

Testimony to North Dakota House Appropriations Committee
Jan 16, 2023
North Dakota State University
NDSU Agriculture Experiment Station & Research Extension Centers

Good morning, my name is Mike Ostlie, the director of the Carrington Research Extension Center. Chairman Monson and House Appropriations Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to address your committee.

The staff of the Carrington Center are proud to be a part of the network of RECs and Main campus researchers and Extension specialists who work with crop and livestock producers to address the needs of today's agriculture. CREC researchers routinely collaborate with recently supported initiatives including the Big Data, Microbiome, and Precision Ag Initiatives. These collaborations are already greatly advancing our ability to answer complex questions about North Dakota production agriculture.

The Carrington Center would like to extend thanks for past support of capital projects to enhance our livestock research capabilities. These projects are critical to the future of North Dakota's livestock industry, in particular with regards to utilization of feedstuffs generated by the growing biofuels industry as well as the promotion of expanded opportunities for livestock production in the state. We would appreciate your support in providing a time extension to your original allocation and additional funding so the current projects can be completed. We are seeking an increase to the funds for the livestock capital projects which received bids that were either too high or received no bids over the past year.

South-east and south-central North Dakota has the most heat units available for many of our row crops, including dry beans, corn, and soybeans, allowing producers to plant the highest maturity varieties or hybrids in the state. This region is critically served by CREC, off-station locations, along with its Oakes Irrigation Research Site. We ask for your support of AES SBARE Priority #2 in order to meet the demand of increased operational support to counter inflationary pressures and specifically to support the Oakes Irrigation Research Site. This site provides valuable dryland and irrigated reference data to some of the highest yielding corn and soybean acres in the state, including variety performance, water use efficiency, microbial inputs for nitrogen and phosphorous, and plant disease mitigation.

Agronomy research and Foundation Seedstocks programs have expanded over the past decade at CREC. This has resulted in research and field equipment storage that is inadequate. We are asking for support of the storage shed capital improvement project so that our equipment can be stored out of the elements and away from rodent exposure where many items currently reside. Thank you for your time today.

Mike Ostlie, Director
Carrington Research Extension Center
P. O. Box 219
Carrington, ND 58421-0219

(701) 652-2951
fax: (701) 652-2055
E-mail: Mike.Ostlie@ndsu.edu