Who We Are

We are the North Dakota State University Extension Service. We provide education to help North Dakotans improve their lives, livelihoods and communities. Our emphasis is on strengthening agriculture, stimulating communities, developing youths’ potential, building strong families and protecting the environment.

We are the link between the public and our land-grant university, North Dakota State University, in Fargo. The land-grant university has a three-part responsibility to North Dakotans: engage in teaching, research and extending knowledge. The Extension Service, established in 1914, gets its name because it extends education from land-grant universities, such as NDSU, to people of all ages and walks of life.

NDSU Extension is a trusted source of accurate and unbiased information that isn’t always available from other sources.

You’ll find the Extension Service at work in your county, at Research Extension Centers and at the main NDSU campus. Our staff is a team of dedicated professionals who are committed to serve North Dakota’s citizens.

www.ndsu.edu/extension
Our team consists of:

- **County staff** — Extension agents are local educators who serve all 53 counties in the state and the four Native American reservations. They are the local face of Extension. Based on their knowledge of county issues and the input they receive from citizens at the local level, our agents deliver educational programming to meet the needs of the people and communities in the counties they serve.

- **Area staff** — Area specialists provide a higher level of knowledge, and develop and lead programs for county staff in their area and across the state. They extend the expertise of specialists on the NDSU campus. Area specialists are based at Research Extension Centers across the state.

- **State staff** — State specialists, most of whom are on the NDSU campus, usually hold faculty positions in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; the College of Human Development and Education; or the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Several also have joint teaching and/or research appointments.

- **Support staff** — Members of the support staff are a part of all Extension offices and usually are the first point of contact for the public. The support staff maintains offices and helps deliver high-quality information and educational programs to the public. Communication staff members help prepare and deliver educational materials through print, audio, video, graphic, mobile apps and computer technology.

Our Purpose

The Extension Service’s purpose is to create learning partnerships that help adults and youth enhance their lives and communities.

Striving to provide North Dakotans with the help they need, we believe:

- in lifelong learning
- in maximizing resources through partnerships
- that all people have dignity and worth
- in informed decision making
- in promoting economic and environmental sustainability
- that learners are responsible for their decisions and actions
- in encouraging and supporting creativity and innovation
- in integrating research-based knowledge with knowledge that is generated through the experiences of our partners and clients
- in teamwork and shared leadership
- that our university base, along with our local, state and national network, enhances our educational capabilities

We also are committed to creating an inclusive and multicultural organization.

Our Partners

We partner with a number of agencies and organizations including:

- All 53 units of county government
- State agencies (Agriculture, Commerce, Health, Public Instructions, etc.)
- NDSU colleges and N.D. Agricultural Experiment Station
- The federal government, primarily the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- Commodity and non-profit organizations
We Listen

We provide timely, accurate, research-based information. Input from local citizens about their needs and concerns is a vital part of how we develop educational programs. Ten Extension program teams help guide the program development process. These teams consist of county-based Extension agents, and area and state Extension specialists. The teams also include Agricultural Experiment Station scientists at the NDSU main campus and Research Extension Centers. Many teams also involve representation from the public, including government agency members and clientele. The 10 program teams are:

- Community Vitality
- Crop Management
- Family Economics
- Farm Business Management
- 4-H Youth Development
- Horticulture and Forestry
- Human Development and Family Science
- Livestock Management
- Natural Resource Management
- Nutrition, Food Safety and Health

Our Funding

We are funded through a blend of county, state and federal dollars.

Commitment to Learning

The NDSU Extension Service enables lifelong learning. Determining the most appropriate ways to deliver programs is as important as developing them. We make educational information available so people can access it when they want it and in the way that best meets their needs. We reach people through a number of methods, including workshops, meetings, websites, mobile apps, videoconferences, discussions, publications, lessons, news stories, email, social media, phone calls, field tours and one-on-one visits.

Our educational programs make positive impacts on peoples’ lives. For example, we:

- Educate farmers and ranchers on how to produce abundant and high-quality food to feed the world, as well as offer assistance in understanding national farm policy and farm economics
- Teach parents how to make nutritious and economical meals for their families, manage family budgets, and communicate more effectively within their families
- Educate homeowners on topics as such gardening, food storage, energy conservation and responding to natural disasters
- Help small businesses get started, prosper and grow
- Offer strategic planning, information and training to communities to help them develop and retain businesses and build strong economies
- Create supportive and learning environments for youth through our 4-H youth development programs to help them reach their fullest potential as capable, civically engaged and caring citizens

In addition to delivering proactive educational programs, our Extension agents also respond to requests for information and assistance at the local level. This is the power of having at least one Extension agent to serve each county. Our agents have a direct link to their fellow Extension agents across the state, area and state Extension specialists, and a network of land-grant universities across the nation.
Into the Future
Our goal is to be the premier lifelong education network that helps North Dakotans improve their quality of life.

As the issues facing North Dakotans become increasingly complex, the NDSU Extension Service will continue to meet people’s needs as they adapt to this changing environment.

Extension is committed to being innovative, adaptable and willing to listen to people’s needs and concerns to create new ways of thinking, learning and addressing issues today and in the future.

NDSU Extension Service director and program leaders:

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County commissioners, North Dakota State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to Vice Provost for Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 201, NDSU Main Campus, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu.

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