

1999 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2341

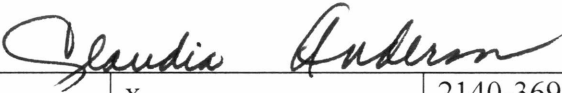
1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2341

Senate Appropriations Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1/29/99; 2/15/99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		4240-end
		x	0-end
2	x		0-293
Committee Clerk Signature 			
2/15/99	1	x	2140-3698

Minutes:

SENATOR NETHING: Opened the hearing on SB 2341; a BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for agricultural education.

SENATOR TOMAC: District 31 to testify in support of SB 2341, the first of 5 Commission on the Future of Agriculture (COFA) bills commissioned on the future of agriculture. This is the only committee to hear SB 2341. (tape 4000-4240)

ROGER JOHNSON: ND Commissioner of Agriculture, to testify in support of SB 2341. Key elements include: 1,000 people participated in 20 forums held around the state to study agriculture issues; page 10 shows importance of agriculture to ND's economy; page 11 shows that wheat represents 40 percent of the income, the price has dropped to a negative; page 12 shows that cow-calf producers have also lost money; page 3 presents the vision, mission and goals for agriculture. This committee is addressing Goal 4. (tape 42240-5174)

SENATOR TOMAC: That presents a brief background to becoming the food producer of the world. Quality is a major concern and a key for the future. The challenge we face in agriculture are the environmental concerns.

SENATOR DEB MATHERN: District 45, to testify in support of SB 2341. Goal 4 is meant to rejuvenate small communities. The farm management programs will give farmers a needed tool in meeting future methodologies. She urged committee members to support the bill. (tape 1. 5680-5975)

REPRESENTATIVE OLE AARSVOLD: District 20, to testify in support of SB 2341.

SENATOR ANDRIST: Is this included as part of the Governor's budget?

REPRESENTATIVE OLE AARSVOLD: No, timing may not have allowed for inclusion in that budget.

SENATOR TOMAC: The timing of the budget report and the timing of the COFA report were somewhat simultaneous in assigning dollars attributable to each one of the goals. There are added dollars in the Governor's budget for agriculture. What we will present to you before we are finished with the 5 goals is comparisons of the COFA requests and the Governor's requests. You'll be able to see that goal by goal which is in the Governor's budget ad where we need to prioritize. If those would be helpful earlier on, I will see what I can do about getting those today.

SENATOR ANDRIST: This appears to be a good looking program. But, our charge is going to be to find the money. Did you do any work in COFA targeting what this could be replacement funds for?

SENATOR TOMAC: We did not do work to see where we could cut to find money for this. There are several contentious issues that come into play here. One is the partisan issue. COFA is a bipartisan group; however, each party is presenting a package. The Democrats are beginning the process in the Senate; the Republicans in the House. I believe it is the most important bill of this session. We won't see immediate results; however, it is our future.

LeANN HARNER: ND Agriculture in the Classroom, Council Member, to testify in support of SB 2341 - Goal 4, specifically Agriculture in the Classroom. (testimony attached) (tape 615-1175)

VIRGINIA DIETZ: Agriculture in the Classroom, Council Member and 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher, Fargo Public Schools, with support of the Fargo Education Association, to testify in support of SB 2341, presented personal classroom experiences and the value students gain from the Ag in the Classroom program. Additionally, teacher support is provided. (3 attachments) (tape 1220-1783)

SENATOR SOLBERG: How do you present the livestock production and marketing for consumption to third grade students?

VIRGINIA DIETZ: We begin with production on the farm. Businesses in Fargo that process, distribute, and provide for consumption of agriculture products are involved in classroom presentations. Educational opportunities and careers available in agriculture are also presented..

SENATOR NAADEN: Another element in the schools is going the other way. They are ecologists that teach you can't do a lot of things on the farm, i.e. you shouldn't eat meat, etc.

VIRGINIA DIETZ: That takes education. It takes a systematic approach to teach agriculture, the environment, and the effect on the people. That's what Ag in the Classroom is trying to do.

KEN BURCH: ND Farm Bureau, to testify in support of COFA, sections 2 and 4 - agriculture in the classroom and adult education. Our concern, too, is environmental groups that don't present agriculture in a favorable light. We believe education will help address this.(tape 2170-2323)

MEL OLSON: ND Vocational and Technical Education, State Director, to testify in support of goal # 4, sections 1, 2, and 6. We sponsor most of the agriculture education programs throughout ND (testimony attached) (tape 2323-3230)

RICHARD SLOSSER: ND Farmer's Union, to testify in support of SB 2341. Education is important in dealing with six of the initiatives in this bill. I would like to speak specifically to section 3. The partnering of tuition rebate programs in rural communities.

TAMMY HUBER: ND Farmers Union, Education Coordinator and Ag in the Classroom, Advisory Board, supportive testimony (attached) submitted by Richard Slosser.

SENATOR SOLBERG: Where would you begin and end on these tuition grants?

RICHARD SLOSSER: COFA feels there needs to be a partnering somehow with the state, either as tuition waivers or rebates in the medical service, or other care giver services, where small communities that have a deficit area could provide trained persons to address daily community needs. Also, technology support would be helpful. This might help to rebuild these small communities. We're asking for an initiative with private industry and the state to grow the business of agriculture. In return these enhanced industries will bolster the economy of the state.

WOODY BARTH: Farmer and Rancher, Solen, and Chairperson of the ND Credit Review Board. Part of these duties include working with adult farm management and state board of vocational and technical education, to testify in support of Section 2 of SB 2341. (tape 4104-4282)

MARK KANELL: Formerly of Hazen and now of Jamestown and long time teacher of agriculture and farm management to testify in support of SB 2341, Section 2 - adult farm management business program.

BUTCH HAUGLAND: Divide County High School Agriculture Instructor, to testify in support of the adult farm management program. (tape 5040-5343)

JOEL LEMER: ND Agriculture Teachers Assoc. and Carrington High School Vocational Agriculture Instructor, to testify in support of SB 2341, Section 1, extended contracts, which would allow instructors time to work with students. (tape 5343-6115)

KEVIN NELSON: Hebron High School Agriculture Education Instructor, and ND Vocational Agriculture Teachers Assoc., President, to testify in support of SB 2341, specifically section 1, extended contracts (testimony attached). Attachments are also included demonstrating the success of a recent graduate who was involved in a mechanics agriculture experience program and now is successfully employed.

success of a recent graduate who was involved in a mechanics agriculture experience program and now is successfully employed.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2341:

BECKY KOCH: NDSU, Agriculture Communication

SENATOR NAADEN: Closed the hearing on SB 2341 (tape 2, side A, 293)

2/15/99

Tape 1, Side A, meter 2140-3698

SENATOR NETHING: Reopened the hearing on SB 2341.

SENATOR NAADEN: Explained the amendment.

SENATOR NETHING: Called for the motion on the amendment to SB 2341.

SENATOR NAADEN: Moved a Do Pass on the amendment to SB 2341.

SENATOR ANDRIST: Seconded the motion.

SENATOR HOLMBERG: I would suggest putting the amendments and passing the bill to keep this whole issue alive. In the next month, we will have Vocational Education budget, Higher Education budget down here. All but one of these budgets is on its way over and certainly passing these amendments would be a message that when we look at Vocational Education, perhaps we should do something in that area of farm management or in the area of summer contracts for those teachers. I would prefer that instead of looking at the dollar amount and saying this is too much and go up on the floor and kill it. This will keep this going and keep us alert when we get those budgets down here.

SENATOR SOLBERG: In section four in the Ag budget there was an increase of \$71,000 for Ag in the classroom.

SENATOR ANDRIST: This is a bill I hate to kill. I particularly like sections one and two and without the amendments, we have to kill it because the money isn't there.

ROLL CALL: 9 YEAS; 5 NAYS; 0 ABSENT & NOT VOTING.

Yeas: Nething; Naaden; Solberg; St. Aubyn; Grindberg; Holmberg; Kringstad; Bowman; Andrist.

Nays: Lindaas; Tallackson; Tomac; Robinson; Tomac.

SENATOR NETHING: Called for the motion on SB 2341 as amended.

SENATOR NAADEN: Moved a Do Pass SB 2341 as amended.

SENATOR BOWMAN: Seconded the motion.

Page 5

Senate Appropriations Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SB 2341.lwp

Hearing Date ~~1/29/99~~

2/15/99

**ROLL CALL: 14 YEAS; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT & NOT VOTING.
MOTION CARRIED TO DO PASS SB 2341**

CARRIER: SENATOR ANDRIST.

SENATOR NETHING: Closed the hearing on SB 2341.

Date: 2-15-99
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB2341

Senate APPROPRIATIONS Committee

Subcommittee on _____
 or
 Conference Committee

✓ Legislative Council Amendment Number 90685.0101

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By SENATOR NAADEN Seconded By SENATOR ANDRIST

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Nething, Chairman	✓				
Senator Naaden, Vice Chairman	✓				
Senator Solberg	✓				
Senator Lindaas		✓			
Senator Tallackson		✓			
Senator Tomac		✓			
Senator Robinson		✓			
Senator Krauter		✓			
Senator St. Aubyn	✓				
Senator Grindberg	✓				
Senator Holmberg	✓				
Senator Kringstad	✓				
Senator Bowman	✓				
Senator Andrist	✓				

Total (Yes) 9 No 5

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-15-99
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2341

Senate APPROPRIATIONS Committee

Subcommittee on _____
 or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 90685.0101

Action Taken DO PASS AS AMENDED

Motion Made By SENATOR NAADEN Seconded By SENATOR BOWMAN

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Nething, Chairman	✓				
Senator Naaden, Vice Chairman	✓				
Senator Solberg	✓				
Senator Lindaas	✓				
Senator Tallackson	✓				
Senator Tomac	✓				
Senator Robinson	✓				
Senator Krauter	✓				
Senator St. Aubyn	✓				
Senator Grindberg	✓				
Senator Holmberg	✓				
Senator Kringstad	✓				
Senator Bowman	✓				
Senator Andrist	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment SENATOR ANDRIST

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2341: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Nething, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2341 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide for agricultural education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AGRICULTURAL TEACHERS - SUMMER CONTRACTS.

Within its 1999-2001 appropriation, the state board for vocational and technical education shall increase state reimbursement for the summer contracts of agricultural teachers.

SECTION 2. EXPANDED CURRICULA - ADULT FARM MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS - AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE.

Within the 1999-2001 appropriations, the state board for vocational and technical education shall provide funding to cooperate with the state board of higher education to expand the curricula of and participation in the adult farm management program.

SECTION 3. MATCHING TUITION REBATE PROGRAM.

Within its 1999-2001 appropriation, the state board of higher education shall establish a matching tuition rebate program in cooperation with rural communities.

SECTION 4. EXPANDED AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM.

Within its 1999-2001 appropriation, the commissioner of agriculture shall expand agriculture in the classroom and develop criteria that balance agricultural products and environmental concerns.

SECTION 5. EXPANDED 4-H PROGRAMS.

Within its 1999-2001 appropriation, North Dakota state university shall expand 4-H programs.

SECTION 6. EXPANDED FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA.

Within its 1999-2001 appropriation, the state board for vocational and technical education shall expand future farmers of America programs."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

DEPARTMENT 602 - AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

SENATE - This amendment removes the appropriations from the various agriculture program enhancements and provides that the programs be expanded within the agencies' 1999-2001 biennium appropriation levels.

1999 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

SB 2341

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2341

House Agriculture Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 3-4-99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
Two SB 2341	x		16.0 to 37.2
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Arline Hanson</i>			

Minutes:

Summary of bill: An act to provide for Agricultural Education.

Sen Tomac: Dist 31.. One of 5 bills on the Senate side relating to education on the future of Agr.

Going to become more and more important to educate the populus on the concerns & problems of farmers and ranchers. Goal # 4 in the bill actually focuses on education. I will walk you through the bill.

Section 1. Deals with summer contracts for Agr teachers.

Section 2. Deals with adult farm management.

Section 3. Matching tuition rebate program

Section 4. Expanded Agr in the classroom

Section 5. Expanded 4-H programs

Section 6. Expanded Future farmers of America

What the Senate did was strip the funding in hopes it would be kept alive in the House until they could at the end if there was some money for it. I urge the House agriculture committee to restore the funds taken out in the Senate.

Sen D. Mathern: Fargo, I'm especially interested in a couple of sections, 2 & 4. My children don't know anything about the farm and its very important that we educate them about the basics of farming and ranching so they can at least understand and appreciate where their food comes from.

Mel Olson: Director of State Voc Education program. (Testimony attached) Adult Farm Management program that deals with approx. 850 families and during the last two years with have taken over the management of the farm management for profit program. This is a program designed for farmers who borrow from the FmHA. As the program expand and the dollars don't the reimbursement rate doesn't. We are asking that these dollars be reinstated so that we can raise those rates back and allow the extended contracts to be 40 days in length. Many schools are cutting them back to 10 days and less. Vocational Agr are different then most school classes, it doesn't run between Sept and May, a major portion of the activity is in the summer months. We absolutely need extended contracts for those instructors. State FFA convention is in the summer, State fair and most county fairs are in the summer. These are a usual part of Voc education. The average wage is about \$147. per day. If we were to expand the secondary agr program for 40 days we'd have to add 642 more days. It would take about \$157,000 more dollars to extend those contracts to that level. If this funding request doesn't go through we ask that you kill the bill.

Al Liverspock: Mandan.. representing the local education instructor. We offer full support for this bill. Sec one of the bill, summer contracts for instructors. A couple of things I would offer, we understand the goals and think they are good ones.

Rep Koppang: In your secondary agr education at the H S level , what % of those instructors presently have 11 month contracts?

Al Liverspock: I don't know off hand.

Rep Koppang: Are all of these in Adult education.

Al Liverspock: No just part of them

Rep Pollert: What is the average salary for an Vo Agr instructor?

Al Liverspock: I believe the avg salary for the St of ND is around \$18,000 for a 9 mon program. One instructor out there who has in over 35 years and I believe he would be in the \$45,000 to \$48,000 range.

LeAnn Harner: Agr Coalition, on the agr impact council. What would you do if all the farmers quit farming. Sec 4 agr education in the class room is not to teach farmers about farming but to educate the rest of society about farming. What all goes into raising the food they eat, and the cloths they wear, etc. Curriculum, food-land-& people.

Marvin Cannel: Agr teacher for 30 years and in the Farm business management program out of Jamestown. 10 different school districts. with the shortage of funds I'm probably the instructor to have been fired 25 times because of a lack of funds. When cash flow is better get hired back.

Arden Haner: ND Land owners assoc. Please reinstate these funds back into the program. The ND Mill & Elevator provides millions of dollars to the General fund and we should be able to

reinvest some of this money back in Agriculture. If we can teach young people about ducks we should be able to teach them about a farm.

Rep Mueller: Has amendments that restores money back into SB 2341 that was thrown out in the Senate. Agriculture in North Dakota mostly takes place in the summer time. If you are going to teach about Agriculture then it should be done in the summer.

JoAnn n : Dept of Agr One of these things I do is work with the Agr in the class room education. The bill was passed in the 1985 session without any money and given the authority to raise money to fund the program. We have found out it is tough to raise money and if there isn't an apporiation in this bill it will be hard to make it work.

Rep Berg: How's the fund raising going?

JoAnn N: Dept of Agr. We are trying, we have put together a fund raising packet.

Chm Nicholas: How much have you been able to bring in.

JoAnn: We have \$25,000 spending authority and have never had to go to the Emerg Bd.

Rep Brusegaard: What are the appropriation for this amendment? Is there one.

Chm Nicholas: Wondering if we shouldn't get it to approp & put money in Voc-Ed budget. We should get a break down of Voc-Ed budget.

Rep Stefonowicz: Are those training session in April, July contingent upon this funding?

JoAnn: At this point we hope we have the funds for those sessions.

Motion by Rep Berg for a DO NOT PASS second by Rep Rennerfeldt motion prevailed

Vote total YES 10 NO 4 ABSENT 1

Carrier Rep Brusegaard

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2341

Page 1, after line 21, insert:

"SECTION 7. JOINT MEETING. The governor shall convene one or more meetings of representatives from the state board for vocational and technical education, the state board of higher education, the agriculture commissioner, and the Bank of North Dakota for the purpose of enhancing the coordinated delivery of agricultural education to agricultural producers while maintaining a focus on decisionmaking analysis, agricultural marketing, and the production of agricultural products, and while using a technology-based delivery system. The participants shall present a report to the legislative council, or a committee designated by the council, on or before January 1, 2000, setting forth the particulars of their agreed upon coordinated approach to the delivery of agricultural education."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3-4-89
Roll Call Vote #:

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. ~~344~~ ~~371~~
341

House AGRICULTURE Committee _____

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do not pass

Motion Made By Berg Second By Rennerfeldt

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Eugene Nicholas, Chaiman	✓		Bob Stefonowicz	✓	
Dennis E. Johnson, Vice Chm	✓				
Thomas T. Brusegaard	✓				
Earl Rennerfeldt	✓				
Chet Pollert	✓				
Dennis J. Renner		✓			
Michael D. Brandenburg	✓				
Gil Herbel	✓				
Rick Berg	✓				
Myron Koppang					
John M. Warner		✓			
Rod Froelich	✓				
Robert E. Nowatzki		✓			
Phillip Mueller		✓			

Total (Yes) 10 No 4

Absent 1

Floor Assignment ~~Froelich~~ Brusegaard

Final

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 15, 1999 1:38 p.m.

Module No: HR-46-4794
Carrier: Brusegaard
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2341: Agriculture Committee (Rep. Nicholas, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS**
(10 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2341 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

SB 2341

SB 2341
1/29/99

Testimony for Friday, January 29, 1999 at 9:00 am
from North Dakota Farmers Union in support of Ag in the Classroom Funding
Senate Bill 2341
read on behalf of Tammy Huber, North Dakota Farmers Union

Good morning,

Bobby is a nine year old boy. He sits in the third row in his classroom. He likes the outdoors and loves playing with his friends. His favorite snack is milk and a peanut butter sandwich. Today he learned that milk doesn't come from the carton, in fact it comes from an animal, a cow, that is raised and cared for by a farmer. Bobby lives in North Dakota.

My name is Tammy Huber and I am the Member Education Coordinator for North Dakota Farmers Union. I coordinate and direct educational programs about cooperatives, leadership and rural American values for urban and rural children all across our state. Last summer we saw 1700 youth in grades 3 through 12 participant in our summer cooperative camping program.

I proudly serve on the Ag in the Classroom Advisory Board and I am here today to ask for the approval of moneys for the development of a high-quality agricultural education program for North Dakota children. Ag in the Classroom programs all across the country are connecting with children by involving them in an agricultural experience. Whether its visiting a family farm, grooming a beef animal, watching a farmer harvest his wheat or learning that sugarbeets are needed for the coating on our cereal, we need to education our children about agricultural production. We cannot assume that just because we live in North Dakota children automatically know about production agriculture.

Ag in the Classroom educational programs need to be in all elementary classrooms in our state. It is truly our duty as producers, citizens and residence who value our state's livelihood to educate all children about their heritage. We need to create curriculum that will allow children to experience agriculture, to reason agriculture and to be proud of agriculture!

Don't let any more children like "Bobby" graduate from our state with "assumed" knowledge of the state's # 1 industry! We need to teach our children to never complain about farmers with their mouths full!

I ask of your support for the appropriation of Senate Bill 2341 Section 4.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

My name is Kevin Nelson and I am currently the Agriculture Education Instructor at Hebron High School and am currently serving as President of the North Dakota Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association. I am here today to support the Senate bill Number 2341 that appropriates monies for Agriculture Education, specifically section 1 that deals with monies appropriated for extended contracts.

I have taught agriculture the past 18 years between the Glen Ullin and Hebron school districts and have worked under a 12 month and currently a 11 month contract. I have seen the steady decline in extended contracts throughout the state and I am very concerned.

The extended contract allows me to work with my students year round, offering leadership activities and career development events, through conventions and inservices as well as conducting the supervised agriculture experience program. This program allows the student on the job training and experimental learning , which is conducted twelve months in most cases. These programs are carried out on the farm or at local businesses in town.

One of the new buzz words that I am hearing in education today is a program called school to work which is an excellent idea, the concept is to make the transition from secondary or postsecondary schools to the work force as smooth as possible. This concept for the many agriculture programs around the state is not new and we have been doing this for many years.

The FFA does an excellent job of providing awards to recognize students in their proficiency areas. The students first compete locally, then by district and can earn state and national honors. One of the questions that you may ask me how can you measure or justify the program. I feel it is through the many success stories that I could share with you. I would like to share two of these with you today.

Wade Mutschelknaus is a recent graduate of Hebron High School and conducted a mechanics proficiency award. Wade had a small repair shop at home, concentrating on snowmobiles, motorcycles and the occasional car engine, He also worked at a local garage. Wade is currently studying diesel Mechanics at the State School of Science in Wahpeton and will be conducting an internship at Coteau mine in Beulah, because of his background Wade has made the transition very easy.

Jesse Zuroff another recent graduate also had a mechanics agricultural experience program, but took a different route. Jesse started work as a welder at Steffes Manufacturing in Dickinson right out of high school and since has passed his welding certification, again the transition was very easy because of his background.

The major parts of the award programs are:

1. Goal setting - personal as well as career orientation
2. Compiling skills, knowledge and competencies gained
3. Constructing a balance sheet, depreciation schedules and inventories as well as efficiency factors associated with the project.
4. Resumes

The students from their experience programs also can obtain the advanced degrees that the FFA has to offer, the State and American FFA degrees, which are resumes of skills learned, leadership activities and investments made in their projects.

My 40 day extended contract at Hebron school allows me to work with the students on their various projects and keep them involved in leadership activities and the many career development events that Agriculture education and FFA have to offer, during the summer. Because of the year long contact with the students in my program, they are more apt to find career success because of the these activities.

I feel that if my extended contract were to be cut because of budget shortages at the local level it would adversely affect the students at Hebron High School. My program gives both high achieving and low achieving students a chance for some on the job training and skill development.

To conclude today, the Agriculture Education programs throughout the state have proven, excellent experience programs already in place. The FFA along with the many state and national sponsors also have an excellent awards program to recognize students and their supervised agriculture experience projects. The extended contracts do keep these types of programs alive.

Therefore I ask for your support in appropriating the \$315,000 additional dollars to support the summer program that Agriculture Education has to offer.

Thank you

SB 2341
1/29/99 (6B)

1996-97-98-99-2000	PLACEMENT Proficiency	CHAPTER #: ND0070 STATE: <u>North Dakota</u>
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1998
Agricultural Mechanical Technical Systems—Placement
Sponsored as a special project of the National FFA Foundation by
Case Corporation



1. Name: Jesse Duane Zuroff
2. Date of birth: 04/15/1979 3. Age: 18 4. Social Security #: 501-11-2099
5. Address:
(street/R.R./box number): 209 South Maple P.O. Box 15
(city/state/zip): Hebron N.D., 58638
6. Telephone number (including area code): (701) 878-4747
7. Name of parents/guardians
a. Father: Harold Zuroff, Jr.
b. Mother: Sharla Zuroff
8. Parent/guardian occupation: Own a Mechanic Station - Zuroff Repair
9. Complete FFA chapter name: HEBRON
10. Name of high school: Hebron Public School
11. School address: P.O. Box Q
12. School telephone number (including area code): (701) 878-4442
13. Chapter advisor(s): Kevin Nelson
14. Year FFA membership began: 1993
15. Years of agricultural education completed: 4.0
16. Years of agricultural education offered (Grades 9-12) in the school last attended: 4.0
17. Year in school at time of applying for award: graduate
18. If you have graduated from high school, year graduated: 1997
19. State/national dues paid (Y/N)?: Yes

We have examined this application and find that the records are true, accurate, and complete. We hereby permit for publicity purposes, the use of any information included in this application with the exception of the following:

Jesse Zuroff
Candidate Signature

Kevin Nelson
Chapter Advisor Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature

Steven Moershuber
Superintendent or Principal Signature
(indicate which)

The information contained in this application has been substantiated by an actual visit to the site of the applicant's supervised agricultural experience program.

Employer Signature (if applicable)

State Supervisor, Ag Ed, Signature

NOTICE: This application will not be returned by the National FFA Organization. Please make a copy for your records.

I. Performance Review

(30)

A. Getting started in this activity:

1. Describe how you became interested in this proficiency area. What motivated you to begin?

My dad has been a mechanic since he was sixteen years of age. He owned his own business by the age of twenty-two. My interests in mechanics started when I was about thirteen years old when I was getting interested in vehicles and I wanted to learn more about them. The reason I got so interested in mechanics at such young age is because I was always down at the shop watching the mechanics work on vehicles, therefore, I began to work at the shop and started to learn many things about mechanics.

2. Describe how you got started in this proficiency area.

During the first few weeks of my work was to start out slowly and work my way into harder things. I started out cleaning the shop, filling gas, fixing tires and assisting other mechanics when help was needed. I learned to take my time on what I was doing and do the best I could to make my work perfection.

3. When you first started in this proficiency area, what goals and objectives did you plan to achieve by the time you reached this point in your development?

My goal when I first started was to gain as much experience as I could to become better at what I would do with mechanics and to make what I do a profession in my life. In years to come I will learn new skills to help me become a good mechanic.

B. Progress:

1. Describe any special advantages or disadvantages that had a major impact on your achievements in this supervised agricultural experience program.

One big advantage is that I work for my family business (Zuroff Repair). The head mechanic takes more time showing me more skills than he would to a normal employee. Another big advantage is that Zuroff Repair is a full service station and I am able to have a one on one relationship with all of the customers.

2. Describe two or three major skills you have learned that have had a major impact on your achievements in this proficiency area.

The most important skill I learned is the safety of the mechanic field. I learned everything about tires, such as: fixing, selling, rotating, mounting and balancing. I also learned the management of a business by selling and working in the office with customers and I am able to collect on credit accounts. I feel that these skills I have accomplished will help me understand the field of mechanics and will give me better knowledge in business. I am now working at Steffes manufacturing in Dickinson as a full time welder and have learned how to spray arc, we are doing subcontracting work for Melroe.

3. Describe the progress you have made toward achieving your goals in this proficiency area.

I have made great progress in the goal I wanted to reach. Since graduation I have been working for Steffes manufacturing in Dickinson as a welder. I had plans of attending a Technical college either majoring in mechanics or welding, but instead applied for a job at Steffes and am learning on the job. I am currently working with one of the certified welders one and two days a week to eventually pass my certification. I really like my job as a welder and hope to stay with this company.

C. The future:

1. Describe the personal, educational, and career goals you would like to achieve in the next ten years.

My goals have definitely have changed this past year. Instead of going to college in a mechanics related field, I got a full time job as a welder the summer after graduation. I plan on staying with this job for several reasons, first I have received three raises since I started last summer and I really enjoy what I am doing. My biggest personal goal is to get my welding certification in the summer of 1998. I am currently working with one of the welders developing my welding skills, to pass this test.

2. Describe two or three major skills, competencies, or knowledge you have acquired that you think will make the greatest contributions towards achievement of your future goals.

I have learned that being productive at what I do in my job will help in everyday living. I also learned that taking my time at what I do will help my work be perfected. The progress that I have made in my goals to learn about mechanics will help me when I go to college and the skills I have learned will hopefully advance me in college class. Working for Zuroff Repair has gave me the chance to get involved with the money part of the business and also gave me many chances to learn how to take care of customers. Zuroff Repair has also gave me the chance to get involved with towing vehicles. The station has 24 hour towing truck (AAA) which is a program for towing vehicles. I have been able to go out on some towing calls which has given me lots of experience and many skills. The major skill that I have learned working as a welder is how to spray arc. This is very similar to wire welding but mixes argon with oxygen to create a hotter weld. We have been doing subcontracting work for Melroe out of Bismarck, making various components for the bobcat skid steer loader.

D. Skills, competencies, and knowledge:

1. List the major skills, competencies, and knowledge (e.g. marketing, safety, personal skills development) that best describe what you gained technically and personally from this proficiency area. How do you think these skills, competencies, and knowledge contributed to your success in this award area?

Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge	Contributions to Success
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mounting, Balancing, Rotating, Changing, Fixing and Patching tires 2. Cash register skills, invoicing, credit accounts, receipting of sales and placing part orders 3. Changing oil, spark plug changing, assistant at overhauling engines and brake work 4. All around shop cleaning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sweep floors and shovel snow - wash down floors and walls - scrub office - clean work benches - disposing of oil and tires - clean parts 5. Wash and clean cars, full service pumps 6. Management skills 7. Safety 8. Personal money management 9. Spray arc 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sale and servicing of tires is important in all mechanical fields. 2. These skills will help me in many different jobs in any area with sales. 3. Having the knowledge to do all of these skills will save me money and time for my personal vehicles. These are also important in all mechanical fields. 4. Cleanliness is important in every mechanic shop for fast and efficient work. The cleaner everything is the easier it is to work with. 5. Doing an excellent job at these duties brings customers back and shows new customers the good job we do. 6. One of my career goal in life is to one day own my own business, I feel I have a good understanding of running a small business. 7. To be a success in any career, safety is a must. 8. I have learned to manage my own finances with the money that I have earned at Zuroff Repair. 9. A majority of the welding that I do is spray arc, and eventually would like to be certified in this

II. Scope, Income, and Expense Summary for Placement-Type Supervised Agricultural Experience Program

(15)

Year	Job Title or Type of Work	Total Hours Worked			Gross Earnings (D)	Total Expenditures (E)	Net Earnings (F)**
		Unpaid (A)	Paid (B)	Total (C)*			
Jan. 1, 1994 to Dec. 31, 1994	Mechanic	0	776	776	3,694	0	3,694
	Zuroff Repair						
1. YEAR TOTAL	XXXXXXXXXX	0	776	776	3,694	0	3,694
Jan. 1, 1995 to Dec. 31, 1995	Mechanic	0	785	785	3,728	0	3,728
	Zuroff Repair						
2. YEAR TOTAL	XXXXXXXXXX	0	785	785	3,728	0	3,728
Jan. 1, 1996 to Dec. 31, 1996	Mechanic	0	864	864	4,154	0	4,154
	Zuroff Repair						
3. YEAR TOTAL	XXXXXXXXXX	0	864	864	4,154	0	4,154
Jan. 1, 1997 to Dec. 31, 1997	Zuroff Repair	0	180	180	1,223	0	1,223
	Steffes Manufacturing	0	1,400	1,400	11,140	2,311	8,829
4. YEAR TOTAL	XXXXXXXXXX	0	1,580	1,580	12,363	2,311	10,052
GRAND TOTALS (1+2+3+4)	XXXXXXXXXX	0	4,005	4,005	23,939	2,311	21,628

*Columns (A) plus (B) = (C)
**Columns (D) minus (E) = (F)

III. Activities and Skills

(40)

A. Activities

List your top four placement activities and give a brief description of each one and its importance to your supervised agricultural experience program.

1. Activity Number One.

Year	Activity	Where Attained	Student Hours
1997	Welder at Steffes Manufacturing	Steffes	1400

Description of Activity:

I started working as a welder upon graduation last spring. I learned a new process of welding called spray arc. This procedure is very similar to wire welding but mixes argon gas with oxygen to create a hotter weld. The welding that I have been doing is mainly subcontract work for Melroe company out of Bismarck, metal fabrication for TMI in Dickinson as well as after hour contract welding, manufacturing off-market snowmobile skis.

2. Activity Number Two.

Year	Activity	Where Attained	Student Hours
1996	Filling gas	Zuroff Repair	258

Description of Activity:

At Zuroff Repair filling gas is also a main part of the business. Zuroff Repair is a full service station. We fill the gas, clean windows, check air in tires, check oil and any other need the customer may have.

3. Activity Number Three.

Year	Activity	Where Attained	Student Hours
1996	Shop Cleaning	Zuroff Repair	148

Description of Activity:

Every Saturday it is a must to clean the shop. I make sure every floor is washed and swept, all tools are put away, garbages and oil is dumped and anything else that needs to be picked up. If there is time during week days, I will pick up and clean as much as I can. Having a clean shop makes it easier to find things while working. Also, having a clean shop gives the customers a feeling that if the shop is always clean, our work is done neatly.

4. Activity Number Four.

Year	Activity	Where Attained	Student Hours
1996	Mechanic Work	Zuroff Repair	150
Description of Activity: One of the bigger mechanic jobs that I do is oil changes. I also assist the head mechanic in various mechanical tasks such as overhauling carburetors and engines. When we take things like engines apart, another job I have is to clean all the parts.			

B. Skills

List the top placement skills you have developed and give a brief description of each one and its importance to your supervised agricultural experience program.

1. Skill Number One.

Year	Skill	Where Attained	Student Hours
1996	Tire Repair	Zuroff Repair	200
Description of Skill: Skills that I have that are involved with the repair of tires are as follows: -rotating -balancing -mounting -patching -changing One major skill I have learned in this area is working with spilt rims along with tractor and truck tires.			

2. Skill Number Two.

Year	Skill	Where Attained	Student Hours
1996	Invoicing and Cash Register Work	Zuroff Repair	100
Description of Skill: Invoicing and cash register work is very important in a business. No matter what kind of business you are involved in, there is always invoicing to do. I have also learned how to charge accounts and write sales slips.			

3. Skill Number Three.

Year	Skill	Where Attained	Student Hours
1996	Safety	Zuroff Repair	
Description of Skill: The most important skill to have in mechanics is safety. Some of the safety skills I use are listed here. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While filling gas, engines should not be running. - Use an exhaust hose to vent the shop. - Wearing safety glasses and coveralls. - Rid the shop of dirt and debris. - Dispose of oil and tires properly. - Welding safety 			

4. Skill Number Four.

Year	Skill	Where Attained	Student Hours
1997	Spray Arc	Steffes	1400
Description of Skill: This is a type of welding that I was taught as I started my job as a welder at Steffes Manufacturing in Dickinson. A majority of the welding that I do requires this type of welding procedure. This procedure mixes argon gas with oxygen gas to create a hotter weld. I am currently working with an experienced welder to pass my certification this spring or summer.			

IV. Supporting Documentation

A. Resume

(10)

Attach a one or two page resume that includes the following sections:

- a. Name/address/phone number/FFA chapter
- b. Career objective
- c. Education
- d. FFA leadership activities/awards
- e. School leadership activities/awards
- f. Community leadership activities/awards
- g. Professional associations
- h. Other accomplishments

B. Employer or Instructor's Statement

(0)

The applicant's most recent employer or agriculture instructor should evaluate and submit a maximum of one page report of the progress the student has made in developing the skills and competencies necessary for success in this award area.

C. Supporting Pictures

(5)

Submit a maximum of six photographs, no larger than 3 1/2" X 5" or 4" X 6", with a brief caption (50 words or less) for each. (The National FFA Organization reserves the right to retain and use the photographs for publicity purposes.)

RESUME

Jesse Duane Zuroff

209 South Maple P.O. Box 15

Hebron N.D., 58638

(701) 878-4747

HEBRON

Career Objective

I plan on graduating from Hebron High School and major in mechanics and certify myself as a welder by attending Bismarck State College. Instead of going to college I applied for a job as a welder last spring and have made it a full time job.

Education

I graduated from Hebron High school the spring of 1997, with a 3.66 grade point average. The classes that I have taken at hebron school are:

1. English I - IV
2. Algebra I and II as well as geometry
3. Physical science, biology and physics
4. Accounting I and II as well as computer applications
5. Agriculture I -IV, Agriculture Technology I and II and Agriculture Mechanics I and II
6. World history, US history and PDP

FFA Leadership Activities/Awards

1. FFA creed contest - Local level
2. Recreation Committee - 1994
3. Earnings and savings committee - 1995
4. Fruit Sales
5. Slave Sale
6. District winner in Agricultural mechanics - 1995,1996 and 1997
7. Coast to Coast local winner

School Leadership Activities/Awards

1. Football - 1991-1997
2. Basketball - 1989-1997
3. Baseball - 1984-1993
4. Men's Softball - 1994-1997
5. Track - 1991-1997
6. Athletic Club - 1992-1997

Community Leadership Activities/Awards

1. Member of St. Anns Church - 1979-1997

Other Accomplishments

I was a three year member of the All-tournament team of the Mandan Holiday Tournament. I was selected to the All-District team in 1995-1996 basketball season. I was named to the 1996 All-Conference team in 1996 football season. I was captain of Football and Basketball teams during my junior and senior year.

Instructor/Employer Statement

Jesse Zuroff has a career goal of being a mechanic. I would call his work as a mechanic a perfect project, for the fact he will learn valuable skills that will aid him obtaining his career goal. Jesse takes part in all phases of the business, which will give him a great advantage when he graduates from high school and goes on for additional training.

Jesse has taken agricultural mechanics classes in small engines, tractor maintenance, auto maintenance and welding that will aid him greatly in reaching his occupational goal. Jesse is a very good student maintaining a 4.0 grade point average in all of his agriculture classes.

He is a very productive, conscientious student always striving to do his best. Jesse is a self starter and seldom needs motivating to get the job done. He is the type of student that would be an asset to any mechanics business.

Jesse is a very good FFA member, He takes part in all of our local fund raisers and is involved in committee work at the local level. He was chosen as district winner in the mechanics proficiency area this past year.



Zuroff repair is the mechanics shop where I work. This is a full service gas station as well as having a full time mechanic.



Part of my job is to write out sales receipts and run the cash register. I also collect on charge accounts and fill out parts orders.



Chuck Brandt, a mechanic at Zuroff repair has taught me many of my mechanical skills. here I am taking a tire off of a rim to install a new one.



Answering the phone is also a part of the work day,
people are constantly calling for repairs and parts.



I graduated last spring and started working for Steffes manufacturing, located in Dickinson ND. We do custom welding as well as subcontract work.



We are building bobcat attachments for Melroe skidsteer loaders. Much of the welding is done by spray arc , this is similar to wire welding but mixes oxygen with argon to create a hotter arc.

Becky Koch, Information & Staff Development Specialist
Agriculture Communication Morrill 7, Box 5655
North Dakota State University Fargo, ND 58105-5655
Phone: 701 231-7875 Fax: 701 231-7044

5B2341
1/29/99

Senate Appropriations Committee
Chairman David Nething

I'm writing in support of Senate Bill No. 2341, specifically Section 4 that appropriates \$150,000 for Agriculture in the Classroom.

Before my husband and I moved to North Dakota in 1990, I was administrator of the Kansas Agriculture in the Classroom program. The revitalized North Dakota effort and the Kansas program are very similar in that the goal is to help K-12 teachers integrate agricultural information into the science, math, social studies, language arts, music, art and other classes they already teach. This helps students develop a better understanding of where their food, fiber and forestry products come from.

The Kansas program was a partnership, receiving an annual appropriation from the state legislature and also contributions from donors. Each year I updated the Senate and House agriculture and education committees, and they continually supported the program.

Now, as an information specialist in the North Dakota State University Agriculture Communication department, I'm supporting the North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom program on an in-kind basis. NDSU Agriculture strongly supports the integration of agricultural information into K-12 curricula. Two of us from NDSU serve on the North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom Council, and several faculty members regularly work with K-12 teachers. For example, the Entomology department has staff take insects to classes and Plant Sciences faculty are now teaching a Continuing Education course to help K-12 teachers learn how to use fast plants in their science classes. Faculty from several departments are working together to develop a two-week intensive graduate-level summer course for K-12 teachers that gives them hands-on experience with agricultural science. The Agriculture Communication department developed agricultural lessons that will be featured in The Forum newspaper.

The North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom effort is obviously a partnership, and NDSU will continue to be a major partner, providing in-kind time and expertise. Of the \$150,000 requested, only funds for direct Ag Mag production costs (graphic design and printing) might come to NDSU.

Since the Agriculture in the Classroom Council was reorganized last year, I feel the group has made major strides in the right directions getting representation from both agriculture and education, determining a mission and vision for the program, and setting program priorities. These priorities can be carried out and North Dakota's youth can learn about their state's #1 industry with your committee's support of this appropriation. Thank you.

Becky Koch
Information Specialist
NDSU Agriculture Communication

SB 2341
1/29/99

(3)A

To: State Legislators in support
of the 2341 Senate Bill.

We are pleased to be writing to you regarding the continued need for agriculture education within the classroom setting. As fourth grade teachers, we teach N D Studies to all of our students each year. Our students understand and take pride in the products of North Dakota agriculture. Agriculture isn't just farming, but ^{it} also involves processing and the distribution of products. Many different individuals have come to speak to how they make their living in an ag related job and they don't live on a farm. Our young people also need to know about career options involving agriculture that exist in our state. Our school has a high population of students from other countries who benefit from

agricultural experiences to a greater degree than our regular population. Hands on experiences have been greatly beneficial to our entire school.

Please support Bill 2341 which will promote a continuation of agriculture related curriculum.

Thank You,
LeAnn Thoreson
Peggy Benegas

Fourth grade teachers at
Madison School in Fargo.

I would like to write you a quick note to show my support for SB 2341. We have been fortunate to have had agriculture activities at our school. The experience has been extremely valuable for the children I work with, that have had very limited environmental/background experiences. It has taught them concepts and vocabulary that represent the area in which they live. AG activities also help support our North Dakota's curriculum, food/grain/nutrition activities. Agriculture is a very important part of the curriculum from kindergarten to 6th grade. Hands on activities in agriculture will help our children be aware of a very important aspect of our community, as well as our history. Funding for this vital program is necessary to allow our children this educational experience. Agriculture is the foundation of the Red River Valley. Our students deserve education in this area. Thank you for representing our children!

Tracy Osman
Speech/Lang. pathologist
1-28-99

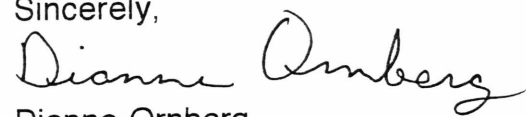
To Whom It May Concern,

I feel strongly that we need to educate our students in North Dakota on Agriculture. We are an agricultural state. We have people and resources that our students could learn and benefit from with the proper incentive.

We are lucky at our school to have Virginia Deitz as a teacher in our school. She has taken it upon herself to help students learn about agriculture and what North Dakota grows and produces. Other schools are not this fortunate.

We need you to **support Senate Bill No. 2341**, so all our students can learn about what North Dakota farmers contribute to the state rest of the nation. We have a lot to be proud of and our students should be aware of it.

Sincerely,



Dianne Ornberg
Madison Elementary
Fargo, ND

Mel Olson
Director

THE NORTH DAKOTA VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



MISSION...work with others to provide all North Dakota citizens with the technical skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for successful performance in a globally competitive workforce.

The North Dakota Agriculture Education system delivers...

- ◆ **A Comprehensive Secondary Program**
 - Allows students to learn in a relevant, hands-on environment
 - Provides a curriculum developed to include application in Math, Communications and the Sciences
 - Serves 4800 students with 86 Instructors in 78 programs throughout the state
 - FFA is an integral part of the total Agriculture Education program

- ◆ **An Articulated Postsecondary Program**
 - Provides linkages between postsecondary agriculture programs and NDSU
 - Prepares students for entry into agriculturally related careers and/or transfer for the completion of a four year program
 - Serves over 470 students at 10 community colleges and state university campuses
 - Includes the PAS as an integral part of the program

- ◆ **Management, Evaluation and Marketing Skills for Farmers and Ranchers**
 - Adult Farm Management Education for over 800 rural families
 - Farm Management for Profit Borrower for nearly 200 farm families

Increasing state reimbursement rates to schools for extended contracts for Secondary Agriculture Education Instructors.

We are proposing increasing the salary reimbursement rate provided to schools for extended contract periods from the current rate of 26% to 50% with an extended contract being defined as being 40 days or more above the established number of school year contract days.

Secondary Agriculture Education is not a 'September through May' program. The extended contract provides several features often seen as unique to Agricultural Education including:

- A continuing educational process for students through the summer months.
- Active participation in the North Dakota State FFA Convention, North Dakota State Fair, County Fairs and other such exhibitions.
- The implementation and monitoring of Supervised Agriculture Experience programs.
- The continuation or development of community based cooperative activities.
- An opportunity for instructors to establish industry linkages.
- Adequate time for curriculum review and revision.
- The opportunity for the continued education and professional development of the instructor.
- Participation in the Vocational & Technical All Service Conference.

New funding requested: **\$315,000**

Justification:

Current with 86 Instructors	
Average wage per extended contract day	\$147.51
Extended contract wages and benefits paid by the local school district	\$458,465.
SBVTE reimbursement rate (26%)	<u>.26</u>
Annual cost to VTE	\$119,248.
With Appropriation and extended contracts at a minimum 40 days	
Contract days to bring all sub-40 Instructors to 40 days	642.
Average Wage per Day	<u>\$147.51</u>
Additional paid to districts for minimum 40 day	\$94,702.
Extended contract wages and benefits paid by the local school district with the minimum 40 day extended contract	\$553,167.
SBVTE reimbursement rate (50%)	<u>.50</u>
Annual cost to VTE	\$276,584.
Annual Increase in reimbursement (276,584-119,248)	\$157,336.
Cost per biennium (2 x 157,336)	\$314,672.

This would also result in savings to North Dakota school districts of \$62,680 annually.

860

Expansion of curricula and participation in Adult Farm Management Programs.

We are seeking to make the following improvements in the Adult Farm Management Program:

1. An increase in program reimbursement from the current level of 58% to 63% and aligning all program funding levels to an equal plane.
2. Bring technology to an equal and current standard in all programs.
3. Add three new Adult Farm Management Programs.
4. Work with NDSU and Extension in establishing a Marketing Initiative.
5. Develop an Alignment of NDSU Extension, Adult Farm Management and the NDUS using those technologies available and most prudent for the sharing of educational information and opportunities.

As the complexities of modern agriculture grow, so grow the needs of agriculturists for the comprehensive assistance and instruction available from the Adult Farm Management program. Through classroom instruction, telephone and computer communications, and individualized on-farm instruction and assistance, Adult Farm Management Instructors provide the opportunity for individuals to develop skills in:

- Financial Management
- Enterprise Management
- Marketing Management

New funding requested: **\$585,000**

Breakdown:

1. Increase the reimbursement of currently operating programs and bring all programs to the same funding level. **\$275,000** per biennium
 - Bring all programs to the same funding level. \$150,000/biennium
 - Increase VTE program reimbursement rate. \$125,000/biennium
2. Provide technological improvements to all programs to allow for the use of new software, provide web service and improve efficiency of operation. **\$100,000/biennium**
3. Add three new programs. **\$150,000/biennium**
4. Work with NDSU and ND Extension in establishing a marketing initiative. **\$35,000/biennium**
5. Develop an alignment of NDSU Extension, Adult Farm Management, the NDUS and 2-year Colleges using those technologies available and most prudent for the sharing of educational information and opportunities. **\$25,000/biennium**

Provide incentive funds to local FFA Chapters for the initiation of community service and leadership programs.

We are planning to develop a program within the State FFA to promote development/expansion of programs and/or projects within rural communities related to leadership and community service.

The motto of the FFA is:

**Learning to Do
Doing to Learn
Earning to Live
Living to Serve**

When that motto is combined with the mission of the FFA, **FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education**, we recognize the importance of bringing leadership and service into the community.

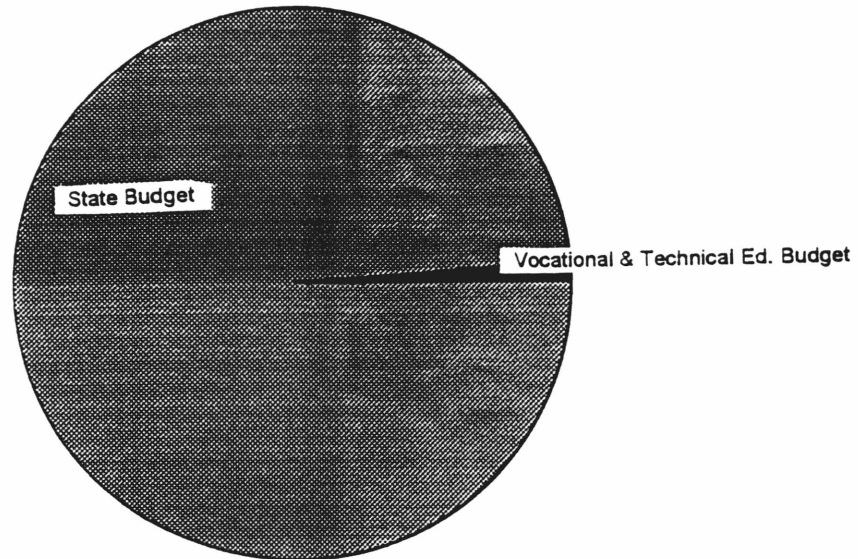
New funding requested: **\$53,000**

Justification:

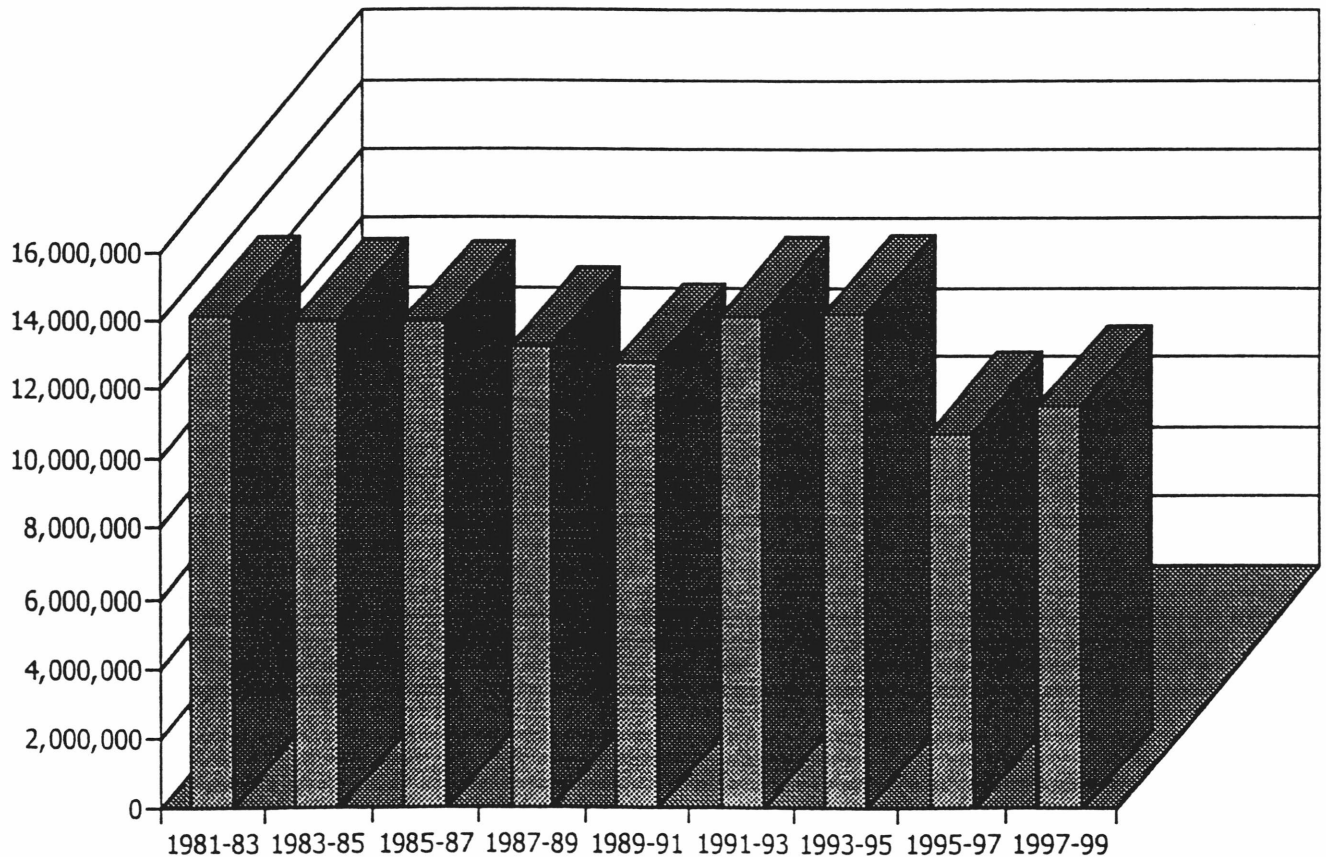
One grant for \$500 per County per year would be made available. Grants would be determined by application and would be required to demonstrate leadership involvement by an FFA chapter conducting a project that would fulfill a specific public need within a community. Examples of projects might include: park plantings and maintenance, senior citizen assistance programs, safety programs, etc. If an acceptable application were not received for a particular county, that money would go into a pool for additional projects being proposed in counties that may have more than one FFA chapter.



Rapidly Changing Workforce Creates Need for More Vocational-Technical Education (State Contributions to Programming Remains Flat)

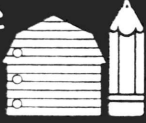


Approximately 1% of State Budget Expended for Vocational-Technical Education



The significant decrease in state funding for the 1995-97 biennium and beyond resulted in part from a \$2,986,429 transfer to the North Dakota University System.

State Funding for Vocational-Technical Education has not increased significantly since 1980, in spite of growing needs for skill training and increasing enrollments.



1998-1999
Council Members

Roger Johnson
Commissioner
of Agriculture
Bismarck

Wayne Sanstead
Superintendent
of Public Instruction
Bismarck

Dean Aakre
NDSU 4-H Youth
Development
Fargo

Bonny Berryman
Erik Ramstad
Minot

Virginia Deitz
Madison Public School
Fargo

Travis Eriksmoen
Division of
Independent Studies
Fargo

LeAnn Harner
Ag Coalition
Mandan

Tammy Huber
ND Farmers Union
Jamestown

Becky Koch
North Dakota
State University
Fargo

Sarah Nordby
Producer
Amidon

Arlene Peterson
ND Farm Bureau
Fargo

Doug Vannurden
ND Vocational
Agriculture
Bismarck

Jill Vigesaa
Land & People
Fargo

Mark Wagner
Beulah Public Schools

TESTIMONY ON SB 2341 - Funding of Agriculture In The Classroom

In 1985, the North Dakota Legislature created Agriculture In The Classroom as a program within the Department of Agriculture. Although it has received spending authority every session since that time, it has never received any state funding. Instead, the work has been a combination of scrounging from other programs, volunteer efforts and fundraising.

Still, we conducted workshops for teachers, participated in Living Ag Classrooms and did whatever we felt possible to promote the integration of agriculture into existing curriculum.

In 1998, Agriculture In The Classroom began a renaissance; beginning with new council members. We've met, planned and developed a vision for Ag In The Classroom. This vision includes:

- **Commitment to a new curriculum -**
Food, Land and People provides a balanced perspective
- **Traveling Trailer -** 8' X 30' trailer to provide classroom experience
- **Teacher Training -** Over 125 teachers have already indicated interest
- **Ag Mag -** A newspaper on agriculture facts for kids
- **Agriculture on the Internet -** A fun, new exciting resource for teachers.

Yes, these are ambitious plans. To carry them out to their fullest extent possible, we need your help.

We need a coordinator to schedule activities and answer questions.

We need program dollars to help bring these programs to fruition.

We need a commitment to help us show young people the source of their food and fiber.

Please share our vision.

LeAnn M. Harner
AITC Council Member

OBJECTIVES

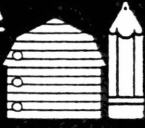
1. Place "Dakota Maid" logo and trade name of North Dakota Mill and Elevator on bread distributed and sold at retail, and to promote nationally bread made from 100 per cent North Dakota grown hard red spring wheat.
2. To increase the sales and profit of the Mill and Elevator by capturing more of the profit margin of converting hard red spring wheat flour into bread.
3. To increase the association of North Dakota produced hard red spring wheat with high quality standards, and to directly associate high quality North Dakota grown hard red spring wheat with breads sold retail on a national basis.
4. To afford North Dakota farmers an opportunity to produce and market unique cultivars of high quality hard red spring wheat at a premium price

Proposed Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2341

Page 1, line 14, remove SECTION 4.

Page 1, after line 13, insert:

"SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION. There is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the commissioner of agriculture for the purpose of expanding ag in the classroom and developing curricula that balance agricultural production and environmental concerns, for the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001."



1998-1999
Council Members

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of Agriculture
Bismarck

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Tammy Huber
ND Farmers Union
Jamestown

Becky Koch
North Dakota
State University
Fargo

Sarah Nordby
Producer
Amidon

Arlene Peterson
ND Farm Bureau
Fargo

Doug Vannurden
ND Vocational
Agriculture
Bismarck

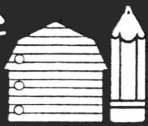
Gregory Mesaa
Land & People
Bismarck

Mark Wagner
Beulah Public Schools

Senate Bill No. 2341

Proposed Agriculture in the Classroom Budget 1999-2001

Food, Land, and People Teacher Training Seminars (materials, travel, facilitating costs, credit reimbursement)	\$ 17,000
Educational Outreach (materials, video training development conference booth rental, supplies, travel)	\$ 16,000
<i>AGmobile</i> Traveling Ag Education Experience – Mobile Classroom (construction for trailer modifications, travel, consumable supplies)	\$ 10,000
Intern Program (training program for student development)	\$ 5,000
Living Ag Classrooms (materials, travel)	\$ 3,000
Webpage (development, hosting, and maintenance)	\$ 3,000
Ag Mag (newspaper teaching aid, development, printing, promotion)	\$ 5,000
Program Coordinator (salary, benefits)	\$ 69,000
General Operating (travel, training, phone, office supplies, computer software, etc.)	\$ 13,000
Equipment (computer, computer projector, office furniture)	\$ 9,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION:	\$ 150,000



1998-1999
Council Members

Roger Johnson
Commissioner
of Agriculture
Bismarck

Wayne Sanstead
Superintendent
of Public Instruction
Bismarck

Dean Aakre
NDSU 4-H Youth
Development
Fargo

Bonny Berryman
Erik Ramstad
Minot

Virginia Deitz
Madison Public School
Fargo

Eriksmoen
Division of
Independent Studies
Fargo

LeAnn Harner
Ag Coalition
Mandan

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ND Farmers Union
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Mark Wagner
Beulah Public Schools

The Agriculture in the Classroom Council was established by the 1985 Legislature, but it has never received an appropriation. It simply has *spending authority* and the challenge to raise the money to run the program.

The following brief explanations offer more specific information about the major components of the Agriculture in the Classroom program:

Food, Land & People Teacher Training Seminars

North Dakota K-12 teachers can learn how to integrate agricultural information into their classes with this exciting new curriculum. *Food, Land, & People* (FLP) is a nationally developed and field tested program that encourages the inclusion of state specific information. FLP features 40 lessons that cover topics such as seeds, raw to processed foods, pollination, soil erosion, cattle by-products, fabric production and nutrition, just to name a few. There is also the opportunity to discuss agriculture-related careers within this curriculum.

Facilitator training is scheduled for April 23-24 in Carrington. Teacher training seminars are set for July 12-13 in Minot and for July 14-15 in Dickinson.

Educational Outreach

It is important for the word to get out about the work of the Council. A booth at conferences and agricultural events, preparation of promotional materials, and production of a video training program are ways to do that successfully.

AGmobile

The Council obtained an 8'x30' FEMA trailer last fall for the purpose of making it a traveling agricultural education experience. At present, it is being "remodeled" at the Youth Correctional Center in Mandan. It will accommodate up to 20 students at a time to learn about agriculture and agriculture-related careers through hands-on activities. The *AGmobile* will be a classroom, an exhibit, a demonstration center, depending on its location---school, county fair, ag expo, etc. The possibilities are very exciting—and endless! Work is underway to develop partnerships with the Retired Teachers Association and university teacher training programs across the state to help with this project.

Program Coordinator

This position is vital to the success of the Agriculture in the Classroom program. The members of the Council are all volunteers with full-time jobs. They have spent considerable time in the past year since the Council was formalized working on the various components. However, the time is limited. A coordinator is needed to manage the various components of the program.

Ag Day has classrooms talking agriculture

Whether you're talking about cosmetics, football or pizza, it all starts with agriculture. Agriculture touches our lives day-by-day in ways we don't realize. And the 1999 National Ag Day campaign, "America's Largest Classroom on Agriculture" is helping students across the United States learn "A through Z" about America's largest industry: American agriculture... *Growing the understanding of Tomorrow's consumers... Growing Tomorrow for everyone.*

"*Growing Tomorrows*" is captured in a commemorative painting where creator Jim Fanning illustrates the recognition of today's students as tomorrow's consumers. In this painting, a farm family has joined an urban classroom to share the many ways that agriculture interacts with us everyday.

As part of "America's Largest Classroom on Agriculture," school children across the nation will take time, March 15-19, 1999 to consider how almost everything we eat, wear, and use starts with

agriculture. During the week leading up to National Ag Day, March 20, 1999, the Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will provide educators with materials that help students discover the important role of agriculture in daily life.

ACA introduced the "America's Largest Classroom on Agriculture" campaign in September, 1998. This new campaign will involve existing ag literacy programs such as Ag in the Classroom, Project Food, Land & People, 4-H, the national

FFA Organization and others. Together, the agricultural community will engage hundreds of volunteers and organizations, during the week of March 14-20, 1999 to assist in the education of students about the exciting role agriculture plays in our modern lives.

"The vision of this National Ag Day Campaign," says Joyce Spicier, Chairperson of ACA, "is to coordinate existing efforts in agricultural literacy and reach classrooms with exciting new materials that help students learn about the vital role agriculture plays."

The Growing Tomorrows commemorative painting can be yours to enjoy yearlong. A limited edition print of the painting is available for \$49.95 by contacting 1-888-98AGDAY.

Ag Day Thoughts by Representative Larry Combest

With the same confidence that we turn on the faucet and instantly have reliable drinking water, we reach into our refrigerators for food and open our closets for a fresh shirt. Most folks simply do not think about what it takes to get water, nor the efforts to get food and clothing.

The reliability of our food and fiber is rarely ever in question. And that reliability is due to agriculture in America — producers, processors, transporters and marketers. Being dependable, agriculture is taken for granted by a large segment of our population.

While it is nice to be dependable, it would be nicer to be known for that dependability. That is where National Ag Day begins, appropriately on the first day of spring, March 20 of this year. This is

more than the celebration of the hard work of the men and women involved in agriculture; it is an education of sorts. The prior week, National Ag Week, March 14-20, promotes America's Largest Classroom on Agriculture. Recognizing today's students as tomorrow's consumers, the Agriculture Council of America is dedicated to teaching future generations about the important role agriculture plays in daily life.

Farming families will travel to Washington, D.C., where agricultural policy is made, to answer questions about rural life from students in urban schools. More than learning that their carton of milk came by way of a dairy cow, students will have a positive exposure to just what agriculture in

continued, top of next page...

Ag Day Thoughts continued...

America means to Americans — and in feeding a hungry world. They will also learn just how much is involved bringing food to the table.

As a former teacher, I know firsthand the importance of a quality education, and the positive impact education can have in improving the understanding of agriculture. Careers abound in agriculture: farm production, management and marketing, research and engineering of new seeds and plant varieties, food science, processing, retailing, banking,

education, landscape architecture, and urban planting, to name just a few paths young people may wish to follow.

All of us involved in agriculture have something to bring to the table. I have staked out an advocacy role for the Agriculture Committee as its new chairman. We in agriculture have quite a story to tell, and I welcome the opportunity to educate and advocate on behalf of agriculture in America. —*Combest (R-Tex.) is the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee of House of Representatives*

Why educate about agriculture?

According to the findings of the National Research Council's 1988 report, *Understanding Agriculture — New Directions for Education*, agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the relatively small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agricultural studies.

Agricultural literacy includes an understanding of agriculture's history and current economic, social and environmental significance to all Americans. This understanding includes some knowledge of food and fiber production, processing and domestic and international marketing.

Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet and health.

Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.

The National Research Council offered these principal findings and recommendations:

- Agricultural education in the United States high schools usually does not extend beyond the offering of a vocational agriculture program.
- The focus of agricultural education must change to include more than vocational agriculture.
- Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through twelfth grade, all students should receive some systematic instruction about agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers are independent business people who provide for their families by growing and producing food and fiber. They use modern production techniques to increase the quality and quantity of the food they produce.

In the 1960s, one farmer supplied food for 25.8 people in the United States and abroad. In 1994, one farmer supplied food for 129 people in the United States and abroad.

Nearly two million people farm or ranch in the United States. Today, individuals, family partnerships or family corporations own 99 percent of U.S. farms with fewer than 10 stockholders. Only one percent of America's farms and ranches are owned by non-family corporations.

The top five agricultural commodities include: cattle and calves, dairy products, corn, soybeans and hogs. U.S. farmers account for 42.7 percent of the world's production of soybeans and 34.4 percent of the world's production of corn.

1997 Census snapshots

Cass County ranked first in the country in soybean acreage. Traill County had the youngest average age of farmers in North Dakota, at 47.1 years. Those interesting tidbits, and many more, are contained in the 1997 Census of Agriculture.

Every five years, the Census of Agriculture takes a snapshot of America's agriculture. This picture is an invaluable tool for assessing trends and determining current needs of farmers and ranchers at the local level. The census provides comprehensive, comparable statistics for every county in the nation.

Other interesting North Dakota facts revealed in the census include:

- The total land in farms counted was virtually unchanged from 1992, with 39,359,349 acres in 1995 versus 39,438,144 acres in 1992.
- Ward County led the state with 1,172 farms while Sioux County had the fewest with 193 farms. Logan County had the sharpest decline in farm numbers from the 1992 census with a 16 percent drop (401 farms). Golden Valley County, conversely, had an increase of 11.4 percent, to 244 farms.
- The average age of farmers in North Dakota increased from 50.0 years old in 1992 to 51.4 years in 1997. Only 11.9 percent of the state's farm operators were 34 years old or younger, while 21.4 percent were over 65 years old.
- Average per farm net cash returns from agricultural sales totaled \$13,112, down 37.4 percent from 1992.
- The census counted 1,336 female farm and ranch operators in the state, up 42 percent from 1992, and they operated 1,041,135 acres of land. Ward County led the state with 64 female operators, while Cavalier County had the fewest, with 8.
- North Dakota canola harvested acreage grew from 16,530 acres in 1992 to a reported 376,428 in 1997, making the state the largest canola producer in the United States.

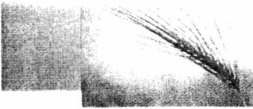
JD 2341
1/29/99

Building the Future of North Dakota Agriculture



*"The trusted
provider of
the highest
quality food
in the world!"*

Commission
on the Future
of Agriculture
1998



Introduction

Dear friends,

North Dakotans are a special breed of people! In the midst of low prices, disease, poor yields, winter storms and spring flooding, you didn't quit—you persevered. Your positive attitude, participation and suggestions have helped the Commission on the Future of Agriculture do its work successfully.

In the fall of 1997, as we were beginning the slow recovery from the many disasters of the previous winter and spring, Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson called us together to start a discussion about what needed to be done to help North Dakota agriculture, our state's #1 industry. He told us he wanted representation from Farm Bureau and Farmers Union (the state's two largest farm organizations), the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, and North Dakota State University. We all gladly joined the effort as the steering committee.

We recognized that the agricultural economy of the state could not be left to chance. We had to do something, since 25 percent of our state's population is employed directly by agriculture or in an agriculture-related business. Ninety percent of North Dakota's land area consists of farms and ranches, and agricultural production and manufacturing make up more than 37 percent of North Dakota's economic base. We acknowledged that the business of agriculture is changing and that we need to change with it. The ques-

tion was: How do we make those changes profitable for our agricultural community?

Our first step toward finding that answer was to establish the 15-member Working Group in November 1997. We asked these individuals to contribute a significant amount of time and energy during the next seven months to answering two questions:

- ◆ What do we want North Dakota agriculture to look like in the future?
- ◆ What are we going to do to get there?

We then created the Commission on the Future of Agriculture, comprised of over 60 agricultural and rural organizations and agencies. This group met for the first time in January and set the process in full motion, with funds provided by Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp as the result of the settlement of a multi-state legal action.

More than a thousand of you have been involved in this process from the first public forum at Marketplace '98 on Jan. 8, through 20 other forums held around the state. You attended those forums to hear what others had to say and to make significant contributions to the list of recommendations.

As a result of those forums and after considerable discussion by both the Working Group and the Commission, we have identified the direction in which we believe North Dakota agriculture must move. On June 5, 1998, the Commission on the Future of Agriculture overwhelmingly approved this plan,

which is truly an investment in the future.

The recommendations identified in "Building the Future of North Dakota Agriculture" will require action from a variety of sources including Congress, the State Legislature, federal and state government agencies, local political subdivisions, private companies, and you—the citizens of North Dakota. Those of us who have been involved in this effort thought that you would want to know the current state of our #1 industry and plans for its future.

The hardest work is yet to come—implementation—when we turn our vision of the future and our 54 recommendations into reality. That's Phase II, our next step: making it all happen. There is a part for you to play in it; we certainly hope that you'll join us!

The significance of the Commission's efforts is not what is written on the following pages, but rather, what will happen because of its work. We hope that you will talk to your friends and neighbors about what we're recommending and call us if you have any questions or comments.

Finally, please remember that this is simply a blueprint for building the future of North Dakota agriculture. It is not a finished product, but rather, it is a work in progress.

Sincerely,

The Steering Committee of the Commission on the Future of Agriculture



Pictured left to right: Dennis Hill, Executive Director, N.D. Assn. of Rural Electric Co-ops; Robert Carlson, President, N.D. Farmers Union; Howard Schmid, Past President, N.D. Farm Bureau; Roger Johnson, N.D. Commissioner of Agriculture, and Pat Jensen, Vice President - College of Agriculture, N.D. State University

C O N T E N T S

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"Building the Future of North Dakota Agriculture," the Final Report and Action Plan of the Commission on the Future of Agriculture. Published in cooperation with "North Dakota REC/RTC Magazine," the monthly magazine of the state's rural electric cooperatives and rural telephone cooperatives. For more information on COFA, contact N.D. Department of Agriculture, 600 East Blvd. Ave., Department 602, Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0020; ph: (800) 242-7535. For information on the "North Dakota REC/RTC Magazine," contact the magazine at: P.O. Box 727, Mandan, N.D. 58554-0727; ph: (701) 663-6501; fax: (701) 663-3745; e-mail: kbrick@ndarec.com; or see the web site: <http://www.ndarec.com>. Cover note: The Celley family—Roland and Tammy, young Aaron and Alison, and their dog, "Dude," farm near Regan, N.D.



Vision

"The commission's work is detailed and far-reaching. In many aspects, it is nothing short of visionary. It should be taken seriously because it contains the seeds of a new, diversified and invigorated agricultural sector."

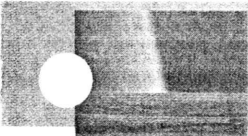
The Forum, June 14, 1998

Our vision of the future is:

That North Dakota becomes *the trusted provider of the highest-quality food in the world* with:

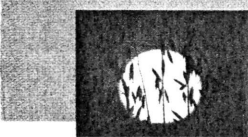
- ◆ Prosperous family farms;
- ◆ Thriving rural communities, and
- ◆ World-class stewardship of resources.

The Commission recognizes that North Dakota's agricultural commodities are also used as raw materials for processing into fiber, energy, and other industrial products as well as food products. However, there is value in adopting a vision statement that is bold, compelling, and easy to remember. We believe the phrase, "... the trusted provider of the highest quality food in the world ..." is a crisp vision statement that can capture the imagination of industry participants and motivate them to take the actions needed to make the vision become reality.



Mission

To significantly increase net farm income, improve the quality of rural life, and increase North Dakota's rural population.



Goals, Objectives and Actions

The following goals are designed to enable North Dakota to fulfill its vision and to achieve its mission.

Goal 1

Make North Dakota agricultural products synonymous with high quality, dominating the premium markets.

Goal 2

Increase value-added agricultural processing.

Goal 3

Diversify and increase the value of agricultural production.

Goal 4

Increase farm and non-farm cooperation that supports thriving rural communities and enhances our natural resources.

Goal 5

Create a political, regulatory, economic, trade, financial, and natural resource environment in which North Dakota producers can compete in the global marketplace.



Specific objectives and action steps for each goal:

Goal 1

Make North Dakota agricultural products synonymous with high quality, dominating the premium markets.

Objective 1

Develop a recognized family of brands that provides commensurate net returns.

- a. We recommend initial efforts be directed toward those products for which North Dakota has the greatest comparative advantage.

- b. We recommend that cost-effective joint marketing be undertaken as multiple brands become viable or marketing pools of differentiable products can be identified.

Objective 2

Establish, promote, and implement internationally recognized standards of product quality and processing excellence that can be certified by an independent entity.

- a. We recommend that the North Dakota Department of Agriculture promote the cooperation of appropriate certifying agencies with all relevant producer and processor groups to develop standards for their products and to develop systems for monitoring adherence to these standards.
- b. We recommend that the North Dakota Mill and Elevator establish a model for developing standards for wheat.

Objective 3

Conduct the necessary animal and crop research to differentiate and market high

quality crop and livestock products from North Dakota.

- a. We recommend that the U.S. Congress and the State Legislature provide adequate research funding to North Dakota for emerging diseases of plants and animals.
- b. We recommend that public support for research related to crops and livestock grown in North Dakota be gradually increased to 2 percent of gross farm income to the state.
- c. We recommend that a major bench-marking effort be undertaken for key North Dakota agricultural products so as to quantify the greatest product advantages and areas requiring augmentation.

Objective 4

Get producers to buy equity in and commit production to North Dakota-based processing and marketing enterprises.

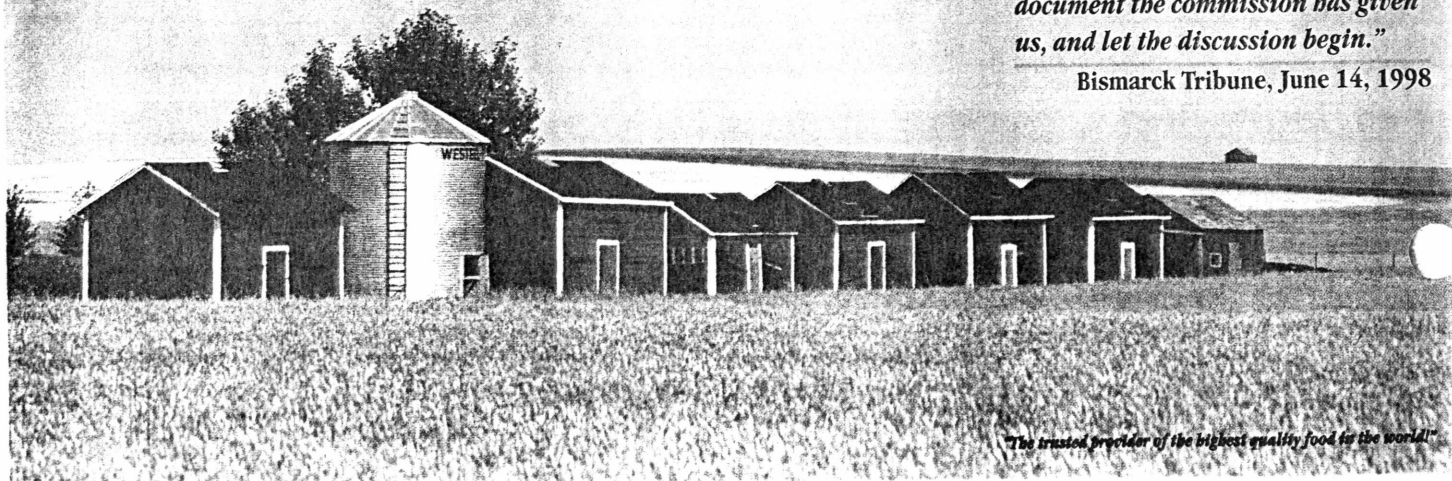
- a. We recommend that the Cooperative Development Center technical assistance services to producers be strengthened and expanded. ♦

"The report is must reading for any farmer or rancher who wants to survive and see his farm or ranch passed on to future generations."

Farm and Ranch Guide, June 19, 1998

"Let us ponder the rather remarkable document the commission has given us, and let the discussion begin."

Bismarck Tribune, June 14, 1998



"The trusted provider of the highest quality food for the world!"



Goal 2

Increase value-added agricultural processing.

Objective 1

Provide and promote opportunities for producers to invest in value-added agricultural processing through incentives.

- a. We recommend that the U.S. Congress and the North Dakota Legislature provide tax incentives for investors in value-added agricultural processing.

Objective 2

Improve and strengthen the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC).

- a. We recommend that the legislature assure a permanent funding source to support value-added research and development through APUC.
- b. We recommend that APUC remain under the control of farmers, with six appointed members to be selected from names recommended by agricultural organizations.
- c. We recommend that APUC be able to negotiate repayment of grants through preferred stock, intellectual property, and other methods.
- d. We recommend that APUC assist in the commercialization of innovations and patentable technologies discovered in publicly assisted research.



Objective 3

Provide and promote favorable finance programs for value-added agricultural processing businesses.

- a. We recommend improvements in the cooperative stock purchase program to include stronger incentives for low-equity farmers and improved loan terms for other farmers.
- b. We recommend the creation of an additional capital fund, partly funded by profits from the Bank of North Dakota, to make equity investments in value-added agricultural ventures within the state.

Objective 4

Promote innovative financial tools for non-farm North Dakota residents to invest in value-added agricultural processing projects with their farmer neighbors.

- a. We recommend that a mutual fund capital pool be developed to attract

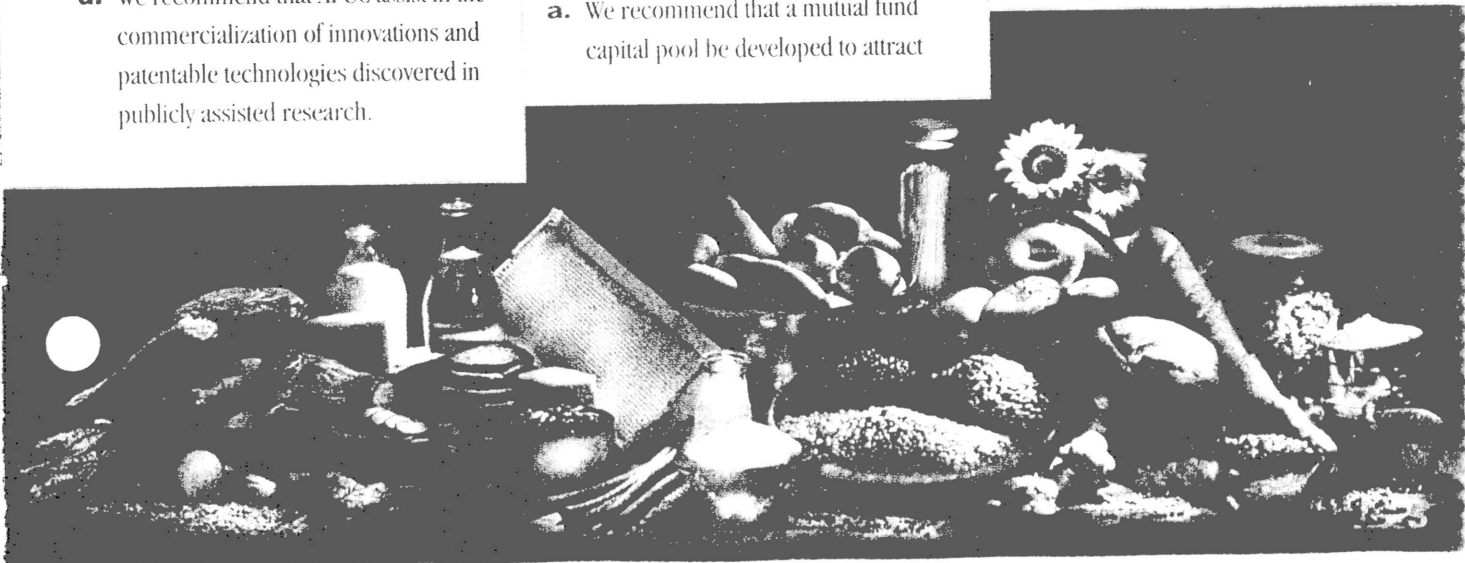
farm and non-farm investments in North Dakota value-added processing projects.

- b. We recommend that existing cooperatives be encouraged to create and capitalize a fund to be used to encourage farmers to invest in diversification and value-added projects.

Objective 5

Locate value-added food businesses in rural areas, where economically feasible and sustainable, with a high preference for North Dakota locations.

- a. We recommend that the legislature appropriate funds for a targeted Partnership in Assisting Community Expansion (PACE) program with lower matching requirements for value-added processing projects. ♦





Goal 3

Diversify and increase the value of agricultural production.

Objective 1

Develop and implement an aggressive plan for increasing animal agriculture within the state.

- a. We recommend that the 1999 legislature change the farm property tax structure to encourage investment in animal agriculture facilities.
- b. We recommend the promotion of value-added animal agriculture production, including quality assurance standards and safe food animal processing. We recommend that the state government explore the possibility of creating a partnership with the USDA Northern Great Plains Research Center to expand its mission to include this component.
- c. We recommend significant local and state involvement in the formulation and implementation of appropriate environmental regulations.

Objective 2

Focus research on new and emerging crops, livestock species, and appropriate technology that is suitable for production

and processing of food, fiber, energy, and other industrial products.

- a. We recommend that research be conducted in partnership with land grant universities, industry, farmers and non-profit organizations. The results of this research should be disseminated in a format that will optimize its use among farmers and processors.

Objective 3

To retain the ownership and control of production agriculture in the hands of family farms.

- a. We recommend that the North Dakota Legislature strengthen the family farming statute by allowing the number of possible shareholders related in some way to the "farmer" (as stated in the statute) to be increased to 30 members. We support the spirit and intent of North Dakota's family farming statute, which was established to preserve and maintain farm ownership and control in the hands of family farmers. The law should also make some allowances for no more than two full-time unrelated (to the "farmer") employees of the family corporation to become members of the farm family corporation. To qualify for such inclusion, the employee must have at least three years employment history with the family farm corporation, and upon leaving the employment of the farm,

the employee would be required to liquidate his/her shares.

Objective 4

Reduce transportation costs for North Dakota agricultural commodities and food products.

- a. We recommend that the State Legislature appropriate funding to the Department of Transportation to analyze methods of reducing transportation costs of North Dakota produced and processed commodities and products and to develop a strategic transportation plan for the state.
- b. We recommend that the State Department of Transportation harmonize requirements among North Dakota, other states, and Canadian provinces.

Objective 5

Create and implement an aggressive plan to develop and conserve water resources within the state.

- a. We recommend that the formulation of a strategic plan for economic development through irrigation be prepared by the High Value Irrigated Crops Task Force, in cooperation with NDSU, with state funding.
- b. We recommend that the USDA Northern Great Plains Research Center establish a Dryland Farming Institute to develop more drought-resistant crops and moisture-conserving farming practices.

Objective 6

Establish an agricultural marketing web site to link buyers and sellers of North Dakota produced and processed commodities and products.

- a. We recommend that the North Dakota Department of Agriculture establish and maintain a user-friendly web site that can be accessed by all North Dakota producers and processors as well as domestic and international buyers. ♦





Goal 4

Increase farm and non-farm cooperation that supports thriving rural communities and enhances our natural resources.

Objective 1

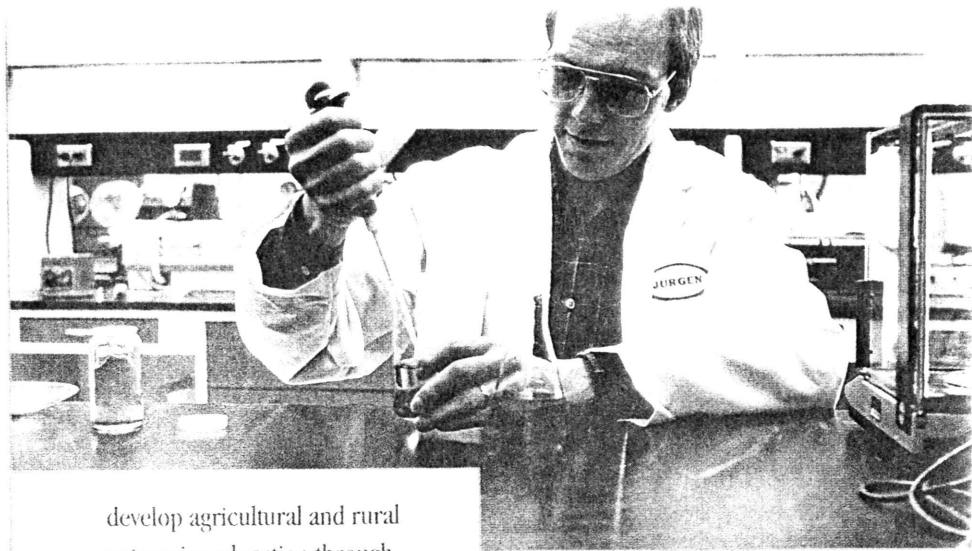
Increase the connectivity to and availability of information in rural communities.

- a. We recommend that the North Dakota Legislature provide incentives to establish an advanced telecommunications network that provides affordable service to all areas of the state.

Objective 2

Develop broad-based support for agricultural education from elementary through adult levels.

- a. We recommend that the North Dakota Legislature provide adequate funding for agricultural education at the post-secondary level as well as for establishing vocational education courses in high schools.
- b. We recommend that the North Dakota Legislature provide adequate funding to the Board for Vocational Education:
 - ◆ To support as many adult farm management programs as demand requires;
 - ◆ To support the expansion of the curriculum to emphasize marketing education for farmers;
 - ◆ To encourage the creation and expansion of marketing clubs as adjuncts to new and existing Adult Farm Management Programs, and
 - ◆ To align the Extension Service, the Board for Vocational Education, and the university system to



develop agricultural and rural enterprise education through electronic means such as e-mail, internet web sites, and interactive video network classes.

Objective 3

Design and implement entrepreneurial and work force recruitment and training incentive programs which will retain and attract people to rural North Dakota communities.

- a. We recommend a program of tuition rebates in partnership with local communities for university system students who work in rural North Dakota for a minimum of five years following graduation.
- b. We recommend that Job Service North Dakota expand its prospect list by lending its support to "Project Back Home" to increase the impact of the program statewide.

Objective 4

Provide for a work force that has a vested interest in the business.

- a. We recommend that the legislature explore potential tax incentives which would encourage greater participation by North Dakota employees in agricultural business ownership.

Objective 5

Increase the awareness of the significance of agriculture to the state of North Dakota.

- a. We recommend that the North Dakota Legislature provide adequate funding for the Ag in the Classroom program to educate the state's children on the vital importance of agriculture in their lives and in the state's economy.
- b. We recommend the continued funding, at current or increased levels, of 4-H and FFA programs.

Objective 6

Increase the appreciation of the importance of stewardship of our natural resources in the production of high-quality food.

- a. We recommend the use of incentive-based conservation programs that are voluntary and that include annual payments to farmers to encourage greater use of natural resources by the public.
- b. We recommend the development of a teaching and learning curriculum for adults and school-age children that presents the production ethic that balances agricultural production and environmental concerns. ◆

"Everybody ought to read the final report of the Commission on the Future of Agriculture...Its blueprint for a prosperous and self-sufficient future is the boldest and most comprehensive in 80 years..."

Bismarck Tribune, June 14, 1998



Goal 5

Create a political, regulatory, economic, trade, financial, and natural resource environment in which North Dakota producers can compete in the global marketplace.

Objective 1

Provide immediate tax relief for producers, focused on a more favorable property and income tax structure for agricultural producers.

- a. We recommend that Congress enact modifications to the tax law to permit the \$500,000 exemption in capital gain tax on residences to be applied to farms and small business real estate. A five-year minimum ownership is also suggested to prevent speculation in farmland.
- b. We recommend that the U.S. Congress

"In order to be fully implemented it needs support, beginning at the grass-root level on up to the legislatures on both the state and federal levels..."

Farm & Ranch Guide, June 19, 1998

provide additional estate tax exemptions to farm real estate transferred within families.

- c. We recommend that Congress allow farmers to purchase, own, and operate farm real estate with tax deferred retirement funds.
- d. We recommend that the state create a property tax structure which encourages on-farm living, well-kept buildings, and state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly production facilities.
- e. We recommend that Congress extend and expand income tax provisions to enable agricultural producers to utilize Income Averaging, the Investment Tax Credit, and 100 percent health insurance premium deductibility.
- f. We recommend tax abatements for beginning farmers similar to tax abatement programs for other beginning small businesses.
- g. We recommend that facilities used to grow or raise any unprocessed agricultural product be exempted from property tax.
- h. We recommend reducing dependence

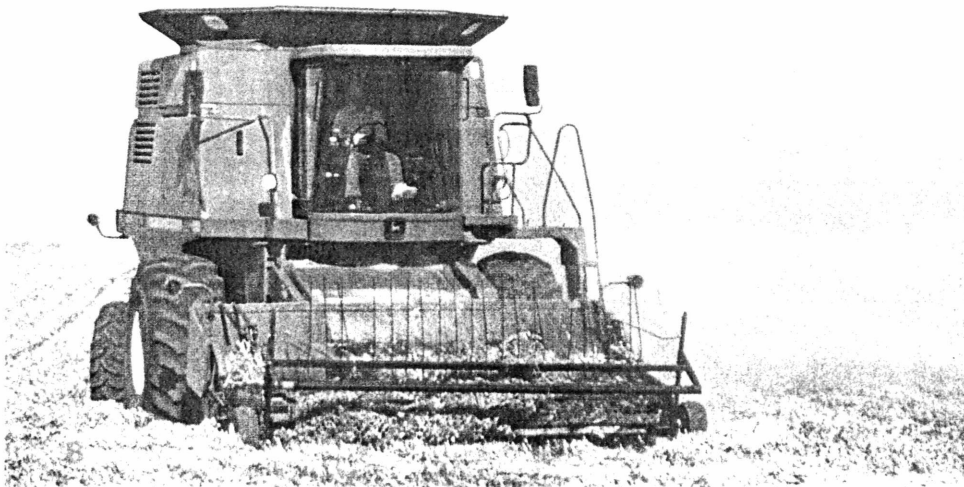
on property taxes and increasing dependence on state revenue sources. Furthermore, we recommend that:

- ◆ State Aid Distribution be funded at 0.6 percent of statewide taxable sales;
 - ◆ State Foundation Aid be increased to 60 percent of the statewide per pupil cost for education, and
 - ◆ A related decrease in property taxes by local political subdivisions be implemented.
- i. We recommend that the 1999 North Dakota Legislature adopt changes in the definition of "farmer" for determining residential exemptions for property tax from a definition based on the percent of family income derived from farming to "whose gross farm income exceeds off-farm income."

Objective 2

Improve the lending environment for agriculture.

- a. We recommend changes in the lending practices of the Bank of North Dakota and Farm Service Agency (FSA) for improved beginning farmer and first-time farm purchases. Beginning farmers should be afforded incentives similar to lending programs for beginning small businesses in other industries. We recommend that the Bank of North Dakota increase its beginning farmer loan limit from \$100,000 to \$150,000.
- b. We also recommend that:
 - ◆ FSA intensify its efforts to help beginning farmers and make every effort to reduce burdensome paperwork;
 - ◆ The FSA director take immediate action to implement the line-of-credit loans authorized in section



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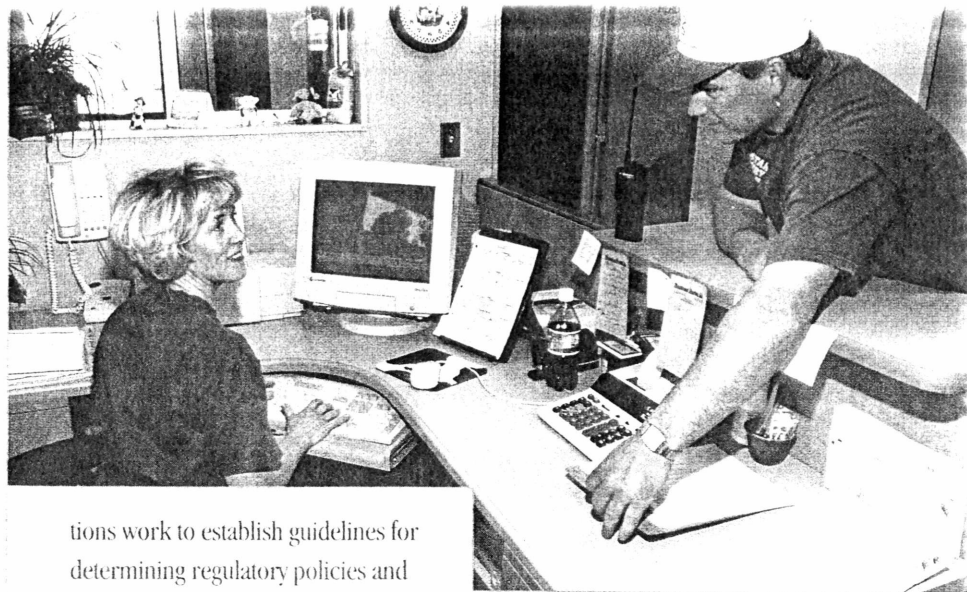
614 of the 1996 Farm Act. Line-of-credit loans should be used for all routine and recurring operating loans using either direct or guaranteed authorities:

- ◆ The FSA administrator give the highest priority to the immediate establishment of regulations to fully implement the "Preferred Lender" and "short form application" for operating loans under \$50,000 as required under the 1992 Agriculture Credit Act amendments;
- ◆ Congress authorize the Farm Service Agency to guarantee tax-exempt First Time Bonds used to make loans to beginning farmers and ranchers. These bonds should be allowed for use in seller-financed transactions between family members, and
- ◆ FSA increase its lending limits.

Objective 3

Ease or eliminate restrictive regulatory burdens.

- a. We recommend easing impediments caused by existing pesticide regulations through:
 - ◆ Increasing resources and efforts of the U.S./Canada Technical Working Group (TWG) on Pesticides to harmonize pesticide regulations in the two countries;
 - ◆ Committing more resources and efforts to establishing tolerances for pesticides registered for use in Canada but not in the United States, and
 - ◆ Exerting a greater effort to accept registration data currently accepted by Canadian officials in support of Canadian registrations.
- b. We recommend that farm organiza-



tions work to establish guidelines for determining regulatory policies and specifications, including environmental bonding where warranted, that balance the need for agricultural production and preservation of North Dakota's valuable natural resources. These guidelines should be shared and coordinated with environmental, consumer, and regulatory groups.

Objective 4

Reduce non-farm competition with individual farmers and ranchers for land acquisition including government agencies and non-profit organizations.

- a. We recommend that agricultural organizations in conjunction with the North Dakota Association of Counties and the North Dakota Township Officers Association develop model land use zoning guidelines for use by counties and townships that preserve agricultural land for future generations. More specifically, we recommend:
 - ◆ A statewide cap on CRP acreage at the current level, and that all future CRP be limited to highly erodible land and waterways, and
 - ◆ Retention of ownership and control of production agriculture in the hands of family farmers and ranchers by implementing a policy of no net loss of productive agricultural land.

Objective 5

Provide better options for risk management by farmers.

- a. We recommend that the Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture make the following changes to the Federal Risk Management Program:
 - ◆ Expand coverage to all crops, including new and emerging crops;
 - ◆ Expand coverage to protect minimum revenue levels;
 - ◆ Develop a gross-farm income protection program, and
 - ◆ Provide that the yield data for disaster years not be included when calculating actual production histories for determining yield guarantee levels.

Objective 6

Encourage options for lower cost, quality health insurance for farm families.

- a. We recommend that North Dakota Farm Bureau, North Dakota Farmers Union and other farm organizations cooperate in offering one health insurance program to their combined membership that would benefit from lower rates due to the larger pool of participants than any one organization currently enjoys. ◆



Background

"The best thing about the (Commission on) Future of Agriculture Report might be the psychological lift it gives North Dakotans..."

"The report has managed to lift our sights beyond the farm crisis and toward a prosperous farm future."

"...it's good to see state farm leaders taking the initiative. It is only in this way that the state's farmers will gain greater control of their own—and the state's—destiny."

Grand Forks Herald, June 23, 1998

Ninety percent of North Dakota's land (over 40.2 million acres) is in farms, making the state fourth in the nation in the percentage of total acres devoted to agriculture. North Dakota also ranks fourth in the nation in the percentage of economic base derived from agriculture.

At 38 percent of the total, agriculture is the largest sector of the state's economic base (see Figure 1) and generated more than \$3 billion in revenue in 1997. North Dakota ranks 10th in agricultural exports, earning \$1.7 billion in fiscal year 1996.

North Dakota's principal agricultural

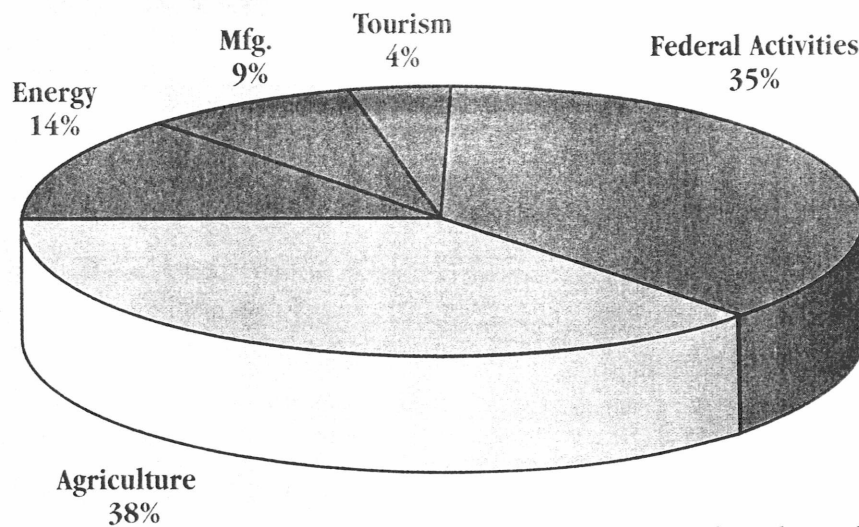
products are wheat and cattle. The combination of wheat at 41.4 percent and cattle at 9.2 percent made up over one-half of the state's total agricultural receipts in 1996. These two enterprises were also among the hardest hit by recent weather disasters. In 1997, wheat production was down 33 percent from 1996. Disease and insect problems, coupled with poor prices, have led to a predicted decline of more than one-and-one-half million acres in 1998 wheat plantings.

Total cattle inventories have dropped 8 percent from a year ago, due largely to record winter-related losses and economic factors. As a percent of total inventory, the total cattle death loss in 1997 is the highest on record.

Net returns per acre of wheat in North Dakota turned negative in 1997, with an average statewide loss of \$16 per acre (as shown in Figure 2). Similarly, returns for beef cattle were net losses for many cattle producers during 1995 and 1996 (as shown in Figure 3 on page 12).

Low and negative net returns on wheat and cattle have led to declining net farm

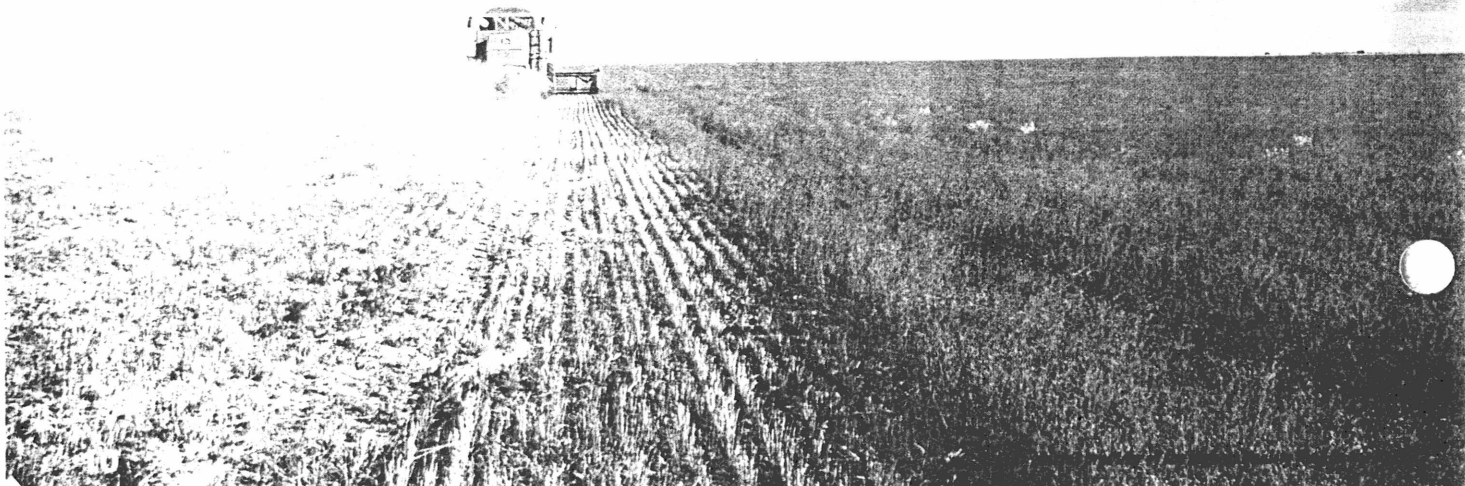
FIGURE 1. NORTH DAKOTA'S ECONOMY IN THE 1990s



Source: North Dakota Blue Book

"The commission's blueprint is a long-term approach."

The Forum, June 14, 1998





income. Net cash farm income in the state has fallen from a per farm average of \$50,091 in 1993 to just \$15,190 in 1997. Profitability for producers is virtually impossible in this situation, with family living expenses now exceeding average net cash farm income (as shown in Figure 4 on page 13).

The state has also experienced a significant demographic change. The number of farm youth within the state has declined from 63,557 in 1970 to 17,366 in 1990 (as shown in Figure 5 on page 13) and is estimated to have decreased further to 10,000 at present. In addition, 31 of 53 counties have registered more deaths than births in the period from 1990 to 1996.

Family farm net income is also impacted by growing economic concentration in sectors of agricultural marketing and processing. Economic concentration among the four top meat packers has increased from 67 percent in 1987 to 87 percent in 1997. Similarly, the top four flour millers control 62 percent of the market today versus 40 percent in 1982.

As shown in Figure 6 on page 13, eight sectors of agricultural marketing and processing continue to see an increasing percentage of economic concentration, limiting market opportunities and compet-

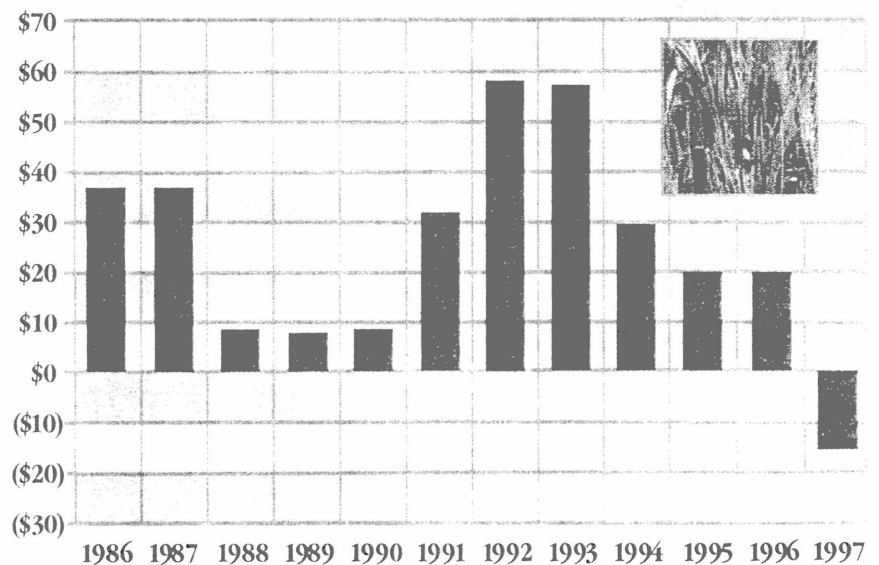
itive prices for farmers and ranchers.

Despite the adverse conditions, North Dakota has developed a worldwide reputation as a leader in value-added processing cooperatives. This well-deserved opinion is based on a carefully developed strategy and hard-fought successes in the creation of producer-owned enterprises. This body of experience in successes and failures will

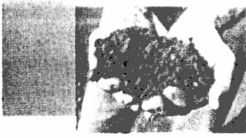
"Where predictions are concerned, the Commission on the Future of Agriculture's are ... useful ... They build on the state's current situation."

Grand Forks Herald, June 24, 1998

FIGURE 2. NET RETURNS PER ACRE FOR WHEAT IN N.D.



Source: North Dakota Adult Farm Management Program



"Perfect timing. The plan could be the beginning of the salvation of North Dakota agriculture."

"Building the Future of North Dakota," a report by the Commission on the Future of Agriculture, reveals the clear-thinking, problem-solving abilities of North Dakotans..."

Minot Daily News, June 14, 1998

serve us well in building the future envisioned in this report. Our hard work and profound commitment have generated an unshakable sense of self-confidence. We believe we can achieve our vision.

The Commission on the Future of Agriculture (the Commission) was formed because of the crisis in North Dakota agriculture. However, the Commission is confi-

dent that people within the state can build upon the very impressive human and social capital that has been developed over the last several decades.

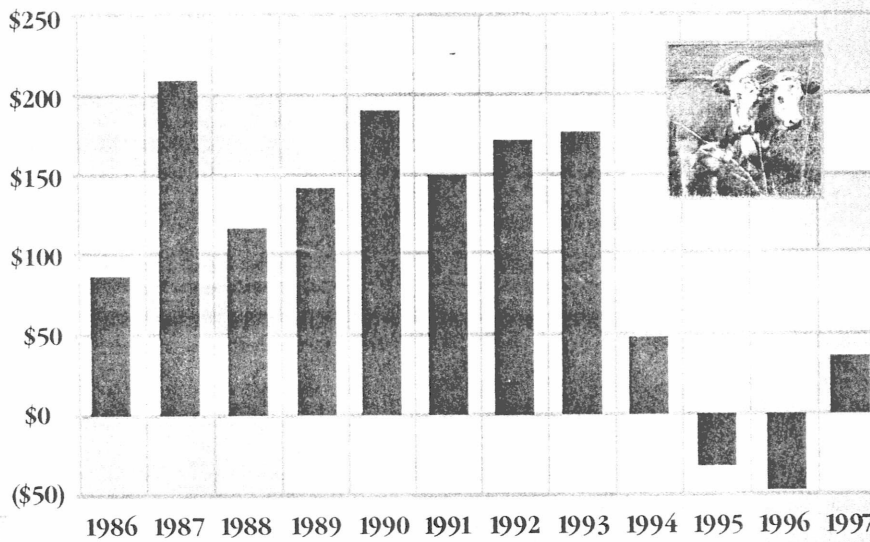
The Commission recognizes that many members of the farming community need immediate relief if they are going to survive economically. Furthermore, the state must develop a long-term strategic plan that will create long-term, sustainable prosperity utilizing all appropriate technology if the current crisis is not to repeat itself again in another few years.

Thus, the Commission believes it is imperative that its recommendations include strong action steps that will:

- ◆ Provide immediate relief to today's farmers;
- ◆ Generate actions that will improve profitability in the medium term, and
- ◆ Create a viable long-term economic future for North Dakota's farm and non-farm population.

The Working Group identified criteria that it felt should be used in selecting appropriate goals, objectives and action steps. It was determined that the goals,

FIGURE 3. NET RETURNS PER BEEF COW IN N.D.



Source: North Dakota Adult Farm Management Program



objectives and action steps presented in the report should meet most, if not all, of the following criteria:

- ◆ Contribute to an increase in net farm income.
- ◆ Create an active cooperation between farm and non-farm communities.
- ◆ Be doable.
- ◆ Be incentive-driven.
- ◆ Increase the quality of food production.
- ◆ Contribute to healthy population growth.

The Commission believes that the objectives and recommendations in this report meet these criteria. We hope that you do, too.

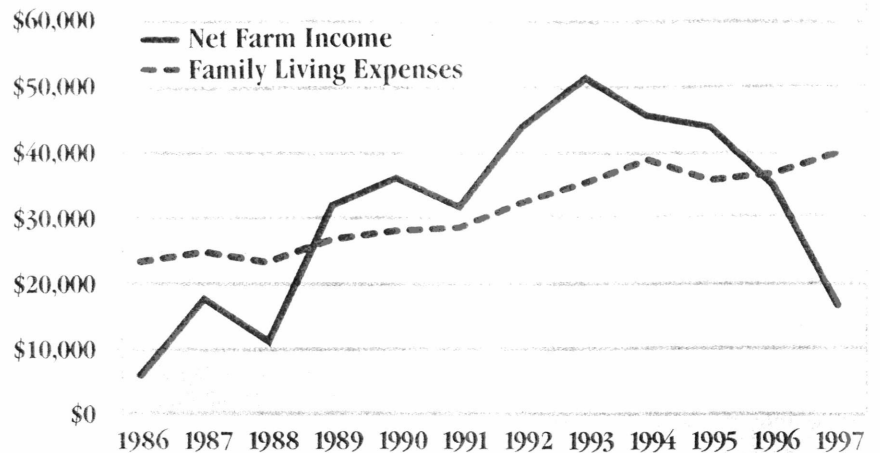
Many of the people of North Dakota who have developed this report are listed on the following page. Their assistance has been invaluable.

All of us know that we have just begun the effort to create our future. The real challenge—implementation—is ahead of us. As the June 14, 1998, *Forum* editorial observed, *“The initiative might be the most important item of business to come before the 1999 Legislature.”*

The words in this report are just *words* until they are implemented. This is a task that will require all of our efforts!◆

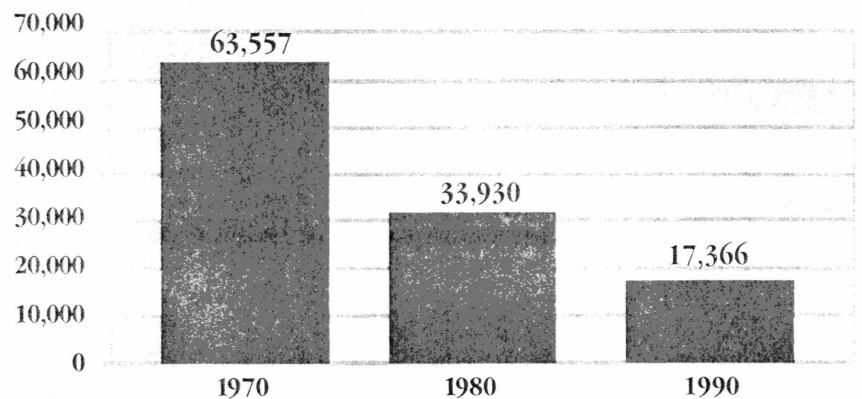
For more information about the Commission on the Future of Agriculture, please contact the North Dakota Department of Agriculture at 1-800-242-7535 or 328-2231.

FIGURE 4. NET FARM INCOME VS. LIVING EXPENSES



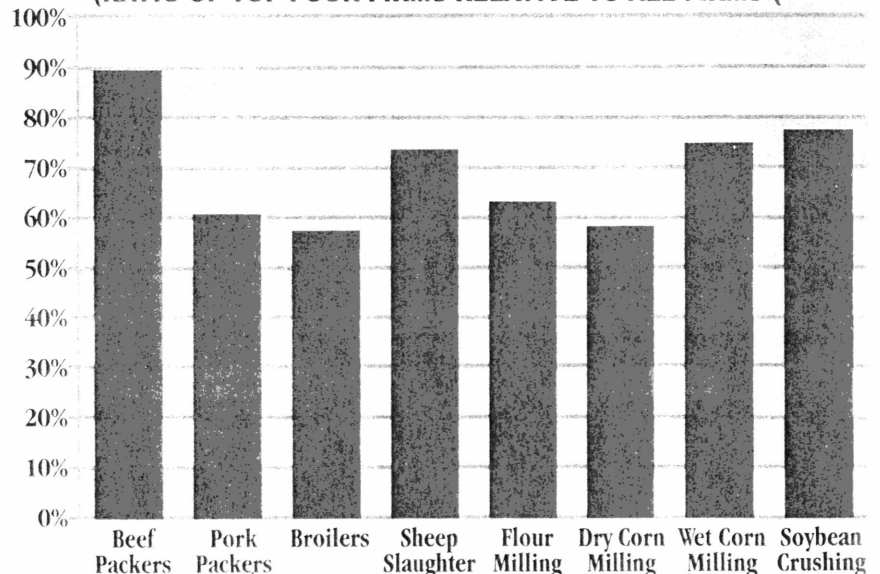
Source: North Dakota Adult Farm Management Program

FIGURE 5. N.D. FARM YOUTH UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE



Source: Census Data Center

FIGURE 6. CONCENTRATION OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETS (RATIO OF TOP FOUR FIRMS RELATIVE TO ALL FIRMS)



Source: University of Missouri, 1997



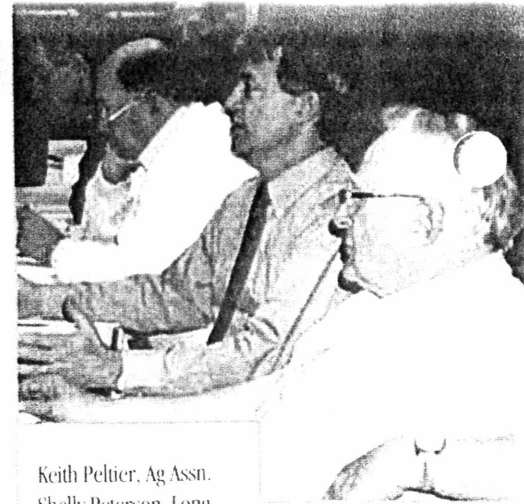
Participants

The following people, representing the following organizations, participated on either the Steering Committee, the Working Group, or the Commission on the Future of Agriculture:

Commission on the Future of Agriculture

Bruce Anderson, GENEX
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Ben Axman, N.D. Assn. of Rural Electric Co-ops
Elwood Barth, N.D. Credit Review Board
Lori Capouch, N.D. Assn. of Rural Electric Co-ops
Dennis Carlson, GENEX Land O' Lakes
Robert Carlson, N.D. Farmers Union
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Kevin Cooper, Industrial Development Assn.
Kevin Cramer, N.D. Economic Development & Finance
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Roger Johnson, N.D. Agriculture Commissioner
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Charles Mertens, USDA-Rural Development
Bill Muhs, Farm Credit Services
Bev Nielson, N.D. School Boards Assn.
Eugene Nicholas, N.D. Legislature
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Keith Peltier, Ag Assn.
Shelly Peterson, Long Term Care Assn.
Thomas Plough, NDSU
Earl Pomeroy, U.S. Congressman
Kevin Price, American Crystal Sugar
Lincoln Reinhillier, Dakota Resource Council
Dale Roemmich, N.D. Bankers Assn.
Edward Schafer, Governor
Howard Schmid, N.D. Farm Bureau
Rev. George Schneider, N.D. Conference on Churches
Francis Schwindt, N.D. Health Department
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Mike Strobel, N.D. Mill and Elevator
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Terry Wanzek, N.D. Legislature
Dan Wiltse, N.D. Barley Council

COFA Working Group Members

John Bollingberg - a life-long farmer from Wells County and graduate of N.D. State University. Bollingberg has served numerous groups, including the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission, Edible Bean Council and the N.D. Farm Bureau. Bollingberg currently chairs the N.D. Ag Coalition.

Jack Dalrymple - a Casselton farmer and Yale University graduate. Dalrymple has been a state legislator since 1985 and has served numerous other groups, including leadership positions for Dakota Growers Pasta Company and United Spring Wheat Processors.

Jerry Effertz - a Velva area family farm and ranch owner and master's degree graduate of N.D. State University. Effertz is a member of the N.D. Stockmen's Assn., N.D. Limousin Cattle Assn., McHenry County Farm Bureau, McHenry County Farmers Union and the Velva Lions Club.

Neil Fisher - administrator of the N.D. Wheat Commission and master's degree graduate of N.D. State University. Fisher was raised on a family farm that still operates near Pettibone, has been with the Commission since 1978 and was appointed administrator in 1998.

Patricia Jensen - vice president and dean for Agricultural Affairs at N.D. State University. Jensen is a College of St. Catherine graduate and William

Mitchell School of Law graduate and has a lengthy record of service to agriculture, through education and industry groups.

Roger Johnson - N.D. Commissioner of Agriculture and N.D. State University graduate. Johnson, a native of Turtle Lake, where he still owns a family farm, was administrator of the N.D. Agricultural Mediation Service from 1989 to 1996, serves now on the N.D. Industrial Commission and has served several other statewide groups.

Fred Kirschenmann - owner of a 3,100-acre organic farm in south central N.D. Kirschenmann is a doctoral graduate of the University of Chicago, a former college instructor and administrator, and now serves several sustainable and organic agricultural groups.

Ron LeClerc - director of Community and Rural Development for the N.D. Dept. of Economic Development & Finance. A Minot State and N.D. State University graduate, LeClerc farms part-time and serves several state and regional groups.

Wade Moser - executive vice president of the N.D. Stockmen's Assn., N.D. State University graduate, life-long rancher and former agricultural loan officer.

Bill Patrie - rural development director for the N.D. Associations of Rural Electric Coopera-

tives and Telephone Cooperatives and master's degree graduate of Ball State University. Patrie is past CEO of Northern Plains Premium Beef and current chairman of the Rural Development Finance Corporation.

Richard Schlosser - owner of a 1,500-acre family farm near Edgeley and former school teacher. Schlosser is vice president of N.D. Farmers Union and serves on the N.D. Credit Review Board.

Howard Schmid - life-long Benson County farmer, raising wheat, barley and sunflowers. Schmid served as N.D. Farm Bureau president from 1990 to 1998, and is a member of the U.S. Durum Growers and N.D. Grain Growers.

Robert Sorenson - president of the Independent Community Banks of N.D. and graduate of N.D. State University. Sorenson is currently vice president of the Scandia American Bank, where he has been employed for the past 18 years.

Steven Tomac - owner of a 1,100 acre family farm and ranch in Morton County and a graduate N.D. State University. Tomac has served as a state senator since 1991 and served in the state house of representatives during the 1987-1989 sessions. He works as a rural appraiser and is involved with several statewide organizations.

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