

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education

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To Whom It May Concern;

As a representative of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association, I would like to submit comments in support of additional capacity for the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS) at North Dakota State University (NDSU), a leading research center for data-driven analysis in agriculture and trade.

Where would additional CAPTS capacity be most valuable right now?

- Additional CAPTS capacity would be most valuable in providing faster, ND-specific analysis and predictive modeling in response to volatile policy and market shifts in the agriculture sector.
 - Real-time commodity and input cost analysis: With fluctuating commodity prices and rising input costs, rapid analysis of market conditions is crucial for producers' strategic planning.
 - Policy impact modeling for trade and regulations: Timely assessment of new national or international trade agreements, or environmental regulations, is needed to understand their specific economic impacts on North Dakota's diverse agricultural products.
 - Climate and risk management analysis: Increased capacity for modeling the impact of changing climate conditions on crop yields and risk management strategies would be highly valuable for long-term farm stability.

What resources or capabilities would help CAPTS better serve needs?

- To better serve grain growers, CAPTS would benefit from the following resources and capabilities:
 - Better Data Access:
 - Centralized data repository: Access to a unified, accessible repository of real-time data on North Dakota's agriculture industry would prevent reliance on external, often incomplete, perceptions.
 - Integration of diverse sets of data: Seamless access to data from soil sensors, UAV imagery, field machinery, and market data would enable comprehensive analysis.
 - Stronger Modeling and Analytics:
 - Advanced AI and Machine Learning: Implementing AI for predictive modeling of crop performance, market trends, and risk assessment would automate data analysis and surface key insights faster.
 - Prescriptive guidance models: Developing models that offer specific, data-backed recommendations on how to adapt to policy changes or market incidents.
 - Tools and Dashboards:
 - Interactive, user-friendly dashboards: Providing producers with easy-to-use digital tools that visualize key data and allow them to model different scenarios would enhance data accessibility and application.

- Additional Staff:
 - Increased staffing for data interpretation and outreach: Additional time for experts to translate complex data analytics into clear, understandable guidance and educational programs for producers, policymakers, and industry groups is vital.

Decisions or outcomes that would improve with added capacity.

- If CAPTS had this added capacity, the following decisions and outcomes would improve for producers:
 - Improved Producer Decision-Making:
 - Farmers could make more informed, data-driven decisions on crop selection, planting strategies, and risk management, potentially leading to increased profitability and protection against market volatility.
 - More Effective Policy Formulation:
 - North Dakota policymakers could develop more effective and targeted legislation and incentive programs based on SN-specific economic impact analysis.
 - Faster Response to Crises:
 - The ability to quickly analyze new data during events like trade disputes, droughts, or supply chain disruptions would allow for a more agile and effective state-level response.

These are some thoughts on why giving the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies additional capacity would be greatly beneficial to the Agricultural Industry.

Sincerely,

Nick Sinner
Executive Director
North Dakota Grain Growers Association