

Eric Broten
Broten Farms
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March 11, 2025

ND House Appropriations Committee

Hello Chairman David Monson, and members of ND House appropriations committee,

My name is Eric Broten. I am a farmer from Dazey, ND. I farm in Barnes and Griggs County. I raise Corn, Soybean, Barley, Rye and have a few head of cattle on my family farm. I am a 4th generation farmer. I farm with my dad, my wife and 4 children and 6 full time employees. I am testifying on the importance of funding NDSU's Research and Extension Centers.

I grew up on our family farm and attended college at NDSU. After graduation I moved back to the farm and have been farming full time ever sense. As I look back on my father and grandfather's time farming. It is remarkable the scope of changes that have happened in Agriculture. To be a successful farmer in today's world you need to have a wide range of expertise. Input costs are extremely high, and profit margins are low. Making good financial and agronomic decisions are critical to the success of an operation. We cannot make these decisions without having good science-based research to base our decisions on.

The NDSU Research and Extension Centers are vital for producers to make good science-based decisions. As a producer, we buy inputs from many different venders. Each vender with their own best use practices and rates for their product. Doing on farm research is important, but it takes time, money, and in some cases just isn't practical. This is where we rely on the REC's. Here they provide the information I need to make the best decisions for not only my farm, but for each acre of every field on my farm. Every farmer in ND is benefiting from the NDSU Research and Extension Centers. They personally may not even be aware of what the RECs do, but the people who are making them recommendations are. I along with my agronomist have found great value in the research done through the Research and Extension centers and use this information to help make numerous agronomic decisions throughout the year.

Just like the cost of the equipment on my operation. The cost of their equipment is also increasing along with the need to have proper storage to keep these investments in good working condition. Also having the funding for the staff needed to complete this research is a necessity. Agriculture is changing as it always has. As I look forward, I see a landscape much different than I do today. I see more focus on soil health, reduced tillage, and more concern for our carbon footprint. We need the Research and Extension Centers to continue to provide us critical information. Information we can use to make the proper decisions on our farm for ourselves and for future generations.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eric Broten.