

Agriculture and Extension Faculty/Staff

# Awards

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**Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019**

3:00 p.m. ■ Great Room ■ Memorial Union

Reception and refreshments  
immediately following the awards program

**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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## ■ Venkat Chapara

Research Assistant Professor  
Langdon Research Extension Center

*"Dr. Chapara's research program has delivered results that have been passed on to the producers of North Dakota and increased the belief that crop diseases can be minimized through recommendations based on good science."*

Venkat Chapara joined NDSU as Extension crop protection specialist at the North Central Research Extension Center in 2013 and became assistant research professor at the Langdon Research Extension Center in 2015.

He evaluates and implements disease management strategies to limit crop yield and quality loss from plant diseases in northeastern North Dakota.

In recent years, the prevalence and severity of clubroot in canola in northeastern North Dakota led Chapara to focus on this incurable disease. He has made many discoveries and received international recognition for his research. Additionally, he has generated results to address the lack of research related to controlling sclerotinia head rot in sunflowers.

He has helped generate more than \$646,000 in grants, authored or co-authored 10 refereed journal articles and made 60 presentations.

Chapara holds a B.S. degree from Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, an M.S. degree from Gujarat Agricultural University and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

## ■ Bingcan Chen

Assistant Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"Dr. Chen is an outstanding young scientist with exceptional research and leadership ability."*

Bingcan Chen joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2015.

Chen's research investigates and solves problems important to stakeholders in the state and region. His primary focus is the structural and functional relationships of food ingredients in relation to food products, quality and human health. He is the expert on physical, chemical and sensory characteristics of pulses and other food and industrial crops, including industrial hemp.

His identification of high efficacy natural antioxidants from germinated pulses improves the value of pulse crops grown in the state, and the beany flavor mitigation strategies he developed help promote utilization of North Dakota-grown pulse seeds as food ingredients. He also helped develop a technique to convert unrefined liquid corn and soybean oil to a gel-like state to replace shortening in baking.

Chen has authored or co-authored 56 refereed journal articles and five book chapters, made 20 presentations and generated more than \$800,000 in grants.

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

## ■ Aaron Daigh

Assistant Professor  
School of Natural Resource Sciences  
(Soil Science)

*"Dr. Daigh's most valuable asset is his ability to take complex scientific concepts and break them down into bite-sized pieces that people can understand."*

Aaron Daigh joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2013.

Daigh's primary areas of research include heat, water and salt transport in agricultural soils relating to reduced tillage, residue management, tile drainage, cover cropping, regional weather and climate, and soil properties. He has accomplished significant on-farm research to develop water-saving and soil health management practices. These trials have used farm-scale plots to better translate the research to farming practices.

He also has done extensive research on removing salts, primarily from oil-produced water spills, from the soil. His innovative approach to salt removal has the potential to revolutionize the reclamation of oil well-produced water spills and soils negatively impacted by soluble salts. In addition, he has been investigating how nanoparticles influence water movement in soils and how micro-computed tomography can be used to help model pore distribution and connectivity in disturbed and undisturbed soils.

Daigh has helped generate more than \$5.1 million in grants, authored or co-authored 41 refereed journal articles and three book chapters, and made 157 presentations.

He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

## ■ Zhaohui Liu

Associate Professor  
Department of Plant Pathology

*“Dr. Liu’s research work has significantly advanced the science of plant pathology at a high level and helped to solve numerous real-world wheat disease problems faced by producers in North Dakota and other regions of the world.”*

Zhaohui Liu joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2012 and became an associate professor in 2019.

Liu’s primary research is foliar diseases of common wheat and durum wheat. He focuses on the genetic and molecular basis of host-pathogen interaction in wheat leaf diseases caused by fungi and bacteria. In particular, he has worked on tan spot, *Septoria nodorum* blotch (SNB) and bacterial leaf streak, which are economically important in North Dakota and the surrounding area.

His research has significantly advanced the industry’s understanding of these diseases and provided knowledge and tools for helping producers reduce their impact. For example, he and co-workers have identified race-nonspecific resistance to tan spot disease, which will be very useful in wheat breeding programs. His collaborative research with U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists on SNB has provided an important insight into the molecular mechanisms that cause disease.

Liu has authored or co-authored 58 refereed journal articles and two book chapters, made 14 presentations and helped generate more than \$2.3 million in grants.

He earned a B.S. degree from Anhui Normal University, an M.S. degree from Nanjing Agriculture University and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

## ■ David Ripplinger

Assistant Professor  
Department of Agribusiness  
and Applied Economics

*“Dr. Ripplinger has developed a large, externally supported research program in agribusiness and sustainability that serves the needs of the state.”*

David Ripplinger joined NDSU as a research assistant fellow in 2004 and became an assistant professor and Extension bioproducts/bioenergy specialist in 2012.

Ripplinger’s research falls into three categories: commercialization, environmental sustainability, and energy markets and policy.

He regularly conducts formal and informal needs assessments, and collaborates with faculty and research staff across the state, especially agronomists, soil scientists and agricultural engineers. Most of his work has been supported with external funds and been responsive to a variety of needs in the state and region, including crop production and sustainability.

Ripplinger authored or co-authored 25 refereed journal articles and one book chapter, authored or co-authored articles in 42 other publications, made 38 presentations and helped bring in more than \$6.6 million in grants. He also has been involved in developing decision tools for producers, including the Industrial Beet Enterprise Budget, Soybean-Nitrogen Fixation Calculator, Beet Pulp Price Ratio Calculator, Nutrient Removal Calculator and Wheat Straw Calculator. In addition, he has written numerous news releases and columns, and given radio and TV interviews.

Ripplinger received a B.S. degree and Ph.D. from NDSU and an M.S. degree from Iowa State University.

## ■ Kendall Swanson

Professor  
Department of Animal Sciences

*“Dr. Swanson is an accomplished scientist who makes other scientists around him better due to his ability to successfully collaborate within other disciplines.”*

Kendall Swanson joined NDSU as an associate professor in 2010 and became a professor in 2015.

Swanson’s research focuses on improving the efficiency of feed use and reducing the environmental impact of beef cattle production systems. He also works on defining nutrient metabolism of gut tissues and the whole animal, and determining if the expression of biologically important proteins can be altered through dietary manipulation or animal selection, and if altered expression influences production efficiency. He has examined the influences of diet and management systems on cattle feeding behavior and assessed alternative feeding programs to reduce feed costs in feedlot cattle, backgrounding cattle and wintering beef cow programs.

His research also has increased the cattle industry’s understanding of how diet and feeding management influence feeding behavior. In addition, he has provided information on the practical use of ethanol byproducts and crop residues in cow-calf, and growing and finishing cattle diets.

Swanson has authored or co-authored 93 refereed journal articles and three book chapters, made 50 presentations and generated more than \$5.6 million in grants.

He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky.

# Eugene R. 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 with 11 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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## ■ Eric Berg

Professor  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Dr. Eric Berg has a profound influence on the discussions and adoptions of the positive role of red meat in human health."*

Eric Berg joined NDSU as an associate professor in 2006 and became a professor in 2011.

Berg is an internationally known expert in the broad field of meat science and muscle biology. He has gained a national reputation for his work, using swine as a biomedical model for humans to evaluate how diet, especially consumption of meat, and exercise influence the progression of the diseases of modern society.

Due in part to his testimony to the Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture, the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee report was changed from the initial drafts to indicate that foods of animal origin have an important role in human health.

Berg has authored or co-authored 73 refereed journal articles and five book chapters, made 61 presentations and has helped generate more than \$2.3 million in grants.

He received two B.S. degrees and an M.S. degree from NDSU and a Ph.D. from Purdue University.

## ■ Mohamed Khan

Professor and Extension  
Sugarbeet Specialist  
Department of Plant Pathology

*"Dr. Khan's research contributions have had significant impact on sugarbeet production practices, the sugarbeet industry, and our current understanding of the sugarbeet crop and its diseases."*

Mohamed Khan joined NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension sugarbeet specialist in 1999. He became an associate professor in 2005 and a professor and Extension sugarbeet specialist for NDSU and the University of Minnesota in 2011.

Khan's research involves understanding the biology and improving management practices for the major diseases of sugarbeet, including Cercospora leaf spot (CLS) and Rhizoctonia damping-off and root rot caused by Rhizoctonia solani.

His research on spore trapping and its use in the CLS management model is used worldwide. The use of spore collection and faster analysis facilitated by molecular techniques has improved decision making when using fungicides to control CLS.

He has authored or co-authored 59 refereed journal articles and seven book chapters, made 146 presentations and helped generate more than \$6.5 million in grants.

Khan earned a B.S. degree from the University of Guyana, an M.S. degree from University of Bath and a Ph.D. from Clemson University.

## ■ Saleem Shaik

Professor  
Department of Agribusiness  
and Applied Economics

*"Dr. Shaik is quite proficient in quantitative methods, and he has clearly demonstrated the ability to identify and analyze important empirical issues in agricultural economics."*

Saleem Shaik joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2007, and became an associate professor 2013 and a professor in 2018. He also has served as director of the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies since 2015.

Shaik's work focuses on the economics of production and how domestic policies impact farm performance. He has maintained a productive research program in risk management, agricultural policy and productivity analysis, and his research is cited regularly by leading experts in his field.

Additionally, he has designed research programs that directly involve and benefit educational instructors in the North Dakota Farm and Ranch Business Management Association. He has benchmarked efficiency ratios using farm-level enterprise data, empirically validating performance measures.

He has made 111 presentations, authored or co-authored 40 refereed journal articles and six book chapters, and helped generate more than \$1 million in grants.

Shaik holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Andhra Pradesh Agriculture University and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

## ■ Senay Simsek

Professor

Department of Plant Sciences

*“Dr. Simsek is a gifted carbohydrate chemist who is a vital part of the wheat quality and carbohydrate research community.”*

Senay Simsek joined NDSU in 2007 as an assistant professor and became an associate professor in 2013 and a professor in 2018.

Simsek’s work encompasses the diverse facets of wheat quality and carbohydrate research. Her lab is an important source of general and technical information on spring wheat quality and bread baking. She also oversees the annual crop quality survey and export cargo sampling, which are designed to help market spring wheat and continue to improve the quality of spring wheat the nation produces.

Additionally, Simsek provides the primary quality oversight for the NDSU spring wheat breeding program, one of the largest public programs in the world.

She has authored or co-authored 155 refereed journal articles and three book chapters, made 125 presentations and helped generate more than \$7.7 million in grants.

Simsek obtained a B.S. degree from Bulent Ecevit University, an M.S. degree from Gebze Technical University and a Ph.D. from Purdue University.



# 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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## ■ Lisa Christenson

Associate Professor of Practice  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Dr. Lisa Christenson is an exceptional teacher who engages her students in the classroom, encourages critical thinking and respect for one another, and demonstrates tremendous passion for the field of animal sciences."*

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

Christenson, who teaches a variety of classes for animal science and veterinary technology students, continually updates and changes the course content, and finds ways to relate the content and concepts to the students.

She also looks for new ways to stay up to date on the current technologies. For example, she was involved in an effort to obtain a foundation grant to buy equipment for the veterinary technology program. This allows her students to learn on the newest and most up-to-date equipment.

Her students say she makes the course material understandable and gives them hands-on experience with models and classroom demonstrations.

Christenson holds a B.A. degree from Concordia College and a D.V.M. from the University of Minnesota.

## ■ Jason Harmon

Associate Professor  
School of Natural Resource Sciences  
(Entomology)

*"Jason strongly believes that the function of his teaching is to train scientists, not only in knowledge but also in the requisite skills, allowing them to implement this knowledge."*

Jason Harmon joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2009 and became an associate professor in 2016.

During his courses, he focuses on understanding, synthesizing and communicating knowledge. For example, he uses scientific literature as a teaching tool to give students a strong connection to scientific literature to help them understand the content while giving them exposure to how scientific ideas are tested, refined, applied and communicated.

Because he feels writing is one of the most fundamental and critical skills for a scientist, he designed a writing course that helps his students overcome their struggles with scientific writing.

His students say he constantly tries to learn and apply new teaching methods to improve their learning experience. He also encourages his students to explore a teaching career.

Harmon obtained a B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

## ■ Anuradha Vegi

Assistant Professor of Practice  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"Dr. Anuradha Vegi is one of those effective teachers who has impact and influence on her students' lives; she brings passion to her work, and it is this passion that draws students into full participation."*

Anuradha Vegi joined NDSU as a graduate research assistant in 2003, and became a researcher and teacher in 2007 and an assistant professor of practice in 2015.

To help her graduate and undergraduate students gain the knowledge they need, Vegi teaches food science and safety courses using various online and in-class teaching tools.

She also attends numerous teaching workshops and professional meetings to ensure she learns about new subject content and updates her knowledge of food science and safety. In addition, she uses examples she learns from reading current food science literature. For example, she created a worksheet for her students on genome editing technology.

Her students say she has an outstanding ability to connect with them and an inspiring enthusiasm for teaching.

Vegi earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from Andhra University and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

## ■ Lei Zhang

Associate Professor  
Department of Agribusiness  
and Applied Economics

*“As an economics professor, Dr. Zhang’s main goals are to generate interest, inspire students to study economics, instill in them the knowledge of economics, and ultimately train them to think like economists.”*

Lei Zhang joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2013 and became an associate professor in 2018.

To generate interest in and inspire students to study economics, Zhang uses real-world examples to explain concepts so students can learn to think like economists and make good decisions.

She continuously updates her course materials and includes contemporary issues every semester. In the middle of each semester, she conducts a survey asking students for comments and suggestions for improving her effectiveness. Zhang then adjusts her teaching methods throughout the semester. For example, she introduced a voting chart to increase student participation in discussion questions.

Her students say she is an inspiring instructor and incredibly knowledgeable about her subject.

Zhang obtained a B.A. from Henan University of Finance and Economics, an M.A. degree from Sichuan University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Texas.

# H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award

*This annual award recognizes outstanding teaching faculty with 11 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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## ■ Thomas DeSutter

Professor  
School of Natural Resource Sciences  
(Soil Science)

*"He exemplifies the values of NDSU, and he excels at all aspects of our vision of being a student-focused, land-grant and research university."*

Thomas DeSutter joined NDSU in 2006 as an assistant professor, and became a program leader in 2011, an associate professor in 2013 and a professor in 2018.

DeSutter continually uses proven teaching concepts and adapts them to his teaching style. His research also helps guide his course content. For example, his expertise in oil and brine spills improves his students' abilities to understand steps to reclaim these impacted soils. Plus, his research has streamlined the way farmers assess their saline/sodic soils.

In addition, he has taken the initiative to develop learning outcomes for the soil science B.S. program, which the faculty use to guide their teaching.

His students say he is very caring and approachable, and he is able to connect with them on a personal level. Some say he is one of the best instructors they ever had.

DeSutter earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from South Dakota State University and a Ph.D. from Kansas State University.

## ■ Tom Gustad

Instructor  
Department of  
Microbiological Sciences

*"Tom combines passion and compassion with meticulous organization, experience and skill to create an inspirational learning environment."*

Tom Gustad joined NDSU as a research specialist in 1986. He became a lecturer in 2001, senior lecturer in 2006 and instructor in 2010.

Gustad excels in teaching lecture and lab courses. His lab courses are legendary for their organization and the lifelong skills he gives students. He honed his exceptional technical skills in research and clinical labs before he began teaching. He also maintains an active role in research by contributing technical expertise to projects across campus, which benefits students and faculty.

In addition, he has demonstrated a commitment to teaching scholarship by attending more than 40 pedagogical lunches and seminars on campus, as well as a national conference on teaching every year.

His students say he is an excellent teacher because his organizational skills and familiarity with his subject matter make his lectures and lab procedures easy to follow and understand.

Gustad holds B.S. degrees from South Dakota State University and an M.S. degree from NDSU.

## ■ Burton Johnson

Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"Dr. Johnson is an excellent educator, a concerned mentor and adviser, and a lifetime learner whose flexible approach to classroom discussions and soothing yet authoritative style create a welcoming environment for learning."*

Burton Johnson joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 1998, and became an associate professor in 2004 and professor in 2010.

Concerned that his students have a strong foundation to build on for their other courses, he uses a variety of delivery methods and media to address different learning styles. For example, he incorporates class activities and arranges for guest lecturers to diversify the learning environment.

Johnson also is very open to providing help outside of class. Regardless of whether they have made an appointment, he will listen to his students and help in any way he can or lead them to someone else who can help.

His students say he teaches in a way that challenges them to think critically and on a large scale.

Johnson obtained a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from NDSU.



## ■ Tara Swanson

Lecturer

Department of Animal Sciences

*"Tara's courses use a combination of hands-on activities, self-assessment through reflection journals, critical thinking through application of subject matter and group work to enhance student communication and interpersonal skills."*

Tara Swanson joined NDSU as a lecturer in 2006.

To reach every student, Swanson incorporates multiple teaching and learning styles in her courses. These strategies include active learning, guest lecturers, field trips and hands-on application of the subject matter.

Swanson improves her knowledge of teaching methods by participating in teaching workshops and symposia at the departmental, college and university levels. She engages in teaching presentations in her professional society, the Equine Science Society. She also has written a publication teaching youth the required components of horsemanship skills.

Her students say she provides engaging and interactive lessons and makes an effort to know her students on a one-on-one basis. They say she also has high expectations for them, which allows them to reach their academic goals.

Swanson holds a B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska and an M.S. degree 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.*

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## ■ Harlene Hatterman-Valenti

Professor  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"She is one of those who bring passion to her work, and it is this passion that draws students into full participation."*

Harlene Hatterman-Valenti joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2000, and became an associate professor in 2007, an assistant department head in 2012 and a professor in 2013.

Although a lot of Hatterman-Valenti's advising and mentoring of undergraduates and graduates occurs in her office, her advising extends far beyond those walls and into the hallways and walkways, classrooms, laboratories, student organization meetings and activities, and the field. This benefits the students and serves as a role model for other advisers.

To make sure the students get the best advice, she attends workshops and other training opportunities, learns about procedural changes in advising and asks a lot of questions.

Her advisees say Hatterman-Valenti's availability shows she truly cares about them, and she helps them reach their true potential.

She earned a B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska Kearney, an M.S. degree from the University of Nebraska Lincoln and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

## ■ Jack Norland

Associate Professor  
School of Natural Resource Sciences  
(Natural Resources Management)

*"You can tell by the amount of effort Dr. Norland puts into his students just how much he deeply cares about them."*

Jack Norland joined NDSU as a research specialist in 1992 and became an assistant professor in 2008 and an associate professor in 2013.

Norland advises 30 to 50 undergraduates in the Natural Resources Management (NRM) program each semester. Because NRM is interdisciplinary, he is required to be knowledgeable about other programs such as sociology to advise undergraduates effectively. He also has advised 13 undergraduate research projects since 2010 and has been adviser to the NDSU Natural Resources Management Club since 2009.

In addition, he emails undergraduate students about volunteer opportunities, summer jobs, career advice and important news about the NRM program. Plus, he teaches the NRM 150 Orientation class.

His advisees say he has been invaluable, from helping them select classes to providing guidance on their research and career options.

Norland received a B.S. degree from Iowa State University, an M.S. degree from Montana State University and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

## ■ Stacey Ostby

Co-director/Lecturer  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"Stacey truly cares about her students and advisees as people, not just as student numbers."*

Stacey Ostby joined NDSU as a lecturer in 2009 and became the Veterinary Technology Program co-director in 2012.

She advises about 30 students annually. Although serving as a program co-director, instructor and adviser can be overwhelming, she makes a point of ensuring each of her students feels like a priority and provides them with the tools necessary to be successful.

Ostby immediately creates a face-to-face relationship with her advisees. This welcoming environment results in students feeling comfortable about approaching her with questions and concerns. Although she strives to meet with each advisee formally at least twice a year, she has an open-door policy and encourages students to drop in to ask questions or simply to talk.

Her advisees say she has a genuine love for her job and her students, she is knowledgeable about her students' schedules, and she is a role model for the students.

Ostby holds B.S. and M.Ed. degrees from NDSU.

## ■ Thomas Wahl

Professor  
Department of Agribusiness  
and Applied Economics

*“Dr. Wahl is not only able to recognize the value and potential students have, but he is able to draw the capability out of students.”*

Thomas Wahl joined NDSU as a professor in 2007.

Wahl advises several undergraduates and graduates and has served as NDSU’s National Agri-Marketing Association Club adviser since 2009. During that time, NDSU advanced to the second round of national competition seven times and to the finals five times against top-ranked schools, including Minnesota, Iowa State, Nebraska, Illinois, Texas A&M and Cal-Poly. The NDSU team won the national championship this year.

He also believes providing students with introductions and references is an important part of mentoring students. As a result, he involves students or former students in his research publications and presentations at national and international conferences.

His advisees say Wahl is very knowledgeable about his field, and instead of providing students with answers to questions, he asks them the right questions to guide them to discover answers on their own.

Wahl obtained a B.S. degree and Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

# Excellence in Extension Early Career Award

NDSU Extension established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension educational programs. 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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## ■ Naeem Kalwar

Extension Soil Health Specialist  
Langdon Research Extension Center

*"The soil health program initiated in northeast North Dakota by Naeem Kalwar has caught the attention of all agricultural growers and professionals and has started a revolution to improve soil health."*

Naeem Kalwar joined NDSU as an Extension soil health specialist in 2012.

Kalwar works specifically to address the critical issue of soil health and the need for its improvement.

His Extension programming helps Extension agents and growers understand the causes of declining soil health and create individualized action plans for improving the health of the soil.

He collaborates with Extension specialists, Extension agents and producers to conduct field trials and demonstration plots; leads train-the-trainer events; and hosts various county meetings, crop tours and workshops. He recognizes the importance of face-to-face education and one-on-one correspondence with clients and also makes use of a variety of written, video and web-based platforms to deliver programming to meet the needs of his audience. This results in growers implementing soil health practices such as planting cover and catch crops.

Kalwar earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from Sindh Agricultural University, and an M.S. degree from the University of Guelph.

## ■ Clair Keene

Extension Cropping Systems Specialist  
Williston Research Extension Center

*"Dr. Keene provides visionary and transformative Extension programming and research to the northwest region of North Dakota."*

Clair Keene joined NDSU as an Extension cropping systems specialist in 2016.

One of her first initiatives was to organize a series of seminars for county agriculture and natural resources Extension agents in the northwestern region of the state. The trainings taught key concepts such as identification of crops, principles of crop rotation, plant diseases, weed identification, herbicide selection, basic entomology, soil fertility recommendations and critical problem solving when working with producers to identify likely causes of problems.

Keene partnered with a multistate group to organize the first Organic Agronomy Training Series workshop in 2019. She recruited organic farmers, organic certification experts and private industry representatives to share information with producers and agronomists interested in organic agriculture to demystify the processes of transition and certification. The program featured organic agronomy basics, approaches to integrating of livestock on organic crop farms, and economics and marketing.

Keene holds B.A. and B.S. degrees from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University.

## ■ Duaine Marxen

Extension Agent  
Hettinger County

*"Duaine is an effective team player and always willing to lend a hand to his fellow Extension agents to ensure that we advance the Extension mission."*

Duaine Marxen joined NDSU in 2012 as an agriculture and natural resources Extension agent in Hettinger County.

Marxen collaborates with fellow Extension professionals and local stakeholders to deliver timely programming that addresses priority issues in Hettinger County and southwestern North Dakota.

In response to below-normal precipitation in 2016, Marxen began to offer programming on the impact of drought on the quality of livestock water sources. When significant drought conditions continued in 2017, he expanded his efforts to include education on the potential for feed sources to include unsafe levels of nitrates that could be toxic to cattle. As a result of his programming, no participating producers experienced any livestock losses in 2017.

He also took on additional responsibility in the last half of 2018 to answer questions from producers in other southwestern North Dakota counties that were temporarily without an agriculture and natural resources agent.

Marxen received a B.S. degree from South Dakota State University.

## ■ Esther McGinnis

Extension Horticulturist  
Department of Plant Sciences

*“Dr. McGinnis is a proficient and effective Extension specialist with an extraordinary breath of knowledge who has done an exceptional job of revitalizing, updating and supporting the NDSU Extension Master Gardener Program.”*

Esther McGinnis joined NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension horticulturist in 2013 and became an associate professor in 2019.

In about five years, McGinnis turned a nearly nonexistent Extension Master Gardener Program into a program that meets national standards. That effort included redesigning the core course curriculum, teaching and facilitating classes, helping interns and volunteers find volunteer opportunities, and providing continuing education to retain current volunteers. Between 2013 and 2018, Master Gardeners volunteered 44,574 hours, which is equal to more than \$1.1 million in volunteer service.

McGinnis’ successful pollinator program has increased awareness and pollinator habitat through the teamwork of Master Gardeners and Extension agents working at the local level. Since 2016, the Master Gardener Program has funded, designed and built 26 pollinator teaching gardens in 19 counties.

McGinnis has a B.A. degree from Concordia College, a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School, and an M.S. degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

## ■ Bryon Parman

Extension Agricultural Finance  
Specialist  
Department of Agribusiness  
and Applied Economics

*“Dr. Parman is the epitome of what an Extension economist should be in today’s environment; he feels an obligation to provide his clientele with information that is new, research-driven and, above all, beneficial to his clients’ operations or organizations.”*

Bryon Parman joined NDSU as the Extension agricultural finance specialist and an assistant professor in 2018.

Parman has developed a variety of methods for evaluating farmland values. His efforts have led to numerous requests for evaluations of farmland performance, valuation and rates of return. This programming has enhanced the understanding of agents, producers and lenders on the components that contribute to the value of farmland, and equipped them with tools to conduct their own evaluation.

Parman has collaborated with colleagues in his own department to generate well-rounded agricultural economic programming and with individuals outside of economics to develop and deliver robust content to stakeholders in North Dakota. For example, he has partnered with individuals at NDSU’s Carrington Research Extension Center on cow-calf management, crop production and insurance issues.

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

## ■ Gerald Stokka

Extension Veterinarian and  
Livestock Stewardship Specialist  
Department of Animal Sciences

*“Dr. Stokka speaks in terms that lay people can understand and has focused his research work on endeavors with ready and real-world application to North Dakota’s beef cattle operations.”*

Gerald Stokka joined NDSU in 2012 as the Extension livestock stewardship specialist and an associate professor. He also became the Extension veterinarian in 2014.

The aim of Stokka’s programming is to bring awareness and behavior change related to stewardship and animal husbandry issues to the state’s livestock producers and veterinarians.

Stokka has been involved in multidisciplinary programming on the topic of antimicrobial stewardship. For example, he provides education on the proper use of antibiotics, diagnosing illnesses in cattle, low-stress animal handling, tissue residue avoidance and record keeping.

Stokka’s programming also incorporates broader concepts of animal health and reducing antimicrobial use through improved animal care and husbandry. This includes combining the roles of genetics, nutrition, management and animal handling into a comprehensive animal management effort to reduce the need for antimicrobial use in livestock.

He earned a B.S. degree from NDSU, an M.S. degree from Kansas State University and a D.V.M. from Iowa State University.



# AGSCO Excellence in Extension Award

NDSU Extension established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension educational programs. Individuals with 11 or more 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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## ■ Greg Endres

Extension Cropping Systems Specialist  
Carrington Research Extension Center

*"He excels at developing and delivering agronomic programs and has earned the respect of farmers and Extension agents."*

Greg Endres joined NDSU as an assistant Extension agent in Ramsey County in 1983 and served as an Extension agent in Rolette County from 1985 until he became a cropping systems specialist in 1990.

During his career, Endres has developed and delivered thousands of presentations at educational programs across the area, state and region and at national professional organization meetings. He also responds to thousands of requests every year from farmers, Extension agents, consulting agronomists and agribusiness representatives for guidance on crop production issues.

In addition, he empowers others such as crop consultants, private-sector agronomists, agribusiness representatives and Extension agents to be prepared to offer guidance and resources by providing "train the trainer" programs. For example, he has been co-chair of the Advanced Crop Advisers Workshop held annually in Fargo since 1993. He also developed the Crop Management Field School, which is held annually as well.

Endres earned a B.S. and an M.S. degree from NDSU.

## ■ Dave Franzen

Extension Soil Specialist  
School of Natural Resource Sciences  
(Soil Science)

*"Dr. Franzen is 'the complete package,' with his Extension and research program in soil fertility considered one of the best in the country."*

Dave Franzen joined NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension soil specialist in 1994 and became a professor in 2006.

Franzen provides educational programs for agricultural producers, Extension agents and scientists. For example, he was instrumental in developing the North Dakota Certified Crop Advisers certification program and has managed the annual Soil and Soil Water Workshop, which he organized in 1995.

He also has delivered more than 1,500 presentations to growers and agronomic industry personnel in the region, written 314 news releases and 342 newsletter articles, given more than 200 radio and 28 television interviews, and authored or co-authored 66 Extension publications. In addition, he has influenced and mentored high school and middle school youth in North Dakota since 1996 through his direction and judging of the annual North Dakota 4-H and FFA land judging contest.

Franzen earned B.S. and M.S. degrees, and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

## ■ Vanessa Hoines

Extension Agent  
Morton County

*"Vanessa is a strong team player who works well with fellow Extension personnel and local stakeholders to develop and deliver impactful programming."*

Vanessa Hoines joined NDSU as an Extension agent in Sioux and Grant counties in 1985 and became a family and community wellness agent in Morton County in 1990.

Hoines develops and delivers educational programs in nutrition, health and wellness, personal and family finance, human development and family science, community and leadership development, and 4-H youth development. They include programs to address local needs, such as On the Move, On the Move Junior, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, Stepping On and Kids Cooking Camp, as well as food preservation and family finance.

She frequently works with the Extension staff in Burleigh County to deliver joint programming to reach residents in both counties. She also is an effective collaborator. For example, she is a member of the North Dakota Jump\$tart board of directors. Jump\$tart is a coalition with the goal of improving financial literacy in North Dakota.

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



## ■ Hans Kandel

Extension Agronomist  
Department of Plant Sciences

*“Hans’ innovative teaching and his strong and deep association with growers in the region make him a highly effective educator.”*

Hans Kandel joined NDSU as an Extension agronomist and associate professor in 2007 and became a professor in 2013.

Kandel plays a critical role educating growers on how to improve the productivity and sustainability of some of North Dakota’s most important crops, including soybeans. He is the lead author of the “Soybean Production Guide” and compiles the “Soybean Variety Trial Results” publication. In addition, he has written the nearly 300 articles; given 45 talks; done numerous news media interviews; and meets one-on-one with producers.

He also has had significant impact in the state through his tile drainage work. The flagship of his efforts is the Subsurface Drainage Design Workshop. In addition, he has been the lead or contributing author on 10 production guides for crops ranging from buckwheat to tame mustard.

Kandel holds B.S. and Ing. degrees from RHLS Deventer, an M.S. degree from the University of Reading and a Ph.D. 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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## ■ Kelli Anderson

Information Specialist  
Agriculture Communication

*"Kelli serves NDSU Extension, her colleagues and the people of North Dakota by continually striving to make the work we do more visible."*

Kelli Anderson joined NDSU as an information specialist in 2015.

Anderson developed a suite of modern, updated, consistent branding and marketing resources and tools that help North Dakotans better recognize Extension's educational programs and services. Her easy-to-use templates allow Extension specialists, agents and support staff to create flyers, handouts, brochures, newsletters, certificates, PowerPoint presentations and social media graphics that brand NDSU Extension consistently and powerfully.

She also helped lead a team of her peers in redesigning the NDSU Extension homepage and 10 topic area pages. Although web design is not her specialty, she stepped up when needed to make strategic design and functionality decisions that better showcased NDSU Extension programs and people.

Anderson earned a B.S. degree from Oklahoma State University.

## ■ Dean Bangsund

Research Scientist  
Department of Agribusiness  
and Applied Economics

*"Dean has a strong sense of duty, which translates into dependability and the ability to cooperate and execute in difficult settings."*

Dean Bangsund joined NDSU as a graduate research assistant in 1986 and became a research assistant in 1988, a research associate in 1992 and a research scientist in 1996.

Bangsund serves as the contact person for the department's impact assessment research program, which measures the fiscal, macro- and socio-economic dimensions of policies, programs and projects in the upper Great Plains.

He also has increased the awareness of issues in the state through numerous public presentations and more than 200 applied research reports, and provided key elements of study findings and implications to local and regional news media. In addition, he has been invited to discuss his research at international symposiums and national conferences.

Bangsund received a B.S. and an M.S. degree from NDSU.

## ■ Wanda Keller

Research Specialist  
Department of Animal Sciences

*"She not only cares about the quality of work she produces, but also about the people she works with."*

Wanda Keller joined NDSU as a laboratory technician in 1984, and became a chemist in 1985 and a research specialist in 1989.

Keller assists with basic and applied research in muscle biology and meat science. She processes and analyzes biological samples for various cellular/molecular components and metabolites, and conducts meat quality assessments using color scores, mechanical tenderness evaluation and shelf life data. She also reviews and revises manuscripts, theses and grants, and assists in poster and slide presentation design/layout.

In addition, she is responsible for laboratory management, including quality control; purchasing; maintaining and controlling chemical, radioisotope and supply inventories; hazardous waste disposal; instrument maintenance; training and supervising undergraduate and graduate students; and documenting safety training.

Keller obtained a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

## ■ Sally Mann

Research Specialist  
Department of Plant Sciences

*"She handles all her responsibilities in a professional, timely and precise manner, with minimal supervision."*

Sally Mann joined NDSU as a research specialist in 2011.

Mann has been closely 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.

## 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 clerical 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.*

### ■ Elizabeth Cronin

Administrative Assistant and  
Conference Coordinator  
Agriculture Communication

*"Elizabeth exhibits the professionalism and leadership that moves Ag Communication and conferences forward."*

Elizabeth Cronin joined NDSU as an administrative assistant and conference coordinator in 2016.

Cronin supports Ag Communication's strategic initiatives and manages administrative functions in conjunction with the department's director. She adopts new processes, tools and software to improve efficiency in the department, such as moving equipment checkout to a shared Outlook calendar, developing a departmental SharePoint site and implementing an event management application. She also recruits, hires and coordinates assignments for Ag Communication student employees.

As conference coordinator, she provides leadership for Extension-sponsored professional development conferences, including the annual Extension and Research Extension Center fall conference for agents, specialists and Research Extension Center staff, and the biennial support staff conference for support staff.

### ■ Myrna Friedt

Administrative Assistant  
Carrington Research Extension Center

*"Myrna is very devoted to NDSU Agriculture's efforts to address the needs and issues that challenge our state's constituents."*

Myrna Friedt joined NDSU as an administrative secretary in 1999 and became an administrative assistant in 2002.

Friedt provides assistance with budget and financial management, including preparing financial reports, and providing administrative support to the director and program leaders. That includes assisting research and Extension principle investigators (PIs) in preparing grant proposals and budgets.

She also coordinates the center's reporting and communication functions. For example, she works with program leaders to compile data and develop documents to summarize center research and Extension activities; coordinates the preparation and publishing of reports, including the CREC Annual Report; serves as webmaster; and helps coordinate field days and tour materials.

*Anderson Award nominees  
continue on Page 18*

## ■ Niki Lynnes

Office Coordinator  
School of Natural Resource Sciences  
(Soil Science) and Department of  
Plant Pathology

*"Ms. Lynnes gets her assignments done in a timely manner and ensures that she regularly participates in programs so that she grows professionally."*

Niki Lynnes joined NDSU as an office coordinator in 2012.

Lynnes contributes significantly to preserving the success of NDSU's sugarbeet research and Extension programs. For example, she serves as a liaison between Extension personnel and clientele such as growers, agriculturists, consultants, allied industry representatives, and other educators and students.

She also is involved in preparing faculty lectures, student evaluations of the faculty's teaching and labels for research and plot tour demonstrations. In addition, she coordinates the compilation of the annual "Sugarbeet Production Guide" and ensures it is formatted properly, and helps organize meetings, such as the Certified Crop Advisers training.

## ■ Kelly Stehr

Administrative Assistant  
Williston Research Extension Center

*"Kelly performs all her duties and responsibilities in a very efficient, courteous, professional and confidential manner."*

Kelly Stehr joined the Williston Research Extension Center as an administrative assistant in 2013.

Stehr manages all the state and grant funds for the center and its Foundation Seed Increase Program; plays a key role in coordinating and scheduling field days, tours and meetings, such as the MonDak Ag Research Summit; and manages and provides timely updates to the center's website and Facebook page.

She also completes the WREC/Montana State University Eastern Agricultural Research Center annual report updates, has an excellent working relationship with guests, customers, NDSU staff and others in her reception duties; supervises seasonal employees; and makes sure all center staff are up to date on trainings.

# 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 is very customer oriented, which is especially important in a position like his."*

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

Anderson directs, organizes and plans the daily activities of production center staff: two operators, a finishing specialist, a graphic designer, a courier and sometimes a student worker. He also works very closely with the customer service staff. For example, he schedules and monitors jobs, works with customers on project details, and develops and implements procedures and policies to increase efficiencies.

He also is a technical wizard. Except for the copy machines, Agriculture Communication hasn't had to bring in anyone to repair equipment since Anderson started, which has saved Print and Copy Services a considerable amount of money.

## ■ Christie Erickson

Assistant Lab Manager  
School of Natural Resource Sciences  
(Soil Science)

*"Christie's warm and welcoming nature creates a happy environment in the lab."*

Christie Erickson joined NDSU as a soil lab technician in 2011 and became an assistant lab manager in 2014.

Erickson's primary responsibilities focus on client relations, making a connection with the needs of the client and working with the lab manager and staff on meeting those needs in a timely manner. For example, she is responsible for billing clients for nearly 12,000 samples/year, each tested for one to 12 or more tests.

She also is responsible for soil mechanical analysis tests, clay mineralogy slide preparation and several other tests as needed in the lab. She assists the lab manager in critical decision making processes for the lab, which includes hiring, budget monitoring, purchase of supplies, and preparing lab flyers and brochures.

## ■ Kurt Johnsen

Feed Manufacturing Technologist  
Department of Animal Sciences/  
AES Main Station Farm

*"Kurt can always be relied upon to deliver feed to our dairy, beef, sheep and swine units in an efficient and timely matter."*

Kurt Johnsen joined NDSU as a feed manufacturing technologist in 2004.

Johnsen is responsible for preparing, manufacturing and delivering feeds to the Animal Sciences' livestock units. This requires that he maintain inventories of the many feed ingredients used in the various diets he prepares. His knowledge of feed grains and ability to process them into balanced rations with essential minerals, vitamins and feed additives is a great asset to the department's nutrition program.

He is very diligent about preventative maintenance at the Northern Crops Institute's feed mill. He takes the initiative to ensure that feed formulations are accurate. He also has caught formulation errors, which saves time, money and effort.

## 2018 Award Recipients

Larson/Yaggie  
Excellence in Research  
*Sheela Ramamoorthy,  
Microbiological Sciences*

Eugene R. Dahl  
Excellence in Research  
*Joel Caton,  
Animal Sciences*

Earl and Dorothy Foster  
Excellence in Teaching  
*Peter Bergholz,  
Microbiological Sciences*

H. Roald and Janet Lund  
Excellence in Teaching  
*Siew Hoon Lim,  
Agribusiness and  
Applied Economics*

William J. and Angelyn A. Austin  
Excellence in Advising  
*Todd West,  
Plant Sciences*

Excellence in Extension  
Early Career  
*Andrew Friskop,  
Plant Pathology*

AGSCO Excellence in Extension  
*Macine Lukach,  
Cavalier County Extension*

Charles and Linda Moses  
Staff Award  
*Md. Saidul Borhan,  
Agricultural and Biosystems  
Engineering*

Donald and Jo Anderson  
Staff Award  
*Aimee Thapa,  
Plant Pathology*

Rick and Jody Burgum  
Staff Award  
*Justin Gilbertson,  
Animal Sciences*

## 2019 Faculty/Staff Award Nominees

**Larson/Yaggie  
Excellence in Research Award**

Venkat Chapara  
Bingcan Chen  
Aaron Daigh  
Zhaohui Liu  
David Ripplinger  
Kendall Swanson

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

Eric Berg  
Mohamed Khan  
Saleem Shaik  
Senay Simsek

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

Lisa Christenson  
Jason Harmon  
Anuradha Vegi  
Lei Zhang

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

Thomas DeSutter  
Thomas Gustad  
Burton Johnson  
Tara Swanson

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

Harlene Hatterman-Valenti  
Jack Norland  
Stacey Ostby  
Thomas Wahl

**Excellence in Extension  
Early Career Award**

Naeem Kalwar  
Clair Keene  
Duaine Marxen  
Esther McGinnis  
Bryon Parman  
Gerald Stokka

**AGSCO  
Excellence in Extension Award**

David Franzen  
Gregory Endres  
Vanessa Hoines  
Hans Kandel

**Charles and Linda Moses  
Staff Award**

Kelli Anderson  
Dean Bangsund  
Wanda Keller  
Sally Mann

**Donald and Jo Anderson  
Staff Award**

Elizabeth Cronin  
Myrna Friedt  
Niki Lynnes  
Kelly Stehr

**Rick and Jody Burgum  
Staff Award**

Chris Anderson  
Christie Erickson  
Kurt Johnsen