

SB2020

Government Operations Division of the House Appropriations Committee

3/11/2025

Jason Hanson, North Dakota Agriculture Consultant's Association

Chairman Monson and Fellow members of the Government Operations Division of the House Appropriations Committee. My name is Jason Hanson. I'm an independent crop consultant from Webster, ND. Today I come before you as a representative of the North Dakota Agriculture Consultants Association. We are an association of independent crop consultants. We provide independent crop consulting services to farmers. These services consist of crop scouting, providing pesticide recommendations, soil sampling, soil fertility recommendations and also precision agriculture recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2020. The North Dakota Agriculture Experiment Station and NDSU Extension play a critical role in how crop consultants in North Dakota develop their recommendations for North Dakota Farmers and therefore we strongly support funding these agencies.

While crop consultants work with private industry information, we depend on the North Dakota Agriculture Experiment Station to provide 3rd party, unbiased research to solidify our recommendations. In our industry, we look to the North Dakota Agriculture Experiment Station to provide data to make sure that industry products are living up to their marketing claims. Specialty crops such as lentils, dry beans and sugarbeets have relatively low acreages nationally, but there are significant crops for the North Dakota economy. Private industry often does not invest in these specialty crops because there are not enough acres nationally to get a good ROI from their research and development investments. Therefore, we look to the North Dakota Agriculture Experiment Station to conduct research on these crops. Their research has provided us with critical information about managing these crops. The North Dakota Agriculture Experiment Station has even conducted research to provide the EPA with information for expanding labels for existing pesticides into these specialty crops. These label expansions would not have occurred without the North Dakota Agriculture Experiment Station as private industry would not have sought to have those label expansions due to the low acreages of these crops and the limited ROI to their business.

We also depend on NDSU Extension to provide unbiased continuing education. Agronomy is something that is constantly changing. Every year is different due to weather and markets. Further, over time the pest issues we face in the field also change over time. In order to stay informed as to how to work with all these issues, we depend on NDSU Extension programming to provide us relevant information to help us create the best recommendations for our growers every year. North Dakota Crop Consultants and crop consultants from other states attend Extension education programs every year to help with this very thing. For your reference, I gathered the number of attendees for some of these very important training sessions.

TITLE OF TRAINING	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
SOIL & WATER WORKSHOP	174
WILD WORLD OF WEEDS	275
ADVANCED CROP ADVISORS WORKSHOP	160
WESTERN CROP AND PEST MANAGEMENT SCOUT SCHOOL	96
CROP MANAGEMENT SCHOOL	52
BEST OF THE BEST (WHEAT& SOYBEAN-3 LOCATIONS)	310
GETTING IT RIGHT (CORN, DRY BEAN, SUNFLOWER, FLAX, SOYBEAN)	545
SUGARBEET SYMPOSIUM AND GROWERS SEMINARS	914
LAKE REGION ROUNDUP	450
TOTAL	2976

Further, we have close relationships with many of the Extension Educators so that during the growing season, we can reach out to them and visit about issues that come up during the growing season so we can address these issues with the most informed information possible.

In closing, our agronomic recommendations depend on a viable North Dakota Agriculture Experiment Station and NDSU Extension. We ask that you restore the base budget and we ask that you support SB2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Hanson
Rock N Roll Agronomy
President
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