

**February 16, 2021 Advisory Board Meeting
NDSU-Hettinger Research Extension Center**

Director's Report

Legislative Report:

- SBARE Request:
 - Apiary research
 - Precision Agriculture: Equipment is needed
 - Capital requests: Livestock Processing facility and Sheep Feed Efficiency Research Facility; Equipment Storage (likely a hoop barn)
 - #1 priority is to maintain budget and staff raises
- Staffing:
 - Long term: Animal Science Research Technician
- Covid
 - CARES Act funds: technology
 - Outlying locations may have different policies than Fargo
- Tartan Blanket project

Infrastructure:

- 1000 ewes
- 80 head of cows
- 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
- Deferred Maintenance:
 - Parking in front of office: \$60,000
 - Road in front of office: \$200,000 (bridge was replaced this past summer)
 - Shepherd's Office: \$50,000
- Housing: Utilizing 3 trailers at the trailer park, feedlot house, and the old office by the Agronomy Lab.
 - Getting bids for a remodel of old office into a bunkhouse: bids open today
 - Students would live in feedlot house during remodel
 - Gives us more flexibility down the road for housing options

Strategic Plan: 2020-2014

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).