Our Mission

We are the North Dakota State University Extension Service. We provide science-based education that improves the economic, health and community conditions for North Dakotans. 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 serving North Dakota’s citizens.
**Our Team**

- **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 programs to meet the needs of the people and communities in the counties they serve.

- **Specialists** have technical expertise in their discipline, and develop and lead programs on issues of statewide concern. They are integral in supporting Extension agents with research-based information. Many specialists are based on the NDSU campus and usually hold faculty positions in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources; or the College of Human Development and Education. Others are based off campus at Research Extension Centers across the state. Several specialists have joint research and/or teaching appointments.

- **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 help deliver high-quality information and educational programs to the public. Communication staff members help prepare and deliver educational materials through print, audio, video, graphics, social media platforms, 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 Instruction, 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. Extension program teams help guide the program development process. These teams consist of county-based Extension agents and 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 program teams are:

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

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 such as gardening, food storage, energy conservation and responding to natural disasters
- Offer strategic planning, information and training to communities to help them develop and retain businesses and build strong economies
- Create supportive 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, Extension specialists and a network of land-grant universities across the nation.

Our Funding

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

![Funding Diagram]

2017-2019
YEAR 1

- County 25%
- Federal 13%
- Grants & Contracts 13%
- State General 49%
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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