

# SBARE Request: Program support funds for NDSU School of Natural Resource Sciences

## NEED: Enhanced funding for operating of School of Natural Resource Sciences

Entomology | Range | Soils | Natural Resources Management

**Thank you!** We extend a huge thank you to SBARE and your advocacy in the last session. SNRS will have space in the new Bolley Agricultural Laboratory, and we are very appreciative of that opportunity.

### Department Updates

#### Faculty Additions:

Carlos Pires (Extension Soil Health), Brady Goettl (Extension Soil Specialist), Kirsten Butcher (Research Soil Health); Dillon Fogarty (Rangeland Ecology), Kang Liang (Soil Physics and Hydrology), Vinicius Marcilio da Silva (Natural Resources), Breanna Paradeis-Kobiela (Natural Resources) and Rogan Tokach\* (Extension Applied Honey Bee Entomology). \*Note: The Applied Honey Bee position was repurposed based on SBARE testimony and initiatives over the past few biennia.

#### Other Faculty:

Kevin Sedivec (Extension Range Science), Torre Hovick (Range Habitat Ecology), Travis Seaborn (Applied Ecology), Joe Zeleznik (Extension Forestry), Rakhi Palit (Invasive Species), Shawn DeKeyser (Wetland and Range Management), Darrell Ross (Entomology), Mark Boetel (Extension Entomology), Deirdre Prischmann-Voldseth (Entomology), Kelsey Griesheim (Soil Fertility), Lindsay Malone (Conservation Agronomy), Larry Cihacek (Soil Science), Tom DeSutter (Soil Science) and Christina Hargiss (Director, SNRS)

#### Faculty Retirements/Resignations:

David Rider (Insect Systematics), Jack Norland (Natural Resources), David Hopkins (Soil Genesis), Jason Harmon (Ecological Entomology) and Dave Franzen (Extension Soil Specialist).

### NEED: Operating Support

**Justification:** Agricultural equipment, fuel and repair costs have risen over 20% since 2020 and continue to increase, reducing our operating capacity.

- Rising costs limit our ability to conduct high-impact, high-ROI research.
- New faculty with stable-isotope expertise cannot begin key research because NDSU lacks the required equipment.
- Deferred maintenance due to limited operating funds led to a major mouse infestation, costing more than timely maintenance would have.
- Additional operating support is essential for SNRS to remain competitive globally.
- Graduate student numbers are increasing and require more support: M.S./Ph.D. enrollment grew from 52 (2023) to 79 (2025). MNRM enrollment grew from 12 (2022) to 40 (2025). These MNRM students generate tuition revenue. Our graduate students are critical to research productivity, but rising numbers increase operating demands.
- NDAWN, the nation's largest mesonet (200 stations in North Dakota), continues to expand in use and service needs. It had 363,000 active users, 4.6 million views and 14 million clicks in 2025 (Jan. 1-Nov. 30). Maintaining the website, servers, databases and stations requires substantial and growing operating funds, while funding levels have not increased.



**For more information:** Dr. Christina Hargiss, Director

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