

**Testimony to North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee**  
**Jan 16, 2025**  
**North Dakota State University Carrington Research Extension Center**  
**NDSU Agriculture Experiment Station & Research Extension Centers**

Good morning, Chairman Wanzek and Senate Appropriations Committee members. My name is Mike Ostlie, Director of the Carrington Research Extension Center. Thank you for the opportunity to address your committee.

The Carrington Center staff are proud to be a part of the network of RECs, main campus researchers and Extension specialists working with crop and livestock producers to address today's agricultural needs. Recently, our Plant Pathology program completed multi-site, multi-department research to improve fungicide efficacy in soybean and dry bean. This research led to the rapid adoption of low or no cost changes to application strategies, resulting in better disease control for producers at similar or reduced costs. We request additional technical support for this program under SBARE AES Priority #6. This research directly benefits producers by maximizing efficiency of existing practices.

We sincerely thank you for your past support of capital projects to enhance our livestock research capabilities. These projects are crucial for North Dakota's livestock industry, particularly the utilization of feedstuffs from the growing biofuels industry and the promotion of livestock production in the state. As construction of these capital projects is at or near completion, our researchers are evaluating the increased inclusion of canola meal or hybrid rye in rations which appears to be a promising way to use more commodities locally.

Thank you for securing the long-term future of the Oakes Irrigation Research Site. This site provides valuable data for high-yielding corn and soybean acres, including variety performance, water use efficiency, microbial inputs, and plant disease mitigation. Your support enabled the partial construction of a modern shop, lab, and office complex, with the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District funding the exterior and shop before donating the shell and land to NDSU. The local community and collaborative support throughout this endeavor has been rewarding to witness. This site wouldn't exist without everyone working together to realize this shared vision, almost 20 years in the making. The last phase of this project is completing the interior of this building, which is SBARE Capital Improvement Priority #1.

Our agronomic research and Foundation Seedstocks programs have expanded over the past decade, resulting in inadequate storage for research and field equipment. We request your support for the storage shed capital improvement project to protect our equipment from the elements and rodent exposure to maintain the longevity of expensive equipment.

Operational costs continue to rise, affecting all of agriculture. At the CREC, many of these costs are paid with grants, but grant opportunities are not increasing, and many operating costs are not allowed by grant sponsors. SBARE priority #4 would provide much-needed updates to equipment and ensure annual operational security for all teams at CREC.

Finally, thank you for the generous compensation package last biennium. Compensation is a crucial part of retaining our current staff. Thank you for your time today.