Outcomes

The North Dakota Discovery Farms program is in a data collection and analysis phase. If the data call for change, producers will coordinate with natural resource managers to implement the most feasible management practices for their respective operations. Ultimately, the program will help decision makers strike a balance between profitable agricultural production and protection of natural resources.

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Program Cooperators

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY





Major funding for this project provided by US EPA 319 funds administered through the ND Department of Health

More Information

Ron Wiederholt NDSU Extension Service Carrington Research Extension Center 663 Highway 281 N. Carrington, ND 58421 (701) 652-2951 ron.wiederholt@ndsu.edu www.ag.ndsu.edu/roller/NDDF

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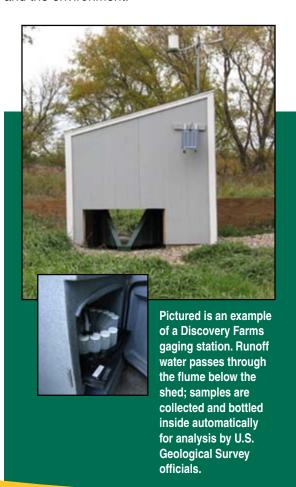


Strengthening the relationship between profitable farm production and the environment

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Background

North Dakota Discovery Farms are working farms and ranches whose owners partner with natural resource managers. Together, they evaluate the effectiveness of various practices at reducing environmental impacts while maintaining farm profitability. The concept originated in Wisconsin in response to concerns that environmental regulations were inconsistent with profitable agricultural production. Similar concerns exist in North Dakota. The Discovery Farms program provides real-life data that is necessary for making informed decisions regarding agriculture and the environment.



Participants

Amann Family Ranch

Kim and Denise Amann ranch with their son, Dusty, southeast of Dazey. They run about 200 cows and background their calves. One Discovery Farms gaging station monitors runoff near a crop field where the cows graze and are fed throughout the winter; another collects adjacent to the nearby Baldhill Creek. The first station enables researchers to study runoff behavior from grazed cropland. The second determines how much water and nutrients are absorbed naturally by



pasture vegetation versus reaching the Baldhill, which drains into Lake Ashtabula and eventually the Sheyenne River.

are monitored to determine whether

nutrient loss is an

issue for the Maple

River, which is just

a half-mile south of

the field.

Kim, Denise and Dusty Amann

Bartholomay Brothers Family Farms

Kent and Sandy Bartholomay and Keith and Sandi Bartholomay, together with family, farm 4,500 acres of cropland near Sheldon. The Bartholomays allow Discovery Farms researchers to collect surface and tile drainage water at three gaging stations near one of their fields. Nitrogen and phosphorus levels in the samples



Sandi and Keith Bartholomay, Kent and Sandy Bartholomay

Johannes Farm and Feedlot



Patsy and Doyle Johannes

Doyle and Patsy Johannes farm and ranch near Underwood. The couple, with help from family, run 200 cows, background the calves and custom feed up

to 300 more cows. A Discovery Farms gaging station collects water samples as runoff leaves the feedlot and flows to two more collection sites. During this half-mile trek, the runoff passes through grass and trees. The samples show how much nitrogen and phosphorus is leaving the feedlot and to what extent natural vegetation decreases these nutrients as runoff approaches the nearby Missouri River.

