

I support funding the initiatives put forth by the SBARE board. Starting with the Ag Field Lab Facility. The Field Lab Facility will replace Waldron Hall, Widakas Lab, and the potato research facility. The Ag Field Lab facility is a critical part of infrastructure for agronomy, horticulture, plant science, plant pathology and soil science research programs. Some examples of returns possible from the new facility include the following. The Dakota Russet (potato variety accepted by McDonalds) will generate **4.4 million annually** in revenue to ND potato growers. A 5% increase in nitrogen efficiency use through better agronomic practices, better soil fertility recommendations, and better microbes for sustainable nitrogen would save nearly **60 million annually** in fertilizer costs.

All the research funding requests for the research facilities are critical especially the plant Production and Protection initiative. Crops and cropping account for 80% of gross agriculture receipts in ND. It is imperative that we keep in the forefront of that endeavor. **Ag Research pays big dividends 25% return over time.** Hard to beat that. The Big Data initiative is also important Agriculture has become more data sensitive and Big Data is becoming more critical in operational efficiency in Agriculture.

All the SBARE extension initiatives are important especially the cropping systems initiatives Eighty percent of the gross agriculture receipts in ND come from cropping systems and it is imperative that we communicate that transformational information in order to keep our producers at forefront of agriculture practices. Livestock development is important, the best return for ND feed crops is to put them through livestock. 4-H is a great development tool for the youth of ND. **4 H youth are 2 times more likely to be civically active and 4 times for likely to give back to their communities.** That is a great return on investment