

2015-17 Program Initiatives as Ranked by SBARE



1 Agricultural Programs and Capacity

Situation: For agriculture to maintain its cutting edge, increased Extension capacity is needed in livestock, precision agriculture and support infrastructure. The livestock industry of southwest North Dakota lacks educational support on forage resources for backgrounding and other management practices. In precision agriculture, producers need assistance with management of large quantities of data and integration with financial decisions. To meet increased demands of delivering information in a variety of media, Extension needs increased technological capacity. Specialists need increased technical support to efficiently program in the departments of Animal Science, Soil Science, Plant Pathology and Plant Sciences.

Need: Area livestock specialist-HREC (1.0 FTE) and operating; Extension precision agriculture economist (1.0 FTE) and operating; increased operating support for Extension's technology infrastructure; Extension fellows (3.75 FTE) for increased support of specialists - \$1,285,000



2 Community Vitality

Situation: The social, environmental and economic well-being of many North Dakota communities is in danger if communities do not take steps to shape their own future. The unprecedented growth is driving the demand for Extension assistance in community development. Community-based issues can be addressed more effectively through community-based leadership, public dialogue, planning processes, organized public forums and informed decision making. Specialists can develop programs and utilize agents to bring educational programming to local communities. North Dakota's farm and ranch owners also have a critical need to begin transition/succession planning. One of the three requested specialists will focus on transition and succession planning programs.

Need: Area community vitality specialists (3.0 FTE) and operating - \$780,000



3 Food Systems and Health

Situation: North Dakota needs healthy people and communities, including farm/ranch families. Educational programs can enhance health by targeting chronic disease prevention, food systems consumer education and food safety, including education on the Food Safety Modernization Act. Extension is uniquely positioned to address each of these needs with factual information and to leverage its strong partnerships with health organizations and specific community-based task forces to meet local needs. Area specialists (east and west) will provide leadership to address these needs. A salary pool will increase our capacity for county agents to provide local programming.

Need: Area food and health specialists (2.0 FTE) and operating funds, and a salary pool to increase local county programming - \$720,000



4 Water Resources

Situation: Water is extremely important for the life of all North Dakotans, such as water quality for livestock, drinking water quality in homes, impacts of saltwater spills, and best management practices to prevent nutrient movement to surface water. A water specialist is needed to provide educational programs and information to assist land owners and citizens to make informed decisions when using and protecting our precious water resources.

Need: Extension water specialist (1.0 FTE) and operating funds - \$310,000

Details on other unranked Extension needs are available upon request.



One-time Request: Oil Patch Salary Differential Pool

One-time funds are requested to provide salary support to aid in the retention and recruitment of Extension employees in the heaviest-impacted oil counties. These Extension educators are essential for the NDSU Extension Service to fulfill our mission to serve North Dakotans in this region. Data from the Job Service ND documents that the average salaries in the targeted eight counties were 50% greater than the state average as a result of oil industry market competition. As a result, our efforts to recruit employees into these counties and retain employees who live and work in these counties is a major challenge because of market competition and housing costs. - \$250,000

Additional Request

Funding to provide technical assistance grants to soil conservation districts to help landowners reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance tree plantings, grazing lands and wildlife habitat - \$75,000