Guidelines for Supplementing County Budgets via County Weed Boards

As stated in the Base Policy for Extension Financial Partnership between County and State (September 2004) the NDSU Extension Service is committed to maintaining an extension presence in all counties if the county provides a minimum financial commitment, and a county presence is desired by local interests. The minimum financial commitment includes having the county pay 50 percent of the salary costs for the county extension agents and all the operating expenses. In the event that a county is unable to meet the minimum financial requirement, other local sources such as county weed boards may be used to subsidize county funds.

As conversation between county government and the NDSU Extension Service moves forward a number of items must be considered.

1.) Regardless of the funding source the extension agent(s) remain the employee of the NDSU Extension Service subject to all policies administered by North Dakota State University and The Board of Higher Education.

2.) Duties assumed by extension agent(s) as a result of additional shared funding will clearly be designated and agreed upon by the individual county and the NDSU Extension Service. Any new or additional duties will not cause a conflict of interest with the current role of an extension agent in administering the mission and vision of the NDSU Extension Service.

3.) Extension Agents will not assume an enforcement role such as “County Weed Control Officer”, which according to Century Code Chapter 63-01.1 Noxious Weed Control has the direct responsibility for the operation and enforcement of this chapter. Extension Agents may assume the role of secretary or “contact” for the purposes of fulfilling weed board duties in 63-01.1-05 other than items 4 and 5.

4.) All additional funding from a third source will be channeled through the annual county budget process.

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