

Testimony for the NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center

Submitted by Christopher Augustin, Director Dickinson Research Extension Center

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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Members of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to share with you some of the great successes at the Dickinson Research Extension Center that have improved the lives of many North Dakotans. I am Chris Augustin and have served as director of the Dickinson Research Extension Center since last April.

The Dickinson Research Extension Center improves the lives of North Dakotans through sensible and sustainable science-based research and outreach. This task is exemplified by the integrated crop and livestock systems program led by animal scientist, Doug Landblom. This collaborative work with main campus scientists has proven that properly managed livestock can improve soil health and crop yields, while reducing crop inputs. Mr. Landblom has shared these results through many soil health outreach programs.

Prairies are an important resource to North Dakota. Range scientist, Lee Manke's grazing and range land research has improved thousands of acres and benefited many livestock producers. I am proud of Dr. Manske's efforts. Last October, the North Dakota Stockmen's Association acknowledged Dr. Manske's decades of impactful grazing lands work by awarding him an honorary member.

The Dickinson Research Extension Center conducts research on current and emerging crop issues that are important to southwestern North Dakota. Even without a much-needed research agronomist, research projects such as, variety trials, hemp production, soybean nodulation, and more have continued. Our extension cropping systems specialist, Ryan Buetow has led the charge on important crop production issues like soil acidity management through outreach and applied research.

The Dickinson Research Extension Center team has and will continue to work hard to better the lives of the people we serve. I look forward to the future and building on our solid foundation of agricultural outreach and research. Thank you for your time.