

**February 19, 2019 Advisory Board Meeting
NDSU-Hettinger Research Extension Center**

Director's Report

Legislative Report:

- SBARE Request: hold even budget and raises
 - House has acted on their side of the bill, which included raises, but a cut of approximately 5%. That would put us at a 18.5% cut in 2 bienniums (not including inflation).
 - \$2,167,501 in appropriations, approximately \$2.8 million in special funds
 - Would be a \$108,000 cut/biennium
 - Agribiome and Precision Agriculture are 2 initiatives being talked about.
- Staffing
 - Fully staffed, with the exception of the Livestock Research Specialist

Infrastructure:

- 1000 ewes
- 80 head of cows (McLaughlin project has concluded)
- 110 head of cows at ARS in Mandan (fiscal agent for their cow herd)
- CASE IH rental agreement – 5 tractors, baler, bobcat, self-propelled windrower
- Housing: Utilizing a trailer at the trailer park and the old office by the Agronomy Lab.

Dickinson REC:

- I took on the DREC Interim Director position on January 22. I anticipate spending 1 – 2 days per week in Dickinson.

Strategic Plan: 2015 – 2019

1. Evaluate alternative livestock production systems that increase profitability while maintaining environmental stability (Chris and Janna).
2. Conduct applied research that investigates the compatibility of agriculture and wildlife (Ben).
3. Evaluate weed control methods to increase crop and forage productivity in southwest North Dakota (Caleb).
4. Enhance dryland crop production while maintaining natural resources (John).
5. Integration of Livestock, Wildlife, Agronomy, and Weeds research programs into a farm-scale interdisciplinary research project (All).