



North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

NDSU Extension

Northern Crops Institute



2025-2027 Biennial Budget Request

Senate Bill 2020
Government Operations Division
Senator Terry Wanzek, Chairman
January 16, 2025

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station
 - Main Station - Budget No. 640
 - Branch Research Extension Centers - Budget No. 628
 - Agronomy Seed Farm - Budget No. 649

NDSU Extension - Budget No. 630

Northern Crops Institute - Budget No. 638

David Cook
President, North Dakota State University

Sarah Lovas
Chair, State Board of Agricultural Research and Education

Greg Lardy
Joe and Norma Peltier Vice President for Agriculture
Director, ND Agricultural Experiment Station
Director, NDSU Extension

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NDSU NORTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY



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SBARE

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education

Who we are and what we do

History

The State Board of Agricultural Research (SBAR) was established by legislative decree in 1997. It was responsible for budgeting and policy-making associated with the supervision of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

The law was changed during the 1999 legislative session to include responsibility for the North Dakota State University Extension Service. SBAR became the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE).



Duties

SBARE, within the policies of the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE), is responsible for budgeting and policy-making associated with the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and North Dakota State University Extension.

SBARE responsibilities are to:

- Determine the causes of any adverse economic impacts on crops and livestock produced in the state;
- Develop ongoing strategies for the provision of research solutions and resources to negate adverse economic impacts on crops and livestock produced in this state;
- Develop proactive strategies for NDSU Extension to fulfill the mission of improving the lives and livelihood of the citizens of North Dakota by providing research-based education;
- Implement the strategies developed under bullets 2 and 3, subject to approval by the SBHE;
- Develop, with the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and NDSU Extension, an annual budget for the operations of these entities;
- Develop a biennial budget request based on its prioritized needs list and submit that request to the president of NDSU and the SBHE, and forward its prioritized needs list and request without modification to the Office of Management and Budget and the appropriations committees of the legislative assembly;
- Maximize the use of existing financial resources, equipment, and facilities to generate the greatest economic benefit from research and extension efforts and to promote efficiency;
- Annually evaluate the results of research and extension activities and expenditures, and report the findings to the Legislative Council and the SBHE;
- Advise the President of NDSU regarding the recruitment, selection and performance of the Vice President for Agriculture, the NDSU Extension Director and the Station Director; and
- Provide a status report to the budget section of the Legislative Council.

Membership

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education consists of:

- NDSU President or the President's designee
- NDSU Vice President for Agriculture*
- North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station Director*
- NDSU Extension Director*
- Five people appointed by Ag Coalition
- Five people appointed in the geographic areas represented by NDSU Extension's multicounty program units
- North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner*
- Two members of the legislative assembly appointed by the chair of Legislative Council

* serve in *ex-officio*, nonvoting capacity

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Agency Overview

Main Research Station

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Agency Statutory Authority

ND Constitution Article XIX; North Dakota Century Code Chapter 15-12.1

Agency Description

Situated on the campus of North Dakota State University of Agriculture and Applied Science, the Main Research Station serves as the administrative hub for the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station (NDAES). It conducts and coordinates all research activities, focusing on developing and disseminating technology crucial for producing and utilizing food, feed, fiber, and fuel from crop and livestock enterprises. This research contributes to economic development, enhances the quality of life, ensures sustainable production, and protects the environment. The Main Research Station meticulously documents all activities and publishes valuable information for the state's residents. Our research is an important component of agriculture's \$30.8 billion contribution to the State's economy.

Agency Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide premier research solutions that empower our people and communities to thrive in a dynamic world. The NDAES is dedicated to transforming agriculture by embracing digital advancements, pioneering technological innovations, and prioritizing the conservation of our most precious natural resource, the land. Our goal is to become a global leader in research related to the production of food, fuel, and fiber.

Agency Performance Measures

Per North Dakota Century Code 15-12.1-17 the State Board of Agricultural Research and Extension (SBARE) presents a status report to the budget section of the legislative council. SBARE's most recent presentation to the budget section was on June 19, 2024. The report they gave and provided in written form included the status of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and the NDSU Extension Service. A copy of the information is on file in the legislative council office.

Agency Future Critical Issues

Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS)

Research into the effects of national and international policies and trade on North Dakota's agriculture is needed. Export markets for agricultural products have become increasingly more complex, resulting in increasing levels of risk for farmers and agribusinesses in the state. North Dakota's economy, heavily dependent on agriculture and trade, faces vulnerabilities due to tensions in international relations and trade dynamics, impacting food security and global trade patterns. The prosperity of North Dakota's agricultural sector is intricately linked to the success of its farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses. Unique challenges confront the state, including the fact that its location requires rail transport to export markets. Research is crucial to comprehend the repercussions of changes in agricultural policies and global market trends on North Dakota's agricultural community.

Digital Transformation of Agriculture

Digital agriculture, precision farming and ranching, and related technologies are advancing rapidly, driven by breakthroughs in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). NDAES scientists are leveraging these technologies to transform food production. Investing in new technologies, staff and infrastructure will equip scientists with the necessary resources to accelerate research in sensor technology, plant breeding, precision livestock farming and other digital initiatives. This effort is key to enhancing global food security through innovations in North Dakota agriculture. Such funding is crucial for improving infrastructure and capabilities in agricultural data analysis and precision agriculture.

Livestock Animal Health

North Dakota faces a significant risk of having no veterinary toxicologist available. To address this critical need, a position is requested to fund a toxicology resident. A toxicologist plays a vital role in supporting the state's livestock industry by developing assays for the detection of mycotoxins, ergot, blister beetle toxin, bromethalin in feed and other challenges that affect the industry.

Operating, Equipment and Graduate Research Assistantships

Enhanced operating budgets are essential for sustaining growth and achieving ongoing success. The operational costs associated with the NDAES research mission have escalated. Expenses for fuel, equipment maintenance, repairs, feed, fertilizer and more limits the ability of scientists to be responsive to critical research needs. Additionally, operating funds are crucial for fostering the early career development of scientists, enabling them to acquire necessary start-up equipment and supplies, and to support graduate student salaries. Sufficient start-up and operating funds are vital for establishing successful research programs.

Modern research equipment is essential for conducting accurate experiments and advancing new methods to improve North Dakota's livestock and cropping systems. Funding is requested to ensure laboratories and agricultural field operations are equipped with modern equipment needed to generate world-class results.

Graduate research assistants play an indispensable role in the successful completion of every NDAES agricultural research project. They are deeply involved in conducting experiments, analyzing data and applying research findings to solve real-world agricultural problems. Graduate students also share their advancements to the wider community by the dissemination of research through publications and presentations. Additionally, their research prepares them as the next generation of leaders, equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to address challenges facing North Dakota agriculture. This initiative requests an increase in the number of assistantships to support the research activities by attracting talent to NDSU.

Biofuels and Carbon Management

As a consequence of national and international agricultural customer base, North Dakota farmers can achieve economic gains through the adoption of carbon and climate-smart farming strategies. This is key to reduce carbon intensity scores to more effectively participate in markets for renewable fuels. There is a significant need for research to develop advanced farming techniques tailored to North Dakota's unique agricultural conditions. This research will focus on practices such as crop rotation, cover cropping and efficient nutrient management aimed to both reduce carbon intensity and enhance the production of biofuel feedstocks. This supports efforts in improving sustainability and profitability in farmers' operations.

Research Specialists

Technical support staff are critical in assisting agricultural scientists to achieve their research goals. They provide essential expertise in the operation and maintenance of sophisticated laboratory and field equipment that ensures experiments are conducted efficiently and accurately. Staff contribute to the collection and analysis of data, which is fundamental for validating research findings and advancing scientific knowledge in agriculture. By providing logistical and administrative support, they enable scientists to focus on their core research activities, thereby accelerating the progress and impact of agricultural research.

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2023-2025 North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station impacts

The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station (NDAES) advances technology for the production and utilization of food, feed, fiber and fuel from crop and livestock enterprises.

- **Stakeholder-Driven:** NDAES research is guided by stakeholder needs, and solutions are communicated directly to thousands of stakeholders annually, ensuring that research outcomes are effectively implemented across the state.
- **Innovative Solutions:** Dedicated scientists deliver innovative research solutions that empower communities and drive agricultural transformation through digital advancements and pioneering technologies, all while conserving our natural resources.
- **Statewide Research:** NDAES research is conducted at eight branch stations across the state and on the main campus of North Dakota State University. Scientists address the critical issues unique to the diverse agriculture, food systems and natural resources in each region.
- **Economic Growth:** NDAES research supports economic development, enhances quality of life, ensures sustainable production and protects the environment, contributing directly to agriculture’s \$30.8 billion impact on North Dakota’s economy.



Major Accomplishments



Innovative solutions for livestock health and productivity enhance disease detection, optimize livestock management and improve nutritional strategies.

- The Bill Bowman Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) played a crucial role in safeguarding animal and public health by conducting essential tests for diseases like rabies, anthrax and avian flu.
- NDAES scientists demonstrated the effectiveness of virtual fencing technology in improving grazing management, calf performance and forage efficiency, making precision livestock management more accessible and cost-effective.
- Scientists developed and implemented advanced tests for detecting harmful toxins, ensuring the safety of livestock and protecting the agricultural supply chain.



Optimizing state investments positions North Dakota as a national leader in ag tech research and innovation.

- NDSU secured one of only 10 National Science Foundation Regional Engines grants, working with four partners to establish North Dakota as a key hub for agricultural technologies. NDAES scientists will play a key role in the grant by working collaboratively to develop technologies that provide solutions to problems across agricultural production systems.



Leveraging cutting-edge technologies like AI and data analytics accelerate crop improvements and promote sustainable farming practices.

- The Agricultural Data Analytics team is combining genetic data with field tests to develop models that improve crop varieties faster and more efficiently for North Dakota producers.
- Scientists are integrating AI-driven weed identification with autonomous systems, reducing herbicide use and fostering more environmentally sustainable agriculture.



Protecting and restoring natural resources by advancing sustainable practices enhances soil health, supports biodiversity and promotes climate resilience.

- Newly developed strategies to improve soil health, plant growth, and grassland quality for livestock and wildlife habitats following energy development.
- NDAES scientists pioneered sustainable farming techniques like rotational grazing and diverse crop rotations, which boost soil health, enhance carbon storage and increase agricultural resilience.



New crop varieties and farming practices improve yield, quality and sustainability, while also reducing input costs for farmers.

- Research on innovative nitrogen application methods and extensive variety testing have led to greater yields and better quality in crops like durum wheat, providing North Dakota farmers with varieties specifically suited to local conditions.
- Newly released pulse crop, winter wheat and oat varieties will increase farm income, expand market opportunities and improve farm sustainability while reducing input costs and boosting resilience against environmental challenges.



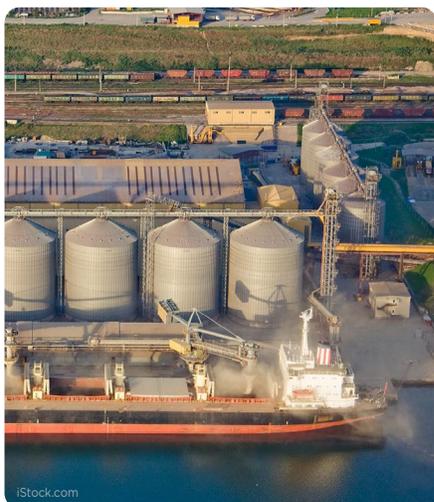
NDAES research protects North Dakota crops by monitoring and managing diseases, safeguarding productivity and preventing significant economic losses.

- Disease-monitoring programs detect threats like wheat rust and Sudden Death Syndrome in soybeans, enabling farmers to take early action and avoid potentially millions of dollars in losses.
- NDAES scientists developed effective management strategies for diseases such as canola clubroot and scab, ensuring crop protection, and maintaining farm productivity across the region.
- Innovative microbial solutions can boost crop yields and combat challenges like root rot and drought, enhancing the health and productivity of key crops such as soybeans, pulse crops and barley.

SBARE Priorities for the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Final Ranking by SBARE – February 21, 2024

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION



1 Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS)

Research into the effects of national and international policies and trade on North Dakota's agriculture is needed. Export markets for agricultural products have become increasingly more complex, resulting in increasing levels of risk for farmers and agribusinesses in the state. North Dakota's economy, heavily dependent on agriculture and trade, faces vulnerabilities due to tensions in international relations and trade dynamics, impacting food security and global trade patterns. The prosperity of North Dakota's agricultural sector is intricately linked to the success of its farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses. Unique challenges confront the state, including the fact that its location requires rail transport to export markets. Research is crucial to comprehend the repercussions of changes in agricultural policies and global market trends on North Dakota's agricultural community.

Request: Three FTEs total. Positions are: (1) Agricultural policy analyst—\$275,000, (2) Market and trade analyst—\$275,000 and (3) Economic impact/contributions specialist—\$275,000. \$150,000 in operating.

Total: \$975,000



2 Digital Transformation of Agriculture

Digital agriculture, precision farming and ranching, and related technologies are advancing rapidly, driven by breakthroughs in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). NDAES scientists are leveraging these technologies to transform food production. Investing in new technologies, staff and infrastructure will equip scientists with the necessary resources to accelerate research in sensor technology, plant breeding, precision livestock farming and other digital initiatives. This effort is key to enhancing global food security through innovations in North Dakota agriculture. Such funding is crucial for improving infrastructure and capabilities in agricultural data analysis and precision agriculture.

Request: Six FTEs total. Positions in prioritized order are: (1) AI/ML engineer—\$280,000, (2) Database architect—\$430,000, (3) Data manager—\$280,000, (4) Data scientist—\$280,000, (5) GIS specialist—\$230,000 and (6) Unmanned Aircraft Systems chief pilot—\$230,000. Operating request of \$904,000 for software subscriptions for cloud server access, network servers, high-speed computers for AI computations, data archiving, storage architecture specialized for AI and ML, and software licenses.

Total: \$2,634,000



3 Livestock: Animal Health

North Dakota faces a significant risk of having no veterinary toxicologist available. To address this critical need, a position is requested to fund a toxicology resident. A toxicologist plays a vital role in supporting the state's livestock industry by developing assays for the detection of mycotoxins, ergot, blister beetle toxin, bromethalin in feed and other challenges that affect the industry.

Request: One FTE total. Veterinary toxicology resident to support critical needs in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory—\$275,000. \$50,000 in operating.

Total: \$325,000

SBARE Priorities for the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Final Ranking by SBARE – February 21, 2024



4 Operating, Equipment and Graduate Research Assistantships

Enhanced operating budgets are essential for sustaining growth and achieving ongoing success. The operational costs associated with the NDAES research mission have escalated. Expenses for fuel, equipment maintenance, repairs, feed, fertilizer and more limits the ability of scientists to be responsive to critical research needs. Additionally, operating funds are crucial for fostering the early career development of scientists, enabling them to acquire necessary start-up equipment and supplies, and to support graduate student salaries. Sufficient start-up and operating funds are vital for establishing successful research programs.

Modern research equipment is essential for conducting accurate experiments and advancing new methods to improve North Dakota's livestock and cropping systems. Funding is requested to ensure laboratories and agricultural field operations are equipped with modern equipment needed to generate world-class results.

Graduate research assistants play an indispensable role in the successful completion of every NDAES agricultural research project. They are deeply involved in conducting experiments, analyzing data and applying research findings to solve real-world agricultural problems. Graduate students also share their advancements to the wider community by the dissemination of research through publications and presentations. Additionally, their research prepares them as the next generation of leaders, equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to address challenges facing North Dakota agriculture. This initiative requests an increase in the number of assistantships to support the research activities by attracting talent to NDSU.

Request: Equipment and graduate research assistantships funding. \$1,190,000 in operating (\$560,000 for seven branch stations + \$630,000 for main station units), \$1,000,000 in equipment and \$900,000 for graduate research assistants

Total: \$3,090,000

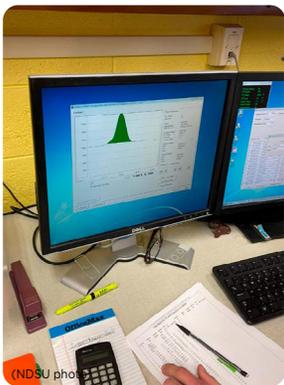


5 Biofuels and Carbon Management

As a consequence of national and international agricultural customer base, North Dakota farmers can achieve economic gains through the adoption of carbon and climate-smart farming strategies. This is key to reduce carbon intensity scores to more effectively participate in markets for renewable fuels. There is a significant need for research to develop advanced farming techniques tailored to North Dakota's unique agricultural conditions. This research will focus on practices such as crop rotation, cover cropping and efficient nutrient management aimed to both reduce carbon intensity and enhance the production of biofuel feedstocks. This supports efforts in improving sustainability and profitability in farmers' operations.

Request: Two FTEs total. Positions are: (1) Scientist–\$275,000 and (2) Research specialist–\$200,000. \$50,000 in operating.

Total: \$525,000



6 Research Specialists

Technical support staff are critical in assisting agricultural scientists to achieve their research goals. They provide essential expertise in the operation and maintenance of sophisticated laboratory and field equipment that ensures experiments are conducted efficiently and accurately. Staff contribute to the collection and analysis of data, which is fundamental for validating research findings and advancing scientific knowledge in agriculture. By providing logistical and administrative support, they enable scientists to focus on their core research activities, thereby accelerating the progress and impact of agricultural research.

Request: Five FTEs total. Positions are technical support in needed areas: (1) Grapes/vineyards–\$200,000, (2) Agronomy–\$200,000, (3) Plant pathology–\$200,000, (4) Soybean breeding–\$200,000 and (5) Biosystems engineering–\$200,000.

Total: \$1,000,000

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

8/30/2024

Capital Improvement and One-time Requests North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Final Ranking by SBARE - November 13, 2024

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION

One-time Requests

Deferred Maintenance

Request: \$1,500,000

Williston Research Extension Center Capital Projects

The NDAES was unable to get any successful bids for the Nesson Valley facility or the storage shed at the Williston Research Extension Center in the 2023-2025 biennium.

Nesson Valley Request: 1. A change in scope to build a structure with a heated shop, restrooms and an employee break room (removing a planned conference room), 2. Special fund authority to raise an additional \$1.3 million and 3. Carryover of \$1.7 million in general funds appropriated by the 68th Legislative Assembly.

Storage Shed Request: 1. Carryover of \$475,000 in strategic investment and improvements funds appropriated by the 68th Legislative Assembly, 2. Special fund authority to spend an additional \$325,000 as needed to complete the shed and 3. Continuation of Section 14 Exemption in H.B. 1020 relating to the construction of the storage sheds.

Capital Improvement Requests

1. Oakes Irrigation Research Site (OIRS) Building Completion

Since 1975, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (GDCCD) has collaborated with the NDAES to promote irrigation research in North Dakota. The Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC) is taking possession of a building at the Oakes site that will serve as the headquarters for NDAES irrigation research. Requested funding is for completion of the OIRS headquarters interior.

Total: \$620,000

2. Langdon REC Seed Conditioning Plant

A modern seed cleaning facility is essential for providing North Dakota foundation crop varieties bred to grow in the state's unique environment. The current facility was built in the 1960s and is incapable of conditioning the full production capacity grown on NDAES land at the Langdon Research Extension Center.

Total: \$2,600,000

3. NDAES Equipment Storage Sheds

Purchasing and/or leasing expensive field equipment is an investment that the NDAES needs to protect. Storing expensive research plot equipment such as tractors, planters and combines outdoors reduces the life of the equipment and can compromise the sophisticated electronics typically used on such equipment. Sheds are needed at the Dickinson REC, Central Grasslands REC and Carrington REC.

Total: \$1,567,500



12/16/2024

NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to Vice Provost, Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 100, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu. This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, 701-231-7881.

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Request for Authorization North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION

Swine Facility Renovation

Total Project: \$6,000,000

Special Funds: \$6,000,000

Based on Percentage of Cost as per NDSU Master Plan Section 3: PED: 100%



Master Plan Alignment

This project will enhance our ability to conduct research that directly addresses the needs of North Dakota's swine industry. Benefactors are eager to support the modernization of NDSU's swine unit, which was constructed several decades ago and is now in critical need of renovation. These updates will enable advanced research to support the growth of the livestock industry in the state, fostering economic opportunities (diversification) for farmers who produce feed grains and creating new market alternatives for widely grown crops such as soybeans and corn.

A modern swine facility will allow NDSU researchers to develop innovative feeding strategies using soybean meal, corn, and corn by-products, ensuring the industry remains competitive and efficient. Additionally, this enhanced facility will strengthen NDSU's capacity to conduct cutting-edge research, supporting rural communities by driving economic growth and job creation tied to the swine and feed industries.

Jack Dalrymple Agricultural Research Complex Addition

Total Project: \$3,250,000

Special Funds: \$3,250,000

Based on Percentage of Cost as per NDSU Master Plan Section 3: PED: 100%



Master Plan Alignment

This project will enhance our capacity to conduct research that directly addresses the needs of North Dakota's agricultural industry while fostering new opportunities with industry. As a recognized leader in the production of a diverse range of crops, North Dakota will benefit from the additional greenhouse space that enables our scientists to tackle critical challenges in crop production.

Potential benefactors are interested in supporting this expansion, as it will allow them to access needed space and technical expertise. The additional capacity will enable advanced research to support the growth of the agricultural industry in the state, provide research-based solutions to combat crop disease, and improve economic outcomes for farmers. The additional space will also allow scientists to collaborate with industry, accelerate commercialization of solutions, and enhance opportunities to train the next generation of plant scientists.

By strengthening NDSU's research infrastructure, this project enables cutting-edge research, that can drive the economic growth and job creation in rural communities.

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1/7/2025

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Agency Vacancy Saving Worksheet

Main Research Station North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Business Unit number: 640
 Business Unit name: Agricultural Experiment Station - Main Station
 Reporting Period: 7/1/23-12/31/24

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Cumulative Total		
Est. Vacancy Savings	330,426	330,426	330,426	330,426	330,426	330,426	330,426	330,426	330,426	330,426	330,426	330,426	287,812	287,812	287,812	287,812	287,812	287,812	287,812	5,691,984	
Use of vacant position savings:																					
Accrued Leave Payouts	3,270	86,293	8,720	10,503	16,804	21,639	17,430	4,316	29,068	3,569		30,293	24,687	14,693	47,393	8,528	11,166	16,548		354,920	
Extra Salary Increases																					
Bonuses																					
Incentive/location Pay			7,758	10,150		19,625	3,000		3,000	2,427		5,000	10,042	10,769		11,375	10,000	3,000		96,146	
Reclassifications																					
Extra Temporary salary Funding	108,064	280,850	151,648	144,956	146,127	131,903	103,447	144,244	115,313	136,727	174,757	460,345		186,047	39,970	55,847	34,686	4,272		2,419,203	
Extra Overtime Funding	9,765	28,096	19,282	20,026	15,322	9,277	5,039	3,421	7,269	3,819		37,856		15,687	9,559	8,629				193,047	
Other (identify) Grad Assistant Salaries		178,314	209,367	238,230	246,315	228,979	216,009	289,404	263,582	262,284	258,517	525,051	295,525	293,619	324,781	357,906	324,199	325,421		4,571,503	
Total	209,327	(243,127)	(66,349)	(93,439)	(94,142)	(80,997)	(14,499)	(110,959)	(87,806)	(78,400)	(102,848)	(728,119)	223,558	(233,003)	(133,891)	(154,473)	(92,239)	(61,429)		(1,942,835)	
Vacant Positions:	66	64	64	64	64	56	59	60	59	55	54	52	54	54	55	58	48	42			

DO NOT MODIFY WORKSHEET FORMAT

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Main Research Station

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

2023-25 New Positions Approved

Position Title	Hire Date	OMB Pool Transfers	Budget Request	Estimated Salary Expenses 2023-25	Estimated Salary Expenses 2025-27
NDAWN Programmer	3/25/2024	\$135,625	\$153,868	\$135,625	\$208,064

New and Vacant FTE Funding Pool Information

640-Main Station

<i>HB1020 General Fund Decrease</i>	<i>(\$3,714,807)</i>
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OMB FTE Pool

<i>Approved Transfers</i>	<i>\$1,874,809</i>
<i>Anticipated Transfers</i>	<i>\$769,556</i>

<i>Budget deficiency</i>	<i>(\$1,070,442)</i>
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WHAT WE LOOKED AT AND WHY

North Dakota state law requires that our team perform an audit once every two to four years. This included a review of financial transactions and determining that expenses are correct. Our audit reports any errors, internal control weaknesses or potential violations of law identified in significant or high-risk functions of the agency.

Additionally, we performed testing to determine whether the North Dakota State School of Pharmacy was admitting students to the Pharmacy program (PharmD) based on their admission policies.

WHAT WE FOUND

This audit did not identify any areas of concern.

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2023-25 Legislation that Included Reporting Requirements to 2025 Appropriation Committees

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

HB1020 (NDSU Research & Extension, Agronomy Seed Farm and Northern Crops Institute)

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO THE SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the 2023-25 biennium one-time funding items included in section 1 of this Act:

One-Time Funding Description

- Deferred maintenance - \$500,000
- Equipment storage sheds (4 sheds) - \$1,900,000
- Nesson Valley irrigation research site project - \$1,700,000
- Branch research extension centers capital projects inflation - \$2,933,230
- Hettinger research extension center land purchase - \$1,038,000
- Waldron hall replacement project - \$97,000,000
- Northern crops institute feed production center facility upgrade - \$3,250,000
- Northern crops institute pellet mill - \$650,000

The 2023-25 one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The main and branch research center shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

	General Fund	Special Fund	Status
Deferred maintenance	500,000		Projects underway and will be completed by 6/30/25
Equipment Storage Sheds	1,900,000		
Main Station	475,000		Completed fall 2024
Langdon REC	475,000		Completed fall 2025
North Central REC	475,000		Expected completion January 2025
Williston REC	475,000		Unsuccessful bid; refer to 2025-27 WREC capital projects request
Nesson Valley irrigation research site project	1,700,000		Unsuccessful bid; refer to 2025-27 WREC capital projects request
Branch research extension centers capital projects inflation	2,008,230	925,000	
CREC Feedlot Research Support Facility	640,000		Expected substantial completion 1st qtr 2025
CREC Feedlot Pen Expansion	559,400		Expected substantial completion 1st qtr 2025
CREC Bulk Feed Commodity Storage Structure	157,400		Substantial completion October 2024
CGREC Livestock Facility	400,000		Substantial completion January 2025
LREC Greenhouse	251,430		Expected substantial completion 1st qtr 2025
CGREC Residence		175,000	Expected substantial completion 2nd qtr 2025
WREC Greenhouse		750,000	Project in fundraising stage
Hettinger research extension center land purchase	1,038,000		Land purchase closed March 2024
Waldron hall replacement project	87,000,000	10,000,000	The Bolley Agricultural Laboratory is estimated to be completed summer 2026.
Northern crops institute feed production center facility	3,250,000		Expected substantial completion 1st qtr 2025
Northern crops institute pellet mill	650,000		Pellet mill has been replaced

SECTION 3. DICKINSON RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER - MINERAL RIGHTS INCOME. The Dickinson research extension center may spend up to \$755,000 of revenues received during the 2023-25 biennium from mineral royalties, leases, or easements for ongoing operational expenses. Any revenues received in excess of \$755,000 may be spent only for one-time expenditures for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

Status: Oil revenue received July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 - \$105,141

SECTION 4. WILLISTON RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER - MINERAL RIGHTS INCOME. The Williston research extension center shall report to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on amounts received and spent from mineral royalties, leases, or easements in the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, and the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

Status:

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 - Amounts received \$784,363; Amounts spent \$218,853

July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 - Amounts received \$52,576; Amounts spent \$212,991

SECTION 13. EXEMPTION - BRANCH RESEARCH CENTERS PROJECTS-FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND. The amounts appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund for one-time projects at the Carrington research center, central grasslands research center, Dickinson research center, and Hettinger research center in section 6 of chapter 550 of the 2021 Special Session Session Laws are not subject to the provisions of section 54-44.1-11, and any unexpended funds from these appropriations are available and may be expended during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

Status:

All funds appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund have been expended during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

	2021 Special Session Funding	Unexpended
Carrington Research Extension Center	\$ 446,000	\$ -
Central Grasslands Research Extension Center	1,963,000	-
Dickinson Research Extension Center	2,200,000	-
Hettinger Research Extension Center	3,420,000	-
	8,029,000	-

Major Components of Current Base Level

Main Research Station

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

	640 Main Station
Salaries	\$ 89,801,398
Operating	20,406,667
Equipment	4,600,000
Deferred Maintenance	<u>1,340,065</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$ 116,148,130</u>
Funding:	
Federal Fund*	\$ 8,918,293
General Fund	58,125,665
Special Fund*	<u>49,104,172</u>
Total Funding	<u>\$ 116,148,130</u>
Source: 2025-27 Base-level budget, Legislative Council	
*No changes anticipated for 2025-27 biennium	
FTE positions 2023-25	358.47
FTE positions 2025-27 Executive Recommendation	370.53

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2025-27 Budget Request

Main Research Station North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

	2025-27 NDAES Request			2025-27 Executive Recommendation		
	FTE	2025-27 SBARE Priority List	2025-27 SBARE Priority List	FTE	Executive Recommendation	Executive Recommendation
		General Fund	Special Fund		General Fund	Special Fund
SBARE #1: Center for Trade and Policy Studies (CAPTS)	3.0	\$975,000	-	-	-	-
Agriculture policy analyst	1.0	275,000				
Market and trade analyst	1.0	275,000				
Economic impact/contributions specialist	1.0	275,000				
Operating		150,000				
SBARE #2: Digital Transformation of Agriculture	6.0	\$2,634,000	-	-	-	-
AI/ML Engineer	1.0	280,000				
Database Architect	1.0	430,000				
Data Manager	1.0	280,000				
Data Scientist	1.0	280,000				
GIS Specialist	1.0	230,000				
UAS Chief Pilot	1.0	230,000				
Operating		904,000				
SBARE #3: Livestock: Animal Health	1.0	\$325,000	-	-	-	-
Veterinary toxicology resident	1.0	275,000				
Operating		50,000				
SBARE #4: Operating, Equipment, & Graduate Research Assistantships	-	\$3,090,000	-	-	-	\$1,910,000
Operating main station		630,000				630,000
Operating RECs		560,000				280,000
Equipment		1,000,000				1,000,000
Graduate research assistantships		900,000				
SBARE #5: Biofuels & Carbon Management	2.0	\$525,000	-	2.0	\$495,000	-
Scientist	1.0	275,000		1.0	275,000	
Research specialist	1.0	200,000		1.0	200,000	
Operating		50,000			20,000	
SBARE #6: Research Specialists	5.0	\$1,000,000	-	-	-	-
Research specialist (grapes/vineyards)	1.0	200,000				
Research specialist (agronomy)	1.0	200,000				
Research specialist (plant pathology)	1.0	200,000				
Research specialist (soybean breeding)	1.0	200,000				
Research specialist (biosystems engineering)	1.0	200,000				
<i>Unranked</i>						
Restore 2023-25 new and vacant FTE funding pool, General fund					4,900,000	2,200,000
SBARE - Base Increase - Main Research Station	17.0	\$8,549,000	-	2.0	\$5,395,000	\$4,110,000
ONE-TIME & CAPITAL FUNDING						
Deferred maintenance		1,500,000			1,000,000	SIIF
Capital:						
SBARE #1 Oakes Irrigation Research Site (OIRS) building completion		620,000			620,000	SIIF
SBARE #2 Seed conditioning plant - Langdon		2,600,000			2,600,000	SIIF
SBARE #3 Equipment storage sheds (3) DREC, CGREC, CREC		1,567,500				
<i>Unranked</i>						
Nesson Valley facility carryover 2023-25 SBARE #3		1,700,000				
Nesson Valley additional SF authority request			1,300,000.0			
Swine facility			6,000,000.0			
WREC carryover equipment storage shed 2023-25		475,000				
WREC additional SF authority equipment storage shed			800,000.0			
Total One-time & capital funding-North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station		\$8,462,500	8,100,000		\$4,220,000	\$0

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Reconciliation of 2023-25 Orig. Appropriation to 2025-27

Main Research Station

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

	General Fund	Other Fund
2023-25 Original Appropriation	\$56,309,959	\$58,013,314
Base Adjustments:		
Target Market Equity	1,782,012	
Employer Retirement Contribution	33,694	9,151
Restore Amount Removed for New & Vacant FTE Pool	3,714,807	1,844,395
Remove Bond Payments	(178,477)	
3% Budget Reduction	(1,849,860)	(1,542,512)
Center for Trade and Policy Studies (CAPTS) (3 FTE)	975,000	
Digital Transportation of Agriculture (6 FTE)	2,634,000	
Livestock: Animal Health (1 FTE)	325,000	
Operating, Equipment, & Graduate Research Assistantships	2,530,000	
Biofuels & Carbon Management (2 FTE)	525,000	
Research Specialists (5 FTE)	1,000,000	
2023-25 Adjusted Appropriation, Less Base Adjustments- (2025-27 Base Budget Request)	67,801,135	58,324,348
2025-27 Executive Recommendation Base Increases (Decreases):		
2025-27 - 4%/3% Salary & Fringe Benefits	2,552,768	1,460,154
Health Insurance increase	1,254,491	853,721
Center for Trade and Policy Studies (CAPTS) (3 FTE)	(975,000)	
Digital Transportation of Agriculture (6 FTE)	(2,634,000)	
Livestock: Animal Health (1 FTE)	(325,000)	
Operating, Equipment, & Graduate Research Assistantships	(2,530,000)	1,630,000
Biofuels & Carbon Management (2 FTE)	(30,000)	
Research Specialists (5 FTE)	(1,000,000)	
2025-27 Executive Recommended Base Increases(Decreases)	(3,686,741)	3,943,875
2025-27 Total Executive Recommended	64,114,394	62,268,223

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Agency Overview

Branch Research Stations

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Agency Statutory Authority

North Dakota Century Code Chapter 15-12.1

Agency Description

The North Dakota State University (NDSU) Research Extension Centers (RECs) are dedicated to enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability across various regions of North Dakota. Each center focuses on the unique needs and opportunities of its area, contributing to the state's agricultural development through research, education, and community engagement. Together, these centers play a vital role in advancing North Dakota's agricultural sector, leveraging research and innovation to meet the evolving needs of producers and communities across the state.

The Dickinson Research Extension Center (DREC) serves a 13-county region in southwest North Dakota, focusing on agronomy, beef management, and sustainable agricultural practices. With over 6,500 acres of land, DREC supports economic development while ensuring the sustainability of natural resources for future generations.

The Central Grasslands Research Extension Center (CGREC) concentrates on managing grasslands in central North Dakota, aiming to improve soil health, support beef production, and enhance the resilience of grasslands to varying weather conditions. The center's research promotes economic value while preserving the region's natural resources.

The Hettinger Research Extension Center (HREC) in southwest North Dakota focuses on agronomy and animal research, particularly in sheep and livestock feeding. Situated in a semi-arid region, HREC collaborates with various organizations to improve the productivity of livestock, grazing, and cropping systems, contributing to the region's economic development.

The Langdon Research Extension Center (LREC) supports a nine-county region in northeast North Dakota, where it addresses the unique challenges of crop production in a climate characterized by high precipitation and cooler temperatures. LREC's research focuses on disease management and providing growers with strategies to maximize returns on their crops.

The North Central Research Extension Center (NCREC), located near Minot, focuses on increasing agricultural productivity in the north central region of North Dakota. NCREC's research includes crop variety evaluation, pest management, and soil fertility, all aimed at supporting local agriculture and enhancing crop production.

The Williston Research Extension Center (WREC) in northwest North Dakota conducts research on crop variety evaluation, soil and water conservation, and irrigation development. WREC's work supports crop diversification and profitability, helping local farmers adapt to changing conditions and improve their livelihoods.

The Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC) in central North Dakota focuses on enhancing agricultural productivity and diversity through research in agronomy, plant pathology, soil science, and precision agriculture. CREC's work supports both dryland and irrigated farming systems, contributing to the sustainability and competitiveness of agriculture in the region.

Agency Mission Statement

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station researchers at the Research Extension Centers throughout the state develop and share premier research solutions and technology to enhance the quality of life, sustain food, feed, fiber and fuel production, and protect our heritage - the great land and resources of North Dakota.

Agency Performance Measures

Per North Dakota Century Code 15-12.1-17 the State Board of Agricultural Research and Extension (SBARE) presents a status report to the budget section of the legislative council. SBARE's most recent presentation to the budget section was on June 19, 2024. The report they gave and provided in written form included the status of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and the NDSU Extension Service. A copy of the information is on file in the legislative council office.

Agency Future Critical Issues

Research Continuity and Expansion

Ongoing research in soil health, agronomy, livestock production, and range management needs continued support, with an emphasis on maintaining and expanding these programs.

Deferred Maintenance and Facility Upgrades

Many facilities are outdated, unsafe, or in need of repairs, impacting both safety and the ability to conduct research. Specific needs include facility upgrades, equipment replacement, and completion of unfinished projects.

Funding and Operational Support

There is a need for increased base funding to support research and extension activities. Rising operational and labor costs, along with inflation, are straining budgets, making it difficult to maintain current programs and staff.

Land Ownership and Security

The need for secure land ownership is critical, particularly for research programs relying on rented land. The potential sale of land currently used for livestock and wildlife research adds uncertainty to future operations.

Programmatic and Staffing Requirements

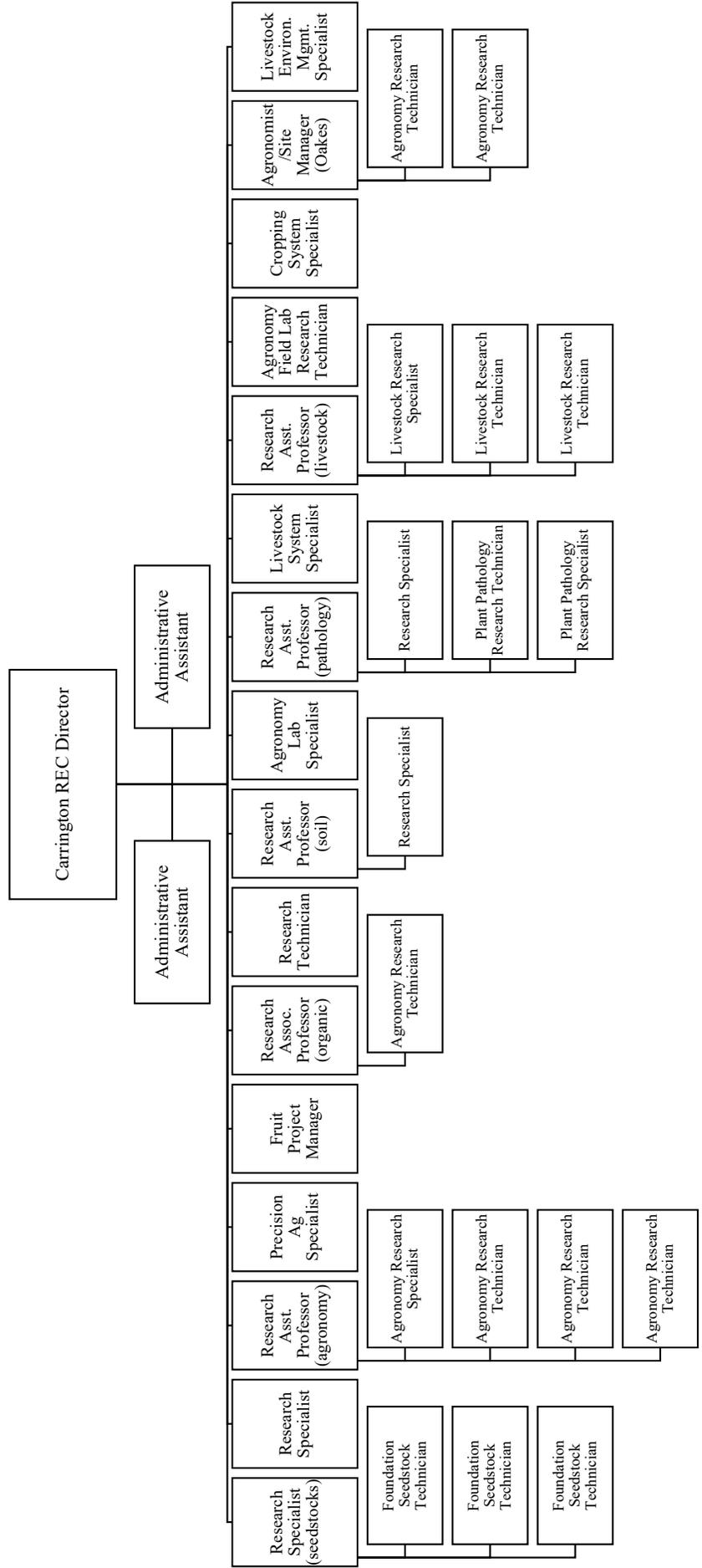
There is a demand for additional technical support and research specialists to handle the growing needs of various research programs, as well as increased salary packages to retain and attract qualified staff.

External Funding and Grants

With appropriated funds declining, there is a greater dependence on grant opportunities and private funding to support research initiatives and maintain the quality and scope of the centers' work.

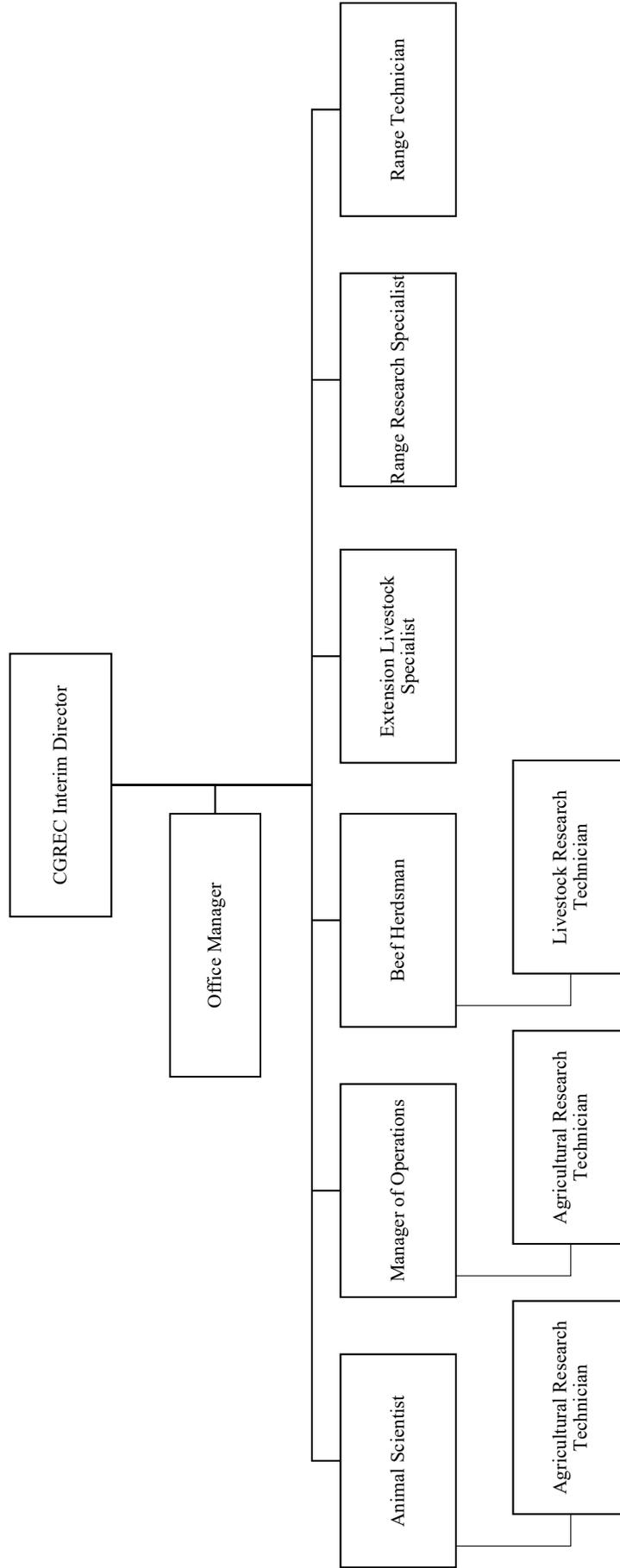
Organizational Chart

Carrington Research Extension Center North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station



Organizational Chart

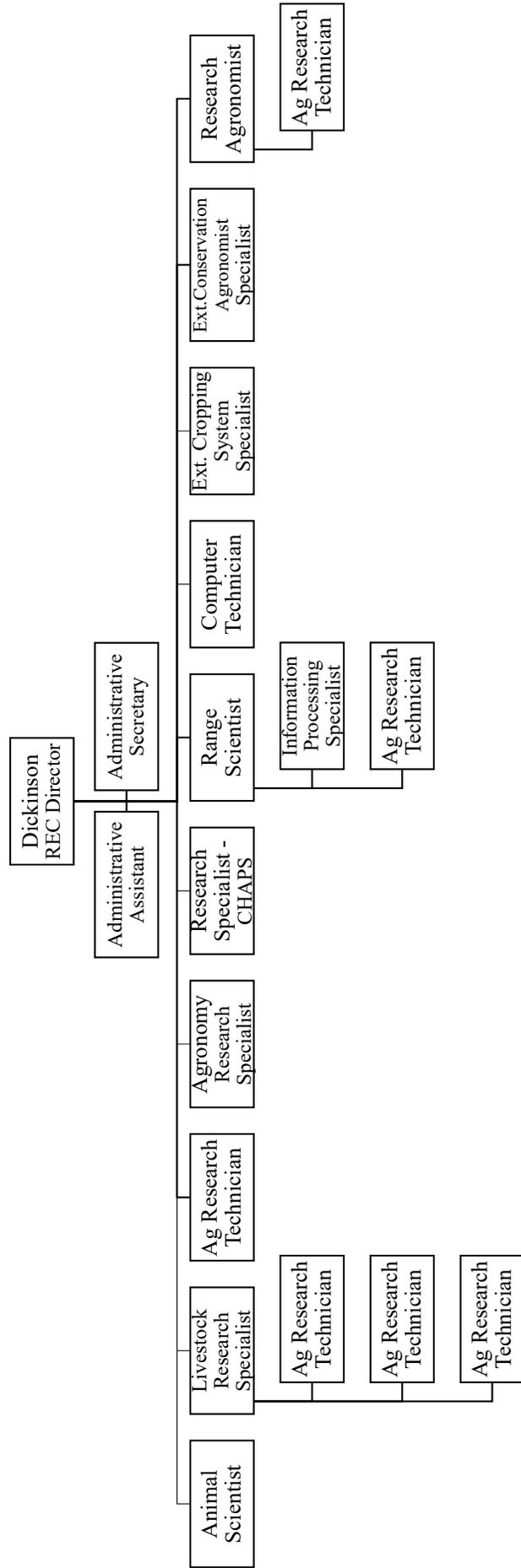
Central Grasslands Research Extension Center
North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station



Organizational Chart

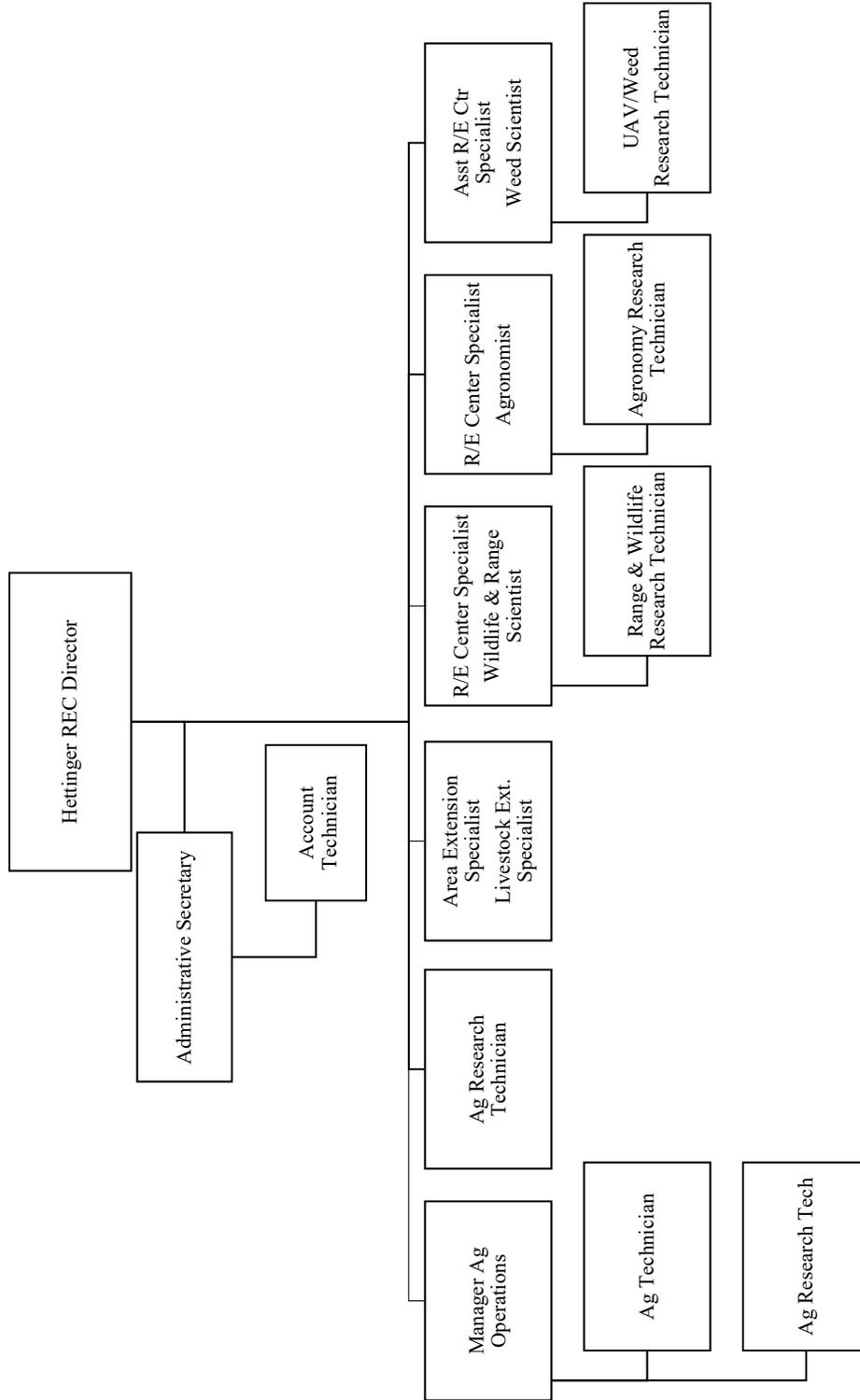
Dickinson Research Extension Center

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station



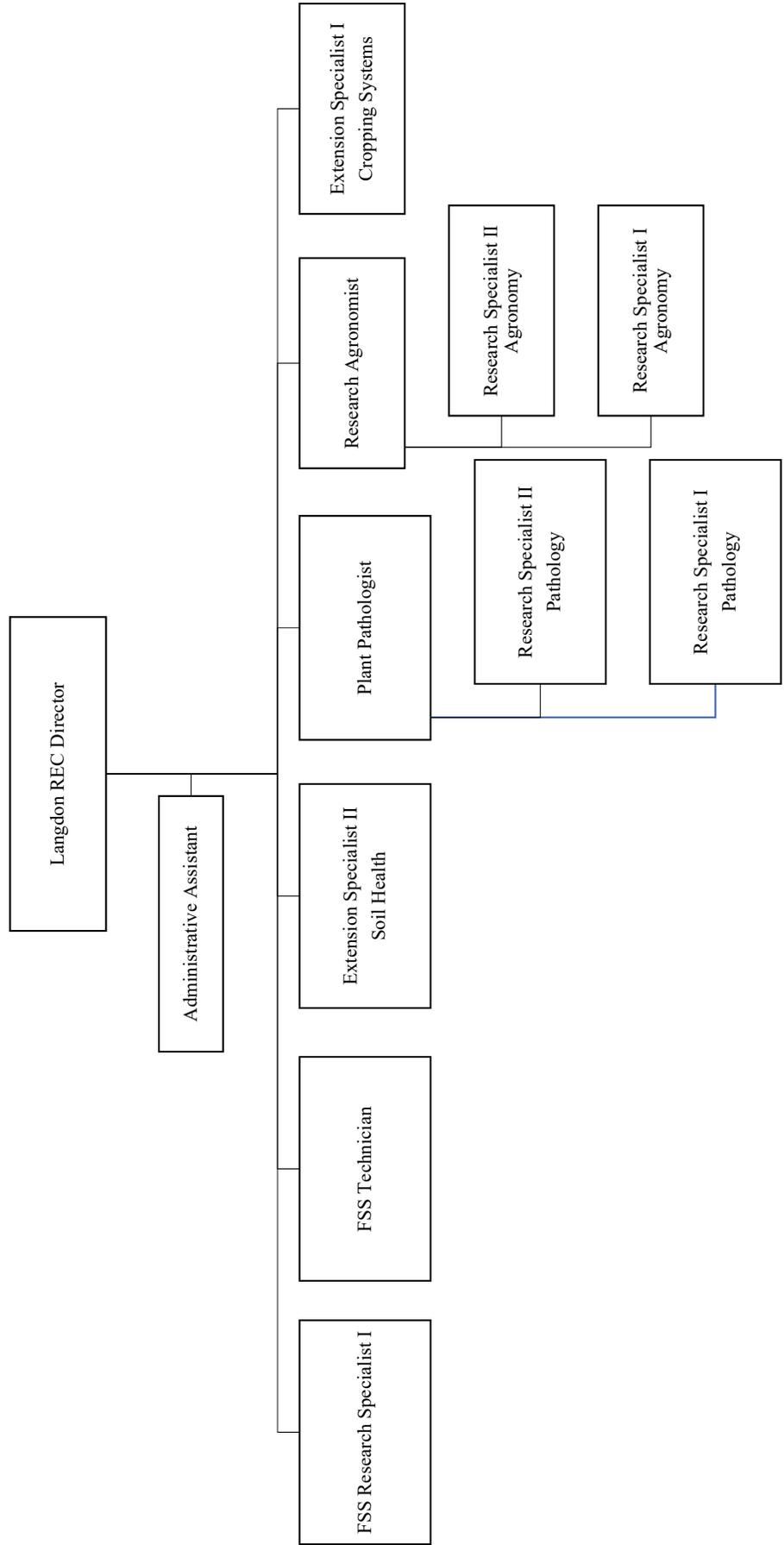
Organizational Chart

Hettinger Research Extension Center North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station



Organizational Chart

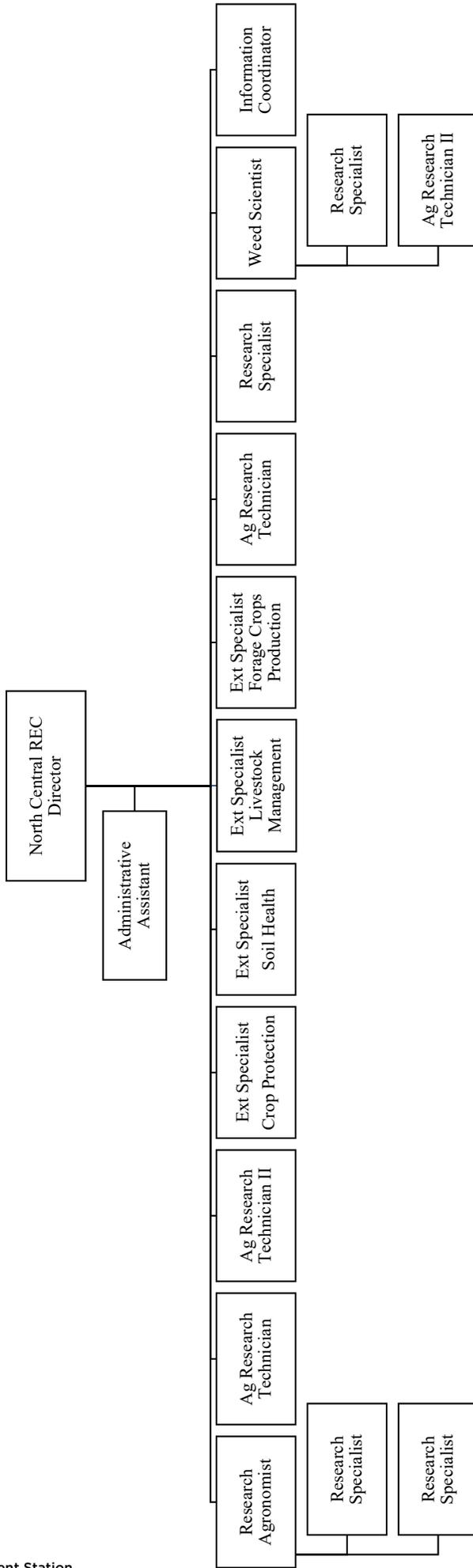
Langdon Research Extension Center
North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station



Organizational Chart

North Central Research Extension Center

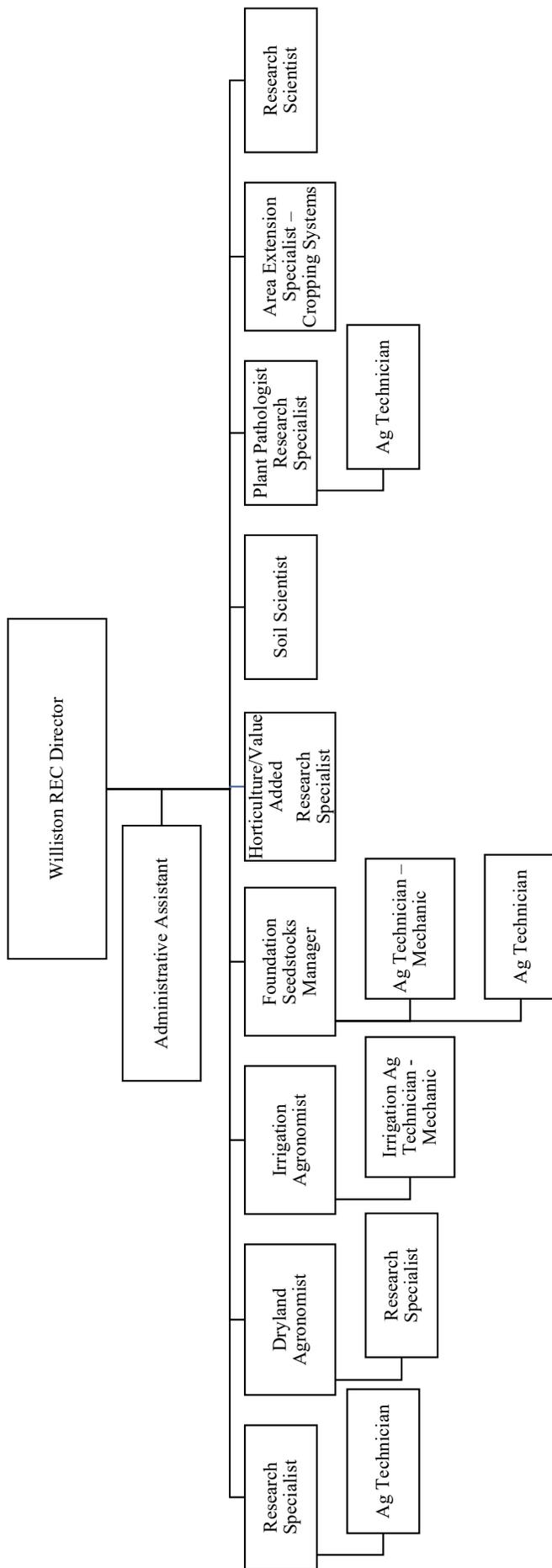
North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station



Organizational Chart

Williston Research Extension Center

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station



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WHAT WE LOOKED AT AND WHY

North Dakota state law requires that our team perform an audit once every two to four years. This included a review of financial transactions and determining that expenses are correct. Our audit reports any errors, internal control weaknesses or potential violations of law identified in significant or high-risk functions of the agency.

Additionally, we performed testing to determine whether the North Dakota State School of Pharmacy was admitting students to the Pharmacy program (PharmD) based on their admission policies.

WHAT WE FOUND

This audit did not identify any areas of concern.

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Agency Vacancy Saving Worksheet

Branch Research Stations North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Business Unit number: 628
 Business Unit name: Branch Research Centers
 Reporting Period: 7/1/23-12/31/24

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Cumulative Total	
Est. Vacancy Savings	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	93,484	1,644,925
Use of vacant position savings:																				
Accrued Leave Payouts		113		1,433		2,604	12,249	7,172	9,429		4,629									39,592
Extra Salary Increases																				
Bonuses																				
Incentive/location Pay		1,093		2,000			15,486	3,000		2,000	4,000	7,750				2,500				37,829
Reclassifications																				
Extra Temporary salary Funding		21,821	111,202	14,850	12,425	13,775	6,275	4,950	4,950	4,325	-	-	190,001	118,267	10,289	6,800	6,800	11,700	3,500	583,119
Extra Overtime Funding		1,628	14,103	18,084	9,678	5,168	-	-	-	3,208	21,240	59,736	-	24,295	26,484	3,300	12,984	8,662	8,662	208,570
Other (Identify) Grad Assistant Funding		0	2,284	5,764	6,542	-	6,542	7,254	8,920	8,630	7,299	12,082	-	6,162	3,889	3,889	14,446	16,056	16,056	116,301
Total	70,035	(35,311)	54,786	61,406	74,541	73,113	52,932	71,108	70,185	75,321	51,533	(176,085)	56,720	(55,240)	52,822	76,995	52,391	27,479	654,731	

Vacant Positions: 21 21 20 20 19 17 18 22 23 22 20 18 18 18 17 15 16 18 13

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New and Vacant FTE

Branch Research Stations

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

2023-25 New Positions Approved

Position Title	Hire Date	OMB Pool Transfers	Budget Request	Estimated Salary Expenses 2023-25	Estimated Salary Expenses 2025-27
LREC Technician	8/21/2023	\$157,183	\$176,000	\$157,183	\$171,744
DREC Agronomist	2/1/2024	\$155,135	\$210,000	\$155,135	\$225,498

New and Vacant FTE Funding Pool Information

	641-Dickinson	642-Central	643-Hettinger	644-Langdon	645-North Central	646-Williston	647-Carrington
<i>HB1020 General Fund Decrease</i>	<i>(\$349,802)</i>	<i>(\$79,532)</i>	<i>(\$116,589)</i>	<i>(\$248,245)</i>	<i>(\$86,364)</i>	<i>(\$158,357)</i>	<i>(\$160,430)</i>

OMB Pool:

<i>Approved Transfers</i>	\$155,135	\$55,672	\$81,612	\$157,183	\$60,455	\$110,850	\$112,301
<i>Anticipated Transfers</i>	\$131,726	\$0	\$0	\$51,789	\$0	\$0	\$0

<i>Budget deficiency</i>	<i>(\$62,941)</i>	<i>(\$23,860)</i>	<i>(\$34,977)</i>	<i>(\$39,273)</i>	<i>(\$25,909)</i>	<i>(\$47,507)</i>	<i>(\$48,129)</i>
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Major Components of Current Base Level

Branch Research Stations North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

	641 Dickinson	642 Central Grasslands	643 Hettinger	644 Langdon	645 North Central	646 Williston	647 Carrington	Total
Salaries	\$ 2,954,642	\$ 1,686,924	\$ 2,737,346	\$ 1,898,518	\$ 2,606,051	\$ 3,634,511	\$ 6,751,079	\$ 22,269,071
Operating	3,130,196	1,756,346	2,038,902	532,351	2,389,166	1,106,614	2,167,923	13,121,498
Equipment	1,295,000	175,000	605,000	765,000	360,000	786,000	1,272,000	5,258,000
Total Budget	\$ 7,379,838	\$ 3,618,270	\$ 5,381,248	\$ 3,195,869	\$ 5,355,217	\$ 5,527,125	\$ 10,191,002	\$ 40,648,569

Funding:								
Federal Fund*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund	3,893,104	2,180,257	2,494,357	1,775,617	2,173,813	3,072,343	4,094,107	19,683,598
Special Fund*	3,486,734	1,438,013	2,886,891	1,420,252	3,181,404	2,454,782	6,096,895	20,964,971

Total Funding	\$ 7,379,838	\$ 3,618,270	\$ 5,381,248	\$ 3,195,869	\$ 5,355,217	\$ 5,527,125	\$ 10,191,002	\$ 40,648,569
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Source: 2025-27 Base-level budget, Legislative Council

*No changes anticipated for 2025-27 biennium

FTE positions 2023-25	14.25	10.00	13.75	9.45	14.26	17.75	32.35	111.81
FTE positions 2025-27 Executive Recommendation	14.20	9.00	12.70	9.45	14.01	15.65	32.15	107.16

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Reconciliation of 2023-25 Orig. Appropriation to 2025-27

Branch Research Stations

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Fund</u>
2023-25 Original Appropriation	\$19,165,340	\$20,950,865
Base Adjustments:		
Target Market Equity	497,119	
Employer Retirement Contribution	21,139	14,106
Restore Amount Removed for New & Vacant FTE Pool	1,199,319	319,812
Remove Bond Payments	(63,728)	
NDIT Rate Adjustment	19,095	19,425
Operating RECs	560,000	
2023-25 Adjusted Appropriation, Less Base Adjustments- (2025-27 Base Budget Request)	21,398,284	21,304,208
2025-27 Executive Recommendation Base Increases (Decreases):		
2025-27 - 4%/3% Salary & Fringe Benefits	765,443	230,408
Health Insurance increase	461,128	181,496
Operating RECs	(560,000)	280,000
2025-27 Executive Recommended Base Increases(Decreases)	666,571	691,904
2025-27 Total Executive Recommended	22,064,855	21,996,112

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Agency Overview

Agronomy Seed Farm

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Agency Statutory Authority

North Dakota Century Code Chapter 15-12.1

Agency Description

The Agronomy Seed Farm (ASF) is a 590 acre farm located near Casselton, which has been a part of the North Dakota Agriculture Experiment Station (NDAES) since it was gifted to the state in 1950. It was the result of a fund drive conducted by the North Dakota Crop Improvement Association, which solicited farmers, seed companies and many others throughout the state to help establish a farm whose main purpose is to increase seed of new varieties as they are developed by the plant breeding and supporting departments of the NDAES. The ASF also propagates seed of older but still desirable varieties for the seedsmen of the area.

Agency Mission Statement

To produce an adequate supply of foundation-grade seed for the seedsmen of the state and area at a reasonable price and to support the varietal development research of the NDAES.

Agency Performance Measures

Per North Dakota Century Code 15-12.1-17 the State Board of Agricultural Research and Extension (SBARE) presents a status report to the budget section of the legislative council. SBARE's most recent presentation to the budget section was on June 19, 2024. The report they gave and provided in written form included the status of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and the NDSU Extension Service. A copy of the information is on file in the legislative council office.

Agency Future Critical Issues

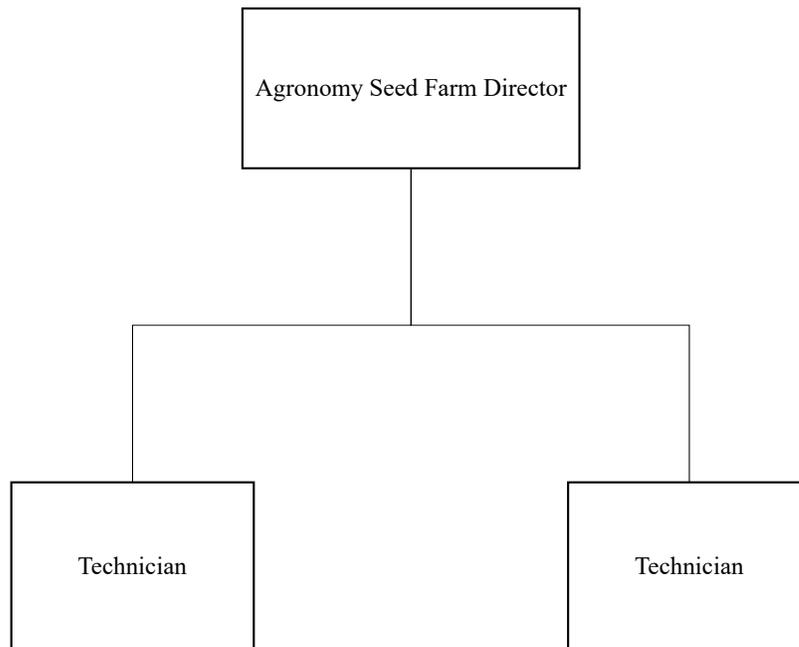
The critical issues facing the ASF are a continued demand for foundation-grade seed, favorable weather for growing seed and a good supply of varieties that are in demand by the seed industry. If these three conditions are present and good commodity prices accompany them, the future of the ASF is secure.

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Organizational Chart

Agronomy Seed Farm

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station



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WHAT WE LOOKED AT AND WHY

North Dakota state law requires that our team perform an audit once every two to four years. This included a review of financial transactions and determining that expenses are correct. Our audit reports any errors, internal control weaknesses or potential violations of law identified in significant or high-risk functions of the agency.

Additionally, we performed testing to determine whether the North Dakota State School of Pharmacy was admitting students to the Pharmacy program (PharmD) based on their admission policies.

WHAT WE FOUND

This audit did not identify any areas of concern.

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Agency Vacancy Saving Worksheet

Agronomy Seed Farm

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

Business Unit number: 649
 Business Unit name: Agronomy Seed Farm
 Reporting Period: 7/1/23-12/31/24

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Cumulative Total		
Est. Vacancy Savings												8,930	8,930	8,930	8,930	8,930	8,930	8,930	8,930	62,510	
Use of vacant position savings:																					
Accrued Leave Payouts																					-
Extra Salary Increases																					-
Bonuses																					-
Incentive/location Pay																					-
Reclassifications																					-
Extra Temporary salary Funding												2,780	2,000	1,036	3,267	1,677	2,000	2,000	2,000	14,761	
Extra Overtime Funding												2,392	5,057	9,140	4,866	1,549	3,463	1,459	1,459	27,926	
Other (Identify) Grad Assistant Funding																					-
Total												3,758	1,873	(1,246)	797	5,704	3,467	5,471	5,471	19,823	

Vacant Positions:
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Major Components of Current Base Level

Agronomy Seed Farm

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

	649
	<u>Agronomy Seed Farm</u>
Salaries	\$ 648,918
Operating	683,804
Equipment	<u>300,000</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$ 1,632,722</u>
Funding:	
Federal Fund*	\$ -
General Fund	-
Special Fund*	<u>1,632,722</u>
Total Funding	<u>\$ 1,632,722</u>
Source: 2025-27 Base-level budget, Legislative Council	
*No changes anticipated for 2025-27 biennium	
FTE positions 2023-25	3.00
FTE positions 2025-27 Executive Recommendation	3.00

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Reconciliation of 2023-25 Orig. Appropriation to 2025-27

Agronomy Seed Farm

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

	Other Fund
2023-25 Original Appropriation	\$1,629,764
Employer Retirement Contribution	2,958
Restore Amount Removed for New & Vacant FTE Pool	8,312
2025-27 Adjusted Other Fund Appropriation (Base Budget Request)	\$1,641,034
2025-27 Executive Recommendation Base Increases (Decreases):	
2025-27 - 4%/3% Salary & Fringe Benefits	29,468
Health Insurance increase	18,019
2025-27 Executive Recommended Base Increases(Decreases)	47,487
2025-27 Total Executive Recommended	\$1,688,521

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Agency Overview

NDSU Extension

Agency Statutory Authority

North Dakota Century Code Chapter 11-38

Agency Description

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension is part of a nationwide, university-based educational system that provides research-based educational programs to advance the lives and livelihoods of citizens in all 53 counties and four American Indian reservations in North Dakota. Programs focus on addressing current needs and issues affecting the state's agriculture, youth, families, communities and natural resources. In an effort to provide extensive reach and share knowledge and resources across North Dakota, NDSU Extension staff are located at state, area and local/county offices. NDSU Extension combines funding from federal, state, county and grant sources to specifically address local concerns and make a positive impact on our land and our people.

Agency Mission Statement

Empower North Dakotans to improve their lives and communities through science-based education.

NDSU Extension believes:

- In lifelong learning through transformational education
- That all people belong and deserve respect
- In stakeholder input to guide program development
- In science-based, locally relevant information
- In the value of partners and collaboration

Agency Performance Measures

Per North Dakota Century Code 15-12.1-17 the State Board of Agricultural Research and Extension (SBARE) presents a status report to the budget section of the legislative council. SBARE's most recent presentation to the budget section was on June 19, 2024. The report they gave and provided in written form included the status of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and the NDSU Extension Service. A copy of the information is on file in the legislative council office.

Agency Future Critical Issues

Biofuels and Carbon

Given the growing demand in multiple markets for agricultural products with low carbon intensity (CI), particularly in ethanol and biodiesel production, it's important for farmers in the region to adapt to meet these market preferences. This shift necessitates a comprehensive understanding of climate-smart practices and the intricacies of carbon contracts. These contracts often entail long-term commitments from farmers and ranchers to implement practices that enhance carbon sequestration in soils, thereby mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. However, navigating the complexities of carbon capture practices and associated contracts can be daunting for producers.

Education plays a pivotal role in empowering farmers to navigate the complex landscape of carbon management effectively. A carbon specialist would serve as a vital conduit between farmers, ranchers and various stakeholders, including government agencies and carbon offset markets. By staying informed about the latest developments in carbon management policies, market trends, and technological advancements, the specialist will provide farmers with up-to-date information and valuable insights.

Through workshops, training sessions, and personalized consultations, they will educate farmers on the intricacies of carbon contracts, sustainable practices, and the potential benefits of participating in carbon markets. This educational support equips farmers with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed decisions, maximize their participation in carbon offset programs, and ultimately contribute to climate change mitigation efforts while enhancing the sustainability and profitability of their operations.

Extension and State Soil Conservation Committee Operating Support

Request for increased operating funds is crucial for the continued success of NDSU Extension's mission. These funds are essential in empowering extension specialists and agents to adapt and innovate; ensuring they can effectively address emerging needs and devise novel strategies to engage with local communities. However, the cost of operating has risen, including equipment and assistantships, placing strain on our ability to fulfill our mission effectively.

One area where increased operating support is particularly impactful is in the advancement of North Dakota's future through 4-H youth development and leadership programs. These programs nurture the next generation of leaders by providing them with positive experiences, fostering club involvement, enriching school environments, and equipping youth with essential workforce readiness skills.

In addition, allocating operating support to the State Soil Conservation Committee provides an increase in direct assistance funding to be distributed to local Soil Conservation Districts for technical assistance and conservation planning support.

Livestock: Precision Management and Animal Health

The landscape of animal agriculture is experiencing a transformative evolution, driven by the integration of data related to a myriad of production variables. This integration serves a multifaceted purpose, overseeing crucial aspects such as health, nutrition, reproduction, and overall well-being of the animals. Through the utilization of cutting-edge technology, livestock management is undergoing significant enhancement, leading to improved efficiency across livestock enterprises. This shift toward digitization marks a pivotal moment in the industry, promising better outcomes for animals and farmers alike.

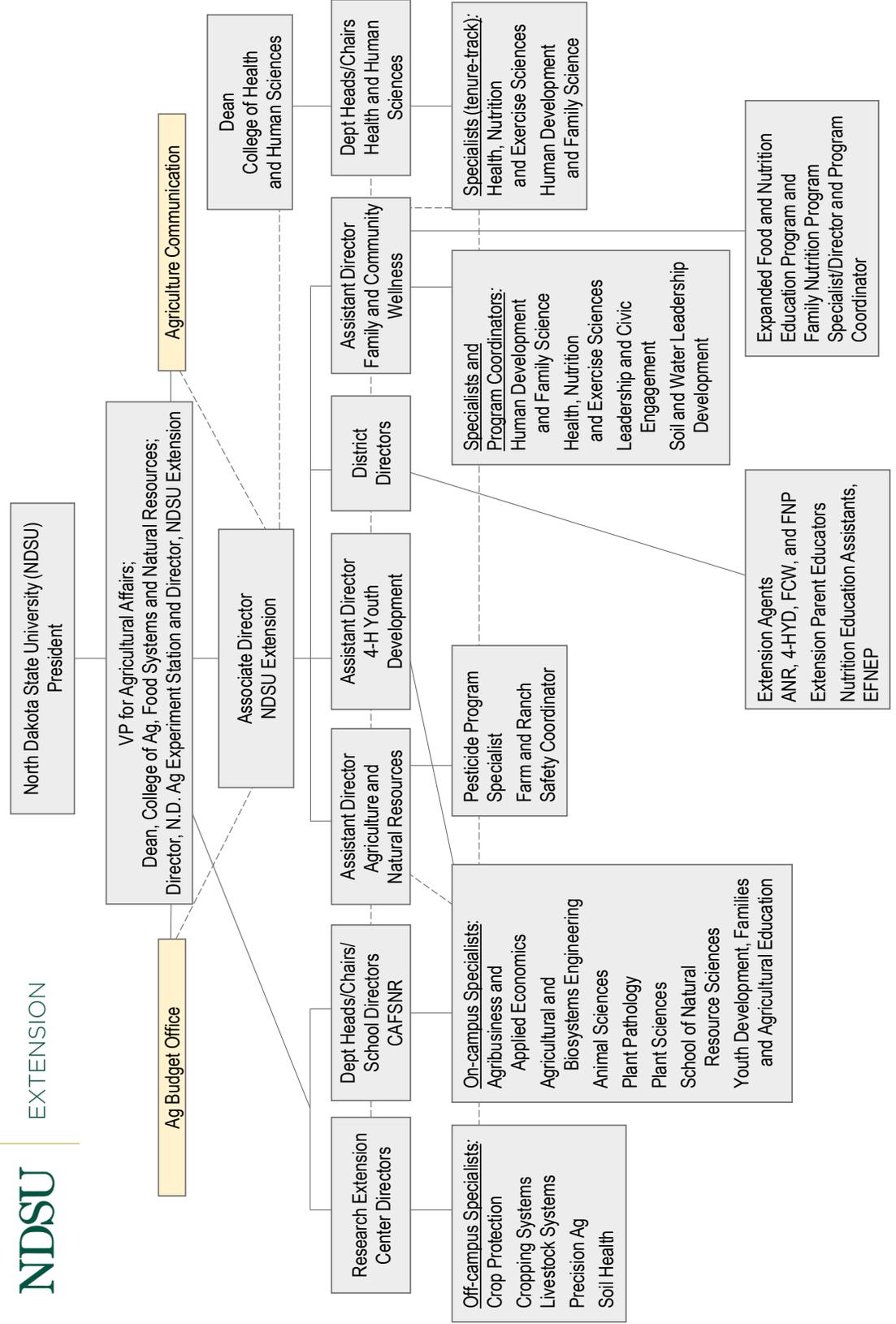
NDSU plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of animal agriculture. With an understanding of the interconnectedness between animal health, technology and economic prosperity, NDSU Extension serves as a technical resource and focuses on safeguarding livestock health in the state. Central to this mission is the elevation of monitoring and surveillance of zoonotic diseases, which pose a threat to both animal and human populations. By actively engaging in this endeavor, NDSU Extension significantly contributes to the overall well-being of the community and the continued prosperity of the livestock industry.

Agribiome

As NDSU's agribiome research progresses toward solutions that can positively impact North Dakota crop and livestock operations, the involvement of an Extension specialist becomes pivotal in translating scientific advancements into practical applications. Extension education plays a crucial role in assisting producers in navigating the rapidly expanding and increasingly intricate microbial biologicals market. Presently, there are over 1,200 companies producing various biostimulants, inoculants, biofertilizers, biopesticides, probiotics and other biologicals aimed at enhancing crop and livestock production. Extension education is vital to provide the necessary guidance to empower producers with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions in this complex landscape.

Organizational Chart

NDSU Extension



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WHAT WE LOOKED AT AND WHY

North Dakota state law requires that our team perform an audit once every two to four years. This included a review of financial transactions and determining that expenses are correct. Our audit reports any errors, internal control weaknesses or potential violations of law identified in significant or high-risk functions of the agency.

Additionally, we performed testing to determine whether the North Dakota State School of Pharmacy was admitting students to the Pharmacy program (PharmD) based on their admission policies.

WHAT WE FOUND

This audit did not identify any areas of concern.

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North Dakota State University Extension plays a crucial role in supporting agricultural sustainability, enhancing farm and ranch operations and fostering community well-being. Through its programs, NDSU Extension helps North Dakota's agricultural producers stay financially resilient, improve crop and livestock health, protect natural resources and prepare for natural disasters. Additionally, NDSU Extension's community wellness and 4-H youth development programs empower individuals and families with the knowledge and tools to improve their quality of life.



Pesticide and Fungicide Management

Ensuring environmental sustainability and healthy crops is at the heart of NDSU Extension's agricultural programs.

- **Safe Pesticide Use:** The Pesticide Safety Program trained 7,208 people on proper pesticide use, reducing environmental risks and supporting food security.
- **Fungicide Use in Wheat:** NDSU Extension's guidance on managing Fusarium head blight saved wheat producers between \$500,000 to \$2 million in input costs, and contributed to a new average yield record of 56.9 bushel/acre for all wheat in North Dakota.



Livestock Health and Beef Quality

Improving livestock health and quality is central to maintaining a sustainable livestock industry in North Dakota.

- **Animal Disease Preparedness:** A total of 65 professionals were trained on responding to animal disease outbreaks. As a result, 96% of those participants plan to implement changes to improve preparedness and response strategies.
- **Beef Quality Assurance:** Over 300 producers participated in beef quality assurance training, improving cattle handling practices and quality. This improvement resulted in an estimated \$1.5 million in added value — or \$100 per animal — to 15,000 cattle.



Agricultural Support and Financial Guidance

NDSU Extension is committed to providing resources that support agricultural producers in managing their operations and navigating financial challenges.

- **Ag Finance Program:** In 2024, the Ag Finance program helped landowners and operators navigate \$1.3 billion in annual land rents across 22 million acres in North Dakota. This crucial information assists both financially constrained farmers and fixed-income landowners with better decision-making and forecasting.
- **Livestock Risk Protection Insurance:** Educating producers about USDA Livestock Risk Protection insurance led to 169,398 head of feeder cattle being insured in 2024 with over \$4.5 million in indemnity payments. This program helps farmers manage risks related to price fluctuations and market volatility.



Horticulture and Food Security

Supporting local food production and increasing food security is a key focus of NDSU Extension's horticulture programs.

- **Vegetable Growers:** At 400 locations, growers evaluated 80 varieties of vegetables, which contributed to better yields, as well as healthier diets and improved physical activity among children involved in the program.
- **Master Gardeners:** Since 2014, NDSU Extension Master Gardeners donated 178,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to food pantries while also educating communities on sustainable gardening practices and pollinator conservation.



Family and Community Wellness: Promoting Healthy Lifestyles and Strengthening Communities

NDSU Extension is committed to enhancing community health, wellness and resilience through educational programs and resources that reach people of all ages.

Field to Fork:

- In 2024, 1,756 participants attended live webinars and 4,192 recorded views were made available to a wider audience.
- Of those who participated, 86% reported adjusting their practices, with 77% focusing on attracting more pollinators, 57% growing new vegetables and 47% increasing their intake of fruits and vegetables.

Aging in Community:

- In 2024, 4,270 community members were reached, with 85% of them reported feeling more connected to resources in their community and 84% gaining valuable knowledge.
- A reported 80% of clients noted improvements in their quality of life and 86% felt more confident living independently at home. For every \$1 spent in 2024, the state of North Dakota potentially saved \$308 in Medicaid costs by assisting individuals to remain in their homes.

Childcare and Education:

- In 2024, 692 childcare providers and school personnel received 3,480 hours of continuing education, ensuring high-quality care for children across the state.
- The Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing Workshop helped 62 participants learn how to secure funding for community projects. As a result, \$75,000 was awarded to the Langdon Ambulance Service to support local emergency services.



4-H Youth Programs: Preparing the Next Generation for Success

NDSU Extension's 4-H program equips youth with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in agriculture, leadership and STEM fields.

4-H Livestock-in-a-Box Program:

- The Livestock-in-a-Box program allowed youth in grades 2-6 to explore livestock care from home. With 200 boxes purchased in 30 counties, this program reached youth across multiple states, expanding their agricultural knowledge and engagement.

STEM Education and Recreation:

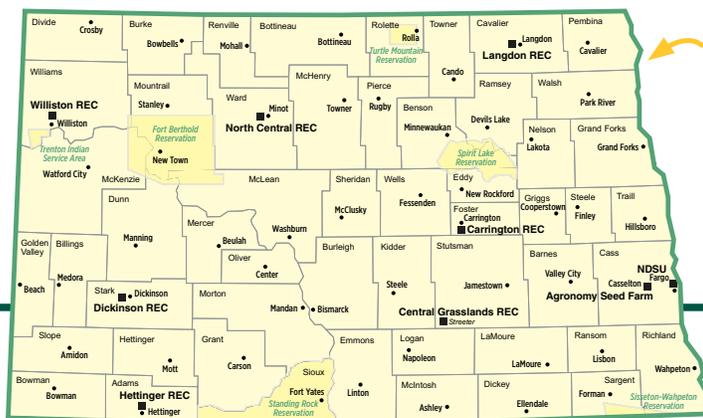
- In 2024, 439 youth participated in 19 unique 4-H camps, which included programs in livestock, archery, STEM exploration and outdoor skills. Parents reported high satisfaction, with 85% of campers showing increased independence and 94% discovering something new about themselves.



Volunteer Impact

NDSU Extension volunteers play a key role in shaping North Dakota's future, with over 1,540 volunteers dedicating nine hours per month to supporting 4-H youth programs. This commitment equates to a \$5.5 million annual investment in North Dakota's youth.

- 97% of volunteers say their work helps youth build leadership skills.
- 100% of volunteers believe their efforts make communities stronger, better connected and healthier.



NDSU Extension network of county offices and research extension centers

For more information:

Lynette Flage, Associate Director,
NDSU Extension
lynette.flage@ndsu.edu 701-231-7782

ndsu.edu/extension



County commissions, North Dakota State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to Vice Provost, Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 100, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu. This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, 701-231-7881. December 2024



1 Biofuels and Carbon Initiative

Given the growing demand in multiple markets for agricultural products with low carbon intensity (CI), particularly in ethanol and biodiesel production, it's important for farmers in the region to adapt to meet these market preferences. This shift necessitates a comprehensive understanding of climate-smart practices and the intricacies of carbon contracts. These contracts often entail long-term commitments from farmers and ranchers to implement practices that enhance carbon sequestration in soils, thereby mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. However, navigating the complexities of carbon capture practices and associated contracts can be daunting for producers.

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Request: One FTE specialist position – Extension Carbon Specialist – \$275,000.

Will provide education on climate-smart practices related to carbon contracts farmers and ranchers have the opportunity to implement. \$50,000 in operating support for the specialist.

Total: \$325,000



2 Extension and State Soil Conservation Committee Operating Support

Request for increased operating funds is crucial for the continued success of NDSU Extension's mission. These funds are essential in empowering extension specialists and agents to adapt and innovate, ensuring they can effectively address emerging needs and devise novel strategies to engage with local communities. However, the cost of operating has risen, including equipment and assistantships, placing strain on our ability to fulfill our mission effectively.

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In addition, allocating operating support to the State Soil Conservation Committee provides an increase in direct assistance funding to be distributed to local Soil Conservation Districts for technical assistance and conservation planning support.

Request: Extension operating support – \$600,000 and State Soil Conservation operating support – \$150,000 for total request of \$750,000.

Total: \$750,000

Continued on page 2

NDSU Extension Program Initiatives

Final Ranking by SBARE – February 21, 2024



3 Livestock: Precision Management and Animal Health Initiative

The landscape of animal agriculture is experiencing a transformative evolution, driven by the integration of data related to a myriad of production variables. This integration serves a multifaceted purpose, overseeing crucial aspects such as health, nutrition, reproduction, and overall well-being of the animals. Through the utilization of cutting-edge technology, livestock management is undergoing significant enhancement, leading to improved efficiency across livestock enterprises. This shift toward digitization marks a pivotal moment in the industry, promising better outcomes for animals and farmers alike.

NDSU plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of animal agriculture. With an understanding of the interconnectedness between animal health, technology and economic prosperity, NDSU Extension serves as a technical resource and focuses on safeguarding livestock health in the state. Central to this mission is the elevation of monitoring and surveillance of zoonotic diseases, which pose a threat to both animal and human populations. By actively engaging in this endeavor, NDSU Extension significantly contributes to the overall well-being of the community and the continued prosperity of the livestock industry.

Request: Two FTE specialist positions – (1) Extension Precision Agriculture Specialist - \$275,000. Will provide education around key technological advancements in livestock technologies such as sensors, transponders, livestock collars and artificial intelligence. (2) Extension Veterinary Epidemiologist - \$440,000. Efforts will focus on safeguarding the health of North Dakotans and their livestock by elevating the monitoring and surveillance of zoonotic diseases shared between animals and humans. \$100,000 for operating support for two specialists.

Total: \$815,000



4 Agri biome Initiative

As NDSU's agri biome research progresses toward solutions that can positively impact North Dakota crop and livestock operations, the involvement of an Extension specialist becomes pivotal in translating scientific advancements into practical applications. Extension education plays a crucial role in assisting producers in navigating the rapidly expanding and increasingly intricate microbial biologicals market. Presently, there are over 1,200 companies producing various biostimulants, inoculants, biofertilizers, biopesticides, probiotics and other biologicals aimed at enhancing crop and livestock production. Extension education is vital to provide the necessary guidance to empower producers with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions in this complex landscape.

Request: One FTE specialist position – Extension Agri biome Specialist – \$275,000. Will assist producers in navigating the rapidly expanding and increasingly intricate microbial biologicals market. \$50,000 for operating support for the Extension agri biome specialist.

Total: \$325,000



NDSU

EXTENSION

Agency Vacancy Saving Worksheet

NDSU Extension

Agency Vacancy Saving Worksheet

Business Unit number: 630
 Business Unit name: NDSU Extension
 Reporting Period: 7/1/23-12/31/24

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Cumulative Total	
Est. Vacancy Savings	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	118,444	2,131,992
Use of vacant position savings:																				
Accrued Leave Payouts	17,424	3,135	17,710	953	14,267	5,613	7,168	17,490	4,511	25,670	53,835	64,947	22,996	30,818	1,630	7,289	55,190	6,029	6,029	356,675
Extra Salary Increases																				
Bonuses					9,333	11,925		9,800			20,853	33,959		6,451	25,427	6,045	6,045	6,045	6,045	135,883
Incentive/location Pay																				
Reclassifications																				
Extra Temporary salary Funding	52,557	133,646	75,728	51,892	55,452	45,721	45,071	54,842	46,282	46,497	12,885	18,202	15,818	23,062	85,683	23,940	17,811	15,242	15,242	820,331
Extra Overtime Funding												1,955		5,933						8,617
Other (Identify) Grad Assistant Salaries													4,503	8,433	7,154	7,853	11,490	9,234	9,234	48,667
Total	48,463	(19,066)	25,006	65,599	39,392	55,185	66,205	36,312	67,651	46,277	30,871	(619)	75,127	43,747	(1,450)	73,317	27,908	81,894	81,894	761,819
Vacant Positions:	31	28	31	29	27	33	35	34	37	37	36	35	29	27	25	28	25	25	25	25

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New and Vacant FTE

NDSU Extension

2023-25 New Positions Approved

Position Title	Hire Date	OMB Pool Transfers	Budget Request	Estimated Salary Expenses 2023-25	Estimated Salary Expenses 2025-27
Soybean pathologist	11/1/2023	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,321	\$244,836
Swine specialist	6/14/2024	\$0	\$200,000	\$118,125	\$226,398

*Pool depleted with other filled vacancies

New and Vacant FTE Funding Pool Information

630-NDSU Extension

<i>HB1020 General Fund Decrease</i>	<i>(\$2,091,347)</i>
-------------------------------------	----------------------

OMB FTE Pool

<i>Approved Transfers</i>	<i>\$1,545,943</i>
<i>Anticipated Transfers</i>	<i>\$0</i>

<i>Budget deficiency</i>	<i>(\$545,404)</i>
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Major Components of Current Base Level

NDSU Extension

	<u>630 Extension</u>
Salaries	\$ 53,482,772
Operating	5,996,173
Soil conservation committee operating	<u>1,361,520</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$ 60,840,465</u>
Funding:	
Federal Fund*	\$ 8,824,965
General Fund	31,790,689
Special Fund*	<u>20,224,811</u>
Total Funding	<u>\$ 60,840,465</u>
Source: 2025-27 Base-level budget, Legislative Council	
*No changes anticipated for 2025-27 biennium	
FTE positions 2023-25	252.70
FTE positions 2025-27 Executive Recommendation	259.44

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2025-27 Budget Request

NDSU Extension

	2025-27 Extension Request		2025-27 Executive Recommendation		
	FTE	2025-27 SBARE Priority List	2025-27 SBARE Priority List	FTE	Executive Recommendation
		General Fund	Special Fund		Special Fund
SBARE #1 Biofuels and Carbon Initiative	1.0	\$325,000	-	1.0	\$290,000
Extension Carbon Specialist	1.0	275,000		1.0	275,000
Operating		50,000			15,000
SBARE #2 Extension and State Soil Conservation Committee Operating Support	-	\$750,000	-	-	-
Extension operating support		600,000			
State soil conservation committee operating support		150,000			\$150,000
SBARE #3 Livestock: Precision Management and Animal Health Initiative	2.0	\$815,000	-	-	-
Extension Precision Agriculture Specialist	1.0	\$275,000			
Extension Veterinary Epidemiologist	1.0	\$440,000			
Operating		100,000			
SBARE #4 AgriBiomie Initiative	1.0	\$325,000	-	-	-
Extension AgriBiomie Specialist	1.0	275,000			
Operating		50,000			
Unranked					
Restore 2023-25 new and vacant FTE funding pool,General fund					2,100,000
					1,800,000
SBARE - Base Increase - NDSU Extension Service	4.0	\$2,215,000	-	1.0	\$2,390,000
					\$1,950,000

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Reconciliation of 2023-25 Orig. Appropriation to 2025-27

NDSU Extension

	General Fund	Other Fund
2023-25 Original Appropriation	\$30,908,214	\$28,986,143
Base Adjustments:		
Target Market Equity	859,731	46,548
Employer Retirement Contribution	22,744	17,085
Restore Amount Removed for New & Vacant FTE Pool	2,091,347	1,763,198
3% Budget Reduction	(1,017,114)	(641,074)
NDIT Rate Adjustment	21,755	20,401
Biofuels and Carbon Initiative	325,000	
Extension and State Soil Conservation Committee Operating Support	750,000	
Livestock: Precision Management and Animal Health Initiative (2 FTE)	815,000	
Agri biome Initiative (1 FTE)	325,000	
2023-25 Adjusted Appropriation, Less Base Adjustments- (2025-27 Base Budget Request)	35,101,677	30,192,301
2025-27 Executive Recommendation Base Increases (Decreases):		
2025-27 - 4%/3% Salary & Fringe Benefits	1,336,017	1,179,254
Health Insurance increase	720,893	738,217
Biofuels and Carbon Initiative	(35,000)	
Extension and State Soil Conservation Committee Operating Support	(750,000)	150,000
Livestock: Precision Management and Animal Health Initiative (2 FTE)	(815,000)	
Agri biome Initiative (1 FTE)	(325,000)	
2025-27 Executive Recommended Base Increases(Decreases)	131,910	2,067,471
2025-27 Total Executive Recommended	35,233,587	32,259,772

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NORTHERN CROPS INSTITUTE

An international center for meeting and learning about northern grown crops of the United States.



Agency: 63800 - Northern Crops Institute

AGENCY NARRATIVES

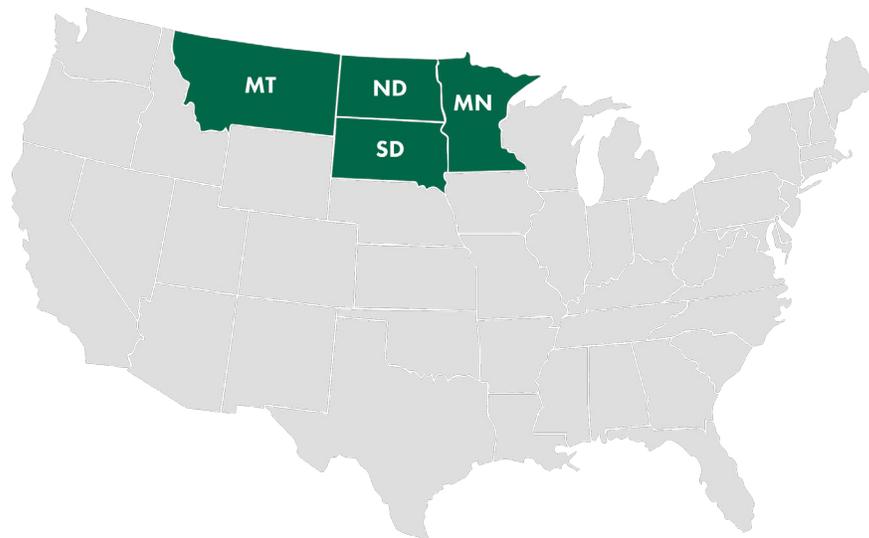
Agency Statutory: North Dakota Century Code Chapter 4.1-15

Agency Description: The Northern Crops Institute (NCI) is a collaborative effort between North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota to promote, develop, and market crops grown in the four-state region, and value-added agriculture, both internationally and domestically. NCI is an international meeting and learning center that brings together customers, commodity traders, technical experts, agricultural producers, and food and industrial processors for education, discussion, and technical services. NCI provides technical and marketing assistance through specialized training programs and technical services that facilitate domestic and international market development and expand the sale of northern grown crops. Representatives from more than 155 countries have visited NCI since its inception in 1979. Representatives from 81 countries participated in NCI's educational programs in 2022 and 2023.

Agency Mission Statement: NCI's mission is to support regional agriculture and value-added processing by conducting educational and technical programs that expand and maintain domestic and international markets for northern grown crops.

NCI AUDIT

Per ND state law, the NCI financial audit was conducted as a part of NDSU. The audit did not identify any areas of concern.



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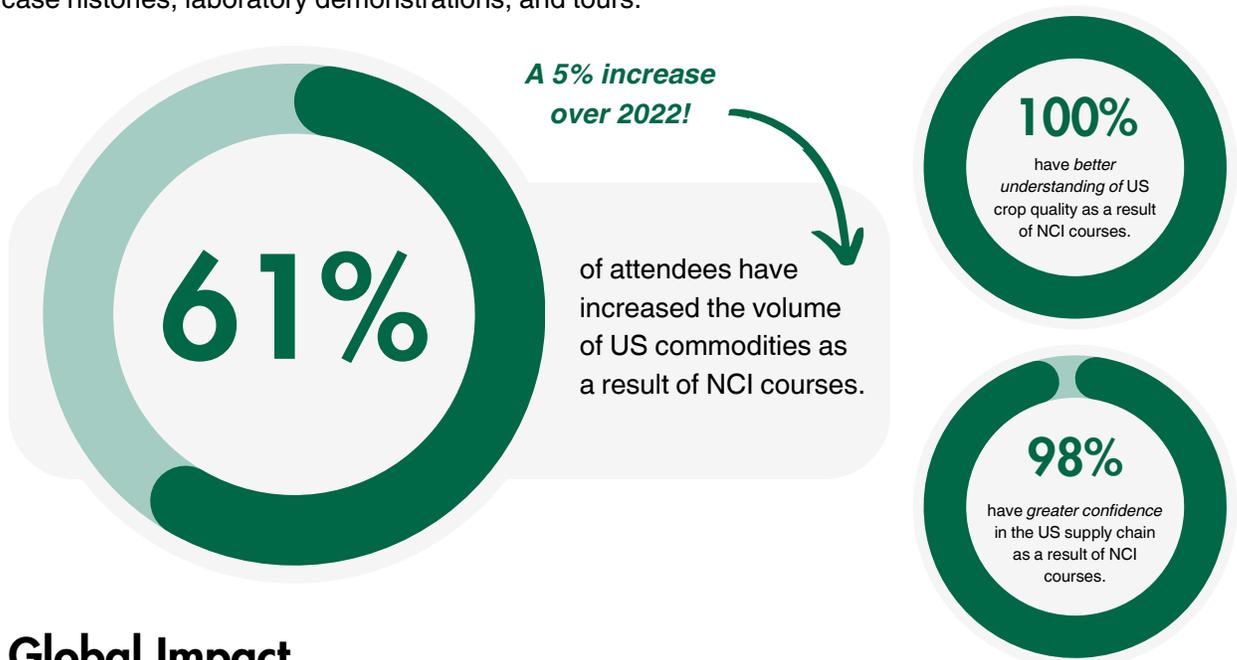


2025 NCI Impact Analysis

The **Northern Crops Institute (NCI)** meets its mission with services that lead to actual increased commodity purchases and regional investments. NCI actively contributes to adding value for products created by the region's farmers and processors.

Program Impact

The Northern Crops Institute offers a variety of short courses and webinars that unite customers, commodity traders, technical experts, and professors for discussion and education. During our courses, participants refresh their expertise and are exposed to technology, participate in lectures, case histories, laboratory demonstrations, and tours.



Global Impact



“ Knowledgeable staff, excellent facility, good engagement throughout sessions, up to date information, relevant content. ”

WWW.NORTHERN-CROPS.COM

CONNECTING IN THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

Technical Services Impact

As a result of your experience with NCI...

A 14% increase over 2022!

Technical service clients have increased their purchase activity of commodities and ingredients by 38%.

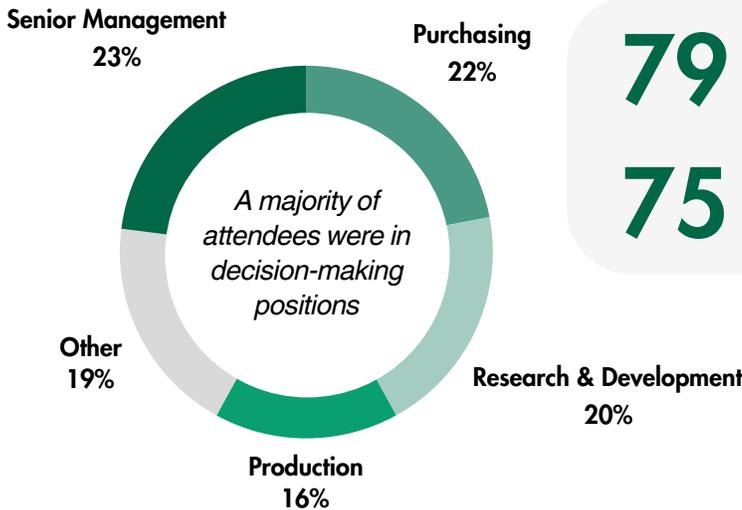
38%

“NCI provides useful, industry-focused information to our partners as part of our work developing value-added uses for new and emerging crops.”

“NCI has a long history of serving the 4-state area with professionalism, the people, and relationships with staff gives me confidence.”

“NCI’s work helped provide more clarity on the potential uses for the crops, including valuable data on product formulation and processing methods.”

Course Attendee Roles



Net Promoter Score

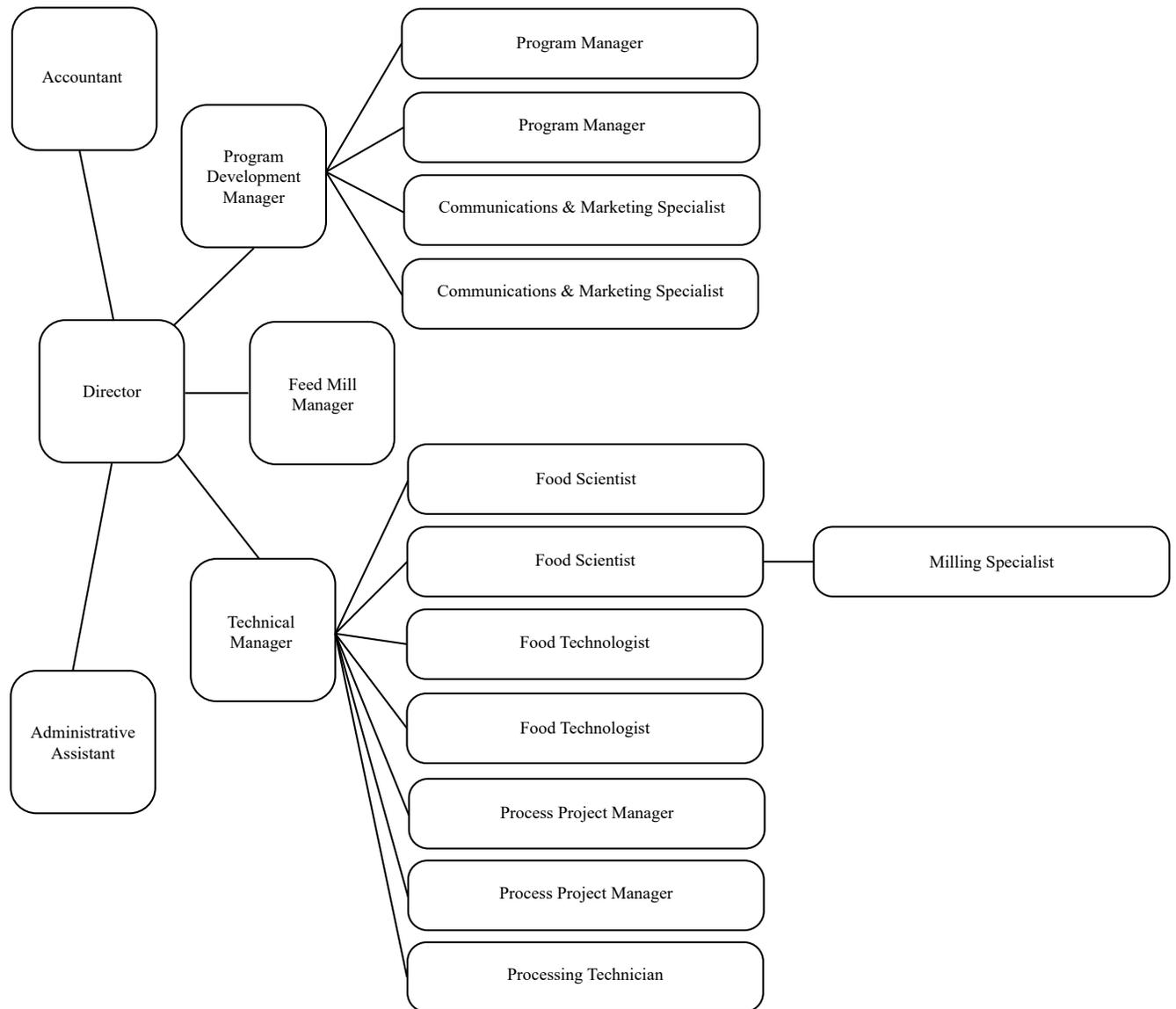
79 NPS rating for likeliness to recommend attending an NCI course.

75 NPS rating for likeliness to recommend NCI for technical services.

An increase of 24 points for courses and 15 points for technical services over 2022!

Surveys conducted by **Prime46**, a third-party research and consulting organization. The surveys were sent to 381 course participants and 66 technical clients from the '22 and '23 calendar years.

CURRENT NCI ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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CURRENT BIENNIUM MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. NCI successfully completed a physical relocation to the newly opened Peltier Complex.
2. Completed a third Impact Analysis survey to quantify and economic benefit of NCI programing and services. The new 2022-23 survey reported an 61% increase in US commodity purchases, and a 38% increase in ingredient purchases after participating in NCI programming and tech services, respectively.
3. NCI has delivered a 20% increase in technical service projects in the last biennium. This has helped to grow markets for crops grown in North Dakota and the surrounding states, but also assisted in growing value-added agriculture in the region.
4. Improvements to the NCI Feed Production Center have positioned NCI well to provide training and consultation to North Dakota livestock and feed producers as the livestock industry begins to expand in the state.
5. NCI Collaborated with US Grains Council on a study designed to show the performance value of U.S. corn compared to crops from other countries.
6. NCI has successfully navigated a significant budget shortfall through strong financial management and staffing changes, leading to a positive FY24 year-end balance and a projection for healthy reserves in FY25. This is coupled with improved financial accounting practices and transparency.
7. Defined a new 5-Year Strategy with engagement from the Northern Crops Council, NCI Advisory Board, NCI Staff, and other key stakeholders, which will provide focus and key objectives for NCI to meet its mission and expand impact.
8. NCI has implemented several new programs designed to increase opportunities for farmers growing specialty crops and small businesses utilizing those goods in North Dakota and within the U.S, such as stone milling courses and kitchen to consumer programs.
9. Strengthened relationships and maintained service with our state and national commodity partners while navigating budget and staffing changes.

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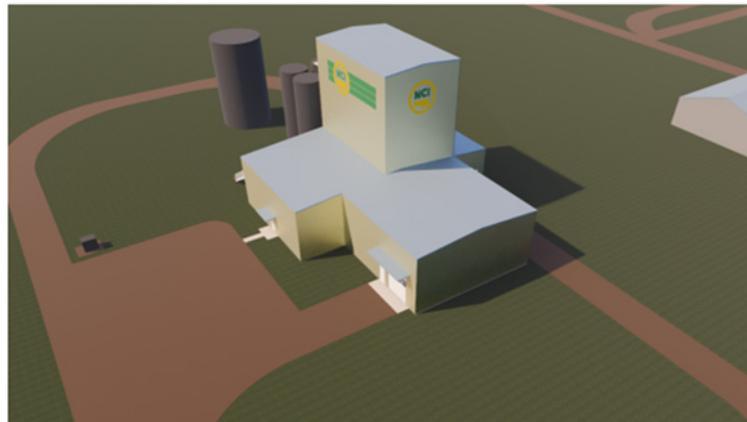
NCI 2023 LEGISLATIVE CAPITAL PROJECTS

NCI Feed Production Center

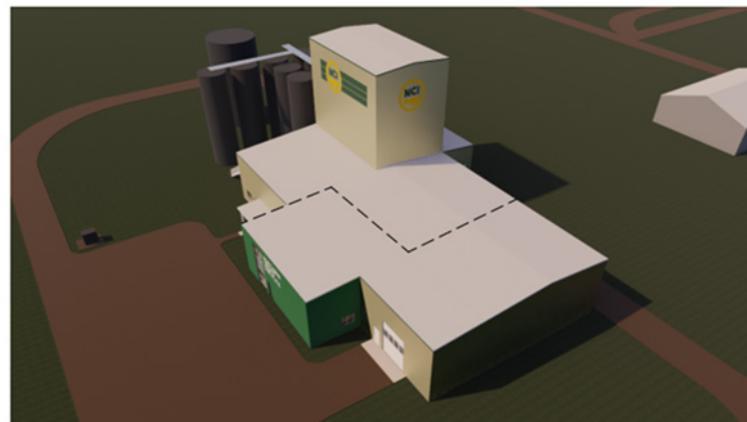
- \$3.9M from the 68th Legislative Assembly, HB1020
- Replaced aged pellet mill and grain bins
- Added spaces for lab, meeting room, classroom, and storage
- Expected completion in March 2025



NCI Feed Mill Original Renderings



FEED MILL EXISTING



FEED MILL ADDITION

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CURRENT BIENNIUM CRITICAL ISSUES

1. NCI has become increasingly dependent on earned income and sponsorships to sustain current services and consider growth. The volatility of markets, grants, and commodity group partner income make that earned income uncertain. NCI needs to focus on sustainable income sources and growth to continue expanding its impact on the economy of North Dakota and the region.
2. NCI will have additional operating expenses for energy, maintenance, and consumable supplies in the new building and laboratories. The NCI cannot rely on grant funds to cover these costs. To meet its' mission NCI needs a sustainable source of operating funds to cover these increased costs.
3. Growth in crops being utilized for biofuels, new crops, and increased demands for information on sustainability, traceability, and artificial intelligence is creating a need for NCI to develop further areas of expertise. More staffing may be needed to manage growing needs in these areas.
4. In the first quarter of 2024, NCI entered a leadership transition, a budget transition, and a facility transition. NCI needs time to focus on stabilization, continuing to provide service at a high level, and planning for financial sustainability, while sharpening its vision and implementing a new 5-year strategy.

DESCRIPTION OF AGENCY CHARGES AND FEE COLLECTIONS

The NCI has a special fund authority of \$3,541,116. Funds are raised through NCI courses, technical services, sponsorships and grants.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL OPERATING EXPENSES (\$788,400 BIENNIUM)

Peltier Complex Utility Costs: Upon moving into the Peltier Complex, it was determined that NCI would assume responsibility for utilities and consumable costs. These expenses are currently estimated at \$738,000 per biennium, which represents 80% of our planned annual income for FY25. This creates considerable pressure on our already tight budget and limits our ability to enhance our impact.

Global Crop Quality Surveys: NCI has increased our ability to access samples of US and foreign commodities. We have the potential to provide invaluable crop quality information to our state and national commodity group partners. Per ND Century Code 4.1-15-03, the NCI is directed to conduct annual surveys to monitor the quality and condition of commodities in the market channel. NCI can quickly provide additional, valuable quality information to partners with additional funds to procure samples from a supplier.

Part-Time and Student Labor: NCI proposes to hire flexible staffing to meet the needs of its currently reduced workforce. Current staffing numbers limit our ability to provide the exceptional service we desire. NCI staff roles have been shifted and efforts prioritized to meet minimum needs. Temporary staffing flexibility allows us to respond to opportunities and needs as they arise.

ND Start-Up and Registration Scholarships: The NCI has the potential to assist ND start-ups and educate various stakeholders throughout the supply chain. As we have begun offering training and services focused on specialty crops, we commonly find individuals that are not able to afford NCI services but have excellent business or product ideas to develop. Increasing our assistance to ND producers and entrepreneurs will lead to greater investment and activity in ND.

NCI Marketing Efforts: NCI and our services are not widely known across ND and regional agriculture. We will target the regional and domestic food industry, feed industry and ag marketing groups to increase awareness and participation in our services. We have also been asked to increase our engagement in national commodity group meetings with foreign customers and don't have the funds available to meet this opportunity.

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ONE-TIME REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT

NCI has added a protein extraction lab in the Peltier Complex. This special request would be used to purchase a piece of equipment to maximize the productivity of this new lab. Pilot-scale air classification systems can separate protein, starch, and fiber from various flours for further food development or research. This capability allows NCI to expand our client services and promote protein, starch, and fiber in the cereal grains, oilseeds, and pulse crops grown in our region. Interest is rapidly growing in using plant proteins in foods and beverages in the U.S. with the current market value reaching \$7 billion. Also reported was a compound annual growth rate of 37% for plant-based food and beverages globally. A significant share of recent NCI client work has involved protein fortification and food development, yet we either outsource the protein or starch isolation, or buy these ingredients from the marketplace. This equipment is not available in the region and our request has support from NDSU, UMN, and SDSU researchers who would access industrial-quality protein, starch, and fiber for other research projects. This equipment would be a key piece to the Peltier Complex protein lab, distinguishing NCI's capabilities to the food industry, and have a short return on investment.



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Agency Vacancy Saving Worksheet

Northern Crops Institute

Business Unit number: 638
 Business Unit name: NCI
 Reporting Period: 7/1/24-12/31/24

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Cumulative Total
Est. Vacancy Savings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,018	21,170	29,986	25,396	25,396	25,396	25,396	29,982	20,746	20,746	20,746	255,978
Use of vacant position savings:																			
Accrued Leave Payouts								15,662	42,414	16,137					5,548				79,761
Extra Salary Increases																			
Bonuses																			
Incentive/location Pay																			
Reclassifications																			
Extra Temporary salary Funding							3,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	24,000
Extra Overtime Funding																			
Other (identify)																			
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(7,644)	(24,244)	10,849	23,396	23,396	24,396	23,396	22,434	18,746	18,746	18,746	152,217
Vacant Positions:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2

DO NOT MODIFY WORKSHEET FORMAT

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Northern Crops Institute

New and Vacant FTE Funding Pool Information

638-NCI

<i>HB1020 General Fund Decrease</i>	<i>(\$58,637)</i>
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OMB FTE Pool

<i>Approved Transfers</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Anticipated Transfers</i>	<i>\$41,046</i>

<i>Budget deficiency</i>	<i>(\$17,591)</i>
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**NCI had no vacancies on 7/1/23*

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Major Components of Current Base Level

Northern Crops Institute

	639 Northern Crops Institute
Salaries	\$ 4,539,569
Operating	1,185,202
Equipment	-
Total Budget	<u>\$ 5,724,771</u>
Funding:	
Federal Fund*	\$ -
General Fund	2,183,655
Special Fund*	<u>3,541,116</u>
Total Funding	<u>\$ 5,724,771</u>
Source: 2025-27 Base-level budget, Legislative Council	
*No changes anticipated for 2025-27 biennium	
FTE positions 2023-25	18.15
FTE positions 2025-27 Executive Recommendation	18.35

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Reconciliation of 2023-25 Orig. Appropriation to 2025-27

Northern Crops Institute

	General Fund	Other Fund
2023-25 Original Appropriation	\$2,110,256	\$3,540,445
Base Adjustments:		
Target Market Equity	72,602	
Employer Retirement Contribution	797	671
Restore Amount Removed for New & Vacant FTE Pool	58,637	60,680
Operating Request	788,400	
2023-25 Adjusted Appropriation, Less Base Adjustments- (2025-27 Base Budget Request)	3,030,692	3,601,796
2025-27 Executive Recommendation Base Increases (Decreases):		
2025-27 - 4%/3% Salary & Fringe Benefits	94,041	117,920
Health Insurance increase	43,024	71,090
Operating Request	(488,800)	488,800
2025-27 Executive Recommended Base Increases(Decreases)	(351,735)	677,810
2025-27 Total Executive Recommended	2,678,957	4,279,606

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25.0187.01000

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2020

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the North Dakota
2 state university extension service, northern crops institute, upper great plains transportation
3 institute, main research center, branch research centers, and agronomy seed farm; to provide
4 for a report; and to provide an exemption.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
7 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
8 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from other funds derived from special funds and
9 federal funds, to the North Dakota state university extension service, the northern crops
10 institute, the upper great plains transportation institute, the main research center, branch
11 research centers, and agronomy seed farm for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
12 North Dakota state university extension service, the northern crops institute, the upper great
13 plains transportation institute, the main research center, branch research centers, and
14 agronomy seed farm, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as
15 follows:

16 Subdivision 1.

17 NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

		Adjustments or		
	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>		<u>Appropriation</u>
19 Extension service	\$59,478,945	\$0		\$59,478,945
20 Soil conservation committee	<u>1,361,520</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>1,361,520</u>
21 Total all funds	\$60,840,465	\$0		\$60,840,465
22 Less other funds	<u>29,049,776</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>29,049,776</u>

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly

1	Total general fund	\$31,790,689	\$0	\$31,790,689
2	Full-time equivalent positions	252.70	0.00	252.70
3	Subdivision 2.			

NORTHERN CROPS INSTITUTE

5			Adjustments or	
6		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
7	Northern crops institute	<u>\$5,724,771</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,724,771</u>
8	Total all funds	\$5,724,771	\$0	\$5,724,771
9	Less other funds	<u>3,541,116</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,541,116</u>
10	Total general fund	\$2,183,655	\$0	\$2,183,655
11	Full-time equivalent positions	18.15	0.00	18.15
12	Subdivision 3.			

UPPER GREAT PLAINS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

14			Adjustments or	
15		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
16	Upper great plains transportation	<u>\$24,807,516</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$24,807,516</u>
17	institute			
18	Total all funds	\$24,807,516	\$0	\$24,807,516
19	Less other funds	<u>19,581,141</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>19,581,141</u>
20	Total general fund	\$5,226,375	\$0	\$5,226,375
21	Full-time equivalent positions	43.88	0.00	43.88

Subdivision 4.

MAIN RESEARCH CENTER

24			Adjustments or	
25		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
26	Main research center	<u>\$116,148,130</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$116,148,130</u>
27	Total all funds	\$116,148,130	\$0	\$116,148,130
28	Less other funds	<u>58,022,465</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>58,022,465</u>
29	Total general fund	\$58,125,665	\$0	\$58,125,665
30	Full-time equivalent positions	358.47	0.00	358.47
31	Subdivision 5.			

1	BRANCH RESEARCH CENTERS			
2			Adjustments or	
3		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
4	Dickinson research center	\$7,379,838	\$0	\$7,379,838
5	Central grasslands research center	3,618,270	0	3,618,270
6	Hettinger research center	5,381,248	0	5,381,248
7	Langdon research center	3,195,869	0	3,195,869
8	North Central research center	5,355,217	0	5,355,217
9	Williston research center	5,527,125	0	5,527,125
10	Carrington research center	<u>10,191,002</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,191,002</u>
11	Total all funds	\$40,648,569	\$0	\$40,648,569
12	Less other funds	<u>20,964,971</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20,964,971</u>
13	Total general fund	\$19,683,598	\$0	\$19,683,598
14	Full-time equivalent positions	111.81	0.00	111.81
15	Subdivision 6.			
16	AGRONOMY SEED FARM			
17			Adjustments or	
18		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
19	Agronomy seed farm	<u>\$1,632,722</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,632,722</u>
20	Total special funds	\$1,632,722	\$0	\$1,632,722
21	Full-time equivalent positions	3.00	0.00	3.00
22	Subdivision 7.			
23	SECTION 1 TOTAL			
24			Adjustments or	
25		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
26	Grand total all funds	\$249,802,173	\$0	\$249,802,173
27	Less grand total other funds	<u>132,792,191</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>132,792,191</u>
28	Grand total general fund	\$117,009,982	\$0	\$117,009,982
29	Full-time equivalent positions	788.01	0.00	788.01
30	SECTION 2. DICKINSON RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER - MINERAL RIGHTS			
31	INCOME. The Dickinson research extension center may spend up to \$755,000 of revenues			

1 received during the 2025-27 biennium from mineral royalties, leases, or easements for ongoing
2 operational expenses. Any revenues received in excess of \$755,000 may be spent only for
3 one-time expenditures for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

4 **SECTION 3. WILLISTON RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER - MINERAL RIGHTS**

5 **INCOME - REPORT.** The Williston research extension center shall report to the seventieth
6 legislative assembly on amounts received and spent from mineral royalties, leases, or
7 easements in the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, and the
8 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

9 **SECTION 4. ADDITIONAL INCOME - APPROPRIATION.** In addition to the amounts
10 included in the other funds appropriation line items and special funds appropriations line item in
11 section 1 of this Act, any other income, including funds from federal acts, private grants, gifts,
12 and donations, or from other sources received by the North Dakota state university extension
13 service, the northern crops institute, the upper great plains transportation institute, the main
14 research center, branch research centers, and agronomy seed farm, except as otherwise
15 provided by law, is appropriated for the purpose designated in the act, grant, gift, or donation,
16 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

17 **SECTION 5. EXEMPTION - TRANSFER AUTHORITY.** Notwithstanding section 54-16-04,
18 upon approval of the state board of agricultural research and education and appropriate branch
19 research center directors, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer
20 appropriation authority within subdivisions 1, 2, 4, and 5 of section 1 of this Act.

21 **SECTION 6. EXEMPTION - FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION ADJUSTMENTS -**
22 **REPORT.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the state board of higher education may
23 adjust or increase full-time equivalent positions as needed for the entities in section 1 of this
24 Act, subject to availability of funds. All full-time or part-time positions must be separate from
25 North Dakota state university. Annually, the board shall report to the office of management and
26 budget and to the budget section any adjustments made pursuant to this section.

27 **SECTION 7. EXEMPTION - UNEXPENDED GENERAL FUND - EXCESS INCOME.** Any
28 unexpended general fund appropriation authority available to and any excess income received
29 by entities listed in section 1 of this Act are not subject to the provisions of section 54-44.1-11,
30 and any unexpended funds from these appropriations or revenues are available and may be

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly

- 1 expended by those entities, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30,
- 2 2029.

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North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

NDSU Extension Service

Northern Crops Institute

2025-2027 Biennial Budget Request

Senate Bill 2020

Government Operations Division
Senator Terry Wanzek, Chairman
January 16, 2025

