

SBARE Priority for the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

CRITICAL PRIORITY: Restoration of the Governor's 10% recommended budget reduction.

PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST: Operating support is SBARE's sole 2027 legislative priority

- Bolley Agricultural Laboratory Operating = \$3,000,000
- Main Research Center Operating = \$1,800,000
- Branch Research Centers Operating = \$900,000

TOTAL: \$5,700,000 in ongoing operating support

Operating support is SBARE's sole 2027 legislative priority for the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. Every dollar invested in NDAES agricultural research returns \$40 over the lifetime of the investment, fueling North Dakota's \$41 billion agricultural economy. Past legislative investments built world-class research infrastructure at the Main Station and all Research Extension Centers.

Operating support keeps that infrastructure running and lets NDAES respond quickly when producers need help. The results are clear: higher-yielding varieties, increased livestock performance, better pest and disease management, enhanced resource stewardship, and sound economic analysis that keeps North Dakota competitive in global agriculture.

REQUEST: Operating support for Bolley Agricultural Laboratory \$3,000,000

The Bolley Agricultural Laboratory represents a significant advancement in investments needed to maintain North Dakota's position as a premiere supplier of food and feed grains for domestic and international customers. The facility houses agronomy, plant science, plant pathology, plant breeding, weed science, soil science, and horticulture under one roof, consolidating programs previously spread across four aging buildings. Those disciplines are crucial to helping North Dakota farmers and agribusinesses remain competitive in grain, oilseed, and specialty crop production. The building provides NDAES scientists with modern space, equipment, and technology to accelerate variety development, address emerging plant diseases, and advance soil health practices. It also strengthens our ability to recruit and retain top scientists, sharpens our competitiveness for federal and industry grants, and protects the state's long-term return on its capital investment.



REQUEST: Operating support for Main and Branch Research Stations — \$1,800,000 Main Research Center; \$900,000 Branch Research Centers

Inflation continues to drive up the cost of utilities, feed, fuel, fertilizer, and laboratory supplies across the NDAES system, including the Main Station and seven Research Extension Centers. Without adequate operating dollars, the NDAES cannot mobilize researchers and resources when a new disease threatens production systems, an invasive pest arrives, or market conditions shift. These dollars sustain the programs that have allowed the NDAES to respond rapidly and decisively when new threats emerge and when research is needed to solve complex problems. Operating support allows our scientists to make critical breakthroughs such as public crop breeding that has released more than 330 varieties (NDSU varieties of durum account for over 90% of the durum acres in North Dakota); livestock nutrition and precision grazing research providing significant economic returns for livestock producers; and integrated land management protecting our valuable topsoil for future generations. Investments in operating support allows our scientists to respond in a timely manner, protects existing infrastructure, sustains talent, ensures our scientists remain competitive for grant funding, and supports the industry partnerships critical to commercialization.

