

Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

My name is Jacob Odermann, I am the chair of the NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center's Advisory Board. My wife AJ and I along with our four children ranch with my parents north of Belfield in Billings county. We are the 4th generation of Odermann's to ranch in North Dakota. I grew up in a house that Senator Greg Kessel's father built.

Our farm has been directly affected in a positive way by applying the research findings of individuals at our local RECs. For over two decades we have applied Dr. Lee Mansky's twice over grazing rotation program which has done wonders for our soil health while also increasing our carrying capacity.

Farmers in our region desperately need a research agronomist stationed at the Dickinson Research Extension Center. Farmers would benefit greatly from having an individual in this position who will focus on current and emerging issues in our challenging environment. Solutions to growing new crops, disease management, forage production, weed control, and more will be explored. The data gathered from Dickinson will be shared with farmers who will put that science into action and benefit greatly from your support.

A Dickinson Research Extension Center Research Agronomist went through the SBARE process and is listed under the Plant Production and Protection Initiative which happens to be the Ag Experiment Station's #1 legislative priority. During the summer of 2021, DREC director, Chris Augustin held a survey to help guide the center. The results from this survey indicated a research agronomist is the most needed position. Please consider the Dickinson research agronomist and how impactful this person will be to southwest North Dakota and it's farmers and ranchers.