

NDSU Agriculture and Extension

Faculty and Staff Awards

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Virtual program at 3 p.m. CST

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many of our events and traditions this year.

This year's awards program is no exception.

Thank you for joining us virtually to celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty and staff.

NDSU

VICE PRESIDENT FOR AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award

This annual award established by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station recognizes outstanding faculty and Research Extension Center principal investigators with 10 or fewer years of service. The recipient must have made a significant research contribution that addresses an applied problem or increases the basic knowledge of the area investigated.

■ Bingcan Chen

Assistant Professor
Department of Plant Sciences

“Dr. Chen is a very pleasant, engaging, outstanding young scientist with exceptional research and leadership abilities.”

Bingcan Chen joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2015.

Chen’s research focuses on the understanding of structure and function relationships of feed ingredients, particularly lipids and phenolics, in relation to food products and human health. He uses multiple techniques, green processing germination and oleogelation, and has successfully applied the Maillard reaction in his research.

His research on the identification of high-efficacy natural antioxidants from germinated pulse improves the value of pulse crops grown in the state, and his research on mitigation beany flavor of pulse proteins helps promote the use of North Dakota-grown pulse seed as functional food ingredients. He also helped in converting lipid soybean and corn oil into semi-solid forms that can be used to replace partially hydrogenated oils in food products.

Chen has authored or co-authored 74 refereed journal articles and six book chapters, made 25 presentations and helped generate more than \$2.6 million in grants.

He earned a B.S. degree from Sichuan University of Science and Engineering, an M.S. degree from Chongqing University and a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts.

■ Torre Hovick

Assistant Professor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Range Science)

“Dr. Hovick has used his diverse skillset to address relevant problems to serve the state to the best of his ability.”

Torre Hovick joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2014 and became a program lead of range science in 2019.

Hovick’s research focuses on conservation and management of natural resources in working rangeland landscapes. He investigates real-world issues using solution-based science to answer ecological questions of interest while contributing to the body of scientific knowledge overall. His research program has focused on native bee and bird communities and how they respond to land management actions. He also is part of a statewide project to investigate pollinator communities.

His research on thermal ecology of upland gamebirds created a methodology that has changed the way wildlife ecologists think about cover as thermal refugia. Hovick also has influenced agricultural practices in the region by investigating how grazing and prescribed fire can be used to promote cattle production and conservation of grassland wildlife.

Hovick has authored or co-authored 50 refereed journal articles and one book chapter, made 123 presentations and helped generated more than \$2.8 million in grants.

He earned a B.A. degree from the University of Northern Iowa, an M.S. degree from Iowa State University and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.

■ Audrey Kalil

Plant Pathologist
Williston Research Extension Center

“Dr. Kalil is a passionate and productive researcher and leads a multifaceted, applied research program that is serving the needs of producers and ag clientele in western North Dakota.”

Audrey Kalil joined NDSU as a plant pathologist in 2015 and has been an integrated pest management crop scout for the Williston Research Extension Center since 2015.

Kalil conducts applied research on key pathogens in the major crops of western North Dakota. Her research focus on fusarium head blight includes evaluating varietal differences in vomitoxin accumulation in durum, fungicide evaluation and the effects of using scabby durum grain as seed. She also has conducted extensive research on root rot pathogens and conducts fungicide trials each year, and evaluates foliar and seed-applied products.

Her research has a positive impact on crop producers in western North Dakota and eastern Montana. Kalil was able to initiate experiments to answer producers’ questions about scab management and root rot problems. Her fungicide trials give producers unbiased evaluations of products and help them make cost-effective decisions.

Kalil has authored or co-authored nine refereed journal articles and one book chapter, made 41 presentations and helped generate more than \$4.8 million in grants.

She earned a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Eugene R. Dahl Excellence in Research Award

This annual award established by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station recognizes outstanding faculty and Research Extension Center principal investigators with 11 or more years of service. The recipient must have a distinguished research program in basic or applied sciences that has gained significant recognition in the state, region or nation and/or internationally.

■ Marisol Berti

Professor
Department of Plant Sciences

“What makes Dr. Berti a great researcher is her observation skills, compassion for her students, great scientific mind and her desire to improve society.”

Marisol Berti joined NDSU as an associate professor in 2009 and became a professor in 2016.

Berti’s research includes the forage and biomass crop production program. This program works to improve existing forage production practices, introduce and evaluate biomass crops as a new bioenergy component of existing cropping systems and evaluates the impact of annual/perennial forages in intercropping, as cover crops, and living mulches on crop productivity and soil quality in the state.

This program is the only one at NDSU that provides nonbiased information to producers on the performance of forages in the state. Studies in alfalfa management conducted by this project have demonstrated that forage yield can be increased easily on average at least by 0.3 ton per acre per year.

Berti has authored or co-authored 75 referred journal articles and eight book chapters, made 90 presentations and helped generate more than \$9 million in grants.

She earned a B.S. degree from the Catholic University of Chile and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Thomas DeSutter

Professor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Soil Science)

“As a scientist, Dr. DeSutter is legitimately world-class, and someone the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and NDSU should be exceptionally proud of.”

Thomas DeSutter joined NDSU in 2006 as an assistant professor, and became a program leader in 2011, and a professor in 2018.

DeSutter’s expertise in automated sampling and field analysis methods has been critical to doctoral work on biogas emissions and carbon balance estimates from swine production facilities. He also started to pursue research on the state’s problems such as feedlot wastes, coal byproduct applications for agriculture, toxic trace element geography and salinity.

His research derives from his curiosity and interest in addressing problems affecting agriculture and land use. DeSutter mentors next-generation soils professionals in ethics, scientific publishing and professional services. His soil salinity research proved the 1:5 soil-to-water extract consistently predicted the more laborious saturation extract method.

DeSutter has authored or co-authored 109 referred journals and two book chapters, given 157 presentations and helped generate \$9.5 million in grants.

He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from South Dakota State University and a Ph.D. from Kansas State University.

■ Berlin Nelson

Professor
Department of Plant Pathology

“Dr. Nelson has dedicated his career to increasing the profitability of North Dakota’s soybean producers by understanding and managing diseases in the field.”

Berlin Nelson joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 1979 and became a professor in 1992.

Nelson is an expert on root and stem diseases of soybeans and other crops caused by multiple species of plant pathogens belonging to multiple groups of fungi, fungal-like organisms and nematodes. Working with other plant pathologists, Nelson put together the first soybean cyst nematode report, which has expanded his research into demonstrating the threat the pathogen poses.

His research has been able to demonstrate to the state’s soybean producers the threats they face from sudden death syndrome and charcoal rot, soybean cyst nematode, and Phytophthora root and stem rot. Nelson’s research has focused on the biology and management of these diseases, keeping an eye on the needs of the industry and producers.

Nelson has authored or co-authored 74 refereed journals and seven book chapters, given 287 presentations and helped generate more than \$17.8 million in grants.

He holds a B.A. from Central Washington State University, an M.S. from the University of Washington and a Ph.D. from Washington State University.

*Dahl Award nominees
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■ Saleem Shaik

Professor
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

“Dr. Shaik is one of the strongest researchers on the NDSU campus.”

Saleem Shaik joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2007, and became an associate professor in 2013 and a professor in 2018. He also has served as director of the Center of Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies since 2015.

Shaik’s research includes the efficiency, technology and productivity growth analysis of North Dakota agriculture, economics of crop yield distributions, federal farm policy, and trade studies and agreements. His research philosophy is built on contributing to new applied economic/statistical concepts and knowledge, linking economic and statistical concepts to conduct empirical analyses, and developing multi-level agriculture sector databases.

His research addresses a fundamental question about whether farm programs introduced as part of the farm bill are assessed for the risks associated with farm income and exports. Shaik also looks at whether we have a need to strengthen trade in the farm bill.

Shaik has authored or co-authored 45 refereed journal articles and six book chapters, given 111 presentations and helped generate \$1.4 million in grants.

He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from Andhra Pradesh Agriculture University and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

Earl and Dorothy Foster Excellence in Teaching Award

This annual award recognizes outstanding teaching faculty with 10 or fewer years of service in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. The award encourages and rewards excellence in teaching at all levels and among all disciplines.

■ Danielle Condry

Assistant Professor of Practice
Department of Microbiological
Sciences

“Dr. Condry demonstrates from day one that she is 100% invested in students’ personal and intellectual growth.”

Danielle Condry joined NDSU in 2018 as an assistant professor of practice.

Her class goals are developed to address concepts in microbiology that have been adapted and adopted from the American Society of Microbiology. Condry uses a backward design approach for her courses to address specific learning outcomes and keeps her syllabus an active document that can be updated when the need arises.

Condry creates an inclusive, welcoming and supportive learning environment. To engage students in online learning, she uses clear communication, empathy and creative strategies to enhance the experience and stimulate intellectual and personal growth. She innovates her teaching by utilizing programs and letting students get creative when doing projects.

Students say she is a professor who honestly and authentically cares about their well-being. She is a professor who puts in the work to make the move to online classes easier without decreasing class expectations.

She earned a B.S. degree and Ph.D. from the University of North Dakota.

■ Caley Gasch

Assistant Professor of Soil Health
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Soil Science)

“Dr. Gasch strives to make cutting-edge science and its application engaging and accessible.”

Caley Gasch joined NDSU as an assistant professor of soil health in 2016.

Gasch teaches classes that relate to topics that are rapidly developing and are currently relevant to agricultural innovation, land stewardship, biodiversity exploration and future environmental uncertainties. In her class, students can share their recent observations, experiences or questions about a topic through surveys that they can use to explore further in class.

She approaches the student experience by recognizing that students have diverse ways of learning and implements multiple modes of content delivery. Options range from drawing diagrams, writing short essays and solving theoretical problems, to evaluating case studies. To keep her teaching fun and engaging, Gasch constantly is gathering information and ideas to revise and enhance lessons.

Her students appreciate the option to choose how to complete most of their assignments and exams by picking a way that they can show their understanding of content the best.

She earned a B.A. degree from Western State Colorado University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wyoming.

■ Lauren Hulsman Hanna

Associate Professor
Department of Animal Sciences

“Dr. Hanna is a strong believer in using active learning activities to create a learning environment that encourages students to use critical thinking skills.”

Lauren Hulsman Hanna joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2013, and became an associate professor in 2020.

Hanna makes sure to stay current on technology and research so she can provide students with the most up-to-date information. Even before HyFlex teaching, she would record classes and labs so students could have a resource for studying and revisiting difficult content. She provides content in a variety of ways to help students learn in a way that best fits their needs.

She designs her classes to be thought stimulating and applicable to real-world situations so students can interpret and communicate their findings. She makes sure to demonstrate the expectations of students by working through examples before they start activities.

Students feel Hanna encourages them and helps them improve and grow in their academic and professional careers.

She earned B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Texas A&M University.

■ Todd West

Professor
Department of Plant Sciences

“He is a teacher in the true sense of the word.”

Todd West joined NDSU as an associate professor in 2011 and became a professor in 2017.

West uses an innovative way to get students to class on time and gain their immediate attention: He does a magic trick prior to the beginning of class. He also has integrated social media into his courses to increase active learning. A class Instagram account has created the opportunity to engage current NDSU students and network with alumni.

He strives to enhance students' experience by continually using a wide array of teaching skills to meet the needs of his students, challenging and evaluating them honestly and fairly, and fostering student mastery of course material while helping them develop communication and critical thinking skills.

Students believe his expertise provides them with a rich and more rounded learning experience. West encourages his students to pursue their passions and helps them find opportunities to do that.

He earned a B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Illinois University.

■ Lei Zhang

Associate Professor
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

“Lei is an amazing teacher who continually strives to adopt pedagogical alternatives that result in success for all her students.”

Lei Zhang joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2013 and became an associate professor in 2018.

Zhang's main goals for teaching are to generate interest, inspire students to study economics, instill the knowledge of economics, and train students to think like an economist. To do this, she shows students the charm of economics with real-world examples and explains economic concepts and analytic skills intuitively so students can form habits of thinking like an economist and make optimal decisions.

She continuously updates her course materials to include contemporary issues and to improve the effectiveness of her teaching. Zhang actively engages in student advising and works to build interpersonal and professional relationships with her advisees.

Her students say she is an inspiring teacher and she encourages them to apply what they learn in class to their own research while providing timely feedback and guidance.

She earned a B.A. degree from Henan University of Finance and Economics, an M.A. degree from Sichuan University and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Dallas.

H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching Award

This annual award recognizes outstanding teaching faculty with 11 or more years of service in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. The award encourages and rewards excellence in teaching at all levels and among all disciplines.

■ Deirdre Prischmann-Voldseth

Associate Professor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Entomology)

“As an educator, Deirdre aims to enlighten people about insects, their multifaceted role in nature and human society, as well as how entomologists develop sustainable pest management solutions.”

Deirdre Prischmann-Voldseth joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2008 and became an associate professor in 2015.

She makes updates and improvements to every course she teaches. Prischmann-Voldseth is committed to providing students with the highest educational experience. She solicits student and peer feedback on content and her teaching to guide course redesign and learning.

To enhance student learning, she makes entomology relevant, accessible and interesting. She was inspired to employ more student-centered active learning techniques, and instead of regular presentations, she has students do hands-on group activities.

Her students say she is passionate about their success and goes out of her way to help them. They say she makes classes more active and engaging by using active learning.

She earned a B.A. degree from Alfred University, an M.S. degree from Oregon State University and a Ph.D. from Washington State University.

■ Tara Swanson

Senior Lecturer
Department of Animal Sciences

“In an effort to reach every student, Tara incorporates a multitude of teaching and learning styles in her courses.”

Tara Swanson joined NDSU in 2006 as a lecturer and became a senior lecturer in 2020.

To reach each student, Swanson incorporates active learning, guest lectures, field trips and hands-on application of subject matter that focus on core material, current events, best practices and global perspective discussions.

Her courses use a combination of hands-on activities and self-assessment to augment the student experience. She does this by using reflection journals, critical thinking applications and group work to enhance student communication and interpersonal skills.

Her students say she makes her courses engaging and interactive while still being thorough and concise when teaching. They say she also encourages them to ask “why” and makes interacting with each of her students a priority.

She earned a B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska and an M.S. degree from NDSU.

William J. and Angelyn A. Austin Excellence in Advising Award

This annual award recognizes the contributions of faculty and staff who have demonstrated excellence in advising undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources and/or its student organizations.

■ Erik Hanson

Assistant Professor
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

“Accessibility to students is one of Erik’s core principles both inside and outside of the classroom.”

Erik Hanson joined NDSU as an assistant professor in 2016.

Hanson is a highly accessible instructor and adviser. As one of his core principles inside and outside the classroom, he holds regular office hours and maintains an open-door policy for drop-in visits whenever he is in his office. He informally advises many students who are not his official advisees but still value his advice on multiple levels.

Attracting and motivating students to pursue careers in agriculture is important for him, which he does by linking students to people and opportunities at and outside of NDSU. As the lead of the department’s internship program, he guides and prepares students before, during and after their internship experience.

Advisees say Hanson clearly is committed to their success, they see this in the way he teaches and advises.

He earned B.A. and B.S. degrees from Minnesota State University Moorhead, an M.S. degree from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

■ Harlene Hatterman-Valenti

Professor, High-Value Crops Specialist
Department of Plant Sciences

“Dr. Hatterman-Valenti views student advising as one of the most important responsibilities for any faculty member.”

Harlene Hatterman-Valenti joined NDSU as an assistant professor and high-value crops specialist in 2000, and became an associate professor in 2007, an assistant head in 2012 and a professor in 2013.

Hatterman-Valenti’s goal when advising students is to provide them with opportunities to enhance their thinking and learning and help them recognize their potential. She believes being available for students is important and maintains an open-door policy. She values the ability to help students any way she can.

She realizes that student advising is one of the most important responsibilities for any faculty member. During the summer, she made time to meet her advisees after their virtual orientation to give real-time assistance.

Her advisees say Hatterman-Valenti’s availability shows she truly cares about them and wants them to strive for success now and in the future.

She earned a B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska Kearney, an M.S. degree from the University of Nebraska Lincoln and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

■ Jack Norland

Associate Professor
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Natural Resources Management)

“Jack works with each student individually to help them on their path and to find or provide resources they need.”

Jack Norland joined NDSU as a research specialist in 1992 and became an assistant professor in 2008 and an associate professor in 2013.

With his official and unofficial advisees, Norland always is willing to lend a hand. He takes the time to get to know each student, understanding their career goals, needs and struggles, and advises them on resources and classes that will allow them to be successful at NDSU as well as in their futures.

Norland works with students one-on-one to help them on their path academically and personally. During the summer, he volunteered to advise and mentor incoming students for the School of Natural Resource Sciences on registering for classes and preparing them for the start of their college careers.

His advisees say he goes above and beyond to make sure their needs are met and treats them as significant and unique individuals.

He received a B.S. degree from Iowa State University, an M.S. degree from Montana State University and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

Excellence in Extension Early Career Award

NDSU Extension established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension educational programs. Individuals with 10 or fewer years of service to NDSU Extension are eligible for nomination. Nominees must hold an Extension appointment and be in the 2000 job band.

■ Anitha Chirumamilla

Extension Agent
Cavalier County

“Dr. Chirumamilla is a dedicated, knowledgeable, humble Extension agent who strives to educate and make an impact on the citizens of Cavalier County and the people of North Dakota.”

Anitha Chirumamilla joined NDSU as an agriculture and natural resources agent in 2015.

Chirumamilla has conducted several effective programs using various teaching methods to educate about weed identification, herbicide mode of action and site of action, and herbicide rotation and resistance. She also was part of a team who developed educational materials on Palmer amaranth that were used to educate North Dakota growers to help prevent its spread.

Collaborating with various researchers, she has played a key role in identifying and confirming pyrethroid resistance in soybean aphids in Cavalier County and presented that information in various counties to producers. In 2020, she took the lead role of monitoring the integrated pest management survey in the northeast district.

Chirumamilla introduced the Junior Master Gardener Program to Cavalier County in 2016 and it has continued ever since. Growing a vegetable garden has helped address the communities’ needs with educating youth on raising a vegetable garden and providing outdoor hands-on activities.

She earned a B.S. degree from Ranga Agricultural University, an M.S degree from Gujarat Agricultural University and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Clair Keene

Extension Cropping Systems Specialist
Williston Research Extension Center

“Dr. Keene is transforming agriculture in northwest North Dakota through educating producers on ways to reduce production costs and enhance their natural resource base.”

Clair Keene joined NDSU as an Extension cropping systems specialist in 2016.

One of Keene’s first initiatives was organizing a series of in-service trainings for county agriculture and natural resources agents about key concepts such as the identification of crops, agronomy basics, plant diseases, weed identification and herbicide selection, and critical problem solving when working with producers to identify likely causes of issues. She has made providing educational opportunities to county agents in organic certification and production a priority by organizing in-service events.

She has been a key member of the Williston Hard Spring Wheat Show Board for the past four years. Keene fills in roles when needed, helps plan and implement events of interest to producers and is instrumental in recruiting diverse speakers on farm diversification and sustainability.

Through collaboration, she has developed different approaches to addressing the management of herbicide resistant weeds in North Dakota, including conducting field days, workshops and producing educational Extension publications to address the topic.

She holds B.A. and B.S. degrees from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University.

■ Bryon Parman

Assistant Professor,
Agricultural Finance Specialist
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

“Dr. Parman believes in the mission of cooperative Extension and demonstrates that commitment through his collaborative efforts.”

Bryon Parman joined NDSU as the agricultural finance specialist and an assistant professor in 2018.

Parman’s programming covers economic issues such as livestock economics, crop production, farm financial management, and agricultural lending and policy. He is a nationally recognized farm real estate and asset management expert and gives presentations across the county for universities and businesses. When COVID-19 started, he and his team began weekly/biweekly outlooks about macroeconomic topics as well as issues being dealt with in North Dakota.

He works with economists and other state specialists and agents on a variety of projects. This includes livestock production programming, grants, Annie’s Project, range management and crop production analytics, and he co-chairs the succession planning program and the rural mental health program. Parman also assists with small and medium farm initiatives and has taken over the Farm Business Management program, working with the farm business management instructors at North Dakota’s state colleges.

He earned a B.A. degree from Peru State College, an M.S. from the University of Nebraska Omaha, and a Ph.D. from Kansas State University.

■ Thomas Peters

Associate Professor,
Extension Sugarbeet Agronomist
Department of Plant Sciences

“Dr. Peters has been a tremendous asset for the sugarbeet industry of Minnesota and North Dakota.”

Thomas Peters joined NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension sugarbeet agronomist in 2014, and became an associate professor in 2020.

Peters develops and delivers educational programs that focus on weed management in sugarbeets. He emphasizes the importance of crop rotation, tillage and pesticides in fields in rotation with sugarbeets to take advantage of pesticides or other integrated control methods more effective on tough-to-control weeds in corn or soybeans that may benefit the sugarbeet crop.

He uses a concept called “machine shed meetings” to deliver knowledge to groups of less than 25. These meetings have no PowerPoint presentations; they are designed to show attendees characteristics of hard-to-control weeds using potted plants or demonstrations of spray quality using the spray table stimulating pesticide application.

Peters’ role across three sugarbeet cooperatives is to create consensus. He does this by valuing the role and responsibilities of all parties, listening and earning their respect.

He earned a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota, an M.S. degree from the University of Nebraska Lincoln, and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Gerald Stokka

Extension Veterinarian –
Livestock Stewardship
Department of Animal Sciences

“He speaks in terms that lay people can understand and has focused his research work on endeavors with ready and real-world application to North Dakota’s beef cattle operations.”

Gerald Stokka joined NDSU in 2012 as the Extension livestock stewardship specialist and as an associate professor. He also became the Extension veterinarian in 2014.

Stokka’s Extension programming is aimed at bringing awareness and behavior change related to stewardship and husbandry issues to the livestock producers and veterinarians of North Dakota. His programs include broader concepts of stewardship as it relates to animal health and reducing antimicrobial use through improved animal care and husbandry.

Working with NDSU agriculture and natural resources Extension agents, he has developed a program about reducing the risk of antibiotic residues in cull cows and cull bulls. To develop an antimicrobial use program, Stokka worked closely with Extension agents, the Livestock and Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board, veterinary community and many other professionals.

Stokka is a resource for information and applied research about livestock health, well-being, and handling for producers, veterinarians and people in Extension. He works to bring awareness and understanding of stewardship and husbandry to agriculture and non-agricultural audiences.

He earned a B.S. degree from NDSU, an M.S. degree from Kansas State University and a D.V.M. from Iowa State University.

■ Abbey Wick

Associate Professor,
Extension Soil Health Specialist
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Soil Science)

“Dr. Wick is extremely skillful at developing educational programs and compiling a team to deliver these programs effectively to the state’s cliental.”

Abbey Wick joined NDSU as an assistant professor and Extension soil health specialist in 2012 and became an associate professor in 2018.

Wick developed an educational program called Soil Health Café Talks to create dialog among experts, consultants and producers. These talks help to identify a need that is then transformed into an education program called Soil Sense Podcasts.

Soil Sense Podcasts are on topics including improving soil health, increasing economic return, reducing erosion and engaging producers with the scientific community. These podcasts reach North Dakota producers and those in the Northern Plains of the U.S. and Canada and even across the world.

Working with scientists from NDSU and other universities, Wick has been able to partner with producers and agronomists to tell their stories for Agweek’s Soil Health Minute, and take science and apply it to the farm and ranch.

She earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Denver and a Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming.

AGSCO Excellence in Extension Award

NDSU Extension established this annual award to encourage and reward significant accomplishments and excellence in Extension educational programs. Individuals with 11 or more years of service to NDSU Extension are eligible for nomination. Nominees must hold an Extension appointment and be in the 2000 job band.

■ Dean Aakre

4-H Youth Development Specialist
NDSU Extension Center for 4-H Youth
Development

“Dean Aakre takes into consideration the needs of North Dakota youth and adults in all programming he develops and delivers.”

Dean Aakre joined NDSU as an assistant Extension agent in 1983, became a 4-H youth activity coordinator in 1988, and a 4-H youth specialist in 2000.

Aakre teaches a wide variety of educational programs to youth and adults, with topics of leadership, agriculture and civic engagement. One important lesson he ties into all his programs is life skills.

In the communication arts projects he has led, nearly all the youth who have participated had the confidence to speak in front of groups and stand up for the things in which they believe, and they want to continue participating in the program to develop their skills.

When he saw the need to create a computer program to organize and manage North Dakota State Fair projects and contests, Aakre did just that and has continually updated it. He also saw the needs of youth today and worked with others to create youth development learning experiences to teach them essential skills.

He earned an A.A. degree from the University of Minnesota Crookston, and B.S. and M.Ed. degrees from NDSU.

■ Hans Kandel

Professor, Extension Agronomist
Department of Plant Sciences

“With 25 years of experience in Extension and research in crop production, Hans has been able to relate to the producers, agents, researchers and businesses to educate and improve lives.”

Hans Kandel joined NDSU as an Extension agronomist and associate professor in 2007 and became a professor in 2013.

Kandel plays a critical role in educating growers on how to improve the productivity and substantiality of some of the most important crops in North Dakota. He is the lead author of the “Soybean Production Guide” and compiles the “Soybean Variety Trial Results” publication. He has written nearly 200 articles in the “Crop and Pest Report” and 93 articles in trade magazines, given 483 talks, and done a multitude of interviews, phone calls and visits.

He has had a significant impact in the state with his work on tile drainage by creating educational programs for North Dakota growers. Two-day workshops on this topic have been a major effort but have paid off, leaving participants able to make informed decisions. Kandel’s collaboration on educational programs has been essential to creating hands-on learning for participants.

Kandel holds B.S. and Ing. degrees from RHLS Deventer, an M.S. degree from the University of Reading and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

■ Frayne Olson

Associate Professor, Extension Crops
Economist/Marketing Specialist
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

“Dr. Olson has developed a well-respected education program in crop marketing and price risk management in North Dakota.”

Frayne Olson joined NDSU as an Extension crops economist/marketing specialist and assistant professor in 2008, became an associate professor in 2015, and director of the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives in 2016.

Olson has developed well-respected educational programs in crop marketing and price risk management in North Dakota and specialized programs addressing emergency issues. During the early stage of the U.S. - China trade war, Olson worked with others to give Weekly Soybean Market Updates. Twenty-two short videos were made and posted on NDSU Extension Alerts and North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) webpages and sent directly to those registered in the NDSC social media program.

The annual Soybean Marketing and Risk Management Seminar, taught by Olson and Dr. Bill Wilson and sponsored by the North Dakota Soybean Council, is a two-day hands-on training program. Using the NDSU Commodity Trading Room, farm managers are trained about cash and futures market dynamics. The seminar gives participants the chance to apply the tools learned to create a customized marketing plan based on current market conditions.

He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from NDSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri.

Charles and Linda Moses Staff Award

This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agricultural Affairs by professional staff on and off campus. The recipient must have at least three years of continuous service in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.

■ Collin Auwarter

Research Specialist
Department of Plant Sciences

“He is just an outstanding research specialist, setting the best example possible for all the graduate and undergraduate students, and other employees to follow.”

Collin Auwarter joined NDSU in 2004 as a research assistant and became a research specialist in 2004.

Auwarter devotes his time to finding solutions and discovering opportunities that enhance the quality of life, sustain food production and protect the land of North Dakota. He is a big contributor to the high-value crops project, one of the most diverse research projects on campus. This project requires knowledge of different production systems and unique maintenance practice throughout the year.

He sets an example of being an outstanding research specialist who performs beyond expectations and always has a safety-first motto. Auwarter is a driven individual who works closely with others and always is prepared to take on additional tasks to ensure the success of a project. Through his work, others can see he truly cares about everything he does and is conscientious of others and their projects and offers to help if possible.

He earned a B.S. degree from NDSU.

■ Patrick Beauzay

Research Specialist
Department of Plant Pathology

“Pat’s insect identification skills are invaluable for the Extension entomology program.”

Patrick Beauzay joined NDSU as a research specialist in 2007, and became the North Dakota integrated pest management coordinator in 2012.

Beauzay has significantly contributed to NDSU Extension entomology outreach by sharing nonbiased research data to help growers and stakeholders make improved decisions. He has authored or co-authored an average of five Extension publications each year, his insect photographs are used in many publications and he is responsible for updating the NDSU Extension Pesticides App for insecticides. He is also responsible for designing and conducting insecticide efficacy trials for insect pests of field crops grown in North Dakota.

He does about 100 routine insect identification and pest control recommendations each year for people in North Dakota. During a large multistate project on pollinator identification for soybeans, Beauzay identified more than 10,000 specimens to species level.

He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from South Dakota State University.

■ Ellen Crawford

Information Specialist
Agriculture Communication

“Ellen makes all of us sound better and brings our content to a higher level.”

Ellen Crawford joined NDSU as an information specialist in 2004.

Crawford is an integral part of Agriculture Communication in its effort to produce high-quality, accurate and useful content. She edits all the new and revised Extension publications and writes or edits most of the news releases that are sent out each year. She also teaches Extension agents and specialists one-on-one, in workshops and in webinars about grammar, how to write news releases and columns, and how to work with the news media.

Each month Crawford shares writing tips in Let’s Communicate called “Write the Right Word,” which some staff have shared is the first article they read because they’ve learned so much from them. One of her major accomplishments was leading the effort to produce the 40-plus page Agriculture and Extension Annual Highlights publication, for which she served as a writer, editor and design consultant.

She earned a B.A. degree from Minot State College and a B.S. degree from Moorhead State University.

*Moses Award nominees
continue on Page 12*

■ Lisa Dubbels

Budget and Accounting Coordinator
Department of Animal Sciences

"She has been more than a dedicated employee; she really is a great team player."

Lisa Dubbels joined NDSU as an account technician in 2008 and became a budget and accounting coordinator in 2012.

Dubbels oversees all the budgets in the Department of Animal Sciences, a large task considering the amount of teaching, Extension and research funds that are handled daily. She has a great work ethic and even when working remotely, she is the first person to respond to questions or requests and is always willing to help when she can be of assistance in any way.

She plays a big role in the department when working with the NDSU Foundation and assisting with raising funds for scholarships. Dubbels spearheaded the majority of the behind-the-scenes work for a department event to fundraise for scholarships that also functioned as a networking event for alumni, stakeholders and friends of the department.

She earned an A.A. degree from the North Dakota State College of Science and a B.S. degree from NDSU.

■ Gerald Fauske

Research Specialist
School of Natural Resource Sciences
(Entomology)

"The breadth of Jerry's knowledge is only exceeded by the depth of his knowledge."

Gerald Fauske joined NDSU as a research specialist in 1992.

Fauske is the curator of the North Dakota State Insect Reference Collection and he is responsible for its organization and maintenance. He is asked frequently by agricultural colleagues and members of the public to provide identification of potential pest or beneficial insect specimens. Identifying organisms before any control measures are decided is important, and Fauske can expertly identify nearly all groups from our area.

He conducts various surveys annually for invasive economically important insects, rare or endangered species and/or species of special interest. For the past 12 years, Fauske has worked with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture to conduct surveys and provide identification for potential invasive insect species that attack trees in our region. He also conducted surveys for the endangered Dakota skipper and bee pollinator species.

He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from South Dakota State University and a Ph.D. from NDSU.

Donald and Jo Anderson Staff Award

This annual award, established by the Office of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Agricultural Affairs by office support staff on and off campus with at least three years of continuous service. The recipient must be in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.

■ Darla Bakko

Administrative Assistant/Office Manager
Department of Plant Pathology

"Darla's contribution of effectively providing labor in a timely manner has contributed immensely to the success of our researchers in achieving their research objectives."

Darla Bakko joined NDSU as an administrative secretary in 1999 and became an administrative assistant in 2009. Office manager was added to her title in 2012.

Bakko works for the department chair, coordinates activities for 13 faculty members and works as the accounting technician for payroll. She coordinates workflow for an administrative assistant, secretary and work study students. Bakko arranges for continuing education credits for certified crop advisers and class credits for NDSU students who take the training.

Each year the faculty is involved in conducting more than \$10 million worth of collaborative work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, other universities in the U.S. and internationally. Bakko arranges memoranda of agreements, keeps the faculty updated on the status of grants and contracts, and prepares a trial balance at the conclusion of each funded project. She also is in charge of coordinating two scout schools each year, one in eastern North Dakota and the other in western North Dakota.

She earned A.S. and B.S. degrees from Minot State University.

■ Myrna Friedt

Administrative Assistant
Carrington Research Extension Center

"Myrna is very devoted to NDSU Agriculture's efforts to address the needs and issues that challenge our state's constituents."

Myrna Friedt joined NDSU as an administrative assistant in 1999.

Friedt assists with the department's budget and financial management, empowers program leaders, helps with program implementation and communicates research results. This includes assisting research and Extension principle investigators in the preparation of grant proposals and budget development. She also coordinates the department's reporting and communication functions.

Friedt works with program leaders to compile data and develop documents to summarize research and Extension activists, coordinates publishing of reports including the center's annual report, and assists with field days and tour materials. Friedt has been effective and instrumental in contributing to the success of the department's Foundation Seedstocks program. She is involved with the seed sales, customer correspondence, tracking seedstock inventory and certification documents. Her contribution to this program often has resulted in North Dakota producers and seedsman having access to seed resources they might otherwise have not found.

She received B.S. degrees from North Dakota State University.

■ Karen Jevning

Administrative Secretary
Department of Plant Sciences

"She has a strong work ethic and doesn't stop until the job is done, and done right."

Karen Jevning joined NDSU as a student/alumni information coordinator in 1996, and became an information processing specialist in 1998, an employer relations coordinator in 1999 and an administrative secretary in 2017.

Jevning provides secretarial support to faculty with undergraduate advising responsibilities, administrative guidance to undergraduate students, and answers inquiries. She supports and assists the department head and faculty and assists in supervisor duties of the office staff and work study students during the absence of the administrative assistant.

Jevning also interacts and supports students from their prospective student visits through their degree completion. She prepares and maintains scholarship information for the department and works with the NDSU Foundation, Financial Aid and Scholarship Office, and College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources to track, update and communicate with scholarship donors and recipients.

*Anderson Award nominees
continue on Page 14*

■ Edith Nelson

Administrative Assistant
Department of Agribusiness
and Applied Economics

“Edie brings a new standard to cooperation and coordination within our department.”

Edith Nelson joined NDSU as an administrative secretary in 2003, and became an information processing specialist in 2008 and an administrative assistant in 2017.

Nelson assists the department chair, leads the department’s staff team, and serves as the staff supervisor and liaison for the department with institutional technology and graduate students. She organizes and implements position searches, alumni and external events, conferences and other outreach activities while managing the department’s website and social media.

She has worked to improve office efficiencies by creating automated functions for scheduling and inventory. She also increased the quality, scope and reach of the department’s external communications. To engage students, faculty, staff, alumni and stakeholders, Nelson developed a strategy and overhauled the website and social media platforms. During the past year, the department Facebook page had a 74% increase in followers and content that engaged more than 2,200 users and reached 20,000 users.

She received an Associates degree from the North Dakota State College of Science.

■ Jessica Rose

Administrative Assistant
Department of Animal Sciences

“Jessica embodies the ideal for office support staff personnel.”

Jessica Rose joined NDSU as an administrative secretary in 2017 and became an administrative assistant in 2020.

Rose assists the department head, schedules and arranges meetings and events, assists with annual reports, maintains files for faculty, coordinates annual reviews and provides academic support for the department. She performs lead departmental administrative and receptionist duties and implements new ways to make processes more efficient. She also is considered the go-to person with an understanding of how the department, college and university work.

She is the main contact for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty and staff, and is the main support staff for the department. Rose is a member of the department’s Moos, Ewes and More committee and takes on extra duties in the department while also serving on campus wide committees with the Staff Senate.

Rick and Jody Burgum Staff Award

This annual award, established by the Office of the V.P. for Agricultural Affairs, recognizes significant contributions to the mission of NDSU Ag Affairs by support staff in technical and paraprofessional, crafts/trades or services positions on and off campus with at least three years of continuous service. The recipient must be in a staff position with an appointment in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; N.D. Agricultural Experiment Station; or NDSU Extension.

■ Chris Anderson

Print and Copy Services
Production Manager
Agriculture Communication

“Chris has been a great fit for Print and Copy Services from the day he started.”

Chris Anderson joined NDSU as a press operator in 2006 and became the Print and Copy Services production manager in 2013.

Anderson directs, organizes and plans the daily activities of the production center staff and works closely with customer service staff. He is an invaluable member of the Print and Copy Services staff; he is involved in all the phases of the production of printed materials, including Extension publications, “indestructible” card sets, 4-H literature and much more as well as a wide variety of projects for the entire NDSU campus.

In his role, he works with customers on project details and develops and implements procedures and policies for increasing efficiencies. Anderson is a technical wizard. With his knack for troubleshooting and repairing equipment, he has helped save Print and Copy Services money. He also helps Agriculture faculty and staff get their printing/coping work done as cost effectively as possible, even if that means taking it off campus.

He earned a B.S. degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

■ Cora Crane

Grant Coordinator
Department of Plant Sciences

“Cora is an integral part of the Plant Science and Plant Pathology accounting teams.”

Cora Crane joined NDSU as a grant coordinator in 2013.

Crane assists faculty and staff in the grant and contract approval process for the Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology departments. This includes identifying and sharing grant opportunities, monitoring granting agency deadlines for proposal submissions, preparing and reviewing proposals, and managing budgets. She also keeps an updated listing of all grant awards and retains files of grant and contract records, assists with payroll assignments and helps train faculty on new online grant application processes.

In 2019, she helped with submitting 317 grants from 41 faculty in Plant Sciences; of those, 164 grants totaling more than \$7.4 million were awarded to 34 researchers. After starting to assist Plant Pathology in January 2020, she has processed 97 grants from 15 faculty and also assists with grant submissions for five U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service employees. Crane is dedicated to the accuracy of budgets and ensuring all proper forms and information are submitted.

She received a B.S. degree from Rasmussen College.

■ Kurt Johnsen

Feed Manufacturing Technologist
Department of Animal Sciences

“Kurt’s diligence and abilities in his craft have the respect of all of our farm staff at NDSU.”

Kurt Johnsen joined NDSU as a feed manufacturing technologist in 2004.

Johnsen assists with feed preparation, manufacturing and delivery, maintenance of ingredient inventory and management of feed production databases. He helps with the maintenance and repairing of equipment, facilities and grounds of the Northern Crops Institute feed production center. All the livestock units depend on him to have necessary feed inventories on hand and to deliver balanced rations and process feedstuffs.

This job requires quick turnaround orders, which he readily fills.

Johnsen is known to catch mistakes in formulations before diets are even made, which is important to animal welfare, reducing feed costs and saving time. With his knowledge of various feed grains and his ability to process these ingredients into balanced rations with the inclusion of required nutrients, he serves as the point person for the department’s nutrition programs. He also takes the initiative to practice preventative maintenance programs at the mill and maintains it for public tours.

■ Lu Morehouse

Nutrition Education Assistant
Stutsman County

“Lu is an effective educator who pioneers the way for implementing new curricula and adaptive means to reach her audience.”

Lu Morehouse joined NDSU as a nutrition education assistant in 1995.

Morehouse is the nutrition education assistant for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Family Nutrition Program (FNP). In her role, she leads lessons and weekly visits with groups of learners ranging from elementary school to adult groups. Her elementary classes go through age-appropriate materials and participate in cooking schools and gardening programs in the summer. The adult classes consist of programming through senior sites, food pantries, and residential and vocational program sites.

She has strong partnerships with agencies in the community and works to improve food and physical activity environments in addition to providing outreach and education. She implements and adapts new ways to reach her audience. Morehouse also provides mentorship to colleagues within the EFNEP/FNP programs, identifies volunteers and connects her audience with needed services such as “Farmers to Families” and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

2019 Award Recipients

Larson/Yaggie
Excellence in Research

*Zhaohui Liu,
Plant Pathology*

Eugene R. Dahl
Excellence in Research

*Senay Simsek,
Plant Sciences*

Earl and Dorothy Foster
Excellence in Teaching

*Lisa Christenson,
Animal Sciences*

H. Roald and Janet Lund
Excellence in Teaching

*Tom DeSutter,
School of Natural Resource
Sciences (Soil Science)*

William J. and Angelyn A. Austin
Excellence in Advising

*Stacey Ostby,
Animal Sciences*

Excellence in Extension
Early Career

*Esther McGinnis,
Plant Sciences*

AGSCO Excellence in Extension

*Greg Endres,
Carrington Research
Extension Center*

Charles and Linda Moses
Staff Award

*Wanda Keller,
Animal Sciences*

Donald and Jo Anderson
Staff Award

*Niki Lynnes,
School of Natural Resource
Sciences (Soil Science) and
Plant Pathology*

Rick and Jody Burgum
Staff Award

*Christie Erickson,
School of Natural Resource
Sciences (Soil Science)*

2020 Faculty/Staff Award Nominees

**Larson/Yaggie
Excellence in Research Award**

Bingcan Chen

Torre Hovick

Audrey Kalil

**Eugene R. Dahl
Excellence in Research Award**

Marisol Berti

Thomas DeSutter

Berlin Nelson

Saleem Shaik

**Earl and Dorothy Foster
Excellence in Teaching Award**

Danielle Condry

Caley Gasch

Lauren Hulsman Hanna

Todd West

Lei Zhang

**H. Roald and Janet Lund
Excellence in Teaching Award**

Deirdre Prischmann-Voldseth

Tara Swanson

**William J. and Angelyn A. Austin
Excellence in Advising Award**

Erik Hanson

Harlene Hatterman-Valenti

Jack Norland

**Excellence in Extension
Early Career Award**

Anitha Chirumamilla

Clair Keene

Bryon Parman

Thomas Peters

Gerald Stokka

Abbey Wick

**AGSCO
Excellence in Extension Award**

Dean Aakre

Hans Kandel

Frayne Olson

**Charles and Linda Moses
Staff Award**

Collin Auwarter

Patrick Beauzay

Ellen Crawford

Lisa Dubbels

Gerald Fauske

**Donald and Jo Anderson
Staff Award**

Darla Bakko

Myrna Friedt

Karen Jevning

Edith Nelson

Jessica Rose

**Rick and Jody Burgum
Staff Award**

Chris Anderson

Cora Crane

Kurt Johnsen

Lu Morehouse