

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
Minutes - March 30-31, 2004
Best Western Doublewood - Bismarck, ND

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met in Bismarck, ND at the Best Western Doublewood Inn beginning at 9:30 a.m. on March 30, 2004. Members present were Ole Aarsvold, Tom Archbold, Keith Bjerke, Jerry Doan, Jerry Effertz, Neal Fisher, Ed Goerger, Carol Goodman, Maynard Helgaas, Duane Hauck, Burdell Johnson, Don Kirby (for Ken Grafton), Patrice Lahlum (for Roger Johnson).

Chairman Tom Archbold called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. He thanked stakeholder representatives for attendance and participation in the day's meeting.

Archbold introduced Representative Bob Skarphol, who talked with SBARE about the importance of funding for the western malting barley initiative. Skarphol told SBARE members that if they did not include the funding in their budget request, he and Representative Frank Wald would promise to get it put in.

Ed Goerger, chair of the SBARE crops subcommittee, responded that the SBARE Crops Subcommittee wants and expects to continue support for the western malting barley project, but wants to bring other initiatives to light as well.

Tom Archbold reminded those in attendance that budget prioritization will not be done until after the day's stakeholder testimony is complete.

There was considerable discussion about western malting barley and Jim Broten, chair of the North Dakota Barley Council, spoke in support of the initiative, stated there is a public demand, and if North Dakota does ^{not} provide support, the industry will go elsewhere.

Larry Lee, chair of the North Dakota Wheat Commission, talked about goals, funding and challenges relative to the wheat industry in North Dakota. Recommendations included the need to maintain and enhance existing programs, redevelopment of a full-fledged wheat/cereal quality research unit at NDSU, and the ability to be competitive in regional and world markets.

Eric Bartsch, representing the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Association, summarized their recommendations for agricultural funding as follows: core research funding, variety development position, funding for cool season food legume research, and creation of a pulse quality testing laboratory.

Wade Moser spoke to SBARE on behalf of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association and provided a suggested research direction. He said the Stockmen's Association is supportive of the beef cattle initiative, but feel it is missing impacts of society's new environmental concerns, scientific data to combat excessive and unwarranted regulations, there is a need to fit products to different standards of acceptance, and a need to resolve the burden of climate and distance to market. He continued by stating that they feel there is a need for more value-added work and the Beef Systems Center of Excellence may provide resolve to some concerns. The group supports forage research at Streeter and Dickinson, but feels Carrington needs to focus more on cattle feeding. He added that NDSU administration committed to make changes during 2001 legislative session, but have not followed through.

Tom Archbold indicated the cow-calf issue at Carrington goes back several years and that SBARE has requested information from the Stockmen's Association detailing specific concerns.

Duane Hauck stated that there has been movement at Carrington with more focus on feeding calves.

Wade Moser stressed that with limited resources available it is important to look at the big picture and be willing to change directions.

Burdell Johnson reminded everyone that the feedmill is operating at Carrington and feedlot research is being done.

Jerry Doan stated that SBARE is very supportive of the Beef Center of Excellence, but noted that there is also support for the cow-calf herd at Carrington and SBARE needs to work in best interests of all.

Archbold said it is necessary to get specific information and related costs before moving ahead with recommendations.

Burdell Johnson suggested the SBARE Livestock Subcommittee meet with the Stockmen's Research Committee to discuss research issues.

Deborah Johnson, executive director of the North Dakota Soybean Council, addressed SBARE and noted the following:

- 1) Is it possible to carry over dollars from Agricultural Research Fund from one granting period to another to prevent funding sub-standard proposals?
- 2) Support end uses of soybeans since the national soybean checkoff is focusing more on enhancing the livestock and poultry industry in the United States.
- 3) Encourage more campuswide involvement for agricultural research fund proposals, to include other units, such as chemistry and polymers and coatings.
- 4) Overall, the Soybean Council is very happy with NDSU research programs and relationships.

Dave Mueller spoke to SBARE on behalf of the sugarbeet growers and the ARF Sugarbeet Granting Committee, stating sugarbeets are ranked number three in cash crop receipts for 2003 and there are opportunities for increase. He thanked all commodity groups for support during this time of trade negotiations. He also noted that the biggest problem with the sugarbeet industry is diseases and said they support research in the area of root diseases.

Barry Coleman, executive director of the Northern Canola Growers, summarized their recommendations:

- 1) canola pathologist - there are currently none in the U.S.
- 2) support for increased operating and research support staff
- 3) maintenance of a strong IPM program in North Dakota
- 4) support development of pilot centers for nutrition and health in rural communities

Following a lunch break, the board reconvened at 1:20.

Brian Berg, representing the North Dakota Pork Producers, spoke in support of a swine specialist at NDSU. He indicated that as the swine finishing industry grows in North Dakota, there will be a real need for research to address associated issues.

Mike Beltz, director of the North Dakota Dry Bean Council, talked with SBARE about the need for a full-time dry bean specialist. He stated that since Ken Grafton assumed the position of director for the ND Agricultural Experiment Station, he has been supervising the bean breeding work in his "spare" time. Beltz stated that Grafton has been doing a good job, but there is a need to show the legislature the importance of the position and it should be included on the recommended list of priorities.

Tom Rolfstad, director for Williston Economic Development, shared information about goals and progress of the Mondak Irrigation Research and Demonstration Project. He said the funds were raised for infrastructure and now there is a need for operating dollars and a storage facility. Jerry Bergman, director of the Williston Research Extension Center, added that the project is well supported in the region and they would like to begin ongoing research in 2005.

Paul Thomas, speaking on behalf of the Ag Coalition, thanked SBARE for allowing commodity groups to speak about their issues and/or program needs. He stressed the importance of continuing a good relationship between SBARE and the Ag Coalition, working together through the legislative session.

Karen Zotz, assistant director for the NDSU Extension Service, introduced R. Jay Bischof, Wyatt Kram, and Marty Platz, participants in the NDSU 4-H Tech Team. The three shared information about the work they do with students and adults, helping people learn more about technology. They stated that the North Dakota team is a front runner nationally and they hope to keep it that way. They provided an enthusiastic review of their work.

SBARE members divided into working groups to discuss the reports and comments from the previous day before adjourning to attend a portion of the Extension Spring Conference.

The board reconvened on March 31 at 8:00 a.m. Tom Borgen, Randy Christmann and Patricia Jensen joined the group for the second day of the meeting.

Jerry Effertz asked if the process for filling the position of bean breeder in the Plant Sciences could be accelerated to lighten the load of Ken Grafton, allowing him to spend more time on responsibilities as director of the AES. Al Schneiter replied that the potato germplasm position is the highest priority in the department, stressing the importance of that position.

Jerry Doan emphasized the importance of freeing Grafton's time of bean breeding responsibilities, allowing him to succeed as director.

Following discussion about the importance of a strong director and support for Grafton, Jerry Effertz made a motion that SBARE go on record requesting that the Vice President for Agriculture prepare a proposal to accelerate the process of filling the position of the bean breeder at NDSU. Tom Borgen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Archbold asked for suggestions on how to proceed with prioritization for budget recommendation.

Board members discussed blending the extension and research priority recommendation and agreed it would be a good idea. They also talked about receiving “new” money from the Governor’s Centers of Excellence fund.

Before prioritizing the list presented as “Needs-Based Budget,” Jerry Effertz made a motion to increase number two (Increased Research Support Staff) on the list by \$120,000 incorporating “educational program design” into the total. Carol Goodman seconded the motion, which passed. Tom Archbold, Randy Christmann, Jerry Doan, Ed Goerger and Burdell Johnson opposed.

Jerry Effertz moved to begin the prioritization as follows: 1) Beef Center for Excellence; 2) Potato Genetics; and 3) Western Malting Barley. Jerry Doan seconded the motion.

Keith Bjerke suggested that members understand the implication of position of the Western Malting Barley initiative on the list. He then moved to amend the motion as follows: 1) Beef Center of Excellence; 2) Western Malting Barley; and 3) Potato Genetics. Neal seconded the motion to amend, which passed.

Randy Christmann reminded board members to look at the big picture and stressed the need for investing in maintenance and operating. Ole Aarsvold agreed, but said he suspects that board members will not get much input from stakeholders regarding operating, but there will be talk about the more specific needs.

The board voted on the amended motion, which passed with Randy Christmann opposed.

Jerry Doan made a motion to move ahead with prioritization: 4) Equipment and Operating Enhancement; 5) Increased Research Support; and 6) Extraordinary Repairs for Deferred Maintenance. Neal Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Carol Goodman made a motion to continue: 7) Enhancing North Dakota Communities and 8) Rural Leadership for North Dakota. Tom Archbold noted that these initiatives would likely be supported by Senators Ray Holmberg and Tim Mathern, who both submitted communications for consideration by SBARE. Maynard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jerry Effertz moved to rank the following: 9) Soil Biology; 10) Canola Pathology; and 11) Dry Bean Breeding/ Genetics. Neal Fisher seconded the motion. Randy Christmann asked where environmental issues fit and how they will be addressed. Burdell Johnson responded that the SBARE Livestock Subcommittee and the Stockmen’s Association Research Committee plan to meet and will determine those needs. Jimmie Richardson, chair of the Soil Science Department, stated that hiring a soil biologist would help with those issues. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Goerger proceeded with ranking by making a motion to rank Expanded Agriculture and Urban Horticulture next as 12. Jerry Effertz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Burdell Johnson made a motion to move ahead with ranking as follows: 13) Range Extension/Research for the Coteau; 14) Livestock Development/Non-ruminant Nutrition, swine emphasis; 15) \$100,000 transition funding for feedlot research. Jerry Doan seconded the motion. Randy Christmann expressed concern that the feedlot research was not part of the Beef Center of Excellence request and Jerry Effertz said that is a separate issue dealing with Carrington only. Members agreed the motion should not include a specific dollar amount and will read "15) transition funding for feedlot research."

Keith Bjerke said that he is comfortable with the ranking of the first 12 priorities, but would like more time to think through the rest before completing. Jerry Effertz and Tom Borgen both replied that they wanted to finish today.

Burdell Johnson moved to amend the active motion, placing 4-H Tech Teams before Range Extension/Research for the Coteau. Carol Goodman seconded the motion, which passed. Maynard Helgaas opposed the motion due to questions regarding transition funding.

Jerry Effertz moved to continue ranking as follows: 17) Maintaining Strong Integrated Pest Management Efforts; 18) Environmental Toxicology; and 19) Extending to Hard-to-Reach Audiences. Ole Aarsvold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Patricia Jensen agreed to and prepare a summarized priority listing to be distributed to SBARE members.

Tom Archbold indicated there would be an opportunity to meet in April to reevaluate needs and make adjustments to the rankings.

Ed Goerger made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2004 meeting. Maynard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Recorded by Margaret Olson