A Message from Dr. William Nganje, Professor and Department Chair

We held several events for our centennial celebration in 2018; showcasing our students, fund raising, and extending networks with alumni. Some notable events included; a two day Executive-In-Residence visit by Dr. Douglas Duncan (Senior V.P and Chief Economist for Fannie Mae) and a luncheon (featuring alumni, faculty and student speakers). The department currently offers B.S. degrees in Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Economics and a Business Economics major (in the approval stages). We also offer M.S. degrees in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, International Agribusiness, and an Accelerated degree (4 years undergraduate plus one year M.S.). Our M.S. in International Agribusiness is currently ranked number 2 in North America (the USA and Canada) in terms of affordability. Our undergraduate major enrollment has increased significantly from a decade ago and we continue to place more than 98% of our graduates. Our graduate students come from all over the world; United States (majority), Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Chili, Columbia, Cameroon, India, and Ghana. It is time for all to enjoy the holidays.

The Department experienced several changes over the past year. Staff members Shelly Swandal (Director of Student Services) and Sandy Osborne (Extension) retired, and Tracy Fuller (Account Tech) took another job at the university. We have hired a new Director of Student Services (Jennifer Carney) and are in the process of recruiting a new Account Tech person. The department recruited four new faculty members; Dr. Bryon Parman, (Extension and Research in Agricultural Finance), Dr. Raymond March (Microeconomics and faculty affiliate with the Center for Public Choice and Private Enterprise (PCPE)), Dr. Xudong Rao (Agricultural Finance, starting in May of 2019), and Mr. Ronald Haugen (Extension Farm Management Specialist) – replacing the position previously held by Mr. Andrew Swanson who plans to retire in 2019.

The department continues to perform very well in multiple areas. Our National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) students made it to the finals again at the national competition. We house the best Commodity Trading Room (CTR) of any Land Grant Institution in the nation, with a $12.5 million endowment. This has been instrumental in training our students in the area of risk and trading. Our faculty also received several university and national awards in teaching, research, and extension. The department provides top extension education as well as the highest quality research possible at a land grant university. Our newly formed departmental Advisory Board met three times in 2018 and helped a lot with our centennial celebration. The department, in collaboration with the College of Business, completed the first cohort of CHS Executive education with nineteen senior managers and CEOs.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our alumni and friends and want to stay connected with you. Please consider sending us a message updating us on your activities and contact information, such as an e-mail address. Also, please take the time to visit us when you are in the Fargo area, downtown in Barry Hall. Check our department website with our centennial video, faculty output, and visit us on Facebook.
Riaz Aziz  
Lecturer

We’ve had a wonderful year and hope the same for all of you. I taught Economics at NDSU and Corporate Finance at Concordia College. I also taught a class on India and traveled with twenty students to India as part of a NDSU study-abroad program. And, I assisted Dr. David Roberts with a research project. Our family foundation (Begunahi.org) helped graduate from college eight underprivileged Indian women with Bachelor degrees. Two graduates are continuing with Master’s degrees in Education and History. In five years, our foundation has supported nearly 130 women. At the age of 85, my mother survived a heart by-pass and is on her way to recovery. We hope this holiday season brings magic and may all your wishes come true.

Like us on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/NDSUAgribusiness
Happy Holidays and a blessed New Year to everyone! After spending over 25 years holding a variety of positions in the private and government sectors, I am just starting to get back into the swing of life in academia. I started at NDSU on December 29 of last year and the past year has gone by exceptionally fast. I continue to maintain my residence in Eagan, MN – a suburb of the Twin Cities and spend 3 to 4 days a week in Fargo. I rent a studio apartment about three blocks from Barry Hall and right in the heart of downtown Fargo. In the past year, I have become an expert on the downtown dining scene in Fargo and Bill Wilson has given me the nickname “Downtown Dave”. It is only a matter of time before I get my own column in the Fargo Forum.

I currently have four research projects in various states of progress with many more on the backburner. Bill Wilson and I have two projects examining the impact of fundamental factors upon the export basis values and seasonal patterns for U.S. soybeans, and another examining the use of margin contracting in the ethanol industry. Prithviraj Lakakkala, Bill Wilson, and I are collaborating on a manuscript examining the use of blockchain technology in international commodity trading. In addition, I am working on a manuscript examining the long-term changes in the geography of U.S. corn and soybean production due to changes in technology, climate, and other factors. I am also serving as the thesis advisor for a graduate student in the department, Jessica Fleck. Beginning with the Fall Semester, I have taken over sole teaching responsibilities for the graduate level Risk Analysis I (AGEC 711) class and have thoroughly enjoyed my weekly interactions with our excellent graduate students in the department. Over the past 22 years, I have been involved with teaching short courses at the Northern Crops Institute on the NDSU campus and have enjoyed continuing that relationship through the past year. My previous academic position was in extension at Montana State University and I have enjoyed working with the excellent extension faculty in the department with some of the short courses offered in conjunction with the North Dakota commodity organizations.

My wife, Lori, resides at our home in Eagan along with the newest member of our family, Tabitha, a young cat we adopted in June. Lori is employed part-time at our church, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in Apple Valley, MN and she coordinates many of the events held throughout the year at SOTV. Our oldest child, son Michael (26), also lives in Eagan (about 10 minutes away) and currently works for Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. He graduated from Drake University in Des Moines, IA with an undergraduate degree in finance and accounting in 2014. Our youngest child, daughter Shaina (22), graduated in May from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with an undergraduate degree in actuarial science. She is currently employed by Transamerica and works out of their Cedar Rapids, IA location. We are very happy to have both children within a 4-hour drive of our home.
It was another great year of teaching for me. I had fun teaching several principle courses as well as all of the freshmen in the Econ 189 courses. Advising half of the new freshmen group was also rewarding, helping to set these energetic students on a good career path. It was the second and final year in the Gateways project for me, where we worked on enhancing our teaching methods. In conjunction with the project, I was able to travel to a Lilly conference that focuses on teaching active learning methods in the classroom. It was a great honor to be nominated for two teaching awards by the department this year. Our department is a great one to work for and teach in.

The student NAMA chapter had another fantastic year. The students worked hard on a marketing plan to sell a ground flaxseed powder supplement. As usual, they polished their presentation over and over and represented NDSU proudly. They reached the semifinals in the national competition for the fifth consecutive year. As always, they created a buzz at the conference with their outstanding performance and overall presence.

On the personal side, I continue working on my photography, began training for the 2019 Fargo (half) marathon, and published my fourth novel, Camouflaged Mischief. Spoiler alert: Clark is still traveling to other worlds and aliens are still trying to take over Earth.

Merry Christmas to all and may 2019 be the best year yet!
2018 was a busy but rewarding year for me. I have the privilege of teaching many of our undergrad students, and one of my favorite classroom experiences is the Farm Credit Fellows program. The Farm Credit Fellows program gives students a preview of an agricultural lending career via classroom instruction and off-campus events. In September, we held a well-attended event commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Fellows program. The recent grads in attendance should make our department and its stakeholders very proud. In addition, these young men and women inspire great optimism for the future. Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2019!

Merry Christmas 2018 and Happy New Year 2019 from Bob Hearne

So once again allow me to send my sincerest best wishes for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and a Peaceful and Prosperous 2019.

I continue to be busy at NDSU. I continue to teach Advanced Microeconomics, Natural Resource Economics, and Elements of Economics. Frankly, when I look at my career teaching is what I enjoy most. I am now mentoring two PhD students in Transportation and Logistics and an MS student. I try to make all of the theses defenses.

Otherwise my wife and I are doing well in Fargo ND. This Christmas we are visiting Thai’s family in California.

Jeremy Jackson
Associate Professor

2018 has been another great year at NDSU. The Center for the Study of Public Choice and Private Enterprise has added a new faculty member and hosted numerous events including a RAP on Blockchain Conference and a screening of the documentary film "Poverty Inc" at the Fargo Theater. We've set the bar high but I think 2019 is going to have an even greater impact.

Merry Christmas from
Jeremy, Elizabeth, Stanley, and Marc Jackson
Raj Lakkakula  
Research Assistant Professor

2018 has been a great year at NDSU. My research has led to two peer-reviewed publications and a few other papers are under review. I was interviewed by AgWeek magazine on the impact of additional tariffs [went into effect on August 4, 2018] imposed by India on U.S. chickpeas and lentils in retaliation to the U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from India. I presented my research at two conferences. During the summer, I completed an executive program on Blockchain Technologies: Business Innovation and Application from MIT Sloan School of Management.

I wish the entire family of Agribusiness and Applied Economics a very happy holiday.

Siew Lim  
Associate Professor

Hello! I have had the privilege of working with two doctoral students in transportation and logistics in the past two years, and it’s been a great joy seeing how much they have progressed. At the same time, I have also been working with an interdisciplinary team of researchers to assess the socioeconomic benefits of the new NASA satellite enhanced snowmelt flood prediction product for the Red River basin of the North. On the teaching side, in 2018 I taught industrial organization, econometrics and principles of microeconomics. This year I spent a great deal of time revamping the curriculum of principles of microeconomics. I hope the changes and the use of open resources make the course materials more accessible (and affordable) to students, so the efforts are worthwhile.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours!

Zachary Machunda  
Lecturer

During the spring and fall semesters of 2018, I taught Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomic (spring 2018) and Elements of Economics. During spring 2018 I had the opportunity to mentor Mr. Raheem Williams in teaching a large class of my students Principles of Microeconomics. Mr. Williams was a quick learner and he and I team-taught the class very well, with the use of two types of instructional/learning technologies: MindTap and Top Hat. When the summer of 2018 came, I preoccupied myself with several things: Orientation for fall 2018 Registration, professional development, out-of-state travel and lawn care. David Englund, Shelly Swandal (for the last time) and I spent a significant part of the summer of 2018 helping those freshmen and transfer students who had chosen a major in our department. We
Machunda (continued) helped the students to navigate Campus Connection, to use the Schedule Planner for the first time and to find an appropriate sequence of courses for their fall 2018 enrollment at NDSU. The Schedule Planner increased our ability to help freshmen students and shortened the duration of an advising visit with a group of students or even a single student! Freshmen students appreciated the capability of the Schedule Planner software to help them tailor their weekly class schedules to include lunch breaks and travel from one class to the next. In addition, I attended the NDSU 2018 Annual Faculty Conference for New and Returning Faculty, and I read some of the literature about applications of spatial econometric models and cointegration techniques for improving our understanding of the resurgence in Sub-Saharan African economic growth since 1990. Finally, Phyllis (my spouse) and I traveled to Atlanta Georgia to participate in a family reunion about the ancestral roots of her paternal grandmother. While still staying in Atlanta, we completed a very informative tour of The Carter Center and Presidential Library.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year Everyone!

Dragan Miljkovic
Professor

In 2018 I completed my first year as the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* (JARE), second most influential professional agricultural economics journal in the USA. I have processed and reviewed, so far, more than 300 manuscripts submitted to JARE. I also served my second year on the Executive Board of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC), the world’s premier agricultural trade research group. It is comprised of almost 250 trade economists from more than 30 countries worldwide. My role is to represent the interests of members from all US universities. I also continued to serve as the faculty adviser of the NDSU chapter of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. In terms of my regular duties, I continued with my research in international trade, agricultural and food policy, and energy economics, and published five journal articles in leading professional journals and a book chapter with colleagues from various US and international prestigious universities. I continue teaching agricultural prices to our undergraduate majors, and advanced econometrics to our MS students, and advise and mentor both undergraduate and graduate students. My family and I wish a happy holiday season to all friends and alumni of the Department of Agribusiness & Applied Economics at NDSU!
William Nganje  
Professor and Chair

Managing the department has been challenging and rewarding. The department has five research centers in Risk and Trading, Cooperatives, Trade Policy Studies, Public Choice and Private Enterprises, and Renewable Energy (BioEpic). Most of these Centers have advisory boards with stakeholders from academia, industry, agencies and policy makers. The department is well connected with stakeholders who help to guide research, conferences and student recruiting. I have enjoyed working with multiple stakeholders.

In addition to my administrative duties of a multifaceted department with Economics, Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Extension, and five research centers; I taught 1.5 courses (712 - Applied Risk Analysis II (3 credits), 405/605 - Economics of Food Safety (one credit), and co- taught 499 - Agricultural Leadership (one credit). I published three research papers in top applied SCI journals. One of our research projects contributed to an additional $3 million funding for scab research.

My spouse Dr. Annette Nganje is still working 6 months in Arizona with Walgreen Pharmacy. This was a very rewarding year for the kids who are all grown now. Our daughter Willette passed her BS, RN Board and is working as a nurse in Fargo. Elizabeth is in her P-One year in the NDSU doctorate of Pharmacy program and Simon completed his first semester at NDSU, studying Accounting. Willann completed a sales program and is working at a Lexus dealership in Arizona. I still enjoy playing racquetball, table tennis, and going to the gym. Thank you Dr. Jay Leitch for giving me my first ice fishing experience. Hopefully, we will catch plenty of fish next time. Thank you Bill for having Jeremy Z. and I at your beautiful lake home. Fargo is a beautiful city to work, raise a family, and have fun. Go Bison!

Bryon Parman  
Assistant Extension Professor

My wife and I, and our two sons, just moved to Fargo this year from Starkville Mississippi. We are getting used to being back in the plains again as we are both from Nebraska originally. Fortunately we didn’t get rid of all our winter clothing when we moved to Mississippi five years ago. So far, the adjustment has been mostly seamless for our family and my work in extension. Due to the engagement of North Dakota’s producers and ag businesses, in a relatively short time I have been able to contribute to dozens of functions and meetings. It is my hope that my programming content is useful to farmers, ranchers, and ag industry professionals. With everything going on in the agricultural sector financially, especially in North Dakota, extension continues to work diligently to answer tough questions and provide education. I am eager to begin 2019 at NDSU.
I had the pleasure of speaking at a 100 year anniversary celebration for our Department during NDSU Homecoming. I was asked to talk about some the changes that had occurred since I have been here. I actually started the presentation with my growing up on a ranch without electricity, indoor plumbing, or a phone. Then to joining the old Agricultural Economics Department where we had only two land line phones for all the faculty and staff. Some of you remember Dr. Thor Hertsgaard, who was always on one line so that left one line for all the rest of us. 😊 Obviously, we had no computers, fax or copy machines, internet, cell phones, etc. A couple attendees even asked facetiously (I hope) if I had been here the entire 100 years! Although not the case, counting my years as a student I have been here a few over 50 of those amazing years; where the development and use of technology has mushroomed just like in farming and ranching. I again enjoyed my 2018 travels around ND and surrounding states talking with livestock producers and agribusiness people, as many are great friends of mine.

I am proud that all three of our daughters and sons-in-law graduated from NDSU. And one daughter and a son-in-law also work at NDSU. All four grandchildren go to NDSU day care. We are loyal Bison fans, so my family had a green and gold Bison Santa suit made for me. I have been having fun wearing it to Christmas parties, and Bison tailgating and football games. I don’t do social media but I guess my Santa is on Facebook, tweeted, and other sites I don’t know or even want to know about, hah! Go Bison, Happy Holidays, and a prosperous 2019 to you all from Santa!
Happy Holidays!

It’s been another challenging and rewarding year.

Have been active with various corn-ethanol research and Extension programs. There has been a lot going on in Washington and in the markets which has kept me on my toes. I can continue to do special duty on NDSU Extension Farm Stress team, it’s a various serious topic, but I find it very rewarding. Hosted a film viewing and discussion at the Fargo Theatre which was productive, and a lot of fun!

Homelife is as active as ever. Katie is 12 and making a small fortune babysitting (with most dedicated to her car fund); Tommy, 11, just completed his basketball season; Michael, 6, is transitioning from dinosaurs to Pokemon; Tess, 5, is a twiddler, a dreamer, a silly heart and a jabberbox. And, frankly I don’t think she takes a thing in her life or her career as a student seriously. Carly doesn’t know that she is two.

Skipping Frisco for the first time this year. I think Bison nation will be okay without me.

David Saxowsky
Associate Professor

I have a reduced teaching role this academic year; one course fall semester (Farm & Agribusiness Management) and one course spring semester (Ag Law). By using sick leave, I have been working part-time. Mary and I visited Alaska for a week this past summer and enjoyed the beauty. The family continues to use Bison home football games as an opportunity for “family time”.
Saleem Shaik  
Professor  

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  

This year has been a very positive working with the North Dakota Corn and Soybean Council and Growers, and Farmers Union on our state farm model. The farm model evaluates the importance of farm policy and trade issues on the net farm income, efficiency and productivity. The importance of the past farm bill Titles I, II, III and XI has been examined as part of my research and the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS). This year, we completed the development of production, income statement, farm policy and trade quantity and price indexes for the world, US and states.  

I made a couple of trips within North Dakota (soybean, corn, farmers union) to present an overview of historical farm bills and trade agreements. Specifically, the importance of intra- and inter- trade agreements on balance of trade and its risks. Working on the importance of precision agriculture on the quantity-quality aspects of barley.

I look forward to the development of the farm model for the state and regions as part of the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS).

Anupa Sharma  
Assistant Professor  

I wish you all a Wonderful New Year!  

I enjoyed teaching International Trade, and Ag Policy and, in the process met students with a variety of interests and aspirations. I equally enjoyed my research work and continue to find an outlet for my work. My work on the Generalized System of Preferences is soon being published. I presented my work on Manufacturing Productivity Spillover in a department Research Seminar. Thanks to all who attended my talk. I am also collaborating with James Caton, Tom Wahl, and David Ripplinger in the department on ethanol and endogenous money projects. I continue to involve graduate students in my research program. In August Michael Ansah Owusu, started working with me on my Consumption project. This past May, Joseph Mwagura my first graduate student, successfully defended his thesis. I also had an opportunity to serve my profession as a Trade Topic Leader (for the second time) at the 2018 AAEA conference in Washington, D.C.
Cheryl Wachenheim
Professor

Happy Holidays! I continue to teach the introductory agricultural finance course and agricultural sales. My research is focused on farmer decision-making. I am active in the National College Teachers of Agriculture. I continue to serve in the Minnesota National Guard. This year I served as a Public Affairs Officer for the Super Bowl and on our annual Norwegian exchange. Ellie is in 10th grade, and Hunter in 9th grade at Moorhead High School, home of the SPUDS! They are active in sports and seem to be holding their own academically. I always enjoy visiting with alumni and friends, so please stop in if you are in the area. Cheryl.

Tom Wahl
Professor

Happy Holidays!
Travels for research have taken me to England this year to present a paper as well as to explore agricultural markets and trade policy. It was interesting to hear firsthand about the perceived effects of Brexit. I look forward to a productive year ahead as ND’s role in NAFTA and international trade are becoming increasingly important to producers and policymakers.

Bill Wilson
Distinguished Professor

First, I want to express that I am saddened as my long-time friend, colleague and collaborator Bruce Dahl passed away this summer after a long bout with cancer. As many of you know, he held the hands and guided many graduate students, was the guy behind my success, and probably had more journal articles than most PHD faculty members. We miss him dearly and we were all blessed to have him here as long as he was. So, keep his family in prayer.

We also hired Dr. David Bullock under our risk and trading program. He comes from AgriBank and many years working in risk in agribusiness. This will allows us to elevate our work in commodity risk and trading.

Everyone asks if I still teach!, and, I still do and take pride in it. I teach two courses in commodity trading, while Dr. Bullock is teaching my grad course in risk analysis (measurement and strategy), and doing a great job. We added an additional sophomore/junior level course to attract more students in to that career path. In addition, I am supervising a couple grad students. The job market continues to be good in agribusiness and in commodity marketing, though things are tightening. Thus, our good students do extremely well getting jobs with top firms and positions. MS students
Wilson (continued)
finishing this year went to Gavilon in risk, ADM, Ardent, Anchor and Bloomberg Tokyo.

Research continues a major focus of my job. My projects are all related to modeling risk and strategy. This year we did (or are doing) projects on logistics risk, competition and logistics between the US and Brazil in soybean marketing, hedging under default risk in international grain marketing and energy (oil) trading and risk and energy hedging for sovereign entities.

My pet project continues to be the Commodity Trading Room which has been in operation for a couple years now and most of you have heard about it. If not, see it at (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ErABR40OLI). The Trading and Risk initiative is taking off. We have a big scholarship program, we are sponsoring 3-4 MS students per year at nearly $10k each and created an endowed chair, the CHS Chair in Risk Management and Trading.

I also serve on a number of boards, including Amity, NCH Capital (a large investor in FSU farming), Piedmont Capital (a VC firm investing in ag tech), and Bushel (Myriad Mobile), each of which peaks my interests and keeps me moving.

Besides work, I continue sailboat racing with my sons—we race a J70 every weekend and about 4-5 regional regattas a year, and do quite well. If you don’t believe me see: https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AGjPKQwM7AqCVFM&cid=5C16623A79A0225C&id=5C16623A79A0225C%218227&parId=5C16623A79A0225C%217966&o=OneUp.
I am the one in the middle, and commonly referred as M&M (Money and Mechanic!). Attached is Erik and I:
https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AGjPKQwM7AqCVFM&cid=5C16623A79A0225C&id=5C16623A79A0225C%218336&parId=5C16623A79A0225C%217968&o=OneUp.
Rhonda is fully retired, but busy and focused on being an artist, and road-bike-riding, now including Italy, Austria, and France in her resume! Finally, I continue to snowboard as much as I can for many reasons; and, yes, do go heli-snowboarding.

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Lei Zhang  
Associate Professor  

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  

It has been a busy and exciting year for me and my family. Elizabeth started her 3rd grade adventure in August. Her life is filled with a variety of knowledge and activities. She likes dancing, sing and play piano. She is now on the Gator Swim Team in Fargo. In July, she had a chance to go to the North Dakota Swimming State Championships and won 3rd place in the 50-meter butterfly stroke. She then participated at another swim meet in November and broke the team record for the 100-yard butterfly. She is really into the butterfly stroke. Victoria is in preschool and started to learn a lot of stuff. Both girls are excited and can’t wait to see their new brother, who will be born soon at the end of December. My husband Yun is still super busy with his business.  

This year is a normal year for my research. I had two papers accepted for publication, and am busy revising papers and working on many new projects. I taught ECON202, Econ343, ECON499/696 (Urban and Real Estate Economics) and AGEC/BUSN347 this year. Teaching continues to be fun and exciting.  

Wishing you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!  

Researchers  
Dean Bangsund, Research Scientist  
Elvis Ndembe, Research Scientist  

Support Staff  
Norma Ackerson  
Kali Christianson  
Paulann Haakenson  
Lisa Mann  
Edie Nelson
Other Happenings

Shelly Swandal, NDSU Agribusiness and Applied Economics Department student services and advising director, receives the John Lee Coulter Agribusiness Award from Dahltin Paul, president of the NDSU Agribusiness Club. (NDSU photo)

Erik Hanson, an assistant professor in NDSU’s Agribusiness and Applied Economics Department (right), receives the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teaching Award of Merit from David Buchanan, associate dean in NDSU’s College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources. (NDSU photo)

Our National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) team (pictured above with their advisors Tom Wahl and David Englund) reached the semifinals yet again, this year! That means they finished ahead of many big universities like Ohio St., Mississippi St., Penn St., Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota, Va. Tech., Arizona St., and New Mexico St.! They missed reaching the finals by only a couple of points. Our students worked extremely hard and gave flawless presentations. They deserve high praise indeed! This is the fifth consecutive year that NDSU has reached the semifinals!!!

The department welcomed Doug Duncan, VP and Chief Economist at Fannie Mae, to do an Executive in Residence in November. He also was the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources. Doug received his B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Economics at North Dakota State University.