

HB 2020  
Jeff Schafer, New Rockford, ND  
I stand in favor

Good afternoon Chairman Monson and the rest of the E&E division of House Appropriations committee.

I'm Jeff Schafer from New Rockford and my family and I run a multi-generational diversified livestock and grain operation. I also have the privilege of serving as the North Dakota Stockmen's Association President.

I stand in support of this bill and would urge this committee and House of Representatives to follow the Senate's lead which restored baseline funding for this budget bill SB 2020.

As a North Dakota producer the NDSU research stations play an important role in research and education that we as producers rely heavily on for an educated decision for our daily operations. As a livestock producer I ask for your support of this bill that includes traditional programs, funding and Full Time Equivalent for livestock initiative and livestock-related capital improvements at the Carrington, Central Grasslands and Hettinger REC's.

Carrington research station is nearest to our operation and we have always appreciated and utilized the research developed at this station. Carrington has done much work in the past on composting, whether it's manure or deceased animals. Our operation has implemented these practices as a way of adding value to the manure and being environmentally conscience of deceased animals and the inability to bury in the winter months. They have also researched how to sustain an cow-calf operation in a dry lot situation. In addition, much work has been done to utilize many of the crop by-products that our state is known for into beef cattle diets.

The covered feeding proposal would take this one step further in providing shade for summer-time feeding and eliminate mud in the spring to name just one of several capital improvement requests for some of our Agricultural Experiment Stations that would bring value back to the beef producers of our state.

The livestock industry is vital to the strength of our North Dakota economy. Please support SB Bill 2020 to continue the good work of our livestock research units that we as producers rely on.

Jeff Schafer  
New Rockford, ND