

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

My name is Jacob Odermann, a third-generation Billings County rancher and I also serve as vice-chair of the NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center Advisory Board. My wife AJ and I along with our 4 children (4th Generation) raise our cattle in a native environment where we strive to conserve air, water and soil resources. Our family has benefited greatly from the Dickinson Research Extension Center's personnel, programs, and data in helping manage our herd.

The focus of our cattle operation is to produce animals that roam the prairies efficiently, consuming the grasses that spring from the earth. This means careful attention to preserving the biology of the land so it can feed the animals that roam our farm/ranch.

Our family with the help and input of Dickinson Research Extension Center Range Scientist, Dr. Manske has utilized the twice over grazing system for over 30 years. This system has increased our carrying capacity, forage quality and profitability.

We routinely participate in the various Extension outreach activities put together by the Dickinson Research Extension Center and NDSU Extension. We raise functional cattle and produce great mothers and offspring that perform great on the rail. With the help of the Cow Herd Appraisal Performance Software or CHAPS, we have used data to help make breeding selections, improve our overall herd and achieve our ranching goals.

The Dickinson Research Extension Center has and continues to make positive lasting impacts for ag producers and the consumers of their products in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Jacob Odermann