



U.S. Durum Growers Association

PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF DURUM AND SEMOLINA

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Testimony of Steve Perdue USDGA President

September 4, 2025

Chair Gulleason and members of the State Board of Agriculture Research and Education:

My name is Steve Perdue, I'm a farmer from Ray, and serve as president of the U.S. Durum Growers Association (USDGA). On behalf of USDGA, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on priorities for ag research and extension and for the work you do to strengthen and advance our state's number one industry – agriculture.

USDGA represents durum producers, as well as industry stakeholders across the region and serves to promote the production and marketing of durum wheat and semolina. This is done through a contract with the North Dakota Wheat Commission for domestic policy issues related to durum production, membership and other funds. We remain committed to advocating for full funding for agricultural research and extension, as we recognize the value it holds to the future of agriculture in North Dakota. We appreciate your efforts and past projects which prioritize the research and infrastructure needs of the agricultural community.

Ag research and extension are essential tools for the state's producers, and there is a high rate of return to the state's economy for money invested in ag research and breeding programs. NDSU has one of the only public durum breeding facilities in the northern region and maintaining that program is essential to northern durum growers, especially as the acres produced in North Dakota account for just over half of the country's durum production. Maintaining and enhancing funding for ongoing research is a top priority for USDGA as quality breeding programs, such as those at North Dakota State University (NDSU), take decades to establish and, therefore, can't just be turned on and off.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the SBARE prioritization process. I'd be happy to answer any questions.