

Testimony to North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee: HB1020
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NDSU Agriculture Experiment Station & Research Extension Centers

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Dear Committee Members:

As a fourth-generation farmer, I have come to rely on the research conducted by NDSU Research Extension Centers, specifically the Carrington Research Extension Center. Their ongoing research is pivotal to the success of my operation as I can focus on the day-to-day operations of my farm while implementing the recommendations based on their ongoing research.

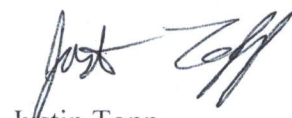
The breadth and depth of research being conducted by NDSU research centers is unparalleled. The research they conduct covers a broad range of topics ranging from fertility management to intercropping, cover crops to crop disease management, livestock management to organic crop studies and everything in between. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, from a time and cost perspective, for me to replicate and analyze data from similar trials on my own. The information they provide on these topics is directly applicable to what I'm facing on my farm.

Specifically, their study on soybean planting width and populations have steered our farm's soybean farming practices. Our soybean yields have increased at least 10 percent since switching from planting soybeans in 30-inch rows to 15-inch rows based on their recommendations.

Additionally, I am regularly approached by sales reps who present trial data for the product(s) they sell. While the research they present includes other competitive products, I question how unbiased the results are. I do not have that concern with data from NDSU research centers. In fact, I believe the research centers are possibly the only source for truly unbiased data and information on agronomic topics. The research centers do not financially benefit from the sale of certain products, so I count on their information when considering new products and varieties.

Agriculture is our state's No. 1 industry, and I know countless farmers and ranchers who benefit from the results and information generated by NDSU's research centers, myself included. Agriculture is rapidly changing, and we need this ongoing research to help us remain sustainable – both environmentally and economically – as we work to feed a growing global population. That's why I strongly encourage you to support a hold-even budget for NDSU agriculture.

Sincerely,



Justin Topp
Chairman, CREC Advisory Board