



1401 32nd Street SW • Fargo, ND 58103 • Phone: 701-239-4151 • Fax: 701-239-4276

email: information@rrvsga.com

December 31, 2021

Ms. Sarah Lovas
Chairwoman
State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
North Dakota State University
Morrill Hall 314
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Sarah,

I write on behalf of the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association (RRVSGA) to submit priorities to the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE) for the 2023 legislative session.

Like numerous other commodities in the state, North Dakota ranks high on the total U.S. production list for sugarbeets. Nearly 60% of all U.S. Sugarbeet Acres are planted between North Dakota and Minnesota by the grower owned cooperatives of American Crystal Sugar Company, Minn-Dak Farmer's Cooperative and Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative. The largest concentration of sugarbeets lies within the Red River Valley between eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota. Additionally, there are a few acres in western North Dakota as part of Sydney Sugars (a wholly owned subsidiary of American Crystal Sugar Company).

Our grower funded research programs are organized through the Sugarbeet Research and Education Board of North Dakota and Minnesota (SBREB). SBREB is a collaborative effort between the three sugarbeet cooperatives in North Dakota and Minnesota. SBREB funds research projects by public and private researchers in North Dakota and Minnesota. SBREB works closely with both North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University Extension, and the

University of Minnesota Extension to help carry out the research needs of growers. SBREB funds on average, nearly \$700,000 in programs each year.

Because North Dakota and Minnesota have become the largest concentration of sugarbeets in the United States, other producing regions look here first for solutions and recommendations in production research. SBARE's priorities will have an immediate impact on growers within North Dakota borders, and the entire U.S. Sugarbeet industry.

Below are the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association's recommended priorities to SBARE for the 2023 North Dakota Legislative Session.

1. **Waldron Hall Replacement, NDSU campus.** Waldron Hall is the primary field laboratory building for major North Dakota crops including sugarbeets, wheat, corn, soybean, dry bean, pulse crops, canola, and potatoes. Additionally, Waldron Hall supports several disciplines including plant breeding, soils research, weed, insect and disease management research. Replacing this facility will allow researchers the space they need to conduct projects as well as attract and retain high quality scientists.
2. **Plant Scientist Adjuvant Specialist - Encompassing Pathology, Entomology and Agricultural Engineering.** Development of new agricultural pesticides has been very limited during the last two decades. If political headwinds are going to continue, producers are going to need to optimize pesticide performance with the tools we still have. Adjuvant research has historically been conducted with herbicides, not with insecticides or fungicides. Spray quality research has been conducted by equipment specialists who lack specialized knowledge of plants, chemistry, and the interaction of plants and chemistry. We recommend a different model; a Specialist based in Plant Sciences with scope encompassing pathology, entomology, and agricultural engineering in addition to Plant Sciences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil Rockstad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil Rockstad
President
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association

From: Harrison Weber <hweber@rrvsga.com>

Sent: Friday, December 31, 2021 9:09 AM

To: Schwengler, Melissa <melissa.schwengler@ndsu.edu>

Cc: Neil Rockstad <neilrockstad@gmail.com>; Eric Erdman <eric.erdman@yahoo.com>

Subject: SBARE input submission

Hi Melissa – please see the attached submission for SBARE priorities.

Harrison

Executive Director

RRVSGA