

NDSU Extension needs an increase in the percentage of its operating funds. Historically the budget balance consisted of 80% FTEs and 20% operating, which is a sustainable balance. Today the budget balance has shifted to 87% FTEs and 13% operating due to sharp inflationary increases and a more limited access to vacant FTE salary savings.

This shift has reduced the flexibility and strained its ability to meet the needs of farmers across the state. NDSU Extension needs the balance back to 80/20 to continue giving quality service to North Dakota farmers, so I am asking that SBARE request for the percentage to be moved closer to 20% operating.

I have been farming since 2009 with my father-in-law and brother-in-law. I do not have any formal agricultural training, so most of my farming experience comes from NDSU Extension. It is a valuable source of information for farmers, and I hope to have it around for many years.

Thank you for your support of North Dakota agriculture.

Joe Ericson