

NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center

**SBARE Listening Session - Dickinson, ND
September 9, 2025**



Providing innovative Research and Extension programming in Agronomy, Weed Science, Wildlife & Range Science, and Sheep, Cattle, & Goat Production.

NDSU

HETTINGER
RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

Staff

Research Technicians

The HREC currently has 4 research scientists, but only 2 FTE in Research Technicians. Animal Science has never had a research technician, and the Agronomy Program lost theirs in 2018 due to budget reductions. Additional technical support is needed to provide a stable labor for research. We currently have one Farm Crew employee who took the Voluntary Retirement Program, which we plan on refilling next summer

Animal Science Interns

The HREC annually hosts 3-5 interns from the University of Puerto Rico for 6-12 weeks. The timeframe is during the fall and winter lambing seasons and during the summer. They are heavily involved in our Smart Feedlot research and Extension programming.

Graduate Students

Currently we have 2 Wildlife/Range and 2 Animal Science graduate students.

Capital Projects

All capital projects are completed including the purchase of approximately 1 section of land. Private communication tower with 5G and LoRaWAN is installed and operational (DCN). 5G service, and subsequently internet, in all of our facilities without having to "dig in" fiber optic. Sensor deployment with Ag Tech Systems Engineers (NDSU Ag Exp Station). We are working with the Engineers to develop the platform upon which we can view all of our sensors simultaneously.

Director: Christopher Schauer

Email: NDSU.Hettinger.REC@ndsu.edu

Web address:

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/HettingerREC/>

PO Box 1377

102 Hwy 12 W

Hettinger, ND 58639

Tel: 701-567-4323

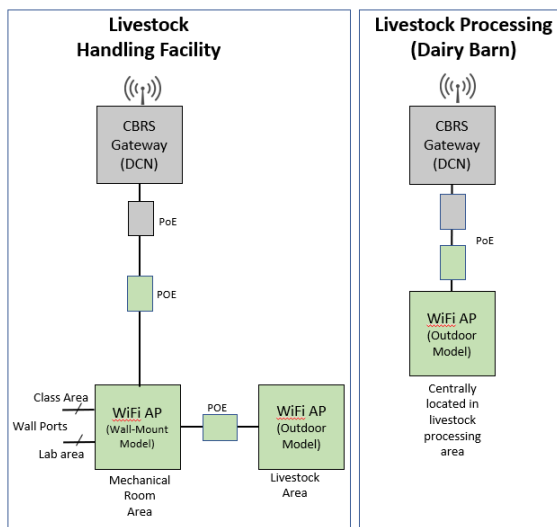
NDSU is an ADVANCE institution and Carnegie Very High Research Activity Institution. requirement.

NDSU is an EEO/AA-M/F/Vet/ Disability Employer.

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a U.S. veteran. Direct inquiries to: Vice Provost for Faculty and Equity, Old Main 201, 701-231-7708 or Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 102, 701-231-6409.

Requests: Operating Support, Deferred Maintenance, and Capital Projects

Inflation continues to be a strain on our annual operating budget, and any influx of operating funds would help with all shortages, including labor problems. Deferred maintenance is approximately \$1.5 million, with \$770,000 listed as "Health & Safety" projects. Many of our facilities and fences date to the early 1900's are in desperate need of an influx of funds. Additionally, I will be bringing forth our Lambing Barn during the Capital Project session in December, which would address one of our major deferred maintenance items.



Research/Extension Highlights and Impacts

Agronomy and Weed Science:

John Rickertsen and Caleb Dalley

- 58 variety trials totaling 8,020 plots
- White wheat breeding trials are the emphasis
- Weed research in spring wheat, pulse crops, canola, soybean, corn, and tame buckwheat
- Grants totaling \$187,000

Range and Wildlife: Ben Geaumont

- Use of shelterbelts as early season nectar and pollen for honeybees
- Land use and interactions of pheasant and sharp-tailed grouse
- Prescribed fires with private landowners and Game and Fish
- Propagation of native seed for use in grassland restorations: Forest Service and Teddy Roosevelt Library - will begin selling seed beyond the project the summer of 2026
- Grants totaling \$143,490 as PI (\$ 1 million in total).

Precision Ag in Animal Science: Rachel Gibbs and Christopher Schauer

- Initiated the only Smart Feedlot based Meat Goat Buck Test in the nation: 22 breeders, 73 goats, 3 breeds (primarily Kiko and Boer), from 14 states (OK, KY, IN, MO, AR, IA, TX, GA, NE, WV, ND, IL, MN, and WI). Initiated through the ND Boer Goat Association.
- Projects utilizing cameras to predict feedlot performance of goats and sheep and integrating technologies (HR monitors, microphones, cameras, and machine learning) to predict lambing in real-time.

Summary: The HREC is conducting Research and Extension supporting our “classical clients” while also exploring new relationships and commodities that will benefit ND and regional producers.

