Testimony
State Board of Agriculture Research and Education
December 2025

At the NDSU North Central Research Extension Center, our mission areas include agronomy research, pulse crop breeding, Extension education in livestock management and forage crops production, Foundation seed production, weed science, and winter-hardy grape research. We provide unbiased, science-based information to support farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses in the region.

We would like to thank you for the state-appropriated funding you helped secure during the previous Legislative session. This provided additional funds to ensure ongoing operations and salary support for the winter-hardy grape program.

A FEW OF THE NCREC MAJOR IMPACTS:

Weed Science
- Secured federal funding (IR-4) for developing the required data to support the registration of herbicides to control resistant kochia and other weeds
- Alerted growers in western North Dakota to the presence of the invasive weed, waterhemp
- Provided information and resources to the National Agricultural Genotyping Center to help develop a quick genetic test to identify herbicide resistance in wild oat and green foxtail

Extension Education
- Participated in the Kids' Agriculture Experience Day held at NCREC
- Hosted a fencing school at NCREC
- Conducted research with forage-soybean mixtures and monocultures
- Continued hay tedder demonstration with Case-IH
- Held multi-day beef artificial insemination schools
- Hosted calving schools
- Developed, prepared, and hosted North Dakota's first 4-H state Skill-a-thon contest

Foundation Seedstocks
- Served as a hub for seed movement across the state
- Conditioned, planted, harvested and sold multiple varieties of soybean, durum wheat, HRSW, flax, barley and oat Foundation seed

Agronomy Research
- Added an additional off-station research site near Anamoose
- Increased the number of crops tested at off-station sites, including canola and corn
- Incorporated agronomy production research at off-station sites
- Improved current crop production recommendations

Winter-hardy Grapes
- Processed and evaluated all 2023 and 2024 grape samples
- Planted the first grape seedlings from hand-pollinated seed
- Produced the first vinification of grape material from the NCREC

Pulse Crops Breeding
- Coordinated statewide testing of field pea, lentil and chickpea
- Worked to create *Pisum fulvum* x *Pisum sativum* hybrids for additional utility
- Troubleshooted chickpea fertility issues

2025 SBARE Funding Requests

Operating Funds directed to the NCREC Agronomy Research Program
The NCREC agronomy program currently operates with three full-time research specialists, all of whom are soft-funded. This places a significant financial burden on the program. With additional operating funds directed to this project, they will be able to be more flexible in meeting the needs of each specific year.

Deferred Maintenance
Increased costs associated with general upkeep limit the funds available for long-term deferred maintenance projects. For example, the NCREC greenhouse requires significant upgrades, specifically in our lighting system. Additional deferred maintenance funds are needed for the REC network to maintain current structures, ensure safety and integrity, and complete tasks on our master list.

Thank you for your continued support of the NDSU REC network. The success of our programs depends on your ongoing investment in agricultural research and extension, which directly benefits North Dakota's farmers and ranchers. I appreciate your time and consideration.

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