.S. as the best Extension educator for sugarbeet entomology issues.”*

Mark Boetel joined NDSU as an Extension entomologist and assistant professor in 1999 and became an associate professor in 2006 and professor in 2012.

In addition to his program aimed at developing and implementing insect pest management in sugarbeets, Boetel provides expertise on managing insect pests in corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa and rangeland. He also provides educational programming on ticks, mosquitoes and home/garden pest management.

Boetel led the creation of the sugarbeet root maggot degree day model to help growers predict the pest’s onset. This enables growers to be proactive with the most effective and environmentally beneficial targeting of post-emergent insecticide applications. A North Dakota grower said one of Boetel’s greatest accomplishments is this model of peak fly infestation linked to NDAWN climatic data.

One sugarbeet agronomist said Boetel is the go-to entomologist for any insect problems the cooperative’s growers face.

Boetel holds B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from South Dakota State University.

## ■ Susan Milender

Extension Agent,  
Family and Community Wellness  
Barnes County

*“Susan lives out the NDSU Extension mission by generating innovative ideas, uniting teams and delivering transformational education opportunities for youth and adults.”*

Susan Milender joined NDSU Extension as a Family and Community Wellness agent in 2013.

Milender is careful to ensure her work aligns with identified needs in North Dakota. She recognizes many youths do not know the origin of their food nor have opportunities to explore agriculture-based careers so she secured funding from the Barnes County Farm Bureau and Maple Valley School District for a middle school field trip to tour Carrington agribusinesses. Forty students explored meat processing, beekeeping, dairy and cheese- and gelato-making industries.

Milender seeks novel ways to provide transformative science-based education. She collaborated with Julie Garden-Robinson and Luella Morehouse to create a virtual baking school for youth where the Extension professional and youth meet weekly for a virtual baking lesson. She also helped create a series of 4-H 101 videos to encourage 4-H member engagement and participation.

Milender earned a B.A. from NDSU and an M.Ed. from Valley City State University.

## ■ Jane Strommen

Extension Gerontology Specialist  
Department of Human Development  
and Family Science

*“Jane clearly understands participants’ needs. She is able to create a respectful and safe environment for class engagement and ensures participants are part of the discussions.”*

Jane Strommen joined NDSU Extension as an Extension Gerontology Specialist in 2012.

Strommen’s work is with evidence-based programs. She currently leads efforts related to four evidence-based programs; Powerful Tools for Caregivers, Stepping On, Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance, and Fit and Strong. She leads efforts related to planning, marketing and outreach, developing tools and resources, evaluation, reporting and establishing an infrastructure to administer all the programs effectively.

Strommen works closely with Extension agents across the state to implement programming and support their needs. Because of her collaborative approach to programming and research, she is able to expand the reach of her work and make a larger impact. In addition, she partners with faculty and graduate students in the Department of Human Development and Family Science to provide quality evaluation for programs.

Strommen earned B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from NDSU. She earned her M.S. from the University of St. Francis, Illinois.

## AGSCO Award (continued)

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### ■ **Acacia Stuckle**

Extension Agent,  
Family and Community Wellness  
Emmons County

*“Acacia is an asset to the communities she proudly serves and is a role model to her fellow Extension agents.”*

Acacia Stuckle joined NDSU Extension as a Family and Community Wellness Extension Agent in 2012.

For several years, Acacia has taught “Kids, Compost, Crops and Consumption” to teach fourth-grade students about stops on the food cycle, including soil and plants, and ending with learning about nutrition from fruits and vegetables. In addition, Acacia has taught various “On the Move to Better Health” programs in local schools for several years to help increase student knowledge of dairy foods, fruit, vegetables, whole grains and proteins.

Stuckle is a well-respected Extension agent and is often asked to participate with NDSU Extension groups and committees. She consistently demonstrates her willingness to be a team player and contributes to many projects in her community and in Extension. Recently, she was featured in a news story titled “HERstory” in the Emmons County Record for Women’s History Month.

Stuckle holds a B.A. from NDSU.

# Charles and Linda Moses Staff Award

*This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agriculture and/or Extension by professional staff on and off campus. The recipient must have at least three years of continuous service in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.*

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## ■ Jennifer Carney

Director of Student Services /  
Academic Advisor  
Department of Agribusiness and  
Applied Economics / Academic  
Advising Center

*“Jennifer heads off many potential problems by taking preventative measures to ensure student success and a smooth-running department.”*

Jennifer Carney joined the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics (ABAE) as an administrative secretary in 2009. She became a transfer coordinator in Registration and Records in 2011 and returned to ABAE as director of student services in 2019 before becoming an academic advisor in the Academic Advising Center in 2023.

In her role as director of student services, she served as an advisor to freshman and entry-level students. Her advice provided a solid foundation for their college career by helping them understand degree requirements and course selection, and she relayed information to other advisors in the department.

Carney’s impact can be seen in her willingness to help students and faculty alike. She kept up-to-date on university processes, departmental curricula, course schedules, scholarship offerings and everything related to the department’s ability to ensure students and faculty had what they needed for success.

In her current role, she works with Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Economics and some College of Business students.

Carney earned a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and an M.Ed. from NDSU.

## ■ Susan Finneseth

Grants Coordinator  
School of Natural Resource  
Sciences with responsibilities for  
the Department of Agricultural  
and Biosystems Engineering and  
the Department of Microbiological  
Sciences

*“Susan consistently keeps track of every detail, not only with regard to formats, but also content, allowing researchers to concentrate on crafting strong research proposals.”*

Susan Finneseth joined NDSU as an administrative secretary in 2005, then served as an administrative assistant and program manager for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and Family Nutrition Program.

Now, Finneseth serves three CAFSNR departments as grants coordinator. She plays a crucial role in supporting the grant acquisition process by assisting in grant proposal preparation, coordinating the internal grant approval process and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements. This involves managing grant deadlines, reviewing budgetary aspects of proposals and identifying grant opportunities. Finneseth collaborates with various offices and maintains a comprehensive understanding of grant policies and submission systems. She shares the information needed for proposals with faculty and makes suggestions on how they can strengthen each proposal.

Finneseth holds a B.S. degree from NDSU.

## ■ Yueqiang Leng

Research Specialist  
Department of Plant Pathology

*“Yueqiang’s research work has resulted in improved crop resistance to diseases, sustainable farming practices, and enhanced agricultural resilience.”*

Yueqiang Leng came to NDSU as a graduate research assistant in 2007 and was hired as a research specialist in 2012 after post-doctoral work.

Leng conducts both applied and basic research on the biology and management of important diseases such as Fusarium head blight (FHB) and spot blotch and their causal pathogens that threaten wheat and barley production in North Dakota and worldwide. He helps NDSU wheat breeders in phenotyping thousands of wheat breeding materials every summer at different North Dakota locations. He also produces pathogen inoculum for greenhouse and field experiments of NDSU wheat researchers.

Leng has identified and mapped several new genes for FHB resistance from different wheat germplasm. He is making great progress in cloning a novel FHB resistant gene. He also developed and improved several protocols used in fungal gene knockout and functional analyses.

Leng holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Nanjing Agricultural University, China, and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

## Moses Award (continued)

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### ■ Dongqing Lin

Research Specialist  
Department of Agricultural and  
Biosystems Engineering

*“Dongqing excels in sensor evaluation, programming and integration, ensuring the consistency and accuracy of experiments.”*

Dongqing Lin joined NDSU as a research specialist in 2006.

Lin works closely with supervising faculty on literature review, experimental design, instrumentation, automation and implementation related to soil health and water management of agricultural and biological systems, such as in irrigation and drainage, evapotranspiration, and water and soil quality in farming land. He also works with vendors and manufacturers on equipment purchases, calibration and testing, and field applications including datalogger programming, data collection and instrument maintenance.

Lin helped design an automated drip irrigation system using mulches in watermelon and tomato productions and led the installation of the systems, growing of the vegetables, data collection and quality analysis.

He plays a pivotal role in leading both lab and field experiments. Following data collection, he meticulously processes the data, developing procedures and, when necessary, writes custom-made computer programs, and conducts statistical analyses.

Lin earned a B.E. from Tsinghua University, China, and two M.S. degrees and a Ph.D. from the University of North Dakota.

### ■ Sally Mann

Research Specialist  
Department of Plant Sciences

*“Sally is one of the hardest working technicians in our department. She is always eager to help anyone who needs it.”*

Sally Mann joined NDSU as a research technician in 2010 and became a research specialist in 2013.

Mann has been integrally involved in all aspects of small-grain breeding and genetics. She prepares fields at various locations for planting. She packages seed for sowing and plants yield trials, segregating populations, observation nurseries, drill strips and disease-screening nurseries. Her work ethic, commitment to durum research and good communication skills have benefited NDSU and producers.

She also takes agronomic and disease resistance notes in the field, practices selection in segregating populations, harvests research plots, and manages students and summer workers during the entire growing season. In addition, she plants and manages the greenhouses, makes crosses and evaluates plants for foliar diseases in collaboration with a researcher at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mann holds a B.S. degree from NDSU.

### ■ Stacy Wang

Social Media Specialist  
Agriculture Communication

*“Stacy has used her creativity, work ethic and passion to build a large following and increased engagement on the social media platforms we use.”*

Stacy Wang joined NDSU in 2010 as an Extension program assistant, then served as an Extension associate before joining Ag Communication in 2021.

Wang creates and executes NDSU Agricultural Affairs' social media strategy across multiple social media platforms including Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Pinterest. This entails developing and curating engaging and innovative content in written, visual and video formats. She engages with audiences to nurture a sense of community and to address inquiries, comments and concerns. She also reviews analytics and tracks key metrics to maximize message outreach. She brands posts with NDSU Ag Affairs graphics.

Wang identifies areas of improvement for the organization's social media pages and has created numerous trainings to help people across Agricultural Affairs improve their ability to create effective content and engage with their audiences.

Wang holds a B.S. degree from NDSU and an M.Ed. from Valley City State University.

# Donald and Jo Anderson Staff Award

*This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agriculture and/or Extension by office support staff on and off campus with at least three years of continuous service. The recipient must be in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.*

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## ■ Julie Bietz

Student Services Coordinator and Information Processing Specialist  
Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

*"Julie has personalized her student services expertise by creating a welcoming and supportive environment for undergraduate and graduate students. She is the force that keeps students as the top priority of the department."*

Julie Bietz joined NDSU as a Bison Connection associate in 2011 and moved to her position in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABEN) in 2014.

Bietz is students' first and primary point of contact in the ABEN department. She arranges prospective student meetings, tours and on-campus recruitment events. She also coordinates faculty for prospective student visits, summer orientation and fall welcome events. She assists faculty with academic advising and serves as a source of support for students with academic and personal concerns.

In her information processing role, she maintains student listservs for three academic programs, manages student records and services, maintains documents related to course offerings, maintains alumni records, manages administrative functions for five student organizations, and provides communication and outreach functions, including social media interaction, the department newsletter and the department website.

Bietz holds a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

## ■ Blaine Erovick

Distribution Coordinator  
Agriculture Communication

*"Blaine's desire to provide quality service and be fiscally responsible to our customers is evident to all who work with him. His attention to providing the customer with a positive experience is his top priority."*

Blaine Erovick joined NDSU in 2018 with grounds maintenance and became Ag Communication distribution coordinator in 2019.

Erovick splits his duties between his Ag Communication distribution role and his Print and Copy Services delivery role. Erovick maintains the print inventory of NDSU Extension publications, including many 4-H publications. He collaborates with Agriculture Communication team members and authors to ensure the most up-to-date publications are available. He also packages and prepares all shipping orders using multiple shipping companies and oversees the checkout process for 4-H educational trunks.

In his Print and Copy Services delivery role, he delivers campus-wide and plans his route ahead of time to ensure delivery is made in order of priority. He also oversees the delivery van maintenance schedule and reports monthly mileage.

Erovick exhibits a high level of customer service and professionalism in both roles.

## ■ Karen Jevning

Administrative Secretary  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"Karen's thoughtful and good-natured attitude contributes to the friendly work environment within the department. Karen makes the extra effort to get to know the students by name."*

Karen Jevning joined NDSU in 1996 as part-time student/alumni information coordinator at the Career Center. After other responsibilities in Admissions and the Career Center, she joined the Department of Plant Sciences as an administrative secretary in 2017.

Jevning provides secretarial support to faculty with a teaching appointment and maintains records related to Plant Sciences courses. She provides strong support for classroom management so instructors can focus on material delivery. She supports faculty with undergraduate advising responsibilities, provides undergraduate students with administrative guidance, prepares and maintains department scholarship information, and supports the department head. In addition, she compiled six years of enrollment and alumni career outcomes data.

Jevning also provides communication to prospective students, including sharing information on new student orientation, and assists with the CAFSNR scholarship recognition luncheon. She created a Field to Plate display and brought in speakers to discuss graduate degrees.

## Anderson Award (continued)

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### ■ Edie Nelson

Administrative Assistant  
Department of Agribusiness and  
Applied Economics

*“Edie takes initiative to serve as the communications hub for the department and makes sure everyone is not only informed but involved.”*

Edie Nelson joined NDSU as an information processing specialist in 2003 and moved to her current position in 2017.

As administrative assistant, Nelson supports many departmental functions: faculty annual reviews; the department’s annual report; faculty and staff awards; promotion, tenure and evaluation documents; position searches; seminars; technical reports; and more. She also takes minutes at faculty meetings and is the contact for policies.

As office manager, she maintains the workflow and operations of the front office. She also supervises front office staff and is responsible for recruitment, interviewing, supervising and handling performance issues. She monitors training opportunities and ensures cross training among positions.

Nelson has increased efficiencies by improving processes in how the department organizes, conducts business and prioritizes workloads. She also reworked the department’s website and maintains its social media platforms.

Nelson holds an associate’s degree from North Dakota State College of Science.

### ■ Sara Schuchard-McGregor

Administrative Assistant  
Langdon Research Extension Center

*“Sara has a strong drive to assist and work collaboratively with fellow employees. She knows it starts with sincere listening to employees’ needs.”*

Sara Schuchard-McGregor joined NDSU in 2012 as an administrative secretary at the Langdon Research Extension Center (LREC) and became the Center’s administrative assistant in 2021.

Schuchard-McGregor is the LREC’s only support staff and is responsible for a wide range of duties including assisting with the Center’s budget and reports, overseeing processes and procedures, purchasing, billing, editing and proofing, managing records, and assisting with human resources processes. She created and updates a 42-page foundation seedstock QuickBooks billing program and manual she shares with other RECs and the Agronomy Seed Farm. She initiated REC support staff monthly meetings via Zoom to share ideas and collaborate.

Schuchard-McGregor manages the Center’s website, social media and online variety trials data, and is the IT go-to person. Additionally, she plans field days, workshops, agent trainings and tours.

Schuchard-McGregor holds a B.A. from Jamestown College and an MBA from the University of Mary.

### ■ Linda Schuster

Administrative Assistant  
Carrington Research Extension Center

*“The Carrington Research Extension Center and public events run smoothly in large part due to Linda’s heart and commitment to doing a good job.”*

Linda Schuster joined the Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC) as an administrative secretary in 2010 and was named an administrative assistant in 2022.

Her responsibilities now focus on support for Extension, office management and public interaction. These include hardware and software maintenance, videoconference support, financials, staff trainings, shipping and receiving, and much more. She excels at each of these in a way that makes the CREC function at a high level. Her farm background, work ethic and personal touch to her interactions have set the CREC on a course to continue to serve and relate to producers and local communities.

Schuster manages the weekly Center Points blog. She is creative in electronic and paper projects to depict the professionalism of NDSU. Whether in person or online, she coordinates, schedules, invites, reminds, sound checks, troubleshoots, moderates and follows up for meetings and webinars.

Schuster earned a B.S. degree from Moorhead State University.

# Rick and Jody Burgum Staff Award

*This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agriculture and/or Extension by support staff in technical and paraprofessional, crafts/trades or services positions on and off campus with at least three years of continuous service. The recipient must be in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.*

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## ■ Chris Anderson

Print and Copy Services Production  
Manager  
Agriculture Communication

*“Chris’s sunny disposition, concern for others, attention to detail and willingness to go the extra mile make him popular with co-workers and customers.”*

Chris Anderson joined NDSU as a press operator in 2006 and became the Print and Copy Services production manager in 2013.

Anderson organizes daily activities of the production center staff and works closely with customer service staff. He is involved in all the phases of printed material production, including Extension publications, “indestructible” card sets, 4-H literature, NDSU football passes and much more for the entire campus.

He works with customers on project details and implements procedures for increasing efficiencies. With his knack for repairing equipment, he has saved Print and Copy Services money. He also helps faculty and staff get their printing/copying work done as cost effectively as possible, even if that means taking it off campus. Since a graphic designer’s retirement, Anderson has learned how to lay out print pieces and work with customers to solve their graphic design problems.

Anderson earned a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

## ■ Ronald Johnson

Ag Research Technician  
AES Main Station Farm Shop

*“Many people have heard the phrase ‘make hay while the sun shines.’ In Ron’s position, the sun also shines on Saturdays, Sundays or even holidays. Many times throughout the year, you’ll find Ron giving up his weekends and evenings to ensure the forages are harvested and prepared properly.”*

Ron Johnson joined the farm shop staff in 2018.

Johnson works primarily at the farm shop and also assists at the livestock units. In the spring, he helps with crop production field operations, and during the summer, he works mostly on haying and forage production, including cutting, raking and baling. In the winter, he removes snow. Johnson also drives truck as needed and maintains equipment. He especially enjoys training new student employees how to operate farm equipment and working on Department of Animal Sciences activities.

Johnson helps with tasks outside of regular work hours including assisting at the dairy and beef barns over the holidays. During snow events, he gets to work early to remove snow so roadways are cleared for co-workers.

Johnson holds a B.S. degree from NDSU.

## ■ Timothy Schroeder

Ag Research Technician  
Carrington Research Extension Center

*“Tim has an incredible work ethic, willing to start early and stay late as needed to ensure animals are cared for and research is conducted accurately.”*

Tim Schroeder started working at the Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC) as a part-time high school co-op student in 1997. He joined the staff full time after college graduation.

As the livestock unit’s lead research technician, he completes projects for timely and successful execution of research protocols with beef cows and feedlot cattle. He is in regular conversation with local small-grain farmers, trucking companies and state officials to ensure timely ordering of feedstuffs, livestock transportation, and inspections for livestock and personnel safety.

Schroeder also provides daily care and management for the animals, following Animal Care and Use Committee guidelines, research protocols and good husbandry practices. He identifies, plans and repairs NDSU assets for positive public image and to avert safety issues. His ability to think outside the box has allowed the Center to develop routines and efforts to improve efficiency of the livestock unit.

Schroeder earned an A.A.S. from Bismarck State College.



# Celebrate, Integrate and Embrace the Power of Diversity Award

*This annual award recognizes an individual or group who has achieved significant impact for work related to the Agricultural Affairs strategic goal to celebrate, integrate and embrace the power of diversity. All departments/units, committees and individuals are eligible.*

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## ■ Erika Berg

Associate Professor  
Department of Animal Sciences  
Program: NDSU Bison Strides Equine Assisted Services Program

*“Erika has proven her leadership, creativity and passion for outreach and diversity, and has inspired many others to follow her example.”*

Erika Berg has been leading the NDSU Bison Strides Equine Assisted Services program since its inception in 2017. Bison Strides partners horses and people with physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioral or mental health disabilities through multiple community outreach programs. Since 2017, Bison Strides has provided hundreds of service hours, involving students in every aspect.

Positive outcomes for participants include physical, cognitive, social and emotional benefits, which can lead to greater self-confidence, daily independence and improved quality of life. Additionally, students of the equine-assisted services program can earn professional instructor certification, which will allow each of them to lead equine-assisted services on their own in the future.

The program collaborates with multiple organizations to fulfill its mission. Partners include the NDSU Counseling Program, Beyond Boundaries Therapy Services, Explorer Academy and Full Circle Academy, West Fargo Transitions Academy and Red River Human Services Foundation. Bison Strides also serves individuals supported by Creative Care for Reaching Independence, Blossom Services Group and Nexus-PATH Family Healing.

## ■ Sue Isbell

Extension Agent,  
4-H Youth Development  
Sioux County  
Program: School Enrichment Programming on Standing Rock Sioux Reservation

*“Sue has developed and delivered innovative 4-H youth development programming that has made positive, measurable impacts to the youth and people of Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.”*

Sue Isbell leads school enrichment programming in Sioux County, which is on Standing Rock Reservation. Her programming focuses on empowering residents to improve their lives and communities through science-based education while ensuring the program content is respectful and relevant to all races and ethnicities. Much of her work is through Standing Rock schools where she addresses issues such as disconnection between the public and their food supply, food sovereignty and other agriculture-related topics.

All student participants in Isbell’s school enrichment programs are 4-H members. This year, she had 235 students enrolled and 70 Cloverbuds, making Sioux County the second largest 4-H program in North Dakota. She also interacts with youth and adult audiences outside of school settings. She reached 5,951 and 3,774 people through direct contacts and program activities in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

A major factor in her program success is the relationships and trust she has built with school administrators, teachers, tribal higher education officials, Sitting Bull College, tribal elders and others on Standing Rock Reservation. She has also built collaborations with 4-H programs across the nation.

## Power of Diversity Award (continued)

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### ■ Leon Schumacher and Matt Olhoft

Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering  
Program: Enhancing Educational Opportunities for the Next Generation of Precision Agriculture Practitioners

*“Leon and Matt’s unconventional recruiting and teaching approaches have gathered a diverse population in the department who are thinking out-of-the-box to become innovators in the field.”*

During the 2022-23 academic year, the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering partnered with CHS, Inc., to deliver creative educational opportunities to different types of learners and reach nontraditional agriculture audiences. In the initiative’s first phase, they acquired a John Deere Gator equipped with the latest technology to be used as a hands-on teaching tool for students.

Additionally, Schumacher and Olhoft traveled to many regional recruiting events and urban career fairs to reach potential students who may be nontraditional for agriculture. They showed potential students that there are opportunities for them in precision agriculture. They also traveled to area high schools, reaching hundreds of students, and they hosted a two-day Digital Ag Workshop in summer 2022 for high school teachers to introduce them to possible future careers for their students.

Schumacher and the department have numerous partners in teaching technology and equipment, undergraduate student recruitment and graduate student recruitment. Thanks to these partnerships, they anticipate increasing enrollment of women and nontraditional agriculture students.

### ■ Masters of Natural Resource Management

School of Natural Resource Sciences  
Program: Masters of Natural Resource Management Program

*“It is the belief of the Masters of Natural Resource Management program that graduate school should be attainable for all who desire higher education.”*

The Masters of Natural Resource Management (MNRM) degree program provides a unique opportunity for nontraditional students to receive a master’s degree through flexibility in delivery, offering inclusion for students who cannot attend in person. The program has consistently expanded online course offerings to increase opportunities available to students, including NRM 720, which focuses on ethics/perspectives of policy and administration with an emphasis on Indigenous voices, intersectionality and LGBTQ+ members in natural resources.

The program has provided an opportunity for 24 students, with indications that growth will continue. A majority are nontraditional students who cannot uproot life to attend an in-person program, including students with full-time jobs, parents and others who need flexibility in their education. Resources such as the Women in SNRS organization create a safe space for empowerment among students from various backgrounds.

The program prioritizes interdisciplinary education, offering courses in School of Natural Resource Sciences disciplines such as soils, range, entomology and natural resources. Partnerships with the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network enable professors to access climate data, and federal agency collaborations deliver career-enhancing courses.



## 2022 Award Recipients

Larson/Yaggie  
Excellence in Research Award

*Torre Hovick,  
School of Natural Resource Sciences*

Eugene R. Dahl  
Excellence in Research Award

*Kendall Swanson,  
Department of Animal Sciences*

Earl and Dorothy Foster  
Excellence in Teaching Award

*Danielle Condry,  
Department of Microbiological Sciences*

H. Roald and Janet Lund  
Excellence in Teaching Award

*Tom Gustad,  
Department of Microbiological Sciences*

William J. and Angelyn A. Austin  
Excellence in Advising Award

*Erik Hanson,  
Department of Agribusiness and Applied  
Economics*

Excellence in Extension  
Early Career Award

*Meagan Hoffman,  
Center for 4-H Youth Development*

AGSCO Excellence in Extension Award

*Frayne Olson,  
Department of Agribusiness and Applied  
Economics*

Charles and Linda Moses  
Staff Award

*Roger Egeberg,  
Agriculture Communication*

Donald and Jo Anderson  
Staff Award

*Myrna Friedt,  
Carrington Research Extension Center*

Rick and Jody Burgum  
Staff Award

*Diane Pennington,  
School of Natural Resource Sciences*

## 2023 Faculty/Staff Award Nominees

**Larson/Yaggie  
Excellence in Research Award**

Samat Amat  
Chris Byrd  
Jiajia Rao  
Sandro Steinbach  
Xin Sun

**Eugene R. Dahl  
Excellence in Research Award**

Carl Dahlen  
Luis del Rio Mendoza  
Asunta Thompson

**Earl and Dorothy Foster  
Excellence in Teaching Award**

Raymond March  
Ewumbua Monono  
Blaine Novak

**H. Roald and Janet Lund  
Excellence in Teaching Award**

Edward DeKeyser  
Zhulu Lin  
Tara Swanson  
Cheryl Wachenheim

**William J. and Angelyn A. Austin  
Excellence in Advising Award**

Bingcan Chen  
Lisa Christenson  
Thomas Krumel  
Matthew Olhoft  
Rachel Richman

**Excellence in Extension  
Early Career Award**

Joseph Ikley  
Bryon Parman

**AGSCO  
Excellence in Extension Award**

Mark Boetel  
Susan Milender  
Jane Strommen  
Acacia Stuckle

**Charles and Linda Moses  
Staff Award**

Jennifer Carney  
Susan Finneseth  
Yueqiang Leng  
Dongqing Lin  
Sally Mann  
Stacy Wang

**Donald and Jo Anderson  
Staff Award**

Julie Bietz  
Blaine Erovick  
Karen Jevning  
Edie Nelson  
Sara Schuchard-McGregor  
Linda Schuster

**Rick and Jody Burgum  
Staff Award**

Chris Anderson  
Ronald Johnson  
Timothy Schroeder

**Celebrate, Integrate and Embrace  
the Power of Diversity Award**

Erika Berg  
Sue Isbell  
Leon Schumacher and  
Matt Olhoft  
Masters of Natural Resource  
Management Program

For a list of prior award recipients, visit the "Faculty and Staff Awards" link at [www.ndsu.edu/vpag](http://www.ndsu.edu/vpag)