

Testimony to North Dakota House Appropriations EE Committee: SB2020
March 9, 2021
North Dakota State University
NDSU Agriculture Experiment Station & Research Extension Centers

Good afternoon, my name is Blaine Schatz, I am the director of the Carrington Research Extension Center. Chairman Monson and House Appropriations Committee members, I thank you for the opportunity to address your committee.

The staff of the Carrington Center are proud to be a part of the network of RECs and Main campus researchers and Extension specialists whose responsibility it is to research the complex of challenges and provide unbiased guidance to our crop and livestock producers. With a diverse number of disciplines among the scientists at the CREC, we are well positioned to address many of the challenges our producers face as they deal with ever changing production issues and strive to meet the demands that the marketplace and society are placing upon them.

Some recent examples of projects we have conducted to address producer needs include improved cover crop establishment in soybean by identifying their tolerance to common soybean herbicides; our long-term cropping systems study has created opportunities to jump start studies related to NDSU's new agri biome research initiative; beef feedlot trials have expanded producer understanding of how to better use low-quality wheat and soybean hulls; and we continue to provide information on crop production inputs for more than 20 crops annually.

The agricultural challenges our producers share with us through advisory boards, commodity groups and individual visits are many. These include problems we may be able to address in a brief couple of years, while others will require a dedicated effort over many years. Their needs for research include the traditional issues such as variety selection, crop management practices, and evaluations to define whether a new product on the market is effective or worth their investment. More recent issues such as cover crops, precision ag practices, and increased environmental scrutiny of their practices challenge our capacity to maintain research for all the challenges important to our producers.

We ask that you and your legislative colleagues support the current version of SB2020. This bill includes some long-sought improvements to livestock research facilities and partial support of SBARE's Big Data initiative. Among other applications, this initiative represents greatly enhanced capabilities to expedite the development of new improved crop varieties and more effectively utilize the trial data generated across the RECs to improve recommendations on variety selection to farmers. Thank you.

Blaine G. Schatz, Director
Carrington Research Extension Center
P. O. Box 219
Carrington, ND 58421-0219

(701) 652-2951
fax: (701) 652-2055
E-mail: blaine.schatz@ndsu.edu