July 10, 2018 Advisory Board Meeting
NDSU-Hettinger Research Extension Center

Director's Report

Legislative Report:

- Ag Administration: Ken Grafton and Greg Lardy
- Current Biennium
    - 13.65% Budget Reduction (approximately $342,000/biennium)
        - Didn't hire Animal Science Research Specialist ($140,000/biennium)
        - Didn't hire Agronomy Technician on hard funds ($120,000/biennium)
            - Hired Michael Adsero on soft funds this spring
        - I have moved all of my graduate students off of general funds to grant funds ($40,000/biennium)
        - $10,000 in salary for Cassie now paid for by Extension Service due to acquiring an Extension Specialist
        - $25,000 reduction in equipment funds (line item as part of the $342,000)
        - Remaining $7,000 will be balanced with less spending/increased reliance on grants (State Fleet, operating, etc.)
    - Extension Specialist received a 10% reduction in her operating account to help balance the Extension Service budget
    - 10% hay crop – purchased about $100,000 of hay
    - Suffered about at a $30,000 loss due to listeria outbreak this past winter
- Staffing
    - Fully staffed!
- Next Biennium: SBARE testimony has concluded. We did not ask for anything, but highlighted the reduced technical support.
    - Governor's guidelines: Another 10% reduction ($216,750)
        - This would be tough. All research techs would become soft funded.

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
- Housing: Utilizing a trailer at the trailer park and the old office by the Agronomy Lab.
- Hail from June: waiting on appraisal. Multiple buildings and some of our annual forage. Hay is running 0.75 to 1 ton/acre.

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).