



Chairman Birdsall, members of the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). Through our contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council NDGGA engages in domestic policy issues on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. NDGGA thanks you for the opportunity to come before the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education to outline for you our Association's research and extension priorities for your consideration.

NDGGA's top priority is the completion of the Ag Products Development Center on the NDSU campus. We realize that is not an item of consideration for the Board nonetheless NDGGA feels the need to highlight this priority to you. It is going to take all of agriculture in North Dakota pulling together to make this vital project for our state's number one industry a reality. NDGGA asks that SBARE be a catalyst in that effort.

NDGGA would also ask that, when appearing before the North Dakota Legislature, that you respectfully request the funds necessary to enable NDSU agricultural research and extension to carry out their mission. **DON'T BE BASHFUL!!** This is the research and extension efforts for the state's number one industry and its number one economic driver. When ag research and extension is adequately enabled to carry out its mission that allows North Dakota agriculture to be successful. That makes North Dakota successful and thus it makes our citizens successful.

You cannot carry out the mission of NDSU research and extension if you don't provide the compensation necessary to not only retain the excellent staff that we have but to recruit the personnel we need. **PAY YOUR PEOPLE!!** They deserve it, North Dakota agriculture deserves it and the state of North Dakota deserves it.

Ag research is a long term investment in North Dakota's agricultural future. If you don't provide your people with the tools necessary to carry out their work, ag research suffers and the North Dakota economy as a whole suffers. That's why the Agricultural Products Developmental Center is such a priority to NDGGA and that's also why NDGGA supports a new Field Crops Research Facility as well. It's not 1950; it's 2019 and a new decade is quickly upon us. It is essential that we upgrade our facilities to keep pace with our research needs.

To that end it is also necessary that we provide the operating funds required to fulfill the ag research mission. Additional funding for the bioinformatics team, for example, will pay dividends to our state. You can have all the facilities you want but if you don't have the funds to operate effectively what's the point?

NDGGA would also request that SBARE look at providing the research funding necessary not only for the short term but for the long term as well. We would ask that you examine funding methods that will keep our long term research efforts viable into the future.

Ag policy is what the North Dakota Grain Growers Association is all about. NDSU has a gem in its Center for Ag Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS). While the present farm bill hasn't even been fully implemented as yet the writing of the next Farm Bill is just around the corner. Additionally, farm policy issues are constantly swirling on both the state and federal levels. It is critical for ag policy interests and for decision-makers to have the information necessary to make critical policy decisions. CAPTS fills that vital role and NDGGA would respectfully request your full support for the Center.

NDGGA would also ask that NDSU ag research and extension stick to its mission; in other words, you do you. If we've heard anything from detractors it's been, at least for the last 3 legislative sessions, that you've been too many things to too many people. Creativity and innovation play a vital role in your mission. That said, a lot of "shiny objects" are out there which can potentially detract from your mission and ultimately undermine the support for your efforts.

NDGGA thanks the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education for the opportunity to come before you today to provide our thoughts. NDSU Ag Research and Extension is the BEST on this planet!! The North Dakota Grain Growers Association stands ready to support you in your efforts.

"You Raise; We Represent"