

# Agriculture and Natural Resources

Your support and guidance over the past 26 years have resulted in significant investments to NDSU agricultural research and Extension programs. These investments have paid excellent dividends. The agricultural industry now generates over \$30 billion in annual gross business volume and is responsible for one in every five jobs in our state. The agricultural sector is doing well economically, but to meet new challenges, we are asking for an **Extension Agricultural Resilience Specialist**, an **Extension Reclamation Specialist** and **additional operating dollars** so we can continue providing research-based recommendations that can be rapidly adopted by our producers.

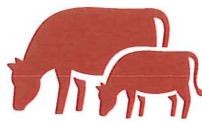
## Extension Impacts

We develop recommendations that optimize production and protection of crops that benefit our producers, their families, rural communities and our environment. From 2002 to 2021, soybean producers have **increased their acreage by 270%** from 2.6 to 7.3 million acres and the **value of their production has increased by 500%** from \$461 million to **\$2.3 billion**.



We train and certify **16,700 producers, applicators and business owners** on the safe use of pesticides that is necessary for a sustainable food production system and a safe environment.

We help livestock producers maintain the economic viability of their operations. The number of cattle producers who used information provided by NDSU Extension and participated in the **Livestock Risk Protection insurance program** for their calf crop **increased by 439%**, from 51,812 head for the 2021 calf crop to 227,330 head for 2022.



### For more information:

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### » Extension Agricultural Resilience Specialist

There is increasing interest in agriculture-related carbon emission, carbon sequestration, carbon contracts, carbon footprints and the role of carbon in marketing agricultural products nationally and internationally. The Extension Agricultural Resilience Specialist will develop and provide education and assistance around carbon-related use and production practices so that producers are fully informed as they determine what practices they adopt and use on their farm and ranch operations.

### » Extension Reclamation Specialist

The North Dakota oil and gas, and agriculture industries together are responsible for over \$73 billion in gross business volume and support 38% of our labor force. These two industries intersect since both use our land. The oil and gas industry has over 12,000 miles of pipeline to move their products, which results in about 150,000 acres of disturbed soils, many of which take years or decades to recover. In addition, spills of oil and produced waters occur at a rate of about two per day, further reducing soil productivity potentials. The Extension Reclamation Specialist will develop and provide educational programs to stakeholders so that the best methods of reclamation are being considered.

### » Additional Operating Support for NDSU Extension

The costs for developing and conducting Extension programs have significantly increased over the years. For example, the cost for a custom rate survey that provides information used by our producers has increased by 17% from \$52,000 to \$60,800, printing costs have increased by about 10% and costs for conducting Extension educational programs and traveling to meet with stakeholders have increased, too. The high number of requests by homeowners for ANR agents to answer horticultural questions has become challenging since most of these agents also have to serve the needs of farmers and ranchers. Additional funding is needed to support Extension's partnership with counties to facilitate programming by horticulturists. Increasing operating dollars will be necessary to continue the development and delivery of high-impact programs for North Dakota.

**Thank you** for your continuous support as we endeavor, through transformational Extension programs, to provide the tools to our farmers and ranchers to make North Dakota the top agricultural-producing state in the nation.