

\$36 billion

In the next 10 years, an estimated \$36 billion of agribusiness and farming assets will be transferred from one generation to the next in North Dakota. Farm and ranch transition planning is a critical need for our North Dakota producers and the NDSU Extension Design Your Succession Plan (DYSP) provides the information and framework to help families prepare for a successful and satisfying transition. Since 2014, 536 individuals have attended the DYSP training and have indicated they are starting conversations with family members, working to mentor their successor and visiting with professionals about their succession plans.

8,480

This figure represents the number of governmental units and nonprofit organizations in North Dakota that need leaders in counties, cities, townships and school districts. NDSU Extension works to support this demand by providing multiple capacity-building programs such as Rural Leadership North Dakota, Lead Local, Building Tomorrow's Leaders, and the Soil and Water Leadership Academy. More than one thousand local organizations have been impacted through participation in Extension leadership programs, leading to newly elected officials and more than \$7 million raised for community projects.

58%

From 1999 to 2016, there has been a 58% increase in suicides in North Dakota. One suicide is too many, and today NDSU Extension is working to help our farmers and ranchers through these challenging times so this is not the choice anyone would make. We understand that stress in agriculture doesn't stop in the field. Adverse weather, disease, regulations, low or volatile commodity prices, family dynamics and financial issues are a constant source of worry for farmers and their families. NDSU Extension provides many **resources** to help, including training seminars, displays, a resource website and handouts for all affected in these difficult times.

.36%

North Dakota needs more entrepreneurs. Less than half of 1% of North Dakotans started a business last year, and in order to expand that number, entrepreneurs need a supportive ecosystem to take the leap and build their ideas. Fostering entrepreneurship and community support are key strategies for creating jobs and transforming the state's economy and global presence. NDSU Extension and its vast network of specialists and agents can help expand entrepreneurship from the individual and community perspective across the state.

NDSU Extension, in cooperation with the NDSU College of Business, proposes the **Launch ND initiative** to help potential entrepreneurs across the state secure information and resources on a variety of topics related to entrepreneurship. This work will expand the reach of entrepreneurial activities in rural areas of the state.

The audience for this initiative would include farmers and ranchers with creative ideas on how to make their operations run better, 4-H youth who are interested in starting their own business, food entrepreneurs interested in expanding the reach of North Dakota commodities, and other individuals with the drive to bring their idea to market and expand the workforce in their local community.

The benefit to North Dakota rural communities is that more youth and adults will choose to stay or return to rural communities and engage in entrepreneurship, build the local economy and maintain a healthy rural community for future generations.

49,684

Census data show that many people are coming back to rural areas, often when they are in their 30s and 40s. They come back with college degrees, work experience, professional connections and families. In the past five years, 49,684 people have moved into one of the 53 North Dakota counties. Reasons for moving to rural areas include a slower pace of life, safety and security, and reasonable housing costs. The information age has allowed more people to work remotely or in rural areas, and the North Dakota **Brain Gain initiative** would help provide resources to communities to market to others, change the narrative on rural towns and increase investments in rural life to ensure their long-term futures.

OUR REQUEST

NDSU Extension is requesting additional operational support to address current and emerging issues that warrant immediate attention. These dollars would provide a flexible and nimble response to enhance engagement with North Dakota producers, youth, families and communities.

OUR REQUEST

NDSU Extension is requesting support for the Launch ND initiative to include funding that would assist with expanded online resources, connections to local mentors, challenges, camps, conferences and programs that will help support entrepreneurs to drive the innovation and growth that matters in today's world.

OUR REQUEST

NDSU Extension requests one-time funding support for the North Dakota Brain Gain initiative that would analyze North Dakota migration trends and assist rural communities in marketing to and attracting residents.

For more information:

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November 2019