

NORTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
May 8, 2025 MEETING MINUTES | Virtual

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met for a regular meeting on May 8, 2025. Present: Doug Bichler, Pres. David Cook, John Dhuyvett, Doug Goehring, Pam Gulleson, Sen. Jerry Klein, Greg Lardy, Sarah Lovas, and Mark Urquhart. Absent: Jim Bahm, Mike Clemens, Rep. Alisa Mitskog, John Nordgaard, Scott Ouradnik, and Julie Zikmund.

Chair Lovas called the meeting to order at **1:00 p.m.**

Approval of March 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mark Urquhart made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Pam Gulleson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Administrative Update from David Cook, President of NDSU

President Cook announced that Alan Kallmeyer was selected as Dean of the College of Engineering, and that Jace Beehler was appointed Chief of Staff for the Office of the President. Current searches include the Dean of the Graduate School and NDSU Provost.

He noted details about the campus visit from Admiral Munsch, who will receive an Honorary Doctorate at Spring commencement. He also commented on university website changes, Strategic Planning efforts, and meetings with the new interim chancellor, Brent Sanford.

Finally, he updated the board on the 69th Legislative session outcomes, future credit options for students, enrollment reports and government funding formula changes.

Administrative Update from Greg Lardy, Joe and Norma Peltier VP for Agriculture, Dean, Director, Director

Dr. Greg Lardy provided several updates to the board, including progress on the search for the Peltier Endowed Chair and Director of the Peltier Institute for Advancement in Agricultural Technology, as well as professor of practice positions at the Peltier Institute. He noted that the Institute's scholarship program has been finalized and award notifications have been sent to student recipients.

Among student highlights include that thirty-seven students will participate in this summer's "Bison in the Bakken" experience. He also noted that a select group of students was invited to have lunch with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, Senator John Hoeven, Governor Armstrong, Commissioner Goehring, and Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak. Dr. Lardy reported that the roundtable event hosted at NDSU with Secretary Rollins and North Dakota agriculture stakeholders was well received.

He emphasized that NDSU Agriculture continues to closely monitor the evolving federal budget landscape.

He also noted the "NDSU of Evening of Distinction" celebration, which recognized outstanding alumni and partners, including Doug Duncan, Kelly Swanson, the North Dakota Wheat Commission, the North Dakota Soybean Council, and the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council.

Dr. Lardy shared construction updates on the Bolley Field Lab and noted preliminary planning efforts for replacing the Shepperd Arena.

He announced ongoing searches for the Director of the Williston Research Extension Center (currently led by interim part-time Director, Tyler Tjelde), AES Assistant Director of Field Operations (interim Dr. Shana Forster), and the Chair of Plant Pathology (interim Dr. Sam Markell). He also acknowledged the retirement of Blaine Schatz, former AES Assistant Director, and upcoming retirement of Dr. Jack Rasmussen, NDSU Plant Pathology.

Administrative Update from Lynette Flage, Associate Director NDSU Extension

Dr. Flage provided an update on the Next Chapter Program, a 4-H initiative designed for students from 8th grade through high school seniors, developed in partnership with the NDSU Admissions Office.

She also shared that she has been visiting county offices across the state, providing updates and an opportunity to connect locally with extension agents, parent educators, program assistants and administrative assistants. There will be 13 visits total during this statewide tour.

Preparations are underway for the 4-H Leader Showmanship event scheduled for Saturday morning, July 26th at the ND State Fairgrounds in Minot.

Dr. Flage reported that the President's Executive budget came out last Friday and included a 35% reduction in NIFA funding, which impacts both AES and Extension. Specific language and details of the cuts will be forthcoming and the situation is being closely monitored. Additionally, she is working with county partners on the recently passed HB1176, a bill that affects property tax caps for political subdivisions which may affect county extension budgets.

Administrative Update from Frank Casey, Associate Director of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Dr. Casey reported on the success of the University Industry Consortium (UIC) event co-hosted between NDSU Agriculture and Grand Farm. About 50 Land Grand and industry partners from agricultural leadership attended. NDSU and Grand Farm had a showcase day in which Peltier complex was highlighted along with multiple research programs. Many commented on the facilities, which was an opportunity to highlight uniqueness of the SBARE process and its advocacy for NDSU Agricultural research and extension programs.

He also noted that NDSU Agriculture hosted USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) leadership hosted leadership from Washington D.C., including Joon Park, ARS Acting Administrator and regional leadership. The visited highlighted the value of ARS's collaborations.

Dr. Casey gave updates on his recent visit to the University of Georgia, where UGA recently established a partnership with Grand Farm. As part of this trip, he was invited to present at the Institute for Integrated Agriculture in Perry, Georgia, to speak about the agriculture ecosystem in the region, in which the partnership between NDSU and Grand Farm has played a key role. He also attended a ribbon cutting at the UGA Grand Farm. There were multiple connections made.

Comments from Sarah Lovas, SBARE Chair

Chair Lovas thanked the NDSU leadership team for their work during the legislative session and emphasized the ongoing need to orient new legislators to the SBARE process. She encouraged the board to begin planning for the 2025 NDSU Field Days.

She announced the confirmation of two new SBARE members by the State Board of Higher Education: Jason Schmidt (Extension appointee) and Scott Huso (Ag Coalition appointee). Chair Lovas also noted that her term will conclude on July 1, and that Mark Urquhart will complete his first term and not seek reappointment. Elections, including for a new SBARE Chair, will take place at the next meeting. Senator Jerry Klein and Representative Alisa Mitskog were appointed to serve on the nominating committee with Chair Lovas.

Updates from Doug Goehring, Agriculture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Goering provided additional legislative updates from the Department of Agriculture and highlighted upcoming meetings in Washington, D.C. He also noted the success of the recent roundtable with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, held at NDSU's Peltier Complex.

Legislative Updates

Dr. Lardy gave updates on SB2020 results in relation to the 2025-2027 SBARE prioritization process.

MOTION: Senator Jerry Klein made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pam Gulleson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin McCall