

**July 7, 2020 Advisory Board Meeting  
NDSU-Hettinger Research Extension Center**

**Director's Report**

**Legislative Report:**

- SBARE Request:
  - Apiary research (not ranked)
  - Precision Agriculture: Equipment (not ranked)
  - Operating support (ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>)
  - Capital requests: Livestock Processing facility (\$1.4 million) and Sheep Feed Efficiency Research Facility (\$1.75 million) (ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> to Waldron Hall with other RECs; \$6.3 million)
  - Land report (approximately 28% of the land we do research on is owned)
- Staffing:
  - Hired Troy Ness on February 1 to replace Don Stecher who retired May 11
  - Hired Alex Rischette for Wildlife Research Technician
  - Long term: Animal Science Research Technician

**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 is being replaced currently)
  - Shepherd's Office: \$50,000
- Housing: Utilizing 3 trailers at the trailer park and the old office by the Agronomy Lab.
  - Getting bids for a remodel of old office into a bunkhouse: \$130,000
  - Students would live in Don's house during remodel
  - Gives us more flexibility down the road for housing options

**Dickinson REC:** Done on April 1.

**COVID related:**

- Never shut down research/extension, but did lock the doors. Currently still controlling foot traffic at the doors.
- Began bringing in technicians/grad students April 1 with a 2 week paid quarantine.
- Fully staffed by June 1 with our research teams.
- Everyone was back in the office around June 1, but still working in alternative formats at times.
- Should receive about \$100,000 in CARES Act funding – will primarily use on technology enhancements.

**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).