

## **Ladies and Gentleman of SBARE:**

I am coming before you today to ask for your support of a state-funded Agronomy research specialist to enhance the research capabilities of the NDSU North Central Research Extension Center. For the record, my name is Kendon Faul. I currently farm in Sheridan County. For 23 years, I held the position of Agronomy manager for the McClusky Co-op Elevator. I also serve on the NCREC Board of Visitors. My current family farming operation consists of growing wheat, soybeans, barley, canola, hay barley and corn silage. We took over my in-law's farm in 2001. I have passion for ND agriculture. I dedicated my life to being a successful farmer alongside my wife and children.

One might think that NDSU would be my competition in my role as the agronomy manager, however, this is far from true. Where else could I go to get unbiased, scientific research data? I used the research data from the NC Research Extension Center for making educated decisions for my customers. It has proven to be a very important source over the past 23 years. Now that I strictly farm, my past customers still call me for advice on my farming practices.

I am always looking at the publications or websites from the NDSU Research Extension Centers. I need to stay at the top of my game for my producers, who rely on me for information, and for my family farm. The success of the growers is crucial to maintaining food for not only ND, but the entire world. I start by comparing varieties of wheat (or any of the other crops we grow) and their yield potentials. By looking at the trials that the NC Research Extension Center puts out, I can safely point a grower to a product that will work (or produce) on their fields. I also look at where the trial was done at and determine if a particular variety is better on drier (light/sandy) soils than another.

It goes beyond variety trials. Many chemical companies have the best herbicide or fungicide for all situations. This is where I rely on the expertise of the Research Extension Center. I am in constant contact with Brian Jenks on which herbicide would work best. I even call Dr. Jenks to determine why a product failed, what I should have done differently, or is this a situation that nothing else could have been done. Looking at results from the NC Research Extension Center has allowed me to gain the confidence I need in my growers and my personal farm.

Over the past 23 years, I have had failures and successes in what I do. There are variables that we cannot predict, like weather, wind and tomorrow. Having the resources that the NC Research Extension Center has provided has allowed me to have many more success stories on my farm and the farms of all of my growers. They have relied on my advice to provide a return on investment to their farms. Saving the grower money today and providing a ROI means that they will be around tomorrow to do business with the Co-op and be a successful farmer.

With a state-funded Agronomy research specialist, the NCREC research agronomy program will be able to expand their current research capabilities without spending countless hours trying to find funding to help the staff, which is already stretched thin. . Agronomy research

will generate additional research that I can utilize on my own farm. I will be comfortable sharing and encouraging farmers in my Co-op to utilize this data as well.

Please continue funding to allow for this unbiased information for people who give advice to farmers and farmers alike. Farming is the backbone of our communities and we want it to remain this way in the future for our kids and grandkids.

Thank you

Kendon Faul  
Farmer, Sheridan County